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Bus service saves money as local ridership spikes

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

ly \$1.7 million this year alone by opting out of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, or SMART. The savings could climb if county officials pursue a 40-percent tax hike for SMART service.

Canton has opted out of SMART since 1999, choosing to pair with Huron Valley Ambu-

lance for just \$436,000 a year to offer Canton Community Mobility Transportation Services. With 1,700 registered riders, the local service provided 23,360 rides last year to medical appointments, workplaces, grocery stores, libraries, recreation and shopping destinations, banks and other places. Ridership has increased

from 8,000 trips to more than 23,000 since the service was launched. Moreover, Canton Leisure Services operations manager Greg Hohenberger said usage has spiked 37 percent since 2009 alone, due to factors such as an aging population and the program's af-

See BUS, Page A2

Canton has saved its taxpayers an estimated \$24 million since 1999 by opting out of a suburban bus service and providing its own transportation for the elderly and disabled, local officials say. Canton expects to save near-

Foreclosure 'con artist' lands in prison

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton man convicted of bilking money from an investor and homeowners facing foreclosure has been sentenced to prison for 6½-20 years in prison.

David Gerard Hieb, 70, was sentenced Friday by Wayne County Circuit Judge Diana Denise Lillard after a jury in March found him guilty of embezzling \$50,000 to \$100,000, obtaining \$20,000 or more through false pretenses and common law fraud, a court clerk said.

Defense attorney Kareem LaMount Johnson indicated Hieb hasn't given up his fight for freedom.

"He does plan to appeal," Johnson said Monday, citing a possible challenge to evidence admitted during Hieb's trial.

Canton Detective Andrew Kelley has said Hieb began a scheme around 2007 that led to his downfall when a jury convicted him March 20. Hieb was accused of cheating a Washington, D.C., investor who turned over \$90,000 to buy foreclosed homes in metro Detroit and sell them for profit.

False claims

Authorities say Hieb also scammed money from foreclosure victims by claiming he could help save their homes.

"He was a con artist who bilked people out of thousands of dollars," Canton police Lt. Dave Schreiner

See CON, Page A2



Hieb

Who's got the buttons?



Plymouth-Canton FIRST Robotics Team 862 members Rhys Gabriel and Sammie Lewis sport buttons collected from other FIRST teams at the state robotics competition last weekend. Most teams' students design and make team buttons to give away at competitions. For more on the team's performance at the state competition, please turn to page A6. HENRY HOOVER

Eriksson students cope with loss of classmate

By Darrell Clem
and Brad Kadrick
Staff Writer

Counselors, social workers and psychologists were on site Tuesday at Eriksson Elementary School in Canton as the school's student body began the difficult task of moving forward after the death of a classmate.

A 9-year-old girl died Monday afternoon from injuries she received during what police called a "tragic accident" when she was struck by a minivan in the student drop-off area outside the school.

After alerting parents to the situation Monday, school officials were at work Tuesday trying to help students deal with the pain. "I think our kids are doing



A 9-year-old girl died from injuries sustained in an accident Monday in the student drop-off area at Eriksson Elementary School in Canton.

as well as can be expected," Eriksson Principal Kevin Learned said. "Emotions are high. For many kids, this is their first experience with the loss of someone close to them. That makes it really difficult."

Learned praised parents within the school community, who he said "did a really nice job initiating those conversations" with their children at home. When kids got back to

See STUDENTS, Page A2

Gas station employer faces trial for firearm incident

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Barring a plea deal, a Canton gas station employer is set for trial in June on charges he threatened a worker at gunpoint, accused him of giving away merchandise to his friends and fired him.

Adel Yasser Berry, 25, faces a jury trial June 4 in Wayne County Circuit Judge Dana Margaret Hathaway's courtroom on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, felony firearm and misdemeanor assault.

Berry, who has pleaded not guilty, could face four years in prison if he is convicted of the weapon charge. He would face a mandatory two-year term if the jury convicts him of felony firearm.

Berry remains free on bond as he awaits the outcome of his case. He has been ordered not to contact the worker.

Berry, who has an Oscoda address, was charged after police say a 23-year-old worker claimed Berry took him to a back office of the BP gas station at Ford and Haggerty roads, climbed a ladder to conceal a surveillance video camera and pointed a handgun at him.

Canton police went to the gas station the night of Feb. 24 after receiving reports of a dispute between an employer and a worker. Berry had initially contacted police, alleging he had received harassing text messages after he fired the worker.

According to police reports, Berry claimed the worker had given away food and lottery tickets to his friends. The worker said he only gave a container of Muscle Milk to his brother.

Canton police say no shots were fired during the incident,

See EMPLOYER, Page A2



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INDEX

Business.....A8	Homes.....B9	Services.....B9
Crossword Puzzle...B10	Jobs.....B9	Sports.....B10
Entertainment.....B5	Obituaries.....B7	Wheels.....B1
Food.....B6	Opinion.....A10	

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BUS

Continued from Page A1

fordability.

Cheap fares

Riders using 12-seat buses and a Huron Valley Ambulance van pay as little as \$2 for a Canton destination and as much as \$10 for one-way trips to sites such as the University of Michigan Hospital. Riders are picked up at home, dropped off and brought back.

"I think it gives a pretty good bang for the buck to provide the personal service," said Hohenberger, who serves on the local transportation advisory committee. "It's still cheaper than a cab."

Hohenberger and advisory committee members provided a snapshot of the local

transportation service Tuesday evening during a Canton Township Board of Trustees session. It came as county officials ponder raising a SMART tax from 0.59 mills to 1.1 mill – which local officials say would not affect Canton as an opt-out community.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said it's still unclear how the local service might be affected in coming years by a long-discussed Regional Transit Authority across Metro Detroit.

Township Trustee John Anthony, who serves on Canton's transportation committee, said the local program has worked effectively by offering curb-to-curb service for Canton residents age 62 and older and those who are disabled, either temporarily or permanently. He said

it pairs local government, HVA and riders.

"It couldn't be a better alliance of everybody," he said.

Regular riders

Belinda Terreault, service coordinator for the low-income, high-rise senior Canton Place, said 40-50 residents there use the bus service every month for destinations ranging from the doctor's office to the library.

"Some of our residents use it five days a week," she said.

Medical trips within Canton amount to the most requested rides, Hohenberger said. The service also provides trips to Plymouth, Plymouth Township and – for medical appointments only – to communities such as Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Garden City

and Wayne.

The service offers some no-cost rides for users meeting certain low-income requirements. Canton supports its bus service by using \$285,000 a year from its general fund – far less than SMART would cost – and \$15,000 annually from grants and fares.

Riders are asked to register prior to their initial trip by calling 888-539-9879.

With an aging fleet of four buses and a van, local officials are seeking grants and revenues to help offset expenses. Already, \$10,423 has been raised from Canton Mobility riders and their families. Hohenberger said anyone who wishes to donate to the service may call 734-394-5360.

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CON

Continued from Page A1

has said. "He took advantage of people at a low point in their lives."

Lillard, in sentencing Hieb to prison, also ordered him to pay restitution amounting to \$90,000, according to court records.

Police learned of Hieb's activities after the investor, through a mutual acquaintance, gave money to Hieb to buy foreclosed homes in places such as Canton, Livonia and Northville, believing the houses would be sold for profit.

The investor learned after time had passed that "his money was gone and he had no paper trail to where it went," Kelley has said.

The investor notified police, leading to charges against Hieb, but police said the go-between man who linked the two of them was never found.

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arranging to meet them and pledging he was a businessman who could help them stay in their houses, Kelley said.

Police described Hieb as a seemingly trustworthy con artist who took money from victims who eventually lost their homes.

Kelley has said Hieb used a U.S. Post Office box as an office address. Police said he cheated people during one of the worst U.S. housing market crashes.

According to Wayne County Circuit Court records, Hieb had initially pleaded no contest to charges against him, then withdrew his plea and chose to face a jury that convicted him.

Schreiner said the case should serve as a warning to homeowners to use caution when they are facing foreclosure and to check the credentials of companies and people claiming to be able to help.

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Price offers tickets for volunteers

Christmas in Action, a nonprofit agency successfully implementing the "tried and true" idea of "neighbor helping neighbor" by partnering with the community to repair homes of low-income or disabled homeowners, is seeking both skilled and unskilled volunteers. 15 years of age and older, to help provide home repairs Saturday, April 26.

And volunteers could end up with tickets to a Detroit Tigers game.

Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-Canton Township, will be donating a pair of tickets to a Detroit Tigers game to the first 20 volunteers who register for the annual Christmas in Action program.

Those interested in volunteering are asked to contact Paula Kosbe, volunteer coordinator, at 334-394-5191 or email at paula.kosbe@cantonmi.org.

STUDENTS

Continued from Page A1

school Tuesday, help was there to aid with the adjustment.

Learned said classroom discussions centered dealing with the pain and moving forward.

"We want to give kids the opportunity to experience their feelings," Learned said.

"What do you do with those feelings? How do you have those feelings and be productive? What are some things you can do to soothe those feelings a little bit? Kids don't have a lot of experience with that."

The girl was struck about 8:30 a.m. while her mother was dropping her off at the school, located on Hagerty south of Ford Road, police said. The child was taken to the University of Michigan Hospital, where she died later in the day. Officials did not release the girl's name.

"She was being

dropped off at school," Deputy Police Chief Debra Newsome said. "She may have been attempting to regain entry into the vehicle and shy was struck."

Police and school officials are saying they believe the girl may have been struck by her mother's vehicle as she tried to get back into it. Newsome said police were still investigating the accident, which happened in the student drop-off area. Anyone who saw the accident is asked to call the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400.

Canton paramedics took the girl to U-M Hospital, where school officials said she died during surgery.

"Certainly our thoughts and prayers go out to the family, the school administration, the staff and the teachers at Eriksson Elementary," Newsome said.

In a statement released Monday afternoon, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials said they were

"deeply saddened by the loss" and said counseling will be provided to students who need it.

"The entire Plymouth-Canton school community is deeply saddened by today's tragic loss," the statement read. "We keep the family, along with the students and staff at Eriksson Elementary, in our thoughts during this extremely difficult time. Our staff and counseling professionals will be at the ready to assist and support our students as we work through this together."

Newsome urged parents and other drivers to use extreme caution when dropping a child off at a school.

"This is just a tragic accident," Newsome said.

The Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team is conducting an investigation and is interviewing witnesses.

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Housing scam

While balking the investor, Hieb was accused of compiling a list of homeowners facing foreclosure,

EMPLOYER

Continued from Page A1

which the worker said occurred after he arrived for work. The worker also told police he was punched in the chest before he was ordered out of the gas

station.

Berry denied pulling a handgun on the worker. A police report indicated that an unloaded gun was found in a filing cabinet of the gas station office.

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CORRECTIONS

» A story in the Observer about construction starting on a new charter high school in Canton should have mentioned that among the high schools already serving the area is Starkweather Academy @ Fiegel. The school serves more

than 200 high school students in addition to the adult education programs.

» A story in the Thursday, April 7, Canton Observer should have said the telephone number to contact CertaPro Painters is 734-476-3072.

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Court officer was tough, yet humble

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer



Dr. Abick

Walter Abick, a gruff and effective Plymouth court officer and unassuming yet engaging man, died Sunday at age 93. Abick, who lived in Detroit, spent nearly 25 years as a court officer at 35th District Court, retiring in late 2008 at age 87. Called Wally, Abick also helped his sister, Manya Sviatik, run Abick's Bar in southwest Detroit, which has been in the family for more than 100 years. Abick served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was an officer in another court before coming to Plymouth, said Pam Avdoulos, 35th Dis-

trict Court administrator. "He was sharp as a tack and he still conducted the courtroom as effectively as possible," he said.

"He was awesome," Avdoulos said. Abick was gruff, but also "very lovable." He was also humble, she said, and tended not to talk about his war experiences, even about medals he had won. "We didn't even know half the stuff he did when he was in the Navy," Avdoulos said. Judge Mike Gerou said

Abick was tough and uncompromising and focused on work and family. In his 80s, the judge said, the fit Abick would still take the courthouse stairs instead of using the elevators.

'Heck of a good guy'

"He was just a heck of a good guy, hard-working guy," Gerou said.

It was Abick, Gerou said, who talked him into running for the bench when a district court seat came open, telling him that the experience would tell him who his real friends were. "Boy, is that true," Gerou said, laughing. "It's amazing."

Abick's Bar, the judge said, is a legendary watering hole

that draws all sorts.

"He used to have mayors and everything else come into his bar down there," Gerou said. "He knew police officers, he knew politicians and everybody came in there." Sviatik, 90, still runs the bar, with help from grandson Eric Lakeman and Walter Abick's great-nephew.

Gerou said Abick took part in the Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944 and that he had the task of collecting the bodies of paratroopers who had landed on trees the Germans had sharpened. Years later, when Abick had the chance to be recognized as a World War II veteran during a Memorial Day parade in Plymouth, Ge-

rou said, he declined.

"He said it brought back really bad memories," Gerou said.

In addition to his sister and great-nephew Eric Lakeman, Abick is survived by two daughters, Karen and Susan, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth, daughter Kathleen and brothers George and John.

A funeral service was Wednesday at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit, with burial at Woodmere Cemetery.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Prison stalker

A 30-year-old Canton woman notified police that her former boyfriend, 31, was stalking her by telephone from prison, a police report said.

The woman said the suspect was imprisoned last year for aggravated stalking. She told police this month she began receiving telephone calls from him.

The victim told police she received 27 phone calls within a narrow time frame this month. She played one voice mail for police from a caller asking if she would be willing to accept a call from the ex-boyfriend.

Police contacted the prison where the suspect was held. Authorities there indicated they would block the victim's phone number so the calls would stop.

Windshield fraud

A 91-year-old Canton man apparently made a mistake when he gave his name and insurance information to another man

who claimed he worked for a company that repairs windshields, a police report said.

The victim and his daughter told police he had gotten a letter from his vehicle insurance company in reference to a windshield repair that he never had done to his 2008 Chevrolet Malibu.

The victim admitted he had been approached at a Canton gas station by a suspect who looked at his windshield and offered to repair it for free.

The victim said the suspect tried to point out a crack in the windshield that really wasn't there.

The suspect told the victim he gets \$50 for every windshield he repairs. The victim told police he felt sorry for the man and gave him his name and insurance information, but told him he didn't need any repairs at the time.

The victim told police the suspect apparently submitted a false claim for windshield repairs he never made. The victim described the suspect as a white male, 6 feet, 2

inches and 220 pounds.

Debit card scam

A 33-year-old Westland woman told Canton police someone had accessed her bank account using her debit card number.

The woman reported to police Monday afternoon that she had gone to the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz. She said she made a \$16.18 purchase using her debit card.

She said someone later used her debit card number to steal \$50 from her account.

Hit and run

A 53-year-old Canton woman driving a 2004 Honda Pilot notified police that another driver struck her vehicle and fled the scene while she was parked in front of her residence on Campbell Court, northwest of Michigan Avenue and Lilley.

She said she noticed the damage about 6:30 p.m. Saturday. She didn't see a suspect.

—By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Tools stolen in home burglary

Tools worth more than \$6,000, including power saws and saw blades, were stolen from a home on Caprice Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Road and I-275, during a break-in that was reported Friday.

A Plymouth Township Police Department report said a door to the garage had been forced in and that the front door showed signs of having been pried, but didn't appear to have been breached.

The tools belonged to a contractor hired to do carpentry work at the house.

Shoplifting arrest

A 31-year-old Canton Township man was arrested Friday in the shoplifting of two \$14.99 wallets from the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road.

A store security worker told police he had seen the man put the wallets in a back

pocket of his pants and leave the store after paying for some other items, but not the wallets. The employee confronted the man outside and police were called.

Police discovered an outstanding warrant for the man for driving with a suspended license. He was later released after a court date on a retail fraud charge was set and he posted a total bond of \$350, a police report said.

Theft from garage

Socket wrenches and sockets to go with them were reported stolen recently from the garage of a house on Chestnut Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and I-275.

The theft occurred between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. April 7, the complainant told police. The garage had been left open.

ID, tax fraud

A township woman reported recently that

her identity had been used by someone else on both state and federal income tax returns.

The woman told police she received a letter from the state April 1 that said her state return was being investigated, but that she hadn't filed a state return. Upon further investigation, a police report said, she learned that her name and Social Security number had been used on state and federal returns.

Police took at least three other similar reports of identity theft during the first two weeks of April.

Police took at least three other similar reports of identity theft during the first two weeks of April.

Theft from trailer

A propane tank, a vehicle battery and a spare tire were reported stolen April 9 from a trailer that was being stored at a lot on Ann Arbor Road.

The complainant told police the items had been taken some time between September and April 8.

—By Matt Jachman



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Area leaders cool on county deficit plan

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Municipal leaders from western Wayne County are taking a rather tepid view of County Executive Robert Ficano's latest deficit reduction plan.

Mark Abbo, Wayne County's top finance official, shared the plan Friday at the Conference of Western Wayne general meeting at the Sumpster Township municipal building. Ficano recently hired Abbo, the former Northville Township supervisor, to help craft the plan, which the administration says will eliminate the county's \$175 million accrued deficit, as well as the estimated \$61 million deficit for the next two budget years ending Sept. 30, 2015.

If implemented, Abbo said the plan will have a "dramatic effect" on the county's fiscal health.

"With this plan in full effect, the county will have an estimated \$1.7 million surplus by Sept. 30, 2015," he said.

The two major components of the plan include:

- » Moving the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund unrestricted fund balance into the general fund. This county fund was set up to help local units of government purchase tax-delinquent properties within their communities. The DTRF money comes from revolving fund notes (issued in anticipation of delinquent tax collections). At the end of the last fiscal year, there was a \$175 million fund balance in the DTRF.
- Ficano would like to

use the surplus to reduce the county's overall deficit, which Abbo said can be done without impacting the county's ability to purchase the tax-delinquent properties. However, the county commission would have to give the green light on the change.

» Reorganizing the county-owned waste water treatment facilities. Ficano would like the county to get out of the waste water business. His plan is to sell the Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility and other waste water infrastructure to an authority that would be operated by the municipalities and users in Wayne County. Abbo estimated the "sale price" to such an authority would in itself eliminate most if not all the

county's accrued deficit.

Other parts of the plan include moving a majority of Wayne County's retirees from county-provided health care and onto the national health care system popularly known as "Obama care," leasing out some of the county-owned Guardian Building in downtown Detroit, reducing the number of circuit court judges and making changes to the health care provided to circuit court judges.

After his presentation, Abbo admitted parts of the plan are going to be tough for some people to swallow, but he said the county has a legal obligation to balance its budget.

"Most of the low-hanging fruit have already been taken. Now it's going to take some

thing more serious to get our fiscal house in order. We realize everybody's going to be impacted including all of the local units of government," Abbo said.

Most leaders said they were taking a wait-and-see approach to the plan. There were lots of figures thrown around and not many details. The proposal to sell the waste water facilities to the local municipalities had a few scratching their heads, however.

"You're trying to sell back to the people of Wayne County what is already owned by the taxpayers of Wayne County," Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer said, echoing a sentiment shared by many of his colleagues.

Dress up for a chance to win Christmas in July cover contest

You've got the (Christmas) look that we want. Here's your chance to be a cover star and be noticed by more than 125,000 readers in print and thousands more online at hometownlife.com.

Dress up in your zaniest, brightest, most traditional or goofiest Christmas outfit (Santa, elves, trees or any other holiday angle that you can think of) then come 2-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, to the *Observer & Eccentric* Writing Spring Expo to get your photo taken.

Adults, teens, children and families are invited to participate.

The winner will be selected in part by readers voting at facebook.com/OE Hometown and by O&E Media staff. Voting on Facebook begins May 2 and ends May 23. Staff selection will follow May 27.

The winning adult, teen, child or family will be featured on the cover of the O&E Media Christmas in July publication beginning July 24 and receive a \$100 gift card.

Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, in Livonia. Enter the ViaTech Center and follow the "Christmas in July Cover Contest" signs.

Contestants must be photographed Tuesday, April 29, at the Spring Expo to be eligible for the contest.

Dust off those holiday decorations and we'll see you April 29.

kkuban@hometownlife.com

Exhibit draws record number of artists

More than 125 people attended the opening reception for the Plymouth Community Arts Council's fifth annual open juried exhibit, "Out of the Blue."

Artists 18 and older were invited to submit two-dimensional artwork that highlights or features the color blue. The exhibit runs through the end of April. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

A record 55 artists from all over southeast Michigan responded to the call for entries. Most are from local communities, but some came from as far away as Dearborn, Grosse Ile and Royal Oak. A variety of media is represented in the collection of 82 pieces, including wet felting, pastels,

photography, watercolor, oil and acrylic paintings.

"Lakeside View," a mixed media piece in stunning shades of blues and teals by Plymouth artist Sunanda Mallick, was chosen to be featured on this year's poster, invitation and program for the exhibit.

Visitors to the exhibit are invited to vote for their favorite piece of artwork. The "People's Choice" winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from Dick Blick Art Supplies. Honorable mentions will also be awarded, along with a Director's Choice award presented by PCAC Executive Director Lisa Howard.

Gallery hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Charity movie to screen at AMC

An idea that started with three friends talking about what nerdy hobbies they love has turned into a three times monthly, web-based show called "The Not So Cool Kids Podcast."

Each episode features co-hosts Brian Titus, Brent Brozek and Michael Lomas video-chatting with an industry guest from a variety of nerd culture fandoms.

Past guests have included Robbie Rist (*The Brady Bunch*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*), Zack Ward (*The Christmas Story*), Matt Busch (*Star Wars* franchise and pop culture artist), Britt Griffith (*Sci-Fi's Ghost Hunters*) and many more.

Now in their second year and 40th episode, the co-hosts are transforming their passion for characters like Batman into an opportunity to

raise money for a local charity. Together with their co-host, Motor City Comic Con, they are hosting a charity screening of an inspirational, Batman-themed documentary film called *Legends of the Knight* to raise money for the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

"We wanted this to be the unofficial pre-party for Motor City Comic Con weekend, so it was exciting to hear that the convention wanted to co-host this charity event with us," said Titus, creator of "The Not So Cool Kids Podcast."

"This film screening is a way to give back while still getting a night out at the movies in return."

Legends of the Knight weaves together the stirring true stories of individuals who have overcome devastating

obstacles, unselfishly given to the community and embraced their inner super-hero because of their love of Batman. The film's creator, Brett Culp, decided to allow people from around the country to host screenings of the film to assist local charities.

The exclusive charity screening of *Legends of the Knight* at the AMC 20 theater in Livonia takes place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15, with trivia and opportunities to win prizes.

The only way to purchase tickets is online at www.tugg.com/events/7811. Tickets are \$11 per person and an additional donation can be made at purchase. Limited seats are available.

For more information regarding the charity screening, visit www.thentsocoolkidspodcast.com.



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Gov. Rick Snyder visits with Plymouth-Canton Team 862 members during the state competition at Eastern Michigan University. HENRY HOOVER

THE BIGGEST STAGE

P-CEP robotics team earns trip to world competition

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton FIRST Robotics Team 862 will find out next week if it can improve on the third-place finish it posted in last year's world championships in St. Louis.

Despite falling in the quarterfinal round of last week's state competition, Team 862 still gets a chance at the world competition after finishing in the top 23. It's the team's second straight trip to St. Louis; it finished third last year after winning the Curie Division.

This year's world competition takes place April 23-26. And while winning is nice, the final result — whatever it is — won't diminish what the team has accomplished this year, according to faculty adviser Jay Obsniuk.

"I consider every season a successful season if I see growth in the students," Obsniuk said. "Winning is just icing on the cake."

This year's team, Obsniuk pointed out, had two freshmen on the drive team and younger students working on programming, CAD, fabrica-

tion and pit duty. All of them, he said, have learned leadership skills and how to work as a group.

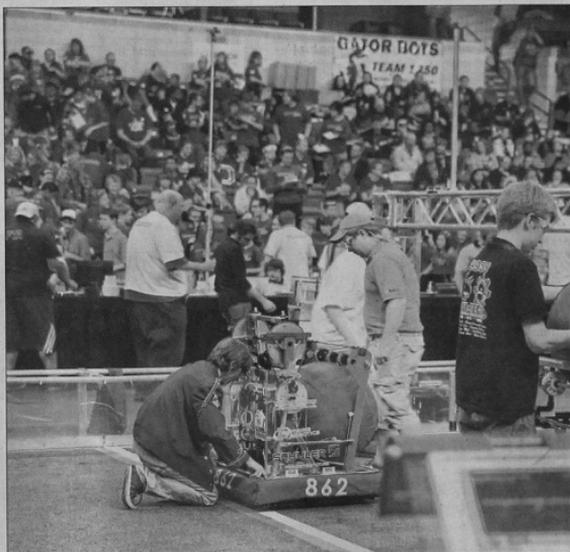
"Making it to worlds is a great opportunity for the students to reach out to teams from other states and countries and make contact with universities and businesses that they don't get with the Michigan district competition," Obsniuk said.

Team 862 failed to finish in the top eight at the state competition, but was chosen as an alliance member of Team 52 out of Pontiac. In a three-team alliance, Team 862 was chosen to be the scorer, while Team 51 and the third member, Team 68, were supposed to be the feeders.

Those teams, it turns out, were bottled up, limiting Team 862's chances to score. Their alliance fell in two straight matches to the second-seeded alliance, knocking them out of the competition.

But they finished well enough to qualify for the trip to St. Louis, where Obsniuk thinks his team's ability to work with other squads will be a benefit.

"Our robot is a very complementary robot ... we can play all phases of the game (collecting, passing and shooting)," Obsniuk said. "I think our strongest part is collecting and passing. I can't say we'll come back as world champions, but with a little luck, you never know."



Robot driver Julian Gabriel and drive team coach Joe Jagadits set up robot Neo on the field for a match. In order for the autonomous (no driver) period to work, the robot needs to be lined up per the robot's programming code (i.e., the robot will drive "X" amount of feet and then fire the ball into the high goal).

Mrs. Lincoln re-enactor shares rich part of history

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

You may think of her as Mary Todd Lincoln, but a recent re-enactor in Plymouth emphasized the president's wife went by Mary Lincoln or Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. Joan McGilincy of Farmington is a past president of the Farmington Branch, American Association of University Women, which began portraying women in history some eight years ago.

McGilincy, who also portrays other famous women, brought Mary Lincoln to the spring luncheon of the Plymouth-Canton AAUW Branch at Station 885 on Saturday, April 12.

"I guess I'm drawn to assertive women," said McGilincy, who's appeared several times as Eleanor Roosevelt, as well as Abigail Adams. She's now researching Dolly Madison for a portrayal.

"I was born to a wealthy family," she said as Mrs. Lincoln, born in 1818 in Lexington, Ky. "I was the fourth of seven children."

Her birth family was active politically and young Mary was well-educated. She was



Joan McGilincy of Farmington brought her Mary Lincoln re-enactor program to the spring luncheon of the Plymouth-Canton Branch, American Association of University Women. She's shown with a Station 885 mural on Plymouth history. JULIE BROWN

only 7 when her mom died. Her father soon remarried and young Mary clashed with her stepmother. "Immediately she and I came to loggerheads."

Very popular

Eventually there were 14 children in the chaotic home. Mary sought a husband at 17.

"I was very popular," she said. "I had a number of suitors, including Stephen Douglas."

She met and became engaged to Abraham Lincoln, who suffered from depression and broke an engagement with Mary before they later married.

"Our family was very disapproving of this marriage," she said, due to her husband's social status. The young couple lived in a boarding house and as a circuit attorney he was often away.

The birth of the couple's first son Robert thawed family ties and the Lincolns were able to build a home. "It was small, but it was our home," she said.

Mrs. Lincoln had grown up with slaves and needed to learn housekeeping skills. She "smoothed out" Abe's rough edges and read his speeches.

"I was very much involved because we were both politically ambitious," the re-enactor said.

Terrible time

Abraham Lincoln moved from the Illinois Legislature to Congress, with Mary having difficulty being socially ac-

cepted in Washington, D.C. The years 1849-50 were especially bad, as she lost her father to cholera and son Eddie also died.

"We were both devastated," she said. "It was a terrible time."

Abraham focused on his career, with two U.S. Senate losses. He moved from Whig to Republican.

His abolitionist views brought threats to him and his family, so Mary and their sons would travel separately. "He was seen as coarse and rude and loud. I was also rejected by the press," she said.

In that time, she became less of an adviser to her husband. Son Willy died of typhoid fever. "He was just absolutely crushed by the death of Willy," she said of the president.

"He loved the theater. He used to take Willy and Tad (another son) to the theater." She recalled the assassination. "He died without me being there," she said of the president. "I was just crushed."

Mrs. Lincoln later moved to Europe with Tad, who succumbed to pleurisy. She had had two blows to her head and had chronic migraines, in-

omnia and anxiety.

Controversial woman

Son Robert had her committed, with 18 men as witnesses. She was freed from the Batavia, Ill., sanatorium with the help of the first woman attorney in Illinois, who petitioned for her release to her sister in Springfield.

Mrs. Lincoln died at 64 in the same home she had married Abraham. She had been controversial in her time, due in part to debts and dabbling in spiritualism.

McGilincy noted Mary Lincoln's extensive work with Civil War troops and slaves who had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. She recommends Mrs. Lincoln: A Life by Catherine Clinton as a good book for those who wish to know more about the first lady.

The speaker was well-received by Plymouth-Canton AAUW members and guests. Program chair Sharon Bolebraich of Plymouth Township said, "It was try, try, try again," in her introduction. "That's what Abraham Lincoln learned."

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Bank rebuked on add-on charge card fee practice

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced last week another settlement against a major bank for fraudulent activities



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

with regard to add-on fees on charge cards. The CFPB announced a \$738 million settlement against Bank of America. In the recent past, the bureau has also settled for hundreds of millions of dollars against other financial institutions, including JP Morgan Chase, Discover, American Express and Capital One.

The bank settlements basically dealt with two products that were marketed through telemarketers, along with their charge cards. These products were identity

theft protection and credit protection. Basically, the CFPB found that the banks used deceptive marketing tactics and were less than truthful with regard to the sale of these products.

We have all received these phone calls from our banks. A telemarketer tries to convince us to sign up for either identity theft or credit protection with the promise of a risk-free trial offer and the right to cancel whenever you want. Unfortunately, their sales tactics crossed the line and, thus, the massive settlements.

Whenever I receive a call from a telemarketer, I hang up. I don't care what they're selling. If it's coming from a telemarketer, I don't need it even when it's free information and no risk.

I won't deal with telemarketers, even if they're calling from a charity. Many legitimate charities use telemarketers and I still say don't deal with them. After all, it's not unusual in a char-

itable situation for the telemarketer to keep 50 percent of the amount you are donating. In other words, if you donate \$100, sometimes \$50 or more goes to the telemarketer, not the charity.

In the Bank of America case, the bank was charging people for their identity protection service without them even signing up. What's amazing is that people who did not sign up for the ser-

vice were getting charged on a monthly basis and most did nothing to stop it.

The new CFPB will hopefully protect consumers from predatory and deceptive practices.

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



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Canton road cleanup scheduled for Saturday

An adopt-a-road cleanup has been announced for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 19, along Geddes Road between Sheldon and Beck and along Beck between Geddes and Michigan Avenue, with a rain date set for the following day at the same time, if necessary.

Volunteers must be at least 13 years old. Bring work gloves, grabbing tools and dress appropriately for weather conditions and walking.

Look for the special green tubs along the

roads for bags and visibility vests at several locations. Just sign in, put on a visibility vest for safety, grab some bags, gather litter and trash, tie the bags and leave them for pickup by Wayne County.

To volunteer, contact Greg Greene by email at ggreene@otbz@aol.com, call 734-855-6192 or go to www.greene.biz for instructions - or just show up Saturday.

Community service letters available upon request, after participation.

Canton counseling program offers free Medicare, Medicaid help

United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center, Suite 250, is offering free individual counseling 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, with a certified Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program counselor who can help provide a better understanding of Medicare/Medicaid eligibility, transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare,

plan options, assistance programs, drug insurance and Medicaid/Medicare fraud and abuse identification and reporting.

Medicare plan enrollment and subsidy application assistance also are provided. To schedule an appointment, call Heather Pinage at 734-727-2063. For more information, visit www.mmnpainc.org.

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DIVA DAY: TIME TO SHOP, VISIT, SAVOR SPRING

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Donna Barnes of Plymouth Township and daughter Laura Gabriel of Royal Oak were glad to be together Saturday for downtown Plymouth's Diva Day.

"We're just out to have fun," said Barnes, with Gabriel in Basket Kreations with its many made in Michigan items. "I'll send them a little bit of Michigan," Gabriel said of loved ones elsewhere.

The women were among many at the event put on by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and local merchants. "We both work during the week and it's nice to get together," Barnes said, with her daughter adding she loved growing up in Plymouth and misses it.

"I didn't shop hardly at all this winter," Gabriel said. "Today's a nice day, so it's nice to be here. It makes me want to spend even more."

That was music to the ears of Stella Delap, Basket Kreations owner and a Canton resident. She's been in business 25 years, the first 10 in Canton.

"I think the weather has been a very big factor" in business, Delap said. She was wearing flip-flops Saturday, among many women in warm weather garb.

"It's been a very slow winter," said Delap, who noted shoppers didn't want to drive or walk far.

Over at Alpine Chocolat Haus on Main, owner Denise Fernandez was greeting customers. That store opened Dec. 17 for the business which has been around more than 28 years.

"This is our fourth store we've opened," said Fernandez, who lives in Gaylord, where they have a store and the candy is made. They also have stores in Boyne City and Sault Ste. Marie.

"Good," she said of Plymouth's response. "We're very happy to be here. Lots of positive comments."

Alpine Chocolat Haus' local business was steady this winter. "We are not down, which I am shocked (at)," said Fernandez, who's found business solid even at the northern locales, where there were 46 days below zero this winter.

"Maybe we embrace it, I don't know," she said with a smile.

Down the street at Sun & Snow, Heather Scott of Plymouth, a staffer who does the soft goods buying, was happy to greet Diva Day participants. "I think it's a good opportunity for people to come down and see the stores," Scott said. "It's a good time to introduce spring products."

Wes Graff, chamber president, was getting help passing out boos to shoppers that morning from Tony Brusato of the Downtown Development Authority - not a sponsor, but a helper.

"Obviously, we're very lucky" on weather, Graff said. "Today's going to be 70."

Graff agreed the winter was rough on businesses.

"Everybody's down because people could not get out," he said. "There's also pent-up demand just to get out and walk around."

Colleen Cannon, owner of TranquilTea at Ann Arbor Trail, said of Diva Day, "It's a good event for us. We have a lot of good exposure."

jbrown@hometownlife.com



TranquilTea owner Colleen Cannon was glad to welcome Diva Day shoppers to her store on Ann Arbor Trail. "It's a good event for us," she said. PHOTOS BY JULIE BROWN



Visiting at Basket Kreations on Diva Day are (from left) Laura Gabriel of Royal Oak, store owner Stella Delap and Gabriel's mom Donna Barnes of Plymouth Township.



Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, passes out pink boos to women shoppers on Diva Day.



Alpine Chocolat Haus owner Denise Fernandez, by a display of Easter candy, greeted Diva Day shoppers Saturday.

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Library offers online business products

The Plymouth District Library offers a variety of free online business products and officials have scheduled seminars so prospective business customers can learn about them.

Interested business people can plan to attend one of the upcoming informational sessions, scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, April 19, and again from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, May 24. An evening session will be held 5-8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 19.

"Libraries throughout Michigan are promoting local economic development," library Director Carol Souchock said.

"These powerful products connect businesses with resources that can help new businesses locate potential customers and existing businesses expand their customer base."

Resources highlighted at these upcoming sessions include Business Decision and Reference USA.

BusinessDecision provides comprehensive business-to-consumer market data, including company profiles, product/brand information with investment reports, rankings and market share data.

ReferenceUSA helps users create marketing plans, conduct a compet-

itive analysis, raise funds and locate people.

These databases offer access to more than 24 million U.S. businesses, 260 million U.S. consumers, 4 million U.S. new movers/homeowners.

Registration is requested for these free sessions, and can be accomplished by calling the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org.

Programs will be held in the Friends Room on the Library's main level. Attendees are encouraged to bring laptops or tablet devices for this hands-on learning experience.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Appreciation luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 23, at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Canton.

The luncheon is designed as a way for businesses to say "thank you" to their staffs. Lunch options include lasagna, chicken marsala or baked Parmesan ravioli. Cost is \$25 per ticket and deadline to RSVP is Friday.

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

Blues and brews

E.G. Nicks hosts "Blues, Brews and Barbecue" at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

Music with Big Ray & the Motor City Kings, plus the Bluescasters, starts at 8:30 p.m. The event features limited-edition brews, lots of barbecued food and prizes.

Door Restore expands

Door Restore, started two years ago in the Canton-Ann Arbor area, is now expanding its service area to include Northville and Plymouth.

According to Door Restore owner, John Eggenberger, the company specializes in restoring wood and fiberglass entry doors.

"Doors get beat up by sun, rain, snow and exposure causing them to fade, peel and crack. Our process restores a door to its original beauty for about a third the cost of replacement," Eggenberger said.

With the expansion, the company hopes revenue to double. More information can be found at www.doorrestore.com or by calling 734-678-7602.

Girls night out

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its first Girls Night Out shopping and dining event 5-10 p.m. Thursday, May 8.

Part of the proceeds from the event, which costs \$20, will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

The event is sponsored by Bovitt CPA, Curves, Showroom of Elegance and Mayflower Towing.

For information, call the chamber, 734-453-4040.

Concert schedule

The Plymouth Downtown Development Authority announced its annual "Music in the Air" Friday night concert schedule.

The free concerts draw thousands of music lovers to downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. DDA officials are calling the 2014 lineup "one of the best ever."

The schedule kicks off May 23 with the Bluescasters and closes out Aug. 29 with the popular Steve King and the Ditties.

The full schedule and more information is available at www.downtownplymouth.org.

-W board supports RESA tax request

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board has gone on record in support of a request by the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency to put a 2-mill enhanced millage request on the state's primary ballot.

The board voted 6-0, with Trustee Charles "Trav" Triffin absent, to support putting the request to voters in Wayne County in August.

The board action would generate \$80 million that would be distributed among school districts in the county based on student enrollment.

This is the third time Wayne RESA has floated the tax request. It needs to have the support of school boards repre-

senting 51 percent of students in the county to place it on the ballot.

"This is the only way a school district can raise operational revenue and that is through a millage," W-W Superintendent Greg Baracy said in requesting the board's support of the resolution. "This has come before us several times over several years and this is as far as it has gone because several districts did not pass the resolution."

Wayne RESA tried to get districts to approve a similar millage request in 2010 and 2012. The first time around, it failed to get the support of the county's largest districts — Plymouth-Canton, Livonia, Dearborn and Detroit. Two years ago, placing it on

the ballot came down to a decision by the Livonia school board, which voted 4-3 to oppose the tax request.

According to Baracy, there is "significant interest" among school districts across Wayne County this time around in asking RESA to put the request on the ballot.

"Almost every district is struggling and this provides the mechanism for them to raise needed revenue," he said.

"Almost every district is struggling and this provides the mechanism for them to raise needed revenue," he said.

'Win-win' for district

He added that the request is a "win-win" for Wayne-Westland. The millage would raise \$3.8 million in the district but, based on student population, it would bring in \$4.7 million in

revenue annually.

"That's \$4.7 million each year for six years with no strings attached," he added.

The millage would be levied beginning with 2014. Baracy estimates that the owner of a home with a \$75,000 taxable value would pay an additional \$70 per year.

Baracy stressed that with the introduction of Proposal A, the ability of school districts to seek millage to support operations was eliminated, except for a few hold-harmless districts.

The only avenue now available is a county-wide enhanced tax requested by the intermediate school district.

smason@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

Enter to win Detroit Lions football summer camp scholarship

Nine boys and girls ages 4-14 will win a scholarship to the 2014 Detroit Lions Summer Youth Camps.

The Detroit Lions, in cooperation with Observer & Eccentric Media, will award two scholarships to the following camps:

June 7-8, Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day, 9 a.m. to noon (Q5-WR Academy for ages 8-14).

June 12-13, Brighton Scramion Middle School, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Fundamentals Camp for ages 6-14).

July 19, 26, Aug. 2, Southfield Inglenook Park, 10-11 a.m. (Lil' Lions Academy for ages 4-8).

July 21-23, South Lyon Volunteer Park, 6:15-7:15 p.m. (Lil' Lions Academy for ages 4-8).

One scholarship will be offered for the **June 30 through July 3 Plymouth Central Middle School Camp** from 8:30 a.m. to noon (Fundamentals Camp for youth

ages 6-14).

The camps offer age-appropriate high-energy football instruction and technique training by high school and college football coaches and interactive drills, chalk talks and skill competitions.

More than 30 camps are scheduled for June through August. For a complete list of summer camps and academies, visit DetroitLions.com/youthfootball.

To enter the O&E Media's Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights Football Camp Contest, tell us in 50 words or less why you want to attend the camp.

Have your parents email a photo of you (jpeg format only and as large as possible), along with your name, age, phone number and community where you live, to cjbordan@hometownlife.com. Subject line is "Football Contest".

Deadline to enter is April 30.

Teen drug series

Dates/Times: 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7 (Part 1) and 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 (Part 2)

Location: Canton High School Media Center, 84015 N. Canton Center, Canton.

Details: Growth Works presents a two-part series on how to understand and identify teen substance abuse and how to help when a young person may have a problem with alcohol or other drugs. Part 1, "What To Know," concerns how to understand teen substance abuse problems and recognize when a parent may be harmfully involved with alcohol and other drugs. Part 2, "What To Do," is about what should and should not be done to effectively help when a teen alcohol/drug problem is suspected or identified. The program, presented by Brian Spitzbergen, is coordinated and presented by Growth Works with program sponsors for this event including Dawn Farm, the Livingston/Washtenaw Regional Coordinated School Health Program Advisory Team and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The program is targeted primarily to parents, guardians and relatives of teens, but is inclusive of teens, people who work with or care about teenagers, students and anyone interested in for any reason. Admission is free.

Contact: For additional information, visit www.teemusing.org, call 734-484-1722, ext. 1102, or email bspitbergen@growth-works.org.

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations: • Friday, April 18, 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., Thomas a Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Organizers are hoping to collect 400 units, which will be the largest one-day drive in Michigan.

• Monday, April 21, 1:45-4:15 p.m., Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon, Plymouth

• Monday, April 28, 1:45-4:15 p.m., VWV Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth

• Wednesday, April 30, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors a variety of blood drives in the month of April. Donors will be entered into a raffle for a \$150 Kroger gift card.

Contact: To make an appointment, call Diane Riano at 313-548-7052 or email Diane.Riano@redcross.org.

Medicare 101

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging will host Betty Hughes and her expert staff from the Senior Alliance in Plymouth to answer questions and guide beneficiaries to the most beneficial plan for their Medicare coverage.

Contact: RSVP at 734-453-1234, Ext. 236

Spring pottery sale

Date/Time: May 2, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; May 4, noon to 4 p.m.

Location: Village Pottery Guild studio, 340 N. Main, Plymouth (behind the Crossings restaurant)

Details: The Village Pottery Guild hosts its annual spring sale. Functional and decorative pottery created by members of the guild will be available at this yearly event. Tableware, tiles, stoneware and a wide range of decorative and framed pieces will be sold.

Contact: For more information and directions to the studio for the sale, visit www.villagepotteryguild.org or call 734-207-

8807.

Bowling for scholars

Date/Time: Thursday, April 24, 4-8 p.m.

Location: Plaza Lanes, Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. hosts an afternoon of bowling to raise money for scholarships. The club has reserved lanes for everyone to bowl two games that includes your shoes, pizza and soda for \$20. Each lane will have five players. Tickets for the event are available at Travel Leaders at the Kroger Plaza on the corner of Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon, International Kingpins on South Main and the Michigan Philharmonic at the Plymouth Community Arts Council on Sheldon. Tickets can also be purchased from members of the A.M. Rotary Club.

Contact: Email Leslie Greenstein at greensteinl@aol.com.

Museum tea party

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 4, 2 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, corner of Church and Main

Details: Kids and their dolls are invited to a tea party at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Children can dress up, choosing from an assortment of outfits with fancy boas or beautiful hats. Kids can get their photos taken while dressed up, and also participate in make-and-take activities, where they will make a Mother's Day card, a frame for their photo and will get a flower to plant in the yard. A discussion of dolls through the years will also be a part of the mix, providing ample entertainment for the kids, while giving them a delightful tea party that are sure to remember for years to come. Tickets for the tea are \$25 for one adult and one child; additional children's tickets can be purchased after April 25 will be \$5 more.

Contact: Tickets may be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum or at the museum's website using PayPal (<http://www.plymouthhistorical.org/events/Hello-Dolly>).



In accordance with Gov. Rick Snyder's proclamation declaring April 25 through May 3 White Cane Week for the blind and hearing-impaired, the Canton Lions Club will be in various locations around Canton Township and Belleville collecting money. Canton Lions Club president Larry Wegryn presented the proclamation to township Supervisor Phil Lajoie while Clerk Terry Bennett, Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, past District Gov. Bill Van Winkle and past District Gov. Stan Daniels gave their support. The Canton Lions Club, whose mission is to assist the blind and hearing-impaired throughout Canton and Belleville, is looking for additional members. Anyone interested can contact member Bill Van Winkle at 734-254-9404 or govbill@wowway.com.

Pamper Yourself

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 7, 7 p.m.

Location: Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford, Canton

Details: The Canton Newcomers and Neighbors host an evening of pampering. The evening features a cocktail-like setting with pampering stations, a charity raffle sponsored by iWorkto benefit Warm Hearts, refreshments from Mangos Fruit Market and raffles all evening.

Contact: RSVP is required to holliearnett@me.com. For more information on the club and/or to request a complimentary May newsletter, contact Noreen at narbally@yahoo.com or 734-981-0486.

Drive 4 UR School

Date/Time: Thursday, May 22, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: Blackwell Ford, 41001 Plymouth Road, Plymouth

Details: Test drive any vehicle at Blackwell Ford and they'll donate funds to help support Salem High School football.

Blackwell Ford and the Salem Lineweaver Booster Club are partnering to help raise up to \$6,000 in support of the Salem High School football program as part of Blackwell Ford's Drive 4 UR School program. Help raise money for the Salem football team by test-driving a Ford vehicle. For every person who test drives a new Ford vehicle at this one-day event,

Potluck

Date: Friday, April 25

Location: Plymouth Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft

Details: The Plymouth Friend-

ship Station is looking for new members. In addition to the complimentary potluck dinner, participants can play pinocchio, euchre or mah jong.

Contact: Call Marsha Shipman for more information at 734-420-2026.

Wildflower walks

Dates/Times: Sundays, April 27 and May 4

Location: Miller Woods (entrance is on Powell), just east of Ridge, Plymouth Township

Details: Join the Friends of Miller Woods for their annual wildflower walks through Miller Woods. Tours start on the half hour and are led by members of the Friends. The walks will highlight the beautiful native spring wildflowers along with the history of the woods and the Miller family's donation to our community. Tours are free and

last about 60 minutes. Dogs are not allowed and strollers are not recommended.

Contact: For last-minute weather changes that may affect the bloom times of the flowers, visit the website at millierwoods.com.

Ask a lawyer

Date/Time: Thursday, April 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: 598 N. Mill, Plymouth

Details: The Law Office of David C. Helm, PLLC, will host a free "Ask a Lawyer" event. Local attorneys will be on hand to meet with community members regarding a variety of legal issues. Topics may include criminal offenses, employment law, real estate, probate matters, estate planning, personal injury and many more.

Contact: Call David Helm at 248-679-8804.

Jazz @ the Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m.

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

Details: Jazz @ The Elks happens on the last Tuesday of each month, there is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. This month features the "Ask a Lawyer" event. Local attorneys will be on hand to meet with community members regarding a variety of legal issues. Topics may include criminal offenses, employment law, real estate, probate matters, estate planning, personal injury and many more.

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

Surgeon's seminar

Date/Time: Friday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth

Details: Dr. Ryan Moll, orthopedic surgeon and hip and knee replacement specialist, will offer a free educational seminar. Moll is an international proctor/teacher of his technique. This event is hosted by the Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

Contact: RSVP to 453-1234, Ext. 236.

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OUR VIEW

LESSON LOST

Administration missed teaching opportunity in Duhl firing

It seems too late for anything else to be done about it now, but Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators missed what could have been an excellent teaching opportunity in their handling of the Scott Duhl mess.

Administrators a couple of weeks ago fired Duhl, the former varsity girls soccer coach at Salem High School, for his unfortunate use of the slang for a male player in describing one girl's play during a meeting. That girl, as nearly everyone knows by now, repeated the conversation to her parents, who complained to school officials, who promptly removed Duhl from the post (although he was allowed to keep his position with the boys program).

The move, coming on the heels of the 2014 season as it did, has prompted outrage among the soccer community. More than 100 people, most of them

student-athletes, crowded into the Board of Education meeting room a couple of weeks ago to express their frustration over the situation.

In their haste to appease one upset set of parents (and there are indications the parents weren't really upset so much about the inappropriate language as the coach's perceived favoritism of certain players), administrators removed Duhl from his duties, without so much as a hearing or any real review.

But their behavior in the aftermath suggests there may be questions about the firing, which seems a bit extreme. At first blush, at least one administrator said the removal was done by officials at CoachEZ, the third-party contractor the district uses to handle coaching vacancies filled by non-staff members.

However, CoachEZ doesn't have that power; the right to



Players showed up in droves at a recent school board meeting to support ousted soccer coach Scott Duhl. (JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESSION PHOTO)

fire belongs strictly with the district. Either the administration wasn't aware of that or officials were trying to hide behind CoachEZ, either of those conclusions would be disturbing.

District officials are apparently now calling Duhl's removal a "suspension" rather than a dismissal. That, likewise, would indicate there is some concern over whether the situation was handled properly at the building level.

There are other disturbing aspects of the whole situation. The girls wore jerseys in their opening game with Duhl's

name on the backs, rather than their own. For this show of respect for their ousted coach, athletic director Tom Willette apparently threatened to forfeit future games, if repeated. This despite research done by team members to make sure the jerseys complied with Michigan High School Athletic Association rules.

Perhaps the current administration could have learned from former Superintendent Jeremy Hughes, who infamously banned two books a couple of years ago largely because of concerns raised by one set of parents. Hughes

In their haste to appease one upset set of parents ... administrators removed Duhl from his duties, without so much as a hearing or any real review.

eventually admitted his haste and reversed himself, letting the district's review committee handle it, and the books were reinstated in relatively short order.

It is, of course, the district's prerogative to handle these situations as it best sees fit. If officials really believe Duhl's behavior warranted dismissal, they have the right to. We believe the dismissal was heavy-handed and the administration could easily have fixed it — and taught the students at the same time that adults also make mistakes, but are willing to correct them when necessary.

It would have been a great teaching moment for the kids and maybe an even better learning moment for the adults.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfair to Craigslist

I don't think you are being fair to Craigslist sponsors or your readers linking this crime to Craigslist.

If what you write, that these two people met a year ago through Craigslist and have a mutual relationship, the article's implications should not be about trying to frighten your readers from using Craigslist. There's no question that people are becoming victims of fraud through the Internet and readers need to be careful, but my limited experience using Craigslist has shown it to be a neutral forum with safeguards in place to protect users who are not charged any fees to use. I think a title using the word online rather than Craigslist would be better.

Douglas Elenbaas
Canton Township

Back scratching

When I read that Gov. Rick Snyder appointed state Rep. Kurt Heise's wife to be a Wayne County Circuit Court judge, I was reminded of the old saying, "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."

Rep. Heise should feel proud, having been as loyal as a puppy to the governor these past few years. As for us seniors whose pensions are now being taxed, if you are a back-scratcher, we'll have to go to the dollar store and buy our own.

John M. Vranjak
Plymouth Township

Solidarity and support

The Plymouth-Canton Interfaith Community Outreach expresses solidarity and strong support to our Jewish sisters and brothers for the anti-Semitism attacks on the Jewish community facilities in Kansas City.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims. We stand united in condemning violence against any group. The Plymouth-Canton Interfaith Community Outreach group is represented by: Pastor Presbyterian Church, Canton; Gurdwara Sahib Singh Sabha, Canton; Gurdwara Sahib Hidden Falls, Plymouth; and Hindu Swamiji Santh Sangh USA, Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, Canton.

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak
Canton

Money not speech

First, the Republican-dominated Supreme Court ruled corporations were people (Citizens United v. Federal Election Committee) and, as such, could contribute as much money as they wanted to elections.

Now, the Supreme Court has taken it further and ruled individuals can contribute all they want (McCutcheon v. FEC) because to limit an individual's contributions violates their free speech without serving a legitimate government interest.

Well, if the fact that money corrupts politicians and sways elections isn't enough of a legitimate government interest, I don't know what is.

Our democracy has been taken over by corporations and rich people who can buy votes and completely corrupt the political process.

Denise Berthiaume
Canton

Sell DIA art

I'm sorry if I'm missing something here, but when you go into bankruptcy, you sell off all your assets, then have the remaining dollars to pay off your creditors.

Am I right?

STAFF COLUMN

3/11 Memorial powerful reminder of a nation's pain

A lot has changed in 13 years.

The last time I was in New York was October 2001, three weeks after terrorists flew two jets into the World Trade Center, killing thousands and forever altering life as we know it.

I remember that visit as if it were yesterday. I made the trip with my brother and, as we walked in the streets near Ground Zero, the ground was still covered with debris, our feet crunching on the detritus of disaster. Shop windows were still blown out, inventory covered with dust and soot as shopkeepers waited for insurance companies to render decisions before they could deal with the damage.



lapsed the World Trade Center and, however briefly, brought a nation to its knees?

I remember being amazed by the resilience exhibited by New Yorkers then. I could remember the mayor in Ghostbusters famously saying, "It's every New Yorker's God-given right to be miserable" and thought that would be the re-acting wounds, hordes of people were caring and supportive, holding hands and hugging, getting through it together.

I wasn't sure what I expected last week, during my first visit to New York since 9/11. On vacation with my two youngest sons, the 9/11 Memorial was the very first site we visited after arriving. As on my first visit, I wasn't sure what to expect. Time has a way of softening wounds, they say, but the 9/11 attacks left a deep scar, from which I don't know whether we've ever completely healed.

If we haven't, though, the 9/11 Memorial surely is a way to make that happen. Where once the rubble lay now sits a pair of reflecting pools, each



Visitors often place flowers in the names inscribed on the panels that edge the twin reflecting pools of the 9/11 Memorial in New York.

nearly an acre in size, sitting in the footprints where the Twin Towers once stood. We got there around 10 in the morning and there were already hundreds of people in line, waiting to pass security to get a glimpse of history.

The reflecting pools are, obviously, the first things you notice upon entering. As beautiful as they are, though, they are not the most striking part of the memorial.

That distinction belongs to the bronze panels edging the pools, where the names of the thousands of people who died not only in that attack,

but in the 1993 bombing, are inscribed.

The power of those names hits with the force of memory, with the pain of loss. I didn't know anyone who died in the attacks, so my loss was more existential. That didn't make the memorial less powerful for me.

When you see row after row of names laid out like that, the loss is palpable. I stood next to a gentleman Tuesday at one of the panels. He had wiped the condensation away from a particular name and stood for the longest time staring at it. His expression pained, his eyes unwavering. There

cal situation through this supplemental law and recognizes the importance of this issue. Our advocacy efforts will be an ongoing effort. The supplemental bill expires in September and we will need to obtain funding for future budget years.

Your advocacy efforts are very much appreciated. On behalf of the patients and families who utilize this benefit, thank you. Medicaid beneficiaries will receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

Gloria D. Brooks,
President and CEO,
Arbor Hospice

Resume funding

Research shows that cancer screenings save lives. Detecting cancer early increases the chances of successful treatment, improves survival rates and cuts overall medical costs in Michigan. Last year, Michigan legislators eliminated state funding for Michigan's Cancer Prevention Program. Now, less than 10 percent of women, ages 40-49, eligible for the Michigan Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program will receive life-saving cancer screenings in 2014. This means more women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at later stages when it is more costly to treat and less likely to survive.

Unfortunately, a significant number of Michiganans will remain uninsured. For these women, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program may be the only option enabling them access screening and early detection programs. I urge all members of the Michigan Legislature to remember these women, and make fully funding this program a priority.

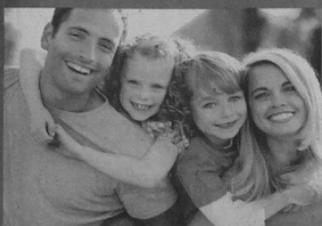
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SPORTS

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PREP GIRLS LACROSSE

Chiefs storm Wildcats in 12-4 victory

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Alexis O'Flynn said she had a bumper of a good Monday, having to attend a funeral. Her night was much better. The Canton senior attacker thought it would be good to "take it out on the field" Monday night against the Plymouth Wildcats in a KLAAs Kensington Conference varsity girls lacrosse match-up.

O'Flynn constantly motored around and in front of the Plymouth goal and scored four times to spark the Chiefs to a 12-4 victory on a cool and rainy night at Ply-

mouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity turf field.

"We came out really strong today, we really wanted this one," O'Flynn said. "Rivalry games are always a good time."

The weather didn't seem to bother her or her teammates, either. "It's not fun to play in the rain and the cold, but you just got to do it," O'Flynn added. "You don't really have any options."

The Chiefs (4-2, 4-0) did have options around the Wildcats' goal, with senior midfielder Annika Nuler also scoring four goals — two on perfect

setups by junior midfielder Jordan Church — with senior midfielder Connie Cox chipping in with three.

"She's hard to stop," Canton head coach Dave Bower about O'Flynn said. "She's got good skills, she changes her speed well and takes high quality shots." "Our midfield really has been carrying us this year, along with Alexis on the attack in terms of goals. We saw some really beautiful assists out there, twice with Church to Nuler, those were beautiful goals, finding each other. We're getting



Plymouth's Hannah Figley (No. 14) tries to stop Canton attacker Alexis O'Flynn (No. 42) on Monday night. BILL BREXLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See LACROSSE, Page B4

KVSSL meeting

Northville KVSSL coordinator Charlie Gabbeart will host an informal informational meeting for potential new players at 9 a.m. April 22 at Zack's of Plymouth, 9468 S. Main St., just south of Ann Arbor Road.

Coffee is on Gabbeart, although he requests that those planning to attend contact him in advance at cgabbeart@clnorthville.mi.us or (248) 449-9947 so he can plan for the appropriately sized group.

'Meet the Coaches'

Canton High School's football program is hosting a mandatory "Meet the Coaches" meeting for incoming freshmen players and their parents at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1 in the Canton North Building gymnasium. Players and parents are asked to arrive for the meeting at 6 p.m.

Contact Julie Baechler at juliebacher@clcloud.com for more information.

'Super Jess' 5K run

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

The 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.

This year, the race will support one present P-CCS student and one P-CCS alum: Salem senior Jerrica Fitzgerald and Salem alum Amy Lamberger.

Jerrica was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a rare medical condition in which fluid builds up in the brain. Jerrica 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. Jerrica is now a senior at the Park and is excited to graduate this spring.

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

She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was 3 months old. Within the last year, Amy underwent a double lung transplant and many other surgeries prior to that.

Registration will continue until race day; registrations received prior to April 16 will include a race shirt. Sign-up forms can be found on the SJSK Facebook page, P-CEP website or in Canton, Plymouth and Salem main offices. Event fees are \$25 for adults over 18 and \$20 for all others. Contact event student coordinator Shannon Perry at SJSKCommunity@gmail.com.

FUN WAY TO LEARN GOLF

GOLF ON THE GO



Delaney Kowalczyk, of Westland, successfully finishes this Kwik Golf hole with encouragement from her teammates, Brayden Niemiec and Nick Barrett of Canton. All three 10-year-olds were participating at the first of three Spring Open Houses at Hickory Creek Golf Course. PHOTOS BY TAMI BEALERT

Hickory Creek's Kwik Golf helps kids, families get up to speed

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Welcome to golf in the 21st century, where players sprint and chip away while being timed as though they were competing in a track and field meet.

Don't worry, purists: It's Kwik Golf, not the Masters. The faster version of the game on display during Sunday's open house at Hickory Creek Golf Course in Superior Twp. proved to be a major hit with 10-year-olds Brayden Niemiec, Nick Barrett and Delaney Kowalczyk.

And in the process, their parents were thrilled their kids were finding out from Hickory Creek PGA Professional Tami Bealert that golf can be fast and fun.

"It just helps you to play quicker golf, and also to work on your skill at the same time, just like in real golf," Bealert said. "You want to be able to

FAMILY GOLFING FUN

Where: Hickory Creek Golf Course, located at 3265 Napier Road in Superior or Township, just west of Canton.

Open houses: PGA professional Tami Bealert will host two more open houses where Kwik Golf are featured. Those will take place 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 26 and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Play games, win contests, free refreshments and snacks.

Programs: Bealert hosts a bevy of programs for all ages and skill levels, such as Little Linksters (ages 5-8) and Junior Golf (ages 8-17).

Info: Call 734-927-3265 or go to www.TrainwithTami.com for more information.

play quite quickly, but take your time when it comes to hitting the golf shot.

"A lot of times, people spend too much time lollygagging to get to their golf ball and that slows you play. We don't want that. We want you to move quickly to your ball and then take your time when you're hitting your shot."

For the uninitiated, here's how Kwik Golf works:

- » Using oversized plastic golf clubs and mini tennis balls, teammates of two or three proceed as though in a golf scramble.

» One player tees off, and the teammates dash to the ball. Each takes turns hitting the ball into a large ring with a Velcroed flagstick in the center. On Sunday, they had to complete three holes in succession.

» They are timed. The final

See KWIK GOLF, Page B4



Nick Barrett, 10, of Canton gets into the swing to launch another round of Kwik Golf.

PREP BOYS BASEBALL

Park baseball teams in drive

Salem routs Patriots; Canton, Plymouth each win 4-3

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

All three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity baseball teams opened the week with impressive victories, including a blowout and two nail-biters.

The blowout was Salem's 17-2 romp over Livonia Franklin in what longtime Rocks head coach Dale Rumberger described as "one of the most productive home openers in Salem history." Salem finished off the Patriots in three innings before the mercy rule was invoked.

Big guns at the plate were plentiful as the Rocks improved to 4-2 overall. Brandon Gillen stroked a triple and two doubles in three at-bats, knocking in three runs and scoring twice.

Mike Vernon and Justin Sydowski each registered two hits and three RBIs while Jack Dritis and Tyler Brooks also tallied two hits a piece.

Junior catcher Colin Savage homered in the third with a teammate on base, for his first Salem round-tripper. Rumberger said Savage immediately received the good-natured "silent treatment" in the dugout.

The recipient of all the offense was starting pitcher Andrew Hunt, who gave up just two

runs on four hits. Rumberger is hopeful that all of the runs and hits did not run out, because Salem will face host Livonia Stevenson Wednesday in an important KLAAs Central Division doubleheader.

The Rocks also had a big weekend, defeating Taylor Truman 10-0 and Taylor Kennedy 9-2, both on Saturday.

Against Truman, Brooks pitched the shutout with Savage,

See BASEBALL, Page B2

PREP COLUMN

Salem girls have fired coach's back

By Mick McCabe
Gannett Michigan

At first glance, it appeared Salem's home-opening girls soccer game had turned into a family reunion.

Every player's name on the backs of their jerseys Monday night, April 7 was "Duhl."

"Yeah, well, I'm not going to comment on that so..." Salem's Tom Willette said. "You can just say 'no comment' from the athletic director."

No comment from the athletic director or the superintendent or anyone else in authority at Salem. But senior captain Olivia Kaye was happy to comment on the situation. "It's the jerseys had the same name on the back."

"We thought that would be a subtle way to show our support for him," she said.

She was talking about former coach Scott Duhl, who was fired last month after a conversation he had with a freshman.

Duhl is also the boys varsity coach at Salem and still has that position, so he did not want to talk on the record about what happened — nor did girls JV coach Mike Stratton, who also was at the meeting with the freshman when he was told she would be on the JV team.

After speaking with multiple sources, it is

apparent Duhl had a lapse in judgment when he used a slang term for a male body part in describing the freshman's style of play.

He actually was trying to compliment her in describing the edge — the swagger and presence — she had when she played. He said it reminded him of guy players he grew up playing with. Evidently the girl went home and told her mother the word Duhl used and that is when all hell broke loose. Salem officials took the easy way out — or, I imagine, so they thought — and fired Duhl from the girls job.

But in trying to placate one parent, Salem officials enraged the parents of the other players who believe that while Duhl made a mistake, it should not have cost him his job.

And then there are the feelings of the varsity, JV and freshman players, who are furious over the decision and attended a school board meeting to show their support for Duhl.

"We're, obviously, very devastated," said Kaye, who signed to play at Northwood. "Losing him this year has been a tough loss because he really knows how to connect with us. It's just sad seeing something like



During a recent school board meeting, Salem girls soccer players sported T-shirts with fired coach Scott Duhl's name on the back. They wore identical jerseys during a game last week against Plymouth to continue their support of Duhl. JOHN KEMSKI / EXPRESS PHOTO

that happen to someone you know is a good guy and doesn't deserve it."

At a school board meeting a couple of weeks ago, Superintendent Michael Meissen insisted Duhl's firing was the decision of CoachEZ, a contracting agency for coaches and school districts. However, CoachEZ serves as a third party for paying coaches and it is not possible that it would have the authority to demand a district fire a coach.

Out of control

The situation has spiraled out of control. The mother of the player, who

chose not to speak with the *Free Press*, evidently fears for her daughter's safety and has not permitted her to ride the bus with the team to away games.

"I don't think she understands all the effects it's had on her daughter," Kaye said. "She definitely put her in an uncomfortable situation. I don't know if they knew it would come to all this."

Of course, the mother didn't realize the unintended consequences of her actions. Neither did Willette when he showed up at the April 8 soccer practice and spoke to the players about the jerseys

they wore in the 3-0 loss the previous night to Plymouth.

"Tom actually came up to us as practice and told us that we're not allowed to wear them and he threatened to suspend us," said Kaye, who helped turn the T-shirts into jerseys and even went to the Michigan High School Athletic Association website to get the specifications to make sure they were legal.

"All the girls are freaking out and he pretty much told us that we lost because we wore our shirts. He told us he's been hearing that we're

the better team and he's like: 'If you guys didn't wear those shirts, you would have won.' Every one took his offense at that. Nobody liked that comment."

Again, Willette refused to comment to the *Free Press*.

Staying out of it

George Kitbas was hired to coach the varsity and is just trying to stay out of the line of fire.

"They've welcomed me and I just want to focus on the season," he said. "I'm here to do my job — coach soccer. That's all I want to do."

That's all Duhl wants, too. But Salem officials have made a mess of the entire situation. They lost sight of trying to do what is in the best interest of the students.

Instead, they have given their students a life lesson in how not to run a school.

"It's not just trying to appease all these separate parents because parents know, if they don't like something, they can run and complain and they can get what they want," Kaye said. "That's not OK. That's just going to cause a lot of problems in the future."

At Salem, that future is now.

Mick McCabe covers prep sports for the *Detroit Free Press*.

PREP BASEBALL

PCA stymied by Warriors' Williams

Jipping leads way in 9-3 rout of Thurston; HVL's Schaffer Ks 15

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Lutheran High Westland got an early season gem thrown last Thursday by Jordan Williams.

The sophomore right-hander threw a no-hitter, fanned 12 and walked only three as the Warriors opened White Division play in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference with a 2-0

victory at Plymouth Christian Academy.

Williams was coming off a 9-1 season as a freshman.

"Jordan was zoned in and pitched really well," said Lutheran High Westland coach Kevin Wade, whose team improved to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the MIAC White. "He kept the hitters off balance and hit his spots. He worked out of a jam in the third inning, but outside of that, nobody threatened."

PCA (1-1, 0-1) put two runners aboard in the bottom of the third in-

ning, but Williams got a slow grounder to third followed by a strikeout.

Mark Mika led Lutheran Westland's sixth hit attack going 2-for-4 with a double and run scored. Cleveland Tarp also contributed an RBI double.

PCA starter Michael Slater, who worked the first five innings before giving way to Daniel Jipping, took the loss.

In a MIAC crossover on Friday, Lutheran Westland slipped to 2-1 with a 15-0 setback to novel Franklin Road Christian.

PCA & THURSTON 2: Plymouth Christian Academy recorded just four hits

but made the most of seven bases on balls to break a 1-0 tie in the April 8 non-conference baseball matchup.

Daniel Jipping (three runs) provided most of the PCA fireworks, slugging a single, two-run homer and stealing home. Michael Slater (two runs) and Josh Slater also tallied base hits.

Slating and picking up the win was Michael Slater, who did not allow Thurston to score while he was on the mound.

Other PCA runs were scored by Johnny Lauch, Will Crestwell, Josh Slater and AJ Gruber.

"We played a very solid fundamental game," PCA coach Ben Boffert said. "It was a great win heading into our first conference game."

PCA & THURSTON 3: BAPTIST PARK
Ryan Schaffer was the difference April 8 as Westland's Heaton Valley Lutheran (1-1) edged their season with a victory at Taylor Baptist Park.

Schaffer, a senior, threw a no-hitter, walked just three and struck out 15 to outlast the Wildcats. Daniel Ludwinski, who gave up just five hits, walked none and also fanned 15. Schaffer's teammates went 8-for-11 at the plate with a double and RBI.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Piechota, Schuba spark Crusaders

Two standout pitching performances Saturday catapulted the Madonna University baseball team to a pair of 5-1 victories Saturday over Lourdes University (Ohio) at Iltich Ballpark.

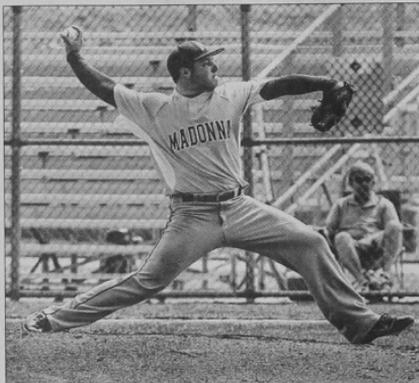
Sophomore right-hander Evan Piechota went all nine innings for the Crusaders in the opener. The Livonia Stevenson High grad struck out 10 and walked three to even his record at 3-3.

Taylor Grzelakowski went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI. Victor Barron and John Lauro also knocked in runs.

In Game Two, senior right-hander Travis Schuba threw a six-hitter over seven innings as MU improved to 20-17 overall and 7-9 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Schuba (5-1) struck out three and walked one.

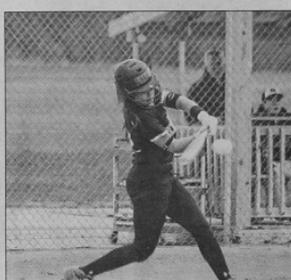
Offensively, Ben Matigian (Livonia Churchill) and Ryan Lech each collected two hits and two RBI.

The loss dropped Lourdes to 8-22 overall and 5-14 in the WHAC. MU was scheduled to return to conference action Wednesday at Aquinas before starting a four-game set Friday and Saturday at Indiana Tech.



Madonna sophomore right-hander Evan Piechota evened his record at 3-3 by going all nine innings in a 5-1 victory in the first game of a twinbill against Lourdes (Ohio). HAVLEY STEMPEN / MADONNA ATHLETICS

PREP GIRLS SOFTBALL



Plymouth's Brooke Senkbeil rips a double during Monday's contest.

Plymouth batters out 15-0 victory over Novi

Plymouth put up 15 runs Monday and routed Novi in a KLAAs South Division varsity softball matchup.

The tone of the day was set immediately. Leadoff batter Brooke Senkbeil smacked a stand-up triple and trotted home two batters later when Lindsay Lutton doubled.

The two seniors were on fire for the Wildcats. Senkbeil went 4-for-4, knocking in two runs later in the contest.

Lutton chipped in with a 3-for-3 performance, including a second double, two RBIs and three runs.

Helping the cause were senior Celeste Miller (1-for-2, two RBIs), pitcher Mikayela Marciniak (2-for-3, three RBI), Halli Barkum (1-for-2) and Ra-

chel Zerona (1-for-3).

Marciniak gave up just a walk and single to Novi over the course of the five-inning, mercy-rule shortened game.

Plymouth and Canton will set to meet Wednesday in a key divisional twinbill.

CANTON 7, NORTHVILLE 3
Victory over Novi helped the Mustangs Monday behind a complete game 5-hitter by pitcher Marcellus.

Pete Arisco sparked the Chiefs with a double and a two-run homer. Helping the cause were Kenzaji Richter (2-for-4, two doubles), Bryn Brierley (2-for-4, two runs) and Kaitlin Keys (1-for-3). Val Landon hit an important sacrifice fly in the seventh for an insurance run.

SALEM & FRANKLIN 2: Winning pitcher Kristi Kniz scattered eight hits and a walk over seven innings Monday hitting the Rocks (3-1, 1-1) in the Kalamazoo Conference crossover victory over visiting Livonia Franklin (3-4, 2-2).
Salience scored a run in the first and helped bring together four hits in the third to add four more runs.
Losing pitcher Courtney Gurbano also had four runs earned, without a walk or strikeout.
Freshman Dierdrae Hodkins singled twice and had both Franklin RBI, while senior Marissa Mendrick added a double, single and scored a run.

BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

Sydowski and Driscoll ripping two hits each.

Eric Scott picked up his first victory in relief of starter Nick March against Kennedy. Closing out the victory with three innings of scoreless relief was junior Wes Ross. Scott and Nick Minichiello each tallied two base hits and Rumberger said his team played great.

Chiefs prevail

Canton held off a late rally by host Northville on Monday to earn a 4-3 KLAAs crossover

victory.

Brent Mattson slammed the door against the heart of the Mustangs lineup in the bottom of the seventh with the tying run on base.

Getting the victory with two innings of relief was Nick Hazerigan, who allowed starter Noah Spencer (five strong innings).

On offense, Canton got on the board in the fifth when pitcher hitter Grant Slomkowski and Nick Schnur singled, with Weston Price walking to load the bases. Robert Guajardo's subsequent hit scored two runs to make it 2-2.

Northville regained the lead 3-2 in the fifth on a sacrifice fly, but Canton went out in

front to stay on a two-run homer by senior James Hall (which followed a 1-out single by Hazerigan).

The win capped Canton's record to 4-2 overall and 3-1 in the KLAAs, ending Wednesday's big doubleheader against Plymouth.

On Saturday at Milan, the Chiefs defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer 5-3 before falling 2-0 to Plymouth.

Against the Pioneers, Mattson collected three hits while Spencer knocked in two runs. Earning the win with four innings of no-hit pitching was senior Drew Misenko.

In the loss to Milan, starting pitcher Colin Elgas was the tough-luck loser. He gave up

just two runs and four hits in his first varsity start.

Wildcats hang on

Plymouth overcame the cold weather and Nov Wildcats Monday, collecting a 4-3 KLAAs victory.

Starting pitcher Derek Ebeling was strong over 6 1/3 innings, giving up three hits.

"Derek settled down after a tough first inning and was in control, mixing his pitches perfectly," Plymouth head coach Jason Crain said. "Coach Beau Adams did a wonderful job preparing our pitchers this winter and spring building confidence in their secondary pitchers."

Finishing up the win with a

two-out save was Cameron Stella, who also went 2-for-3 at the plate with an RBI. Also tallying two hits for Plymouth was Andrew Jossey.

"It was a hard-fought battle where both teams struggled through cold conditions as they wrenched throughout the game," Crain said. "Kevin Anthony had a game-saving play, while catching an off-line throw that would have let the tying run in and put the winner on third."

"Our team continues to get contributions from a variety of players which just proves our depth will be an asset as the season progresses."

tsmith@hometowlife.com

Hoops are where Robb's heart is

Plymouth senior to play basketball at Aquinas

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The idea of joining Plymouth soccer teammates in Division I programs appealed to Kylie Robb.

But not long after Robb wanted to play D-I soccer at Western Michigan University, she realized it really wasn't what she wanted to do. So she had a major change of heart, to not only change her college destination but sport of choice.

Recently, the Plymouth High School senior signed to play women's basketball at Aquinas College, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics D-II school.

"I'm excited, I'm happy I finally got this out of the way," said Robb, following her signing ceremony in the Plymouth gymnasium. "Going into high school I didn't think I wanted to play high school soccer, but Coach (Jeff) Neschich talked me into it."

"Then last year with all the hoopla with Madi Lewis and Stephanie Dillon and Zoe Foster all going D-I, when I got the opportunity to go to a big Division I school for soccer I was like 'Yes!' But then kind of like immediately after, I was like 'This is not what I want to do.'"

No nonsense

Her future college coach, Julie Nash, was part of the festivities and thrilled about having the tough-as-nails point guard join the Saints in 2014-15.

"I am extremely pleased

that she went with the orange round ball instead of the black-and-white one," said Nash, smiling. "In watching her play, I just like her gutsy style and kind of no-nonsense approach to the game. She's not afraid to dive on the floor and do all the little things."

"We kind of pride ourselves on being a blue-collar working team, working hard. Defense is a big part of it, and I think with her leadership that she's shown on the floor, I think she'll definitely have a great career for us."

Parents Ann and Steve Robb and younger brother Joey all were on hand for the ceremony. Kylie's family also realized that basketball was where her heart is, not stopping soccer balls as a goal-keeper.

"It's been a long process," Steve Robb said. "I think her first love was always basketball. She had made the commitment to Western for soccer. I think it was a little bit of having the opportunity to be a Division I athlete at Western Michigan is what made her make that original choice in soccer."

"As the months went on, she realized that she wanted to be a basketball player. So I think this is a great fit."

The place for her

All it took from there were a couple of visits to the Grand Rapids college, where she met Nash and players and got to see the picturesque campus and surrounding area.

"As soon as I got there, I liked Coach Nash, and I can't wait to play for her," Kylie Robb said. "I fell in love with the campus, I love the team and I just love everything about Aquinas. So I'm really excited to go there and play for Coach Nash."



Plymouth senior Kylie Robb recently signed to play basketball at Aquinas College. Robb is flanked by parents Ann and Steve Robb. Standing (from left) are Plymouth coach Nick Brandon, Kylie's brother Joey, Plymouth athletic director Kyle Meteyer and Aquinas coach Linda Nash. (JANELLE KRUMIC / EXPRESS PHOTO)

It will be a bonus for the family that she will only be a couple hours away from their Canton home, not to mention playing road games at nearby colleges such as Madonna and Concordia.

Of course, how much Robb gets to play as a freshman will be up to her. "They all fight it out. She's got the ability," Nash said. "It's a matter of once we line them all up and they start competing."

"We've played freshmen a lot. It's all up to her. But I think she definitely can play at this level, there's no doubt about it."

With Robb being the first player to sign with a college since Nick Brandon took over as Plymouth's varsity girls basketball coach, he was almost as proud as Robb's parents were.

"I see really positive things for her," Brandon said. "I think the biggest thing with Kylie joining a program

is how much her teammates will benefit. She brings such an intensity to practice every single day."

"She plays at each practice like it's a state championship game and those are the type of players you want as part of a program. Aquinas made a great choice and Kylie's going to be an awesome addition to that program."

And Robb, who brings a 3.67 grade-point-average and plans on studying for a degree in business management (with an emphasis on sports), definitely will be where her heart is.

On the basketball court. "When I de-committed from Western a lot of people were like 'Oh, why did you do that?'" Robb said. "I don't care about Division I or Division II, as long as I'm doing what makes me happy... And that's playing basketball."

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GIRLS SOCCER ROUNDUP

Blazers boot Gabriel Richard

Warriors rally past Southfield Christian

Sam Riga and Mikelaya Hawkins tallied two goals apiece Saturday as host Livonia Ladywood blanked Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, 6-0, in a Catholic League girls soccer crossover victory.

The Blazers, who improved to 7-1-2 overall and 3-1-1 in Division I of the Catholic League, jumped out to a 3-0 halftime lead on goals by Conner Huggins, second minute (from Abby Pelon); Riga, 33rd minute (from Jenna Urso); and Riga again, 39th minute (from Emily Huddlestone).

The Blazers put it away with three second-half tallies — Urso, 47th minute (from Huggins); Hawkins, 55th minute (from Kennedy Bullard); and Hawkins again, 62nd minute (from Clare Kelley).

Ladywood goalkeeper Whitney Bauriedl made two saves to record her third shutout of the season.

Isabelle Dirksen made five saves for the Fighting Irish, who slipped to 1-6-2 overall and 1-4 in Division 2 of the Catholic League.

"It was a nice all around game for us," said Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker, whose team outshot the Fighting Irish, 20-3.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 4, SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN 2: In a Catholic League match Monday, host Lutheran Westland (3-1-2) scored four unanswered goals to beat Southfield Christian (0-3-3). Goals by Taylor Barry (unassisted) and Elizabeth Keating (from Barry) staked the Eagles to a 2-0 lead, but Saele Schultz cut the deficit to 2-1 at halftime with a goal at the 26-minute mark.

The Warriors then scored three straight second half goals as Mara McMahon tied it on the penalty kick and Sam Benner sealed the go-ahead goal on a lobby by the keeper. McMahon's unassisted goal, her second of the game, capped the scoring.

Lutheran Westland goalkeeper Kayleigh Goodfellow made four saves.

We stopped us on game on the second half after having a flat first half." Lutheran Westland coach Sara Schuler said.

REBELVILLE 3, CLARENCOVILLE 0: Morgan Marshall scored twice, while Demi Pevytinger added another Monday leading the Tigers to a Western Wayne Athletic Conference victory over Livonia Clarencoville (0-2-0).

Clarencoville goalkeeper Jillian Burkler made 16 saves in the setback.

"We came out ready to play in the second half, which was a half too late for us," Clarencoville coach Amanda Moody said. "We had more scoring opportunities and determination in the second half."

Moody singled out the offensive efforts of Jordan See, Lindsey Hoek, Brianna Iuori, Ceasar and Tristan Beas, along with the defensive prowess by Isabella Rodriguez, Sam Franco, Hunter Iuliano and Isara Masani.

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WAYNE COUNTY PARKS MARSHMALLOW DROP

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- More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter.
- Each child just needs to turn in one marshmallow to receive a prize.
- Be on the lookout for a SPECIAL colored marshmallow to receive an amazing prize!

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For additional information, please call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com

PREP GIRLS LACROSSE

Rocks start fast, hold off late rally from Novi

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's girls lacrosse team just keeps on rolling.

The visiting Rocks edged previously undefeated Novi 11-9 Monday night to improve Salem's record to 8-1.

But it wasn't easy. Salem built a 9-3 half-time lead but got sloppy after the intermission, enabling the Wildcats the chance to creep back into the KLA A Kensington Conference matchup.

Salem head coach Dave Medley cited his team's stellar defense as the Rocks slowed Novi's offense (the Wildcats had been averaging 19.5 goals per contest entering the match).

"We had another great de-

fensive game early on with Andi Marthaler, Amanda Merkel, Megan Finkeberger, and Shannon Burke slowing down their offensive front," Medley said.

Salem also had strong work in the draw circle, with Rose Krasofsky, Lauren Britton, Jenna Carter and Bridget Kerwin winning most of their draws.

On the offensive front, the Rocks were paced by Krasofsky (five goals), Joslyn Longe (three goals), Kiersten Vala (two goals, two assists) and Sarah Edgecomb, who tallied one marker.

Friday night, after Salem edged Plymouth 10-9 to finish off a previous match that had been deadlocked (the KLA A does not permit games to end



Salem's (from left) Jenna Carter, Rose Krasofsky and Sarah Edgecomb, shown from earlier this season, continue to be instrumental in their team's torrid start. JEFF CARTER

in ties).

Then in the regularly scheduled matchup, the Rocks pre-

vailed 10-5.

Krasofsky again led the Salem attack, scoring five

goals and chipping in with an assist.

Other goal scorers included Longe (2 goals), Leah Tardiff, Carter and Vala (who also had an assist).

"We came out strong leading 8-2 at the half, and played with caution the rest of the way, as we know they have some players that can score fast," Medley said. "We felt fortunate to be able to get some quick scores as against their goalkeeper, she has been stellar over the games we have faced her, as have all the seniors."

"I can't say enough how hard they have played against an always pushing us to the limit."

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PREP BOYS LACROSSE

Resilient Chiefs get past Gabriel Richard

Canton's varsity boys lacrosse team showed its ability to bounce back from disappointment, with Saturday's 13-11 victory over Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

The Chiefs (3-2 overall) lost a tough 10-9 game to Orchard Lake St. Mary's on April 9 in a game that went four overtimes.

A fast start against Gabriel Richard helped immensely, as the Chiefs went up 5-1 with Carson Pakula scoring early in the match to make it 1-0. Senior Kyle Topper ripped in four goals before the end of the quarter (Topper finished with seven goals in the con-

test).

Junior Brocton Baechler kept the Canton offense rolling in the second quarter as he scored two times, with junior Gerald Belanger setting up one of the tallies.

Sophomore Ben Phillips (from Topper) and junior Nolan Gilio added goals before half-time, as Canton built a 9-2 edge.

Gabriel Richard opened the second half with five unanswered goals, however, to make it 9-7 after three frames.

In the fourth, it was 9-8 early on before Topper took over with three more goals

(one assisted by Pakula).

Capping off the game and victory with a last-minute goal was Pakula, netting his second of the day.

Senior goaltender Collin Smith was outstanding in net, stopping 15 of 26 saves and coming up big down the stretch.

Helping the cause was senior defenseman Jake Evavold (6 takeaways, 5 groundballs) with other key takeaways recorded by sophomore defenseman Ryan Schlieger and Kumar Johnson.

Scoring four of Gabriel Richard's goals was Plymouth resident Steve Ramos.



After the tee shot, Kwik Golf teammates (from left) Brayden Niemiec, Nick Barrett and Delaney Kowalczyk sprint to the ball Sunday at Hickory Creek Golf Course. PHOTOS BY TAMI BEALERT

KWIK GOLF

Continued from Page B1

score is determined by adding the number of strokes to however long it takes to finish the job.

On target

During one of their rounds on Sunday, the team of Brayden and Nick needed 58 seconds plus nine strokes for a total of 67. Delaney and Kathy finished in 98 seconds but were more accurate with six strokes.

"It helps them understand the purpose of the game is one, to have fun, and two, to be safe when we're playing," Bealert said. "That's why I gave them only one club for a group. And three, they got to have their skill, because otherwise their points are going to go up high."

"We want them to work on their skill. If they stick on that flag stick we take a point away, and that's good. We want them to have a low score."

"The boys were asked about what they learned from playing Kwik Golf."

"You can't hit it way too hard with the little balls, it will go away, way too far," said Nick, a friend of Brayden's.

Brayden quietly said the activity helps him with his "accuracy." He previously took a learn-to-golf course from Bealert and already possesses a pretty sweet swing and follow through.

Meanwhile, Brayden's mom, Mandy Niemiec of Canton, also got in on the fun as did Delaney's aunt, Kathy Kowalczyk of Westland.



Converging on the ball are (from left) Brayden Niemiec, Delaney Kowalczyk and Nick Barrett.

Mandy and Scott Niemiec, who just live down the road from Hickory Creek, noted how much fun golf can be for families — especially when there is a fun, low-key way to get into golf without the stress of being part of a serious game.

"It's fun, it's a good way to get outside, gets the kids playing, being active," said Mandy, about the benefits of Kwik Golf and other innovative programs at Hickory Creek. "It also makes golf a lot more fun, for me anyway."

Something new

Watching from the sidelines was Delaney's mom, Danielle Kowalczyk, who said the open house convinced her that Delaney would rather golf than play soccer (a sport she had previously dabbled in).

"It's just great because my daughter doesn't know how to play golf," Danielle Kowalczyk said. "I did the hole-in-one thing up front and I've been doing the drives

here. But I've been watching her.

"We're going to be signing up Delaney. I think it's a 5-6 week course."

Kwik Golf was one of several activities on hand at the open house, all designed to perhaps pique someone's interest enough to sign up for a class or have their parents sign them up.

Bealert, instructor in a series of "Train with Tami" courses at Hickory Creek (located just west of the Canton/Superior Twp. border), bubbles over with enthusiasm watching young kids tap into the sport for the first time.

And if the rest of the family's in on the action, that's even better.

"It's about enjoying golf without the stress of having to be on the golf course," Bealert said. "It's great for new golfers, as well. It's just great for families to have fun, especially if you're limited on time."

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Canton's Annika Nuler (No. 7) flips the ball over Plymouth's Sarah Curtis. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LACROSSE

Continued from Page B1

more assists this year than we have had in the past, and I'm really impressed about that."

In control

Canton's other goal was scored by Church, who had a total of three assists. Sophomore attacker Casey Bower drew a helper, on the game's final goal with just under nine minutes remaining, and senior attacker Sarah Davenport also collected an assist.

"Church and Annika Nuler did a really great job," Bower said. "Their height helped them to get a lot of the balls that were up in the air, and Connie Cox, the third midfielder, did an excellent job controlling the ball allowing us to eat up large amounts of time down on the offensive end."

For the Wildcats (1-14), scoring twice was Marissa Cirino, with single markers by Carly Gustafson and Natalie Nowicki (shadowed well by Canton freshman Lauren Rippey).

All of Plymouth's goals came in the second half, which began with the Wildcats trailing 5-0.

Earning the victory in goal for the Chiefs was Melissa Neal, who stopped 13 of 17 shots.

Neal was happy that our defense showed a lot of improvement throughout the first half and into the second half when they were sliding a lot better," Plymouth head coach Jake Watson said. "Our offense started working a little bit together."

"... We're still young on the offensive side. A lot of the basic skills we got to keep working on. (We) hit a lot of

posts today, so the girls are coming around."

Wieloch added that the players on his team are "working hard, playing hard, they're trying to buy in to what we're putting in place. It's a new season, we're young, we only have six seniors. They're doing the best they can and they're working hard."

Off and running

Cox got the Chiefs off to a fast start with two goals in the first 3:35 and it soon was 3-0 after Church put the ball behind Plymouth goalkeeper Megan Wieloch.

Neal came up with some timely stops to keep the Wildcats off the board before half-time, including denying Michelle Burke and Gretchen Schoen on point-blank opportunities.

O'Flynn tallied her first of the night when she scored with 14:28 remaining in the first half and her next goal (with 4:46 left) was a work of art.

She circled the goal and worked her way in front of Wieloch before flinging the ball into the top corner from about 8-yards out.

The Wildcats came out with more fire to start the second half and immediately got on the board, when Gustafson needed just 17 seconds to score.

But less than two minutes later, Canton upped the lead to 7-1 on markers by O'Flynn and Nuler.

The Canton onslaught continued with O'Flynn's fourth of the game (from Church) and Cox' third to make it 9-1 with 20 minutes left in the contest.

Both teams pretty much swapped goals for the rest of the night.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Summer camps

Canton Leisure Services is offering basketball and baseball summer camps instructed by longtime coach Pat Watson. Drills and skills emphasized will cover offensive strategies and defensive plays. Mornings will be spent on drills focused on improving fundamentals, while afternoons will be used for scrimmages. Participants should pack a sack lunch and a water bottle.

► **Basketball:** There will be three weekly basketball camps at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Those sessions (for ages 7-14) will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as follows: Session 1, July 7-11; Session 2, July 21-25; Session 3, July 28 through Aug. 1. The fee is \$150 for residents and \$160 for non-residents.

► **Baseball:** The baseball camp is slated to run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 14-18 at Canton Sports Center, 46555 W. Michigan Ave. Ages 7-14.

To register, go to cantonfun.org, call Canton Sports Center (734-483-5600) or visit ei-

ther Canton Sports Center or Summit on the Park and inquire.

Canton football camps

Three summer football camps run by the Canton Chiefs high school program are slated for June and July. All will take place at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity field.

Go to cantonchiefsfootball.com to download a flyer.

► **Wing Camp:** For players entering grades 10-12 in fall 2014. Times are 2-5 p.m. June 16 and 5-8 p.m. July 17-19. Contact Tim Baechler, 734-455-7691.

► **Skills Camp:** For players entering grades 7-9 in fall 2014. Times are 5-7:30 p.m. June 9-12; 5-7:30 p.m. July 14-17. Participants who sign up can get both camps for the price of one. Contact Richard Mui, 248-229-2738.

► **Fundamental Camp:** For players entering grades 3-6 in fall 2014. Times are 9 a.m. to noon June 23-26. Contact Enza Lanava, 313-300-1173.

SPOTLIGHT JR.

Theater troupe offers youth enrichment

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Spotlight Players plans to make youth theater more affordable, educational and fun for young actors, starting with auditions for its summer production, *Aladdin and His Wonderful, Magical Lamp*.

"I chose it because it's a true ensemble show," said Kristin Heitmeier, who is directing the Canton community theater's first production for its new youth program. "We're bringing the kids in smaller groups to audition instead of doing auditions in front of everyone who shows up. It's more private and it gives the kids an opportunity to feel comfortable. We want to nurture and respect them and give the kids a wonderful experience."

"In a lot of theaters for this age group, \$18, if you pay a certain amount of money — anywhere from \$200-\$300 — you're guaranteed a part. But this is a true audition. It's not 'pay to play.' If you're cast it's a \$35 fee, including your costume. We're trying to give kids a sense of theater and how it really works, but in a respectful, fun, learning environment. Part of that real life theater experience is that sometimes you put your best foot forward and get cast and sometimes you don't."

Auditions, open to ages 5-18 of all acting skill levels, run 6-8 p.m. May 5-6 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hills, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Children and teens should be prepared to sing 16 bars of their favorite song a cappella. Older participants also will read from the script. Spotlight Players expects to cast 50



Young actors perform in the ensemble during Spotlight Players' production of *Barnum* last year. With the addition of a youth theater program at Spotlight Players, they'll have more opportunities for speaking roles.

young actors for the play, which will be performed July 10-13 on the main stage at the Village Theater.

Canton's youth troupes

Spotlight Players has involved youngsters in its adult productions over the past few years. Most of the roles have been nonspeaking, and in the chorus of such shows as *Barnum* and *The Music Man*. The new youth program, temporarily dubbed "Spotlight Jr.," is Spotlight's second dedicated youth theater. Its first, *Spotlight on Youth*, began four years ago, "started on a small scale and doing small shows,"

according to Spotlight board member Anne Cloutier-Munro of Plymouth. The adult theater and Spotlight on Youth parted ways last year.

"They became their own troupe. Spotlight on Youth was doing well on its own," Cloutier-Munro said. Both Spotlight on Youth and Forever After Productions, which also stages youth shows at the Village Theater, charge per child participation fees. According to Forever After Productions' website, the pay-to-play method allows it to keep ticket prices low, create "phenomenal sets" and work with professional directors.

Cloutier-Munro said Spotlight Players decided to create the low-cost youth theater program after hearing from parents who said they couldn't afford pay-to-play fees.

"We found that a whole group of kids were not able to afford to do theater. When they get to high school or even middle school, other kids are far beyond them because their parents had the means to put them in theater. These kids couldn't compete," she said. "We decided to do another program and not charge kids huge fees. We're trying to bring community theater back to the community."

Acting lessons

Cloutier-Munro said Heitmeier has been able to keep costs low by choosing a play with a well-known story but with less expensive royalty costs.

Heitmeier also plans to incorporate "mini lessons" on character development and stage movement, giving cast members practical tips on acting. Youngsters also will have an opportunity to work on the backstage crew and learn what it takes to stage a play.

"While it's open to ages 5 to 18, it will be a legitimate production. We worked through how to do some amazing special effects and I've got an outstanding crew," Heitmeier said.

The youth program's second production, *Harry's Hotter in Twilight*, a spoof on the *Twilight* and *Harry Potter* series, is set for October. Spotlight Players' 2014-15 season will include *The King and I*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Get Smart*, a play based on the 1960s television series. Its spring musical hasn't been determined.

For more information about Spotlight Players, its youth program or senior troupe, the Still Got It Players, visit spotlightplayersmi.org.



Zig Zag Kid tells the story of a 13-year-old boy, his adventures, fears and fantasies. The film caps the 11-day Lenore Marvill Jewish Film Festival at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts on the Jewish Community Center campus.

Films cover topics from tilapia to dancing at annual festival

The documentary, *Dancing in the Kitchen*, is the 16th annual Lenore Marvill Jewish Film Festival, noon Sunday, April 27, at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, West Bloomfield.

Dancing in Jaffa tells the story of a ballroom dancer who returns to his hometown, Jaffa, Israel, to teach youngsters in the city's divided communities to dance together and ultimately create friendships. The documentary is among 30 films that will be screened during the 11-day festival at the Berman Center. Fifteen of the films also will be shown May 4-8 at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, and seven will be screened April 24 and 27 and May 4-8 at the Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint.

Highlights of the festival at the Berman Center include: *The Last White Knight*, the true story of a volunteer with the civil rights movement who returns 40 years later to Mississippi to meet the man who nearly beat him to death; 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27.

The Sturgeon Queens, a documentary about a 100-year-old store that sells lox and herring. Filmmaker and producer Julie Cohen will lead a discussion following the film; 8 p.m. Thursday, May 1.

The Upside Down Book, a documentary focusing on a woman who goes in search of a German couple whose name is inscribed on her family's 1938 copy of *Mein Kampf*. Filmmaker Hinda Mandell will be part of a panel discussion and dinner following the film; 5 p.m. Monday, April 28.

In the Shadow, an award-winning thriller from the Czech Republic; 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 29.

Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story focuses on comedian and director David Steinberg; 9 p.m. Saturday, May 3.

Sukkah which follows a design competition and exhibition of sukkahs, temporary shelters built for the Jewish festival of Sukkot, that were created by contemporary architects and designers; noon Sunday, May 4.

Next Year in Jerusalem looks at elderly nursing home residents who travel to Israel; 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 6.

Each one of these films is like entering another world, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure," said Rachel Ruskin, film festival director. Tickets for individuals films are \$12. A matinee pass for use at any five screenings of 2 p.m. shows, is \$40 for Jewish Community Center members and \$45 for nonmembers. Download a ticket order form and complete ticket schedule from jccdet.org. For more information, call 248-661-1900.

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day, with closing time at 8 p.m. Wednesdays in July and August.
Location: 1696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14, children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking.

Senior Day: Seniors, 62 and older, and a caregiver admitted free from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 30. Features live music, tractor train tours, bingo and senior resource area.
Contact: 248-541-5717

ART & CRAFTS

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 15 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through April 26
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Derritas," an exhibit of works by airbrush master Tom Thayer.
Contact: 248-344-0497; http://www.northvillearts.org

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances; artist reception, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 29
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Glass orbs and columns created by Paul Stankard
Contact: 234-394-5300

COMEDY

EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: Open mic, 8 p.m. Sunday, April 20 and 27, following 5 p.m. "Comedy Dojo" classes
Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti

Details: Chilli Challis, national headliner comedian and former staff writer for *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*, coaches new and experienced comics in the nuances of their craft during his Comedy Dojo. Mark Sweetwater emceeds the open mic, \$5 suggested donation at the door. For more about the fee-based classes, visit ChillChallis.com
Contact: 734-985-0875

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 18-19
Location: 760 Pennington Ave., Plymouth

Details: Mary Poppins, admission \$3
Coming up: *The Lego Movie*, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24 and May 1, Friday, April 25, and 6-30 p.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 26-27
Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, April 25, and 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 26
Location: 17360 Lahser, North of Grand

GET OUT! CALENDAR



Photos of glass, like this one by Ron Farina, are displayed with glass art by Paul Stankard, through April 30, at the Village Theater in Canton.

River Avenue, Detroit
Details: Three Stooges Film Festival, 56
Contact: 313-537-2560

MUSEUM

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 23
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: Antiques appraisal clinic with Doug Dalton Auctioneer and Schmidt's Items include furniture, art and small objects. No jewelry, coins or stamps. A maximum four items. Call for appointment. \$10 per item.
Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Open mic sign up, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances 7-9 p.m., the third Saturday of the month through May
Location: The AVH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Open mic musicians may perform two songs, original or cover. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and include free admission.
Contact: Scott Ludwig at 815President@aol.com for additional information

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7:10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: On April 29, Johnny Trudell Quartet will play jazz favorites. \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres
Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 25
Location: Vi&Tech Center on the main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia
Details: Percussion Group Cincinnati; admission is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students
Contact: 734-462-4403; www.schoolcraft.edu/music

TUESDAY MUSICAL OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25
Location: Max Fisher Music Center (Orchestra Hall), 3711 Woodward, Detroit
Details: The concert features Bill Baxter, trumpet, Mark Watson, sax-baritone, and Dabo Carter, saxophone playing music by Handel, Ziti, Balakirev and a new composition by David Di-Chiera, a founder and director of the Michigan Opera Theatre. Admission is \$35 and includes and afterglow
Contact: 313-520-6663; TuesdayMusicalOfDetroit.org

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Erin Zindle, April 25; Michigan Fingerstyle Guitar Society presents Muriel Anderson, April 26; Gurf Morfix, April 27; open mic, April 29; Rod Picot, May 3; Empty Chair Night featuring Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer, and Dan Hazlett, April 4; open mic, May 6; Bill Bynum and Company, May 9; Four Block Empire with Cold Tone Harvost, May 10; The Choir, May 11. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.
Benefit concert: Features LaC La Belle and the Motor City Troubadours, 8 p.m. Friday, May 2, at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for subscribers. Proceeds benefit the theater
Contact: 734-464-6302

THEATER

EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 18-19
Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti
Details: A variety of open mic troupes perform at each show; tickets are \$8 and are available at the door or online
Contact: 734-985-0875; emergentarts.com

MOTOR CITY YOUTH THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. April 25-26 and May 2-3; and 2 p.m. April 27 and May 4
Location: 27555 Grantland, Livonia
Details: Peter Pan. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors
Contact: 313-535-8962; myot.org

Serve seasonal fare for Easter dinner

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Time to put away your winter holiday recipes and think spring.

Chef Rebecca Wauldron, executive chef for Busch's Fresh Foods markets, says Easter is the perfect time to add fresh, seasonal produce to the menu.

"You don't want to trot out the sweet potatoes again. Spring is different. The spring holiday is an opportunity to try something different," she said.

"At this time of the year we crave these wonderful vegetables we don't get during winter. It's a sign of spring that they are at the market. Fresh peas, butter lettuce — they are light but satisfying."

Wauldron created several Easter recipes for the home cook, including Sour Cherry Glazed Ham, Fava Bean and Ricotta Crostini and Fennel and Potato Gratin, that are "upscale," but attainable.

"They are crowd pleasers."

Her recipes for Shaved Asparagus, Fresh Pea, & Prosciutto Salad and Almond Cake With Strawberry Rhubarb Sauce also use seasonal produce.

"When choosing asparagus (for steaming or grilling) make sure they are all of similar thickness," she said, adding that stalks of varying sizes require different cooking times. "It's also tasty raw. When you shave it and mix it in a salad, it has a very earth, fresh flavor."

Picking ripe rhubarb is just like choosing celery — look for firm stalks.

"Rhubarb is not the first vegetable you think of for dessert. But when it's paired with another fruit, it creates a nice sauce."

Wauldron noted that the almond cake also is gluten-free, as are most of the other dishes. She said a romaine lettuce leaf can be used in place of the baguette in the crostini recipe.

Want to stay out of the kitchen on Easter? Busch's also offers both complete Easter meals and a la carte side dishes. Easter meals are available for pickup through Sunday, April 20. For ordering information and menu options, visit www.buschs.com.

Almond Cake With Strawberry Rhubarb Sauce



SOUR CHERRY GLAZED HAM

Yield: 8-10 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups sour or tart cherry preserves
- 2 tablespoons coarse Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground allspice
- ¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1 fully cooked bone in spiral ham (about 6-8 pounds)
- ¼ cup white wine

Directions:

- Combine the preserves, mustard, vinegar, onion, cinnamon, allspice, and cayenne in the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade. Pulse the mixture until it is smooth and combined. The glaze mixture can be made up to two days ahead.
- Preheat the oven to 325 degrees and adjust the oven rack to a lower position.
- Place the ham, flat side down, in a large roasting pan. Place the ham in the preheated oven and roast for about 1 hour. Remove the ham from the oven and completely coat with the glaze mixture.
- Return the ham to the oven and roast for an additional 45 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 145 degrees and the exterior is caramelized. Remove the ham from the oven and place on a clean cutting board to rest.
- Pour the juices from the pan into a small sauce pan, making sure to scrape all of the caramelized bits in the pan to add to the drippings. Add the wine to the sauce pan, bring the mixture to a boil and simmer for about 2-3 minutes until thick.
- Serve the ham with the pan sauce.

ALMOND CAKE WITH STRAWBERRY RHUBARB SAUCE

Yield: serves 10

This recipe is adapted from Claudia Roden's book *The Food of Spain*.

Ingredients:

- ½ pound (1 ½ cups) blanched whole almonds
- 6 large eggs, separated
- 1 ½ cups superfine sugar
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 4 drops almond extract
- Confectioners' sugar for dusting
- 3 cups fresh rhubarb, cut into ½-inch pieces
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup water or white wine
- 1 pint strawberries, stemmed & quartered

Directions:

- Finely grind the almonds in a food processor.
- With an electric mixer, beat the egg yolks with the sugar to a smooth pale cream. Beat in the zests and almond extract. Add the ground almonds and mix very well.
- With clean beaters, beat the egg whites in a large bowl until stiff peaks form. Fold them into the egg and almond mixture (the mixture is thick, so that you will need to turn it over quite a bit into the egg whites).
- Grease an 11-inch springform pan, preferably nonstick, with butter and dust it with flour. Pour in the cake batter, and bake in a preheated 350°F oven for 40 minutes, or until it feels firm to the touch. Let cool before turning out.
- Just before serving, dust the top of the cake with confectioners' sugar.
- While the cake is baking, place the rhubarb, sugar, and water in a sauce pan and bring to a simmer over medium heat.
- Simmer the rhubarb for about 10 minutes or until the sugar is dissolved and the rhubarb is tender.
- Remove the rhubarb from the heat and stir in the strawberries. Allow the mixture to cool to room temperature or chill before serving.
- Serve each slice of the cake with a few spoons of the strawberry rhubarb sauce.

FAVA BEAN AND RICOTTA CROSTINI

Yield: 8 appetizer servings

Ingredients:

- 1-2 shallots, thinly sliced (about ½ cup)
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup fresh fava beans, shelled and peeled (substitute organic edamame beans if favas are not available)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Fresh basil leaves, torn
- 1-2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 8 ounces low-fat ricotta cheese
- 16 slices of good, crusty baguette, lightly toasted
- Flaky sea salt, such as Maldon

Directions:

- Pour the vinegar over the sliced shallots to cover and let soak for at least 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, bring a large pot of heavily salted water to a boil. Cook the fava beans in the boiling water for about two minutes. Transfer with a slotted spoon to a large bowl with ice water. Let them sit for five minutes, or until completely cooled.
- Drain the shallots and reserve the vinegar for another use. Combine the fava beans with the garlic, basil, shallots, and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Spread the ricotta over the toasted bread slices, and top with the fava bean mixture. Drizzle with extra olive oil, if desired, and sprinkle with flaky salt.

FENNEL & POTATO GRATIN

Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients:

- 3 ounces grated Gruyere cheese
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh garlic
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt (or more to taste)
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2.5 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, scrubbed (no need to peel)
- 1 fennel bulb, stalks removed

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Oil or butter a 2-quart casserole dish.
- Combine the cheeses and mix. Transfer about ½ cup of the cheese mixture to a separate bowl and set aside. Combine the remaining cheese with the heavy cream, garlic, thyme salt and pepper. Mix well to combine.
- Use a mandolin or a very sharp knife to slice the potatoes as thinly and as evenly as possible. Place the sliced potatoes in the bowl with the cream mixture.
- Quarter the fennel bulb and remove the tough core from each section. Use a mandolin or a very sharp knife to slice the fennel as thinly as possible.
- Add the fennel to the bowl with the potatoes, and toss until the potatoes and fennel are completely coated with the cream mixture.
- Evenly layer the potato fennel mixture in the prepared casserole dish, making sure that there is an even distribution of ingredients.
- Pour any cream mixture remaining in the bowl over the potatoes and fennel. Cover the casserole dish with foil and place in the preheated oven.
- Bake the gratin for about 30 minutes, remove the foil and continue to bake for 30 more minutes or until the top is beginning to brown. Remove the gratin from the oven, sprinkle with the reserved cheese, return to the oven, and bake for about 20-30 more minutes or until the top is well-browned and the vegetables are tender.
- Allow the gratin to rest for a few minutes before serving.

Shaved Asparagus, Fresh Pea, & Prosciutto Salad



SHAVED ASPARAGUS, FRESH PEA, & PROSCIUTTO SALAD

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 pound fresh peas, shelled
- 1-2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound fresh asparagus spears, tough ends removed
- 2 medium size radishes, cleaned, stemmed and shaved or sliced
- 6 cups red butter lettuce, cleaned and roughly torn
- 2 tablespoons chopped mint
- 6 slices prosciutto, cut into thin strips
- ¼ cup shaved Parmesan cheese

Directions:

- Bring a small pot of water to boil. Cook the shelled peas in boiling water 3-4 minutes, until tender. Drain and let cool.
- Meanwhile, whisk the lemon juice, shallot, and mustard in a salad bowl. Whisk in the oil in a slow stream to emulsify into a dressing. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- Place the asparagus spears on a cutting board and use a sharp vegetable peeler to shave off thin slices that run the length of the asparagus spear.
- Toss the lettuce, asparagus, radish slices, peas, and mint together in a large bowl with the dressing. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Divide the salad between four plates and top evenly with prosciutto and Parmesan cheese.

RELIGION CALENDAR

APRIL BREAKFAST, EASTER FAIR
Time/Date: Pancake breakfast, 8:30-10 a.m., Easter activities, 9:30-1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 19
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14715 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Free community breakfast; Easter Fair includes crafts, egg hunt, egg decorating, cookie decorating and more. Parents must accompany their children
Contact: 734-522-6830; christoursavior.org

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY
Time/Date: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon and 3 p.m., April 27
Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: 734-453-0226; www.olgparish.net
GOOD FRIDAY FILM
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, April 18
Location: Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, at Farmington Road, Westland
Details: A free special screening of 31st-55th Nelson movie, The Passion of Christ will be presented in the church sanctuary to commemorate Good Friday. There will be a Q & A after about what questions saw, and refreshments will be served
Tickets: \$10 and under
Contact: 734-458-7301

popcorn, six hot dogs and six drinks per team. No registrations at door; www.stimondanjudice.org/trivia.html
Contact: Kathy Hansen at 734-716-4436; stimondanjudice@gmail.com
YOM HASHOAH
Time/Date: 5 p.m. Sunday, April 27
Location: The Bertram Center for Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: In recognition of Yom HaShoah—Holocaust Memorial Day—the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit will show I Believe: A Shoah Requiem, a film featuring 150 choral voices singing an a cappella cantata composed by Cantor Daniel Gross of Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills. The film version was recorded last year at the Orchestra Hall in Detroit
Contact: jccdet.org

of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Ethnie Defoe at 248-227-4617 and Jody Fieszar at 734-658-2463
Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at 734-937-3084 or Kristien at 734-542-0767
PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Locations: Dunk N' Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.
Contact: 313-563-0162
PRAYER
Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29877 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: 248-476-8860
St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906
St. Michael Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed
Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLE
DETROIT World Outreach
Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford
Details: Divine Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome.
Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; leffebwo.org
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m. program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org for additional information

EASTER WEEK
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 17; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Good Friday, April 18; 9:30 a.m., Easter Sunday
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: A free Easter breakfast will be served from 8-9:15 a.m. All visitors will receive a free DVD, "Come Follow Me"
Contact: 734-968-3523 or 313-532-8655

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Time/Date: 8 a.m. April 18
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: 39th Men's Good Friday Breakfast includes full breakfast and guest speaker, the Rev. Sunil Noah, founder of Emmanuel Bible School and pastor of Emmanuel Indian Fellowship. Tickets are \$6 for men, \$3 for boys 10 and under
Contact: 734-453-3333

MAY COMMON GROUND
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, May 2
Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon Road, Canton
Details: Girls' night out with a God focus for women and girls, 13 and over. Includes teaching, outreach for homeless veterans, giveaways for utility, lifesavers, Rice Krispies Bar, packaged plastic utensils, Ritz snack mix, and easy-open cans of fish or meat will be collected at the event
Contact: jccdet.org

RECOLLECTION DAY
Time/Date: Registration at 8:30 a.m., Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 26
Location: St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, located at West Chicago and Inlaker roads, Redford
Details: The Rev. Ben Luedke will lead participants through a day of prayer. The program, which runs until 3 p.m. is sponsored by the Association of Christian Therapists. Cost is \$5. Participants may bring a sack lunch. Coffee and snacks will be provided
Contact: Antoinette McDermott at 313-255-9839; antoinette@fuzziandcompany@gmail.com

ONGOING CLASSES/SUBJECT
Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Locations: Kirby's Covey Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491
Our Lady of Loreto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Day, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-533-9000

FRENCH, DONALD R.
Age 82, of South Lyon, passed away Wednesday, April 13, 2014. Full obit and online condolences at www.castellfuneralhome.com

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Thursday, April 17
Location: St. Matthew Lutheran Preschool/daycare, 5885 N. Veno, Westland
Details: Open house and preschool kindergarten round-up. The school has openings in grades from preschool to eighth grade. It's also accepting enrollment for a new day care program, aimed at children, 30 months-5 years, that will open June 9. The day care will run 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, \$40 for a full day care day or \$170 for five days
Contact: Tara at 734-578-7427 or Tammy at 734-425-0261

SHROUD OF TURIN
Time/Date: Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 17; 9 a.m. to noon Friday, April 18; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 20
Location: St. Michael's Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: A replica of the famous Shroud of Turin, the suggested life-size burial cloth of Jesus Christ, will be on display
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200

TRIVIA NIGHT
Time/Date: Doors open 6 p.m., game begins 7 p.m. Saturday, April 19
Location: St. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland
Details: Cost is \$20 per team of four to individuals; includes 10 rounds of questions.

St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday
Location: School Library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar Gary Michuta leads the study of Acts of the Apostles
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniamichael.org
Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville Township
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: 248-374-5920

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL
Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawawasee, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12
MOMS
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) salmed at mothers

RILEY, HERSHEL L.
Of Granger, IN, age 91, passed away Friday, April 11, 2014 in St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. He was born in Greenfield, Ohio and came from a family of thirteen siblings. He is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Ann (Riley), his daughters Diane (Tom) Linday of Hazelwood, MO; Patricia (Steve Snyder) O'Connor of Syracuse, IN; Rebecca (Todd) Zasek of Granger, IN; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and his brother Hayward (Roberta) Riley of Greenfield, OH. He was preceded in death by his parents, Maude Katherine (Staats) and Jacob Shively Riley and eleven of his siblings. Herb found enjoyment in all his life's works; teacher, coach, root beer stand owner, 35 years in management with The Traveler's Insurance Company and finally in "retirement" as the owner and manager of The Farmington Tennis Club in Farmington, Michigan. He served his country during World War II by enlisting in the Army Air Corps where he was a crew member on a B17 Flying Fortress. After the war he obtained in Ohio University where he obtained his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Business Administration. Herb was successful in life because he truly loved people. He especially enjoyed cooking for his family and friends at his home, club and his beloved Notre Dame football games. Services were held Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Welshman Funeral Home, South Bend, IN. Memorial contributions may be made to The Christ Child Society, REAL Services (Meals on Wheels) or a charity of choice.

St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church
Tridentine Latin Mass
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
18310 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-2200
Mass Schedules:
First Friday Mass 7:00 a.m.
Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Confession Board Prior to Each Mass
Offering of Perpetual Holy Devotions
Tuesday at 9:00 P.M.

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PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)
Rosedale Gardens
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
9601 Rosedale at St. Clair, Livonia, MI
(734) 422-0494
Friends of Faith Service
9:00 a.m.
Traditional Service
10:30 a.m.
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For information about our many programs.

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EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
WARD CHURCH
8000 E. Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154
Sunday Worship Services
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Different music styles from classic to modern
www.wardchurch.org
(734) 462-2200

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE
PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Worship Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH LEADERSHIP
(734) 455-9196

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Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Worship Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
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For information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com



The Chrysler House exterior in Detroit is eye-catching.



The Chrysler House, its interior shown here, was among the lauded buildings.

Group supports growth in Detroit

Q: I have heard something about the Detroit Future City. Can you tell me what, in general terms, that is?

A: Detroit Future City was created in response to the enormous challenges facing the City of Detroit. For the last four years, DFC has been assembling and analyzing data to inform and support a plan for vitality, growth, and health. It has taken on the task of uplifting the people, businesses and places of Detroit by improving quality of life and business in the city. As it relates to the real property in the city, this task requires an alignment of numerous disparate agencies and interest groups. The city must achieve a collaborative approach to land management among diverse groups, each with its own defined mission and charge. For more information, it is suggested that you contact www.detroitworksproject.com/the-framework.



Robert Meisner

Q: Our landlord has placed a no smoking ban in our apartment and even on our patio. This was not in our lease when we signed, and we smoke on our patio. What can we do about it?

A: You need to look at the lease, as the landlord generally has the right to pass reasonable rules and regulations. However, a ban on smoking may give you justification to get out of your lease depending upon what the judge thinks is a reasonable rule and whether that rule stretches to smoking on your patio which I think is an unreasonable rule per se. I would argue with the landlord that such limitations should only be effective upon the renewal of your lease and seek the advice of counsel.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.50 for shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95, plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Metro area buildings garner top commercial kudos

The Building Owners and Managers Association/Metro Detroit announced three regional winners in the 2013-14 The Outstanding Building of the Year Awards (TOBY). These outstanding properties received top honors in regional competition among 22 distinguished buildings in BOMA's North Central Region including Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. The program honors outstanding leaders and properties in commercial real estate.

The 2013-14 Regional TOBY Award recipients are:

Under 100,000 Square Feet Category

Winner: m@ison. Located in Detroit. Managed by: Bedrock Real Estate Services, LLC. Property Manager: Darlene Strickland. Property Owner: M@dison Theater Building Company. Architect: C. Howard Crane

Renovated Building Category

Winner: Chrysler House. Located in Detroit. Managed by: Bedrock Real Estate Services, LLC. Property Manager: Casimer Daniewski. Property Owner: 719 Griswold Associates, LLC. Architect: Daniel Burnham

Historical Building Category

Winner: Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. Located in Detroit. Managed by: Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority/Innes. Property Manager: Gregory McDufee/Michael Kennedy. Property Owner: Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority. Architect: Harley, Ellington & Day. The TOBY Awards, now in its 29th year, is the most prestigious and comprehensive program of its kind in the com-

mercial real estate industry, recognizing excellence in office building ownership and management.

All facets of a building's operations are thoroughly evaluated during the judging process, including tenant relations programs, community involvement, emergency preparedness and security standards, and continuing education for building personnel. Floor plans, site plans and photographs round out an in depth portfolio, providing the judges with an extensive examination of the building.

"TOBY winners represent the commercial real estate industry's best of the best in office management setting; the benchmark for the industry," said Janet Langlois, executive director, BOMA/Metro Detroit.

Regional winners now advance to international competition at the 2014 BOMA International Every Building Con-

ference & Expo in Orlando, Fla., on June 24, 2014.

For additional information on the 2013-2014 TOBY and Leadership Awards, contact Emily Keranen or visit www.bomadetroit.com.

Founded in 1908, BOMA/Metro Detroit is a professional, nonprofit trade association whose nearly 400 members either own or manage commercial real estate, or provide goods and services to the industry. BOMA Michigan members represent organizations managing more than 250 million square feet of office and industrial space, with employees and tenants totaling more than 1.25 million people in Michigan. BOMA/Metro Detroit provides commercial real estate professionals the opportunity to work together for professional growth, advocacy rights, corporate profit, and the benefit of the nine South-eastern Michigan communities it serves.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 25-29, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS 22010 Village Pines Dr \$405,000	1910 Raymond Pl COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP 5121 Carinas Way Ct \$309,000 5145 Carinas Way Ct \$45,000	25381 Witherspoon St MILFORD 800 Bird Song Dr \$65,000 1280 Yosemite Valley Dr \$277,000	330 Scott St 56195 10 Mile Rd \$450,000 54110 West Ct \$853,000	\$118,000 \$450,000 \$583,000
BIRMINGHAM 1539 Emmons Ave \$320,000 680 Humphrey Ave \$885,000 1035 Michigan St \$482,000 2223 W Lincoln St \$350,000 111 Willis St #210 \$730,000 111 Willis St Unit 49 \$729,000	FARMINGTON 23890 Gill Rd \$180,000 32718 Grand River Ave \$35,000 31640 Lamar Dr \$134,000 21016 Meadowlark St \$138,000	NORTHVILLE 21860 Parkwood Ln \$273,000 NOVI 25514 Arcadia Dr \$512,000 5129 Brompton \$327,000 27537 Cromwell Rd \$305,000 42721 Faulkner Dr \$300,000 21946 Piccadilly Cir \$505,000 22727 Renford St \$327,000	SOUTHFIELD 18503 Autumn Ln \$112,000 20978 Brentwood St \$73,000 30083 Fairfax St \$78,000 32926 Farmbrook Villa Ln \$79,000 30560 Old Stream \$170,000 18011 Providence Dr # 0780 \$74,000	\$112,000 \$73,000 \$78,000 \$79,000 \$170,000 \$74,000
BIRMINGHAM HILLS 22296 Abington Dr \$270,000 30793 Oak Valley Dr \$244,000 29539 Onwood Ave \$228,000 21727 Purdue Ave \$92,000 28755 Raleigh Rd \$243,000 20730 Saint Francis St \$65,000	WARREN 20840 Sunnydale St \$136,000 37890 Thames Dr \$226,000 25263 Witherspoon St \$237,000	WESTLAND 42781 Stratford Ln \$620,000 WESTLAND 55285 Vanhus Ct \$87,000 23141 Chayenne Ct \$383,000 784 Glen Meadows Dr \$30,000 52071 Red Creek Cr \$356,000 61935 Saddleridge Dr \$320,000	WESTLAND 51219 Westwood Dr \$257,000 11362 Valley View Dr \$257,000 951 Mallock St \$182,000	\$257,000 \$182,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales
If you own more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june-quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoe at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 16-20, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON 4538 Arlety St \$274,000 8330 Chatham Dr \$100,000 4833 Chesterfield Dr S \$338,000 8719 Columbia Cir \$75,000 306 Constitution St \$135,000 881 Constitution St \$218,000 45423 Cypress Ct \$335,000 50211 Grant St \$193,000 45552 Fieldstone Dr \$176,000 4243 Forest Bridge Dr \$148,000 4067 Gordian St \$144,000 47071 Hidden River Cir N \$365,000 51164 High Meadow Crossing S \$365,000	1301 Wagon Wheel Rd GARDEN CITY 3272 Alvin St \$54,000 446 Arcola St \$52,000 6208 Deering St \$57,000 5947 Helen St \$50,000 29038 James St \$36,000 33521 Rosslyn Ave \$75,000 29538 Rush St \$45,000 410 W Rose Ave \$90,000 LIVONIA 36737 Angeline Cir \$132,000 27600 Barkley St \$118,000 19001 Doris St \$142,000 3853 Eastwood Rd \$320,000 11764 Farmington Rd \$123,000 28491 Gita St \$138,000 19614 Hardy St \$162,000 8900 Henry Huff Rd \$260,000 2281, 29648 Hillbrook Dr \$140,000 17600 Joy Rd \$94,000 21660 Johnson St \$102,000 38484 Lancaster St \$240,000 30560 Marler St \$192,000 36284 Meadowbrook St \$176,000 31535 Merrimack Park Dr \$128,000 29779 Minton St \$114,000 26581 N Clements Cir \$125,000 16441 Penn Dr \$230,000 14586 Bonnie Ln \$179,000 9913 Roseland Rd \$135,000 35340 Schoolcraft Rd \$142,000 14255 Sunset St \$120,000	14819 Susanna St \$201,000 51841 Wentworth St \$85,000 NORTHVILLE 48392 Binghamton Dr \$645,000 18202 Blue Heron Dr W \$450,000 56983 Blue Heron Dr W \$398,000 46993 Woodbury Cir S \$400,000 16901 Carriage Way \$150,000 24265 Crestview Cir \$370,000 16722 Dover Dr \$150,000 47952 Merion Cir \$62,000 15957 Morningside \$153,000 18025 Peninsula Way \$413,000 11754 Waterfall Rd \$370,000 16254 Woodbury Ct \$1,025,000 PLYMOUTH 19012 Chestnut Dr \$165,000 13284 Greenleaf St \$285,000 15150 Farmbrook Dr \$212,000 10087 Fawn Woods Ct \$495,000 3164 Hazelwood St \$270,000 1507 Elias St \$174,000 4327 Third St \$153,000 35303 Ash St \$174,000 3310 Dearborn St \$174,000 4212 Garfield St \$352,000 35244 Glover St \$182,000 36870 Greenbush Ct \$83,000 WESTLAND 2095 Alanson St \$15,000 23223 Anita Dr \$80,000 6791 Bison St \$91,000 35164 Hazelwood St \$40,000 34011 Marquette St \$115,000 38173 N Richman Ct \$127,000 36490 Newberry Estates \$245,000 8329 Rae Dr \$110,000 7455 Randy Dr \$109,000 5315 S Middlebelt Rd \$58,000 145 S Woodway Dr \$99,000 719 Sunnyside Field Dr \$190,000 6210 W Morgan Cir \$99,000 1354 Windham St \$104,000
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AFJ Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	4.125	0	3.125
Amerplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	4.125	0	3.125
Co-op Services Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.375	0.25	3.375
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.375	0	3.375
Fifth Third Bank	402045	(800) 792-8830	4.375	0	3.5
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.125	0	3.125
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.125	0	3.05
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 262-1602	4.5	0	3.5

Above information available as of 4/11/14 and subject to change at any time. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down and credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com

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