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ALL-AREA BOYS TRACK

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Specialists back in as board eyes budget

Trustees also OK 200 schools of choice seats

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

through second grade to a schools-of-choice option. The moves came as district administrators tried to recover from an \$820,000 hit the budget took when the state Legislature passed the state education budget. While the state added money to help districts deal with their responsibilities for retirement/benefit packages, it also increased the district's responsibilities in that area. In the meantime, the final state budget levied \$7.251 per student, \$49 less than Plymouth-Canton administrators had budgeted based on Gov. Rick Snyder's initial budget proposal. The reduction cost Plymouth-Canton some \$820,000, leaving the district with a \$7.5 million deficit.

The board is scheduled to finalize its 2014-15 budget at a regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

Media make-up

"We started our (budget) input assumptions with the governor's (original) proposal," said Brodie Killian, the district's deputy superintendent for business and operations. "We knew there was some legislative risk... but I don't think any of us expected a reduction." The move forced the Plymouth-Canton board to meet in a special session Tuesday to consider its options. In the end, the board approved several

moves:

- Trustees agreed to put back the media specialists and reading interventionists, a \$1.5 million hit to the budget, combined with the \$820,000 hit from the final state budget, that left board members needing to find some \$2.3 million.
- Trustees agreed to increase revenue from the sale of assets from \$1.2 million to \$2 million, though they didn't specify what other assets would be included. The district does own property at Joy and Beck and still needs to finalize a deal for the former Stark-weather property.
- Trustees agreed to open 200 seats to schools of choice, which Killian said would raise some \$1.5 million. Though no

vote was taken, the consensus discussion showed it would pass on a 4-2 vote (Trustee John Barrett was absent). Board President Judy Mardigan, Vice President Adrienne Davis, Secretary Kim Crouch and Trustee Sheila Paton were in favor; Trustees Mike Maloney and Mark Horvath, who've been against the idea from the beginning, maintained their opposition.

It was easily the most spirited discussion of the night.

Teaching all kids

"There's no way I'm going to support schools of choice," Horvath said. "As soon as we do that, we're giving up local

See BOARD, Page A2

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education trustees reversed themselves on two key decisions Tuesday as they struggled to balance their 2014-15 budget in light of a hit from the state school aid fund. Trustees agreed Tuesday they would keep 20 teaching positions - including 16.5 full-time-equivalent media specialist and reading interventionist positions - they'd previously cut. They also agreed to open 200 seats in kindergarten



Richard Costantino prepares the pasta for the spaghetti dinner, sponsored by Canton firefighters.

LIBERTY FEST DEEMED SUCCESS BY CANTON OFFICIALS

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

More photos from Liberty Fest, A5

Officials say tens of thousands of Canton residents and visitors packed Heritage Park over the weekend for yet another successful Liberty Fest, crowned Saturday night by a dazzling fireworks show. Canton Leisure Services Director Debbie Bilbrey-Honsowetz said the three-day attendance - especially large for the last day, Saturday - is difficult

to gauge with throngs of Liberty Fest fans coming and going and, often, coming back. She estimated festival crowds at 50,000. "That's our best guess," she said. While thousands flocked to Heritage Park for the fireworks show, Bilbrey-Honsowetz said some residents hosted



In the LEGO tent (from left), Luke Rogi, 10, Cameron Will, 8, Brendan Witt, 11, and Joseph Stewart, 11, worked on a project. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

See LIBERTY, Page A2

Man gets probation for groping woman

Canton defendant avoids jail with plea bargain

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton man who police say assaulted a woman and groped her breast when she stopped at her mailbox has been placed on probation for two years, a 35th District Court clerk confirmed Monday.

Andrew Steven Perry, 24, also has been ordered to pay fines and court costs totaling \$1,485, the clerk said.



Perry's sentence came Friday, less than a month after he accepted a plea deal that reduced a more serious charge of fourth-degree criminal sexual assault and battery.

Though he avoided jail time at sentencing, Perry has been ordered to stay out of trouble and could face 93 days behind bars if he violates his probation.

His reduced plea came after police say he sexually accosted a 29-year-old woman when she stopped to get her mail in the College Park Estates mobile home community on Mott Road, between Ridge and Barr. Perry could have faced up to two years in prison if he had been convicted of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. According to a police report, he admitted grabbing the woman's breast, but indicated his behavior may have been altered by a medical condition.

The incident happened about 8 p.m. Saturday, May 10. The victim got back into her vehicle, drove home to get her cellphone and called to report the assault to police.

Canton police responded swiftly and arrested Perry a short time later after he was spotted walking along Mott Road, not far from where the incident happened. Police also say a BB gun was confiscated.

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Grub Crawl serves up tasty meal deals

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Basement Burger Bar owners Jamil and David Azar are eager to attract new patrons to their Canton eatery when Grub Crawl, a summertime tradition, returns in July. Grub Crawl typically draws 500 patrons or more who pay just \$35 to dine at 16 restaurants - a thrifty deal that amounts to just over \$2 per

eatery. "I think it's going to be huge," Jamil Azar said. "We like to be involved in the community and it's good advertising. It's really fun to be involved in stuff like this." Grub Crawl, hosted by the Canton Chamber of Commerce, happens 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 22, when patrons board shuttles, drive themselves or, in some cases, rent limos to visit favorite dining spots and try new ones.

"There are some great places to eat here in Canton Township and this is an event that promotes these great eateries to our residents," chamber President Thomas Paden said. "It's just really a fun-filled night out, one of my favorite events. And above all, it's a way to bring the community together and connect our awesome businesses with future customers."

Basement Burger Bar, which opened in January, is on this year's list along with 4 Friends Bar & Grill, 502 Grill, Applebee's, bd's Mongolian Grill, Bailey's Pub & Grille, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chili's, Crow's Nest, Olga's Kitchen, Rose's Restaurant & Lounge, Szechuan Restaurant, TGI Friday's, Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza, Twisted Rooster

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Police command union OKs four-year pact

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

The union representing Canton police lieutenants and sergeants has ratified a four-year contract that inches away from an era of pay freezes, though officials say new hires will face reduced pension benefits.

Starting Jan. 1, the Canton Command Officers Association will get 1-percent annual pay increases for the first two years and 2-percent

wage hikes for each of the following two years. Current union salaries range from \$73,696 to \$84,626 a year.

Command officers and the Canton Township Board of Trustees approved the contract this June, six months before the existing pact expires. The decision means all township union groups have a collective bargaining agreement.

Pay raises aside, police command officers have accepted a two-tiered pension system

that ushers in reduced retirement earnings for new hires — a goal township officials have sought to try to rein in so-called legacy costs.

The union also lost certain time band payouts at retirement. Human Resources Manager Gwyn Belcher said.

Lt. Dave Schreiner, the COA's president, said the new contract reflects some pay-level gains after a years-long era of pay freezes.

"I think we are pleased with what we

were able to accomplish contract-wise," he said.

Both sides have said the latest pact, approved before the current contract expires, means the union and the township can focus their efforts on continuing to provide top-notch service without contract negotiations looming.

"We've always had a good, amicable relationship with the township and the representatives of the (township) board. We are appreciative of that," Schreiner said.

adding later, "We're grateful to have a contract. We think it is fair. We're grateful to regain some ground in this contract."

Township Trustee Pat Williams, an outspoken proponent of trying to curb escalating legacy costs, lauded the Canton Command Officers Association and other employee groups for bargaining in good faith.

"All of the employee groups have continued to work very closely with us to get us through a

tough situation," he said. "They continue to contribute every day to get us through a rough time."

The COA is a budgeted for a combined 15 sergeants and lieutenants. However, Schreiner said due to retirements, the current membership stands at 13. The latest contract becomes effective next Jan. 1 and continues through Dec. 31, 2018.

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Roxanne Gill rounds up shuttle riders during a previous Grab Crawl event. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CRAWL

(Continued from Page A1)

(of Belleville) and Vintner's Grab Crawl patrons wear special T-shirts that serve as their admission to the restaurants as Canton celebrates the 13th event, also supported by Canton Township and the Canton Downtown Development Authority.

Patrons are given a starting point where they can leave their vehicles and use shuttles to make their

rounds. To reserve a T-shirt or for more information, call the chamber at 734-453-4040 or register online at www.cantonchamber.com.

Organizer says Grab Crawl is a food-watering deal for mouth-conscious, age 21 and older, or those simply looking to try new restaurants without busting a budget. Paden said it's an attempt to showcase restaurants while giving patrons a night of camaraderie on the town.

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BeckRidge puts on 'Odd Couple'

Mismatched friends Felix Ungar and Oscar Madison are coming to the stage at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

BeckRidge On-Stage presents Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, beginning with a 7:30 p.m. performance today (Thursday) and continuing through Sunday, June 22.

The play is the hilarious telling of the relationship between Felix Ungar, a neurotic, neat freak news writer who is thrown out by his wife and moves in with his friend, sports writer Oscar Madison. The cast includes Vaughn Louks as Speed, Nick Rapson as Roy, Kyle Klimick as Murray, Ryan Wagner as Vinnie, Connor Rhoades as Oscar Madison, Brandon Waldenmayer as Felix Ungar and Sara Garczynski and Cara Gross as Gwendolyn and Cecily Pigeon.

The Odd Couple was not only a successful stage play; it provided the material for a major motion picture and the popular television series of the same name. This pro-



Connor Rhoades (left) as Oscar Madison and Brandon Waldenmayer as Felix Ungar star in BeckRidge On-Stage's production of 'The Odd Couple.'

duction is directed by Olivia Rhodes, who has choreographed and directed a large volume of work at the Village Theater. She is currently finishing her master's degree in speech and language pathology.

"Just as we expected, the chemistry between Brandon Waldenmayer and Connor Rhoades, who happen to be best friends in real life, comes shining through as Felix and Oscar," said Michael Gross, BeckRidge's artistic director. "The entire cast is just wonderful. For a number of them, this

is their first non-musical role and they have all been exciting to work with. The show is really funny and this cast has done a great job in bringing Neil Simon's words to life."

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, June 19, Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, with matinee and evening performances Sunday, June 22. There is limited seating for the show. To purchase tickets online, go to www.beckridgechorale.org or call 734-667-3127.

LIBERTY

(Continued from Page A1)

back-yard parties and watched from a distance, while others gathered in other parks and retail parking lots to watch the display.

"I think the festival was a great success," she said, despite chilly temperatures Friday. "We had spectacular weather on Saturday to close it out. That makes a big difference."

Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden said he was not aware of any significant incidents related to Liberty Fest.

"In general, we had no major incidents at all," he said.

Hilden cited minor issues such as children who became briefly separated from the parents; juveniles who were advised to stop loitering; a couple of incidents involving minors who were smoking cigarettes or who had alcohol; and an arrest of a young suspect who was spotted smoking marijuana while walking near the police station.

Canton has managed to avoid large unruly crowds that have disrupted some area festivals.

"We're able to keep the problems to a minimum and have a festival where our community and residents can come out and enjoy it," Hilden said. "We're really happy this year that we again

had no significant issues."

Despite large crowds, especially Saturday evening, Hilden cited "very little issues" with traffic.

Canton Fire Chief Joshua Meier said firefighter paramedics responded to a few minor injuries during the weekend, but nothing on the festival grounds that prompted any ambulance runs to hospitals. Unlike previous years, milder weather reduced threats of heat-related incidents.

"It went very well," Meier said. "The festival did add much to our daily volume of runs." He said it seemed Saturday's crowd was larger than normal. Some of it spilled over to an open house at Fire Sta-

tion No. 1.

The festival included a classic car show by America's Most Wanted Car Club, a spaghetti fundraiser dinner by the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation and a pancake breakfast by Canton Lions to raise money for charity. It also included numerous entertainers.

Bilbrey-Homsowicz credited Canton Leisure Services employees, police officers, firefighters and other township workers for doing "an absolutely phenomenal job to ensure a successful 23rd Liberty Fest."

"It's a whole team effort," she said.

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BOARD

(Continued from Page A1)

control of our school district. It's a terrible idea."

Superintendent Dr. Mike Meissen said the district has the space and, considering the budget situation, should accept the schools-of-choice option. The quality of the education in Plymouth, Canton, it said, makes it a viable option.

"When kids are sitting in their calculus class, they're not worried about where anyone is from, Meissen said. "Each student is a live student and

we can educate all kids. We're the best at that."

The most prominent option considered, but not chosen, was closing schools. While the district has lost some 1,800 students since 2010 and trustees seem to agree closing a school is inevitable — most likely at least one building will close before the 2015-16 school year — there wasn't any consensus to try to close a building so late in the year.

"I don't have a problem closing a school; I have a problem closing a school right now," Crouch said. "That seems like the easy thing to do because that was what was discussed last time. I

don't think it's possible to close a school in two months."

Closing shot
Maloney said not only is the closing of a school inevitable, he believes the district should probably close at least two buildings.

"It's hard to rationalize, having lost 1,800 students, that we're building a new middle school," Maloney said. "I know it's painful to close a school. ... It's not going to be as easy next year. At some point, we have to face the brutal fact we have declining enrollment. I don't see anything changing the funding. We may not like

it, but we have to deal with it."

As they've maintained throughout the budget process, trustees questioned the support they're getting from Lansing.

"The state passed a bill that wasn't favorable to us," Marigan said. "We have a bigger hill to climb. In 16 years on the board, we've never gotten to this point (in the budget calendar) and gotten this kind of news, a week before we have to pass the budget. It really is very unusual the state would draw the line where they did."

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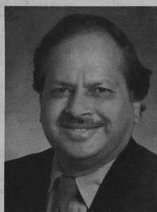
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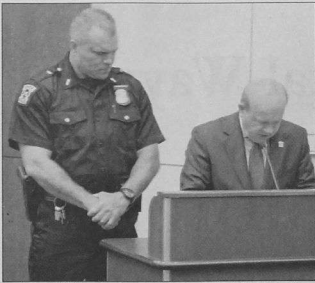
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Mark Gajeski is formally recognized by Supervisor Phil LaJoy after receiving his promotion to police lieutenant. CANTON POLICE

Veteran Canton officer promoted to lieutenant

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Rising through the ranks during a decorated 28-year police career in Canton, Mark Gajeski has been promoted to the position of lieutenant.

"It's very exciting," he said. "Every step up brings new challenges."

In his new role, Gajeski serves as a day-shift commander in charge of patrol officers, dispatchers and two sergeants.

As his parents, daughters and granddaughters looked on, Gajeski was formally recognized by township Supervisor Phil LaJoy for his promotion last week during a Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting.

Gajeski was hired as a Canton police officer in 1986 and promoted to sergeant in 2006. He earned his bache-

lor's degree in criminal justice from Ferris State University and is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Police Staff & Command School.

Gajeski served 22 years on the Western Wayne County Special Operations Team. As a member of the elite SWAT unit, he specialized in chemical munitions and explosive breaching. He was promoted through the unit from team leader to senior team leader to executive officer, serving as second-in-command of the multi-jurisdictional team.

In his new role, Gajeski will be responsible for providing training, direction and motivation for subordinate personnel toward accomplishing the department's goals and objectives.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Child overdose

A 5-year-old Canton boy was taken to the University of Michigan Hospital for treatment after he accidentally swallowed too much Keppra, a liquid medication used to treat medical conditions such as seizures, a police report said.

A police officer on patrol on Canton's south end was waved down Monday afternoon by a distraught 43-year-old mother who said she wasn't sure how much of the medication the boy had ingested, though the bottle was empty.

The mother told police she left the bottle on a table while she was doing some home chores and learned the boy drank much of the liquid.

Sex bust

Police ordered four young people not to return to a park area near Craftsbury Court, near Sheldon and Warren, after they were found having sex in a tent, a police report said.

Police received a call shortly before midnight Monday

that, for a second night in a row, a group of young people had parked in the area and gone to the park. The suspects included two females ages 17 and 20 and two males ages 18 and 19. One female and one male were described as a brother and sister.

Police found the teens naked in the closed tent and wearing sex, the report indicated.

Tax fraud

A 59-year-old Canton man went to the police station Sunday to report someone had tried to file a 2013 tax return using his and his wife's names, according to a police report.

Business vandalized

Police went to Lapp Motors on Michigan Avenue, west of Sheldon, after the owner reported someone had broken out a window of the building between 6 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. Monday.

The owner told police he arrived at work and noticed the damage. A police report indicated someone may have

-fired a pellet gun or sling shot toward the window, breaking it and causing damage to drywall on an interior wall.

Man arrested

Police arrested a 19-year-old Canton man after finding marijuana, a digital scale, glass pipes and a pistol-shaped knife in his vehicle during a traffic stop that occurred shortly after 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Police stopped the driver after spotting him driving near the scene of an incident in which a security alarm went off at the Jet's Pizza on Palmer, near Haggerty.

The driver told police he had a medical marijuana card and handed an officer two plastic containers of the drug. However, police also found a jar of marijuana in the back seat and learned the driver also was wanted for three unrelated warrants.

Police took the teen into custody and had the vehicle impounded.

—By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Woman scammed

A 71-year-old Plymouth Township woman fell victim last week to a con scheme that used the promise of a \$2.5 million prize as bait.

The woman told police Friday that she had received a letter earlier in the month promising a \$2.5 million cash prize. She also received a check for \$6,850.60, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

She was instructed by phone to cash the check, she said, and ship \$6,100 to an address in New York City, via FedEx, in order to claim the bigger prize.

She deposited the check in her bank account June 11, police said, then took \$6,100 of her own money and sent it to New York.

Two days later, she said, the \$6,850.60 check was fraudu-

lently sent to police.

Township Detective Charlie Rozum said bait checks like the one the woman received are commonly used by con artists and should be disregarded.

"It's a scam, even though they use (names of) big-name companies," he said.

Police said the phone numbers used by the scammers originated from Toronto and Calgary in Canada.

Scam try

Another township woman, 76, went to police June 12 after a man claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service tried to get her to send him \$890 to claim a prize of \$3.5 million.

The woman told police she got a call the day before from a man who said he was the "senior chief accountant" with the IRS in Los Angeles and that she was eligible for \$3.5

million in prize winnings that he had "blocked." He told her to send \$890 to cover "insurance" and other costs, a police report said.

The woman hung up, sent no money and notified her bank of the scam attempt, she told police. She said she had received several calls, hanging up each time.

Equipment stolen

A GMC semi truck and a wood chipper were reported stolen June 6 from a storage lot on Ann Arbor Road, west of Haggerty.

The equipment is the property of National Concrete Products, located on South Mill, around the corner from the storage yard, a police report said. The equipment was last seen about a month earlier, police said.

—By Matt Jachman



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Student station simulcasts DDA concert

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When the huge crowd that always fills downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park gathers Friday to listen to Sound Alternative, those in the audience won't be the only ones hearing the music.

The Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, which sponsors the Friday evening concert series "Music in the Air," partners Friday with WSDP-FM (88.1), the student-run radio station known as The Park headquartered at Salem High School.

The concert starts at 7 p.m. "Partnering with WSDP gives us a chance to reach out into the Plymouth and Canton communities to showcase our concert series," said Tony Bruscatto, DDA operations director. "Those who can't make it to Kellogg Park that night or those who want to stroll downtown Plymouth during the concert still have the opportunity to listen in



Friday's concert featuring Sound Alternative will be simulcast WSDP-FM (88.1-FM), the student-run radio station of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

the stores while they walk around."

Bruscatto said the simulcast is "a great way to broadcast" the concerts. He approached WSDP station manager Bill Keith, who agreed it was a good idea. Keith said staffers had talked about being involved in the concert series "for the last few years." They rented the necessary equipment for a test run a couple of years ago that went "extremely well," he said.

The station began raising money to buy the equipment, got donations from the Wilcox Foundation and IBM and

is ready to go. "We're excited to partner with the Downtown Development Authority to bring these concerts to the community," Keith said. "We think this is a great opportunity for the station to spotlight something great that the city of Plymouth has been doing for years. The concerts have such an incredible following. We also know that it will be a great opportunity for the station to be visible and in front of some great crowds."

In addition to Friday's Sound Alternative concert, 88.1 The Park will

simulcast Boogie Dymomite on July 25, Magic Bus on Aug. 1 and Fifty Amp Fuse on Aug. 15.

The DDA-WSDP pairing is not the only partnership the DDA uses. The DDA also partners with the Michigan Philharmonic and O&E Media, Inc. for the "All-American Salute" concert during the Fourth of July holiday.

The DDA partners with Concours d'Élegance to promote that event and bring visitors from the Inn at St. John's to downtown Plymouth by sponsoring a shuttle bus. In exchange, Concours sponsors the concert

the Friday before the event.

The DDA also partners with the Plymouth Salvation Army in November for its Main Street Boulevard Tree Lighting and Red Kettle Kickoff event, which begins the holiday season and "helps make people aware of the needs of people in our community" who are helped by the Salvation Army, Bruscatto said.

There's the partnership with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce to bring entertainment to those waiting for Santa Claus to arrive by fire truck to Kellogg Park the day after Thanksgiving and with volunteers who help "make Plymouth pink" when those walking the Michigan 3-Day breast cancer walk come through Plymouth.

"All of these partnerships serve to help the DDA connect with the people," Bruscatto said.

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Colbeck hosts veterans event

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck hosts a forum for veterans at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at the historic Lloyd H. Green American Legion Post 147 in downtown Northville.

"Veterans' Forum - Serving Those Who Serve Us" will feature an overview from Colbeck, the Canton Republican who represents the state Senate 7th District, and subject-matter experts to talk about issues and provide direction and guidance.

The event coincides with Northville's Arts and Acts Festival. Colbeck will be joined by state, Veterans Administration and other veterans groups of officials, including Doug Williams, Mike Stone and James Dunn and representatives from other veterans organizations.

For more information, contact Gordon Cole at P2R Associates at 248-348-2464 or email GCole@p2rassociates.com.

Law firm sponsors essay contest

1-800-LAW-FIRM, a national law firm based in Michigan, wants to help law students pay for their educations.

Ari Kresch, CEO of 1-800-LAW-FIRM, PLLC, knows the practice of law is changing and wants to reward five creative, forward-thinking law students who can articulate a pragmatic plan on how lawyers can re-engineer the way they interact with and serve their clients so that the legal system can better serve the public.

The Inaugural Law School Essay Contest will award and present the \$10,000 prize to the winning contestant in

front of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., in January 2015.

Additional prizes of \$500 each will be awarded to the authors of the next four chosen essays.

Firm officials believe the legal system can be tweaked to better serve the public by incorporating technology, transparency and trust into its relationship with the public. Law schools and new lawyers need to be empowered to make the changes that will transform the system so that it works better for everyone, officials said, not just the privileged few. 1-800-LAW-FIRM,

PLLC, wants to encourage young lawyers to be part of the change by thinking about it, writing about it and doing something about it. This year's topic, "What would you do to improve how legal services are delivered to the public," is open to all law students who are at least 18 years of age and who will be enrolled or will be enrolling at an accredited United States law school in 2014-15.

Students also must be a U.S. citizen and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. The contest runs from July 1 through Oct. 5. Applications are available online at http://

www.1800lawfirm.com/scholarship.

Applicants must describe, in at least 2,000 words, the innovative, highly impactful and practical way in which they could aid in re-engineering the way the legal system operates and/or making it more accessible to the public. Applicants' essays must include their plan on how they would improve the legal industry during their career.

"Our system doesn't simply need to be repaired, it needs to be re-engineered," Kresch said. "Law schools must empower their students to be that change."



As part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 3rd Annual Fortnight for Freedom, St. Michael the Archangel Church invites you to a special evening of reflection and information on Religious Freedoms in the United States.

"The Future of Religious Freedom in America: Where are We?"

Featuring
AL KRESTA,
President and CEO of Ave Maria Communications, former evangelical pastor, well-known Catholic author, speaker, and host of "Kresta in the Afternoon"
Wednesday, June 25th,
7 PM



St. Michael the Archangel Church
11441 Hubbard Rd., south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia
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Join Us This June for Father's Day & Fun at Independence Village

Events At:

Independence Village of Plymouth
14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-2600

Rock Around the Clock
Wednesday, June 11 | 1:30 pm

Grease your hair and grab your leather jacket. Put on your saddle shoes and poodle skirt. It's time to join us for a 50's-style sock hop with entertainment provided by "The Dance DJs." Soda shop favorites will be served.

Father's Day Celebration
Friday, June 13 | 1:30 pm

Join us to celebrate Father's Day a little bit early as we honor dads with great music, great food and a very special surprise. You won't want to miss this exciting event!

Estate Planning & Asset Protection Workshop

Tuesday, June 24 | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Elder Law Attorney Nicole Wipp will show you the simplest, smartest path to planning for your family, protecting your assets. Get info on the Veteran's Improved pension benefit as well. Light refreshments will be served.

Presented by: Family & Aging Law Center

Father's Day Brunch at All Communities

Father's Day Brunch
Sunday, June 15

White Lake: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Plymouth: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Enjoy a delicious brunch prepared especially for your family by our expert chef and culinary team.

Share a meal.

Share a memory.

Share a laugh.

Celebrate dad together with us.

Adults \$17.00

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Children under 4 eat free

Events At:

Independence Village of White Lake
935 Union Lake Road, White Lake, MI 48386
248-360-7235

Taste of Italy

Wednesday, June 4 | 12:00 pm

That's Amore! Come and enjoy an afternoon Italian style. Experience delicious Italian food and listen to the song stylings of Mario Messina as he sings some of Dean Martin's most popular songs.

Presented by: Mario Messina

Father's Day Celebration

Thursday, June 12 | 1:30 pm

Celebrate Father's Day a little bit early with the amazing sounds of The Paint Creek Boys And Fiddler.

Nashville Nights

Tuesday, June 24 | 6:00 pm

Pull on your boots and grab your cowboy hat. It's time to join us for some foot stomping music and entertainment with the very talented Nashville stage performer Mark Edwards. Light refreshments will also be served.

Presented by: Mark Edwards

PLEASE RSVP THREE DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT





Rowdy the border collie, working with Tad from the Muttley Crew Flying Frisbee Dogs, during a performance Saturday, the final day of Canton's Liberty Festival. CHRISTOPHER GUDECK

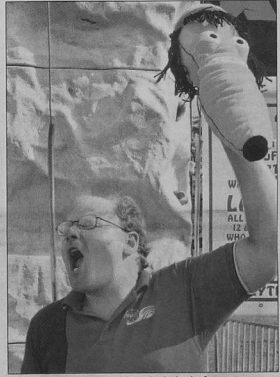
FUN AT THE FESTIVAL



Liberty Fest rides were full Friday, despite cool temperatures and clouds. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Laurie Swick serves spaghetti at the Canton firefighters dinner. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



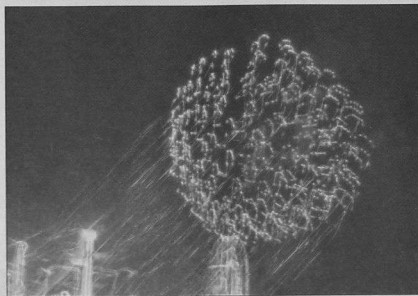
Rick Geney, with Skerbick Carnivals, looks for customers who want to win a prize. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Abigail Snyder of Canton Coney Island serves chicken strips and fries. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



This 1968 Mustang coupe was lovingly restored by owners Gerald and Paula Martin. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A dazzling fireworks display Saturday night closed out Canton's Liberty Festival. DEBORAH EDWARDS-ONGRO



Orchard Lake's Ken Beesley had his 2007 Ferrari 430 in the America's Most Wanted car show. CHRISTOPHER GUDECK



Byran Hives (left) and Brandon Gaines of Troop 1539 hold the flag while VFW Post member Bob Lamoureux cuts it, with Ryan Mott narrating from the podium and Amanda Ellenwood (Girl Scout Troop 40338) and Dave Berger (Boy Scouts Sunset District Commissioner) looking on. CHRISTOPHER GUIDECK

Ceremony retires 500 American flags

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Some three dozen people turned out Saturday to watch as some 500 United States flags received the final respect of retirement at a ceremony hosted by VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth.

Boy Scouts from Troop 1539, which is sponsored by VFW Post 6695, and a Girl Scout representative joined VFW Post Com-

mander Jerry Thomason, color guard commander Bob Lamoureux and bugler Bill Browning for the presentation.

"The retirement ceremony went very well," VFW spokesperson Gary Kubic said. "We want to teach people the proper reverence and respect for our flag, knowing that so many lives have been given to defend the flag and what it stands for."

Thomason narrated the event, making the introductions to the audience. The Scouts made four presentations about the flag and then Lamoureux and the Scouts retrieved the ceremonial flag from the post's flag pole, replacing it with a brand new flag while the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The ceremonial flag was then cut up. The stripes were put on the fire, one by one, and the field of stars was the last to go on the fire. Meanwhile, Scouts were reading famous quotes from Americans throughout history. After Browning played flaps on the post bugle, audience members were invited to help retire the flags by putting them into the blazing fire.

It's a ceremony the Post offers twice a year. The next one will take place around Veterans Day (Nov. 11). Flags may

be dropped off at VFW Post 6695 any time (there's a collection box on the right side of the lounge entrance; no large business flags).

Mayflower-Lt. Gamble VFW Post is located at 1426 S. Mill (Lilley), just north of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. For more information, call 734-459-6700.

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Classic car show drives into Blackwell Ford

The parking lot of the Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center of Plymouth at Blackwell Ford will feel a little retro Saturday.

Quick Lane of Plymouth at Blackwell Ford will host its inaugural Classic Car and Truck Show from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All makes and models are encouraged to register and compete in the event. More than 90 trophies will be presented. Trophies include Mayor's, Police Chief's and Dealer's Choice awards, Best of Show, Outstanding and Class winners, as well as a dash plaques. The first 100 pre-registered vehicles receive goodie bags and a free concession coupon.

Blackwell Ford is donating a portion of the proceeds to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Festivities including face painting, a disc jockey, concessions and raffle prizes that will take place throughout the day. The Classic Car and Truck Show is free to the public.

"The whole Blackwell team is excited to see what kind of vehicles turn up in the parking lot Saturday, June 21," said Steve Colwell, Quick Lane at Blackwell Ford manager.

"We can't wait to bring back the past with some awesome cars and trucks," said Jim Whyte, Blackwell Ford new vehicle sales manager.

For information on how to register a vehicle in the show or how to participate in the festivities, visit www.blackwellford.com/AutoShow.

SUMMER STARTS HERE

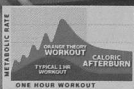
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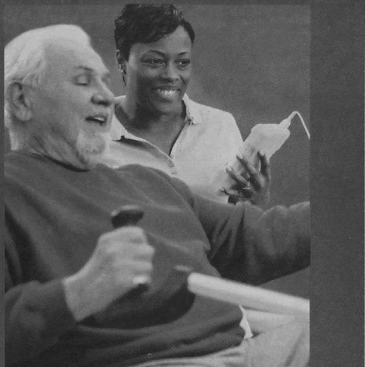
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Experience Makes a Difference.

Local businesses featured in prominent publication

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Sweet Afton Tea Room & Restaurant and TranquiliTea, two mainstays of the downtown Plymouth business scene, will be featured in the September/October issue of *Tea Time* magazine.

"They did a real nice photo shoot over at Sweet Afton," TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon said during a break at her tea shop on Ann Arbor Trail. Cannon was using that time for cleanup for her own photo shoot.

"I was making sure everything was beautiful," Cannon said. "Every setup had a lovely, coordinated appearance. I went through and made sure everything was perfect because a trained eye would know."

Cannon's pottery and other tea items were "just so" for her shoot. She worked 17 years as an art director at an advertising agency, including work in catalogs, which helped her. The photographer for TranquiliTea was here in the spring, having had to reschedule after a winter storm. "He did not want to be here for a Michigan winter storm," Cannon said.

She then did a phone interview with the *Tea Time* editor. Cannon noted it's a story on Michigan tea rooms and as hers isn't a tea room she's just excited to be featured.

"You don't know they're scouting you," Cannon said. "She gets the feel for the place," she added of the scout who visits incognito.



On a recent Saturday, Theresa Sirrine of Brighton enjoys a visit to the Sweet Afton Tea Room & Restaurant with granddaughters Evelyn Kozak, 4, also of Brighton.

Tea Time is based in Birmingham, Ala. The Plymouth businesswomen won't see anything in advance, only when the magazine is published.

"I'm just excited to be in it," Cannon said. "It's really exciting thing," said Phyllis Wilkerson, who owns Sweet Afton on Forest with husband Al. "I think it's so wonderful," she added, noting the magazine's stature.

Tea Time magazine is also online at www.teatime.com.



"I'm just excited to be in it," TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon said of her business being in a fall issue of *Tea Time* magazine, sold here at her downtown Plymouth store. PHOTOS BY JULIE BROWN



Weight loss challenge winner Rich Costantino with the OrangeTheory Fitness studio crew.

Studio challenge spurs weight-loss results

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When a new OrangeTheory Fitness studio opens, Canton studio co-owner Chad Smith said, the first thing the staff does is conduct a weight-loss challenge.

That marketing strategy turned out to be a good one for Rich Costantino.

"The program they have there just really pushes you beyond most workouts, where you go by yourself and you don't really know what your body is doing," Costantino said. "This really kicks it up to the next notch."

Costantino said he's had to lay off his beloved bread and pasta and he's told the staff at Rose's to quit letting him taste the sauces.

"It's tough, but it's worth it," he said. "I made me want to show my son that, at the age of 56, if you work hard at something, you can accomplish it."

Costantino credited the OrangeTheory system, which led by professional trainers, uses heart-rate-monitored interval training and short bursts of exercise to create a high-energy fitness experience. Consistent with all OrangeTheory Fitness studios, the 3,000-square-foot

Canton location is outfitted with 12 treadmills, 12 rowing machines, suspension training and weights and features computer screens linked to heart monitors to track target workout zones.

"We actually train smart, using heart-rate-based interval training," Smith said. "That allows us to train each individual in their optimal zones."

Some 60 people began the six-week weight loss challenge, but that number dwindled with some strict rules. The folks who stuck it out, though, showed real progress. Smith said the top 10 challengers lost more than 300 pounds. The top 10 finishers lost an average of 23.8 pounds and 9.5 percent of their body weight.

Canton resident Karen Olack was the runner up, losing nearly 35 pounds and almost 13 percent of her body weight, while third-place finisher Rachael Hnilo of Dearborn Heights lost 28 pounds and more than 12 percent of her body weight.

"We wanted to prove to people this system does work," said Smith, who pointed out the studio offers some 35 classes per week. "It spreads the word and it allows us to prove this is really different from the gym you go to or the weight-loss program you're going to try."

The studio is membership-based, offering three different packages with no sign-up or cancellation fees.

"This isn't a gimmick, it's the real deal," Smith said. "People are seeing results."

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

World Cup watching

Sean O'Callaghan was recently voted by readers of *Metro Times* one of the top 10 places in metro Detroit to watch the World Cup over the next month (<http://photos.metrotimes.com>) - the 10-best-metro-detroit-bars-to-watch-the-world-cup/#7).

Viewers will be able to watch every game throughout the World Cup. Bar officials said they've added four new 50-inch televisions and now have a total of 10.

Sean O'Callaghan's is located at 821 Pennington, in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call 734-459-6666.

Top design firm

The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., joins the distinguished ranks of the 2014 *Engineering News-Record* Top 500 Design Firms in the nation, rising

to No. 383 from last year's 413 ranking. ENR is a respected construction industry voice with a firm grip on the market.

ENR's Top 500 issue, published annually, evaluates engineering, architectural and environmental design firms based on revenue.

"Success in the current market is not something that can be taken for granted. We want our clients to be taken care of beyond their expectations, always aiming to create added value at each stage of their project - from the planning phase to completion. Our continued rise on ENR's Top 500 is evidence that MSG is doing just that," said Richard Bertz, president and CEO of MSG.

"Our clients lead us the opportunity to do what we do; our desire to serve and aid them in regard to their success solidifies the success of MSG."



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Capitol visit

The children's choir from Our Lady of Good Counsel School had the honor of singing May 28 in the rotunda of the state capitol building. The 44 young singers were recognized on the balcony by both the Senate and House of Representatives prior to their 40-minute program of sacred music. School officials said walking in the footsteps of lawmakers broadened students' understanding of government while sharing the gift of music. Included in their visit was a talk with state Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson. The choir, under the direction of Susan Lindquist, represents the intermediate level of a graded program at OLCG, which is composed of 145 singers, grades 3-8.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HISTORY KIDS KAMP

Date/Time: Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts its third annual History Kids Kamp, where children can experience aspects of the Civil War by recreating what life was like during the war, including dressing in period clothing, getting their picture taken, as well as a chore race consisting of old-fashioned tasks from the mid-1800s. There will also be a scavenger hunt, which will entertain and educate while they search for clues to solve a puzzle. Children will be able to chat with Civil War soldier re-enactors who can answer questions, demonstrate marching and much more. The boys will be given the opportunity to "enlist" in the army. Tickets purchased by July 18 are \$35 per child; after that, tickets are \$40, alternatively, the purchase of a new or renewed DVA membership to the Plymouth Historical Museum (value \$50) will allow one child to attend for free. The target age for children is 6 to 12 years old; however, children under 8 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours or can be purchased using PayPal on the museum's website. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main.

Contact: Call 734-455-8940 for more information.

FAMILY BENEVOLENCE SHOW

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 25, 5-8 p.m.
Location: VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth

Details: VVA Chapter 528 and VFW Post 6695, in conjunction with CRUZ'N 528, sponsor a car show to benefit the family of Wayne Pritchard, son of VVA 528 member Gary Pritchard, who died suddenly in April. During the car show, regular menu of food and beverages will be served. 50/50 raffles will be conducted and door prizes will be given. Oldies music will be provided by DJ Koz. All proceeds from the show will go to Wayne Pritchard's family.

Contact: For more information, call 734-459-6700.

LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES

Time/Location: Each Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Details: July 9, Hollywood's Golden Age - The film score hits its stride as it accompanies some of time's own's classic films.
July 30, The Film Score Grows Up - After World War II, films and film music became darker and more realistic.

» July 20, The Classical Film Score, Lost and Found - Big changes in films and scores in the '50s but it all comes back again in the '70s.

Details: The Plymouth District Library will host music professor Karl Schmidt for a four-part series this summer. Schmidt will present music and video excerpts from films such as *The Jazz Singer* (1927), *Gone With the Wind* (1939), *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946) and *High Noon* (1952), as well as a study of political and social changes that influenced all forms of art, including films. This music series is made possible through the Michigan Opera Theatre's Department of Community Programs and the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

Contact: Call 734-453-0750

COFFEE WITH COPS

Dates/Times/Locations: Saturday, June 21, 2-4 p.m., at the IKEA store at Ford Road and Haggerty; Tuesday, June 24, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center

Details: The Canton Police Department has scheduled its next Coffee with a Cop session, intended to give residents a chance to meet informally with police officers.

GARDEN WALK

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 24, noon to 8 p.m.

Location: The walk features a variety of gardens, descriptions of which are located on the tickets.
Details: The 19th annual "Flowers are Forever" garden walk in Plymouth includes gardens with a variety of features, as well as many ideas that can be adapted to your own garden. Complimentary refreshments and a perennial sale will be at one of the gardens. Master gardeners will also be available to answer gardening questions. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 the day of the walk, half-price for children 12 and younger. The Trailwood Garden Club, a branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, is the sponsor. Tickets are available from Garden Club members, Backyard Birds on Main Street, Sartor's Garden Center on Ann Arbor Trail and Sideways on Forest.

Contact: For additional information, contact Marilyn Detmer at 734-454-4625

CRATERS WANTED

Date/Time: Sept. 5-7
Location: Downtown Plymouth's Fall Festival

Details: The Plymouth Fall Festival has openings in the Craft Show. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com. Deadline for applications is June 30. Deadline for all other craft applications is July 15.

Contact: More information can be found on the web site or email Colleen Brown at craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com.

CRATERS NEEDED

Date/Time: Oct. 18
Location: West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

Details: The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual Juried Craft Show. Proceeds from the show provide scholarships for young people who are pursuing a career in education and mini-grants for educators in the district.

Contact: For more information, contact Debbie Corneili at debcornell@delkagamma.org or 734-451-1525.

GHOSTS OF PLYMOUTH WALK

Date/Time: Sunday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Location: The walk circles Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth and lasts about 90 minutes. Participants should meet at the fountain in Kellogg Park.

Details: Participants can meet and greet some of the characters from Plymouth's past during the Plymouth Historical Museum's "Ghosts of Plymouth" walk. Hear the tales of early Plymouth from the characters themselves, such as Phil Markham (inventor of the Markham Air Rifle), his mistress Blanche Shortman and his spurned wife Carrie, colorful physician Dr. Luther Peck and George Starkweather, the first white male born in Plymouth Township under 10) at the park and can be purchased at the museum's website using PayPal or at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street.

Contact: Call 734-455-8940 for more information.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:
» Sunday, June 22, Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

» Monday, June 23, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, 16:45 p.m.

» Monday, June 23, VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth, 1:30-7:15 p.m.

» Wednesday, June 25, Friendship Church, 1240 N. Beck, Canton, 16:45 p.m.

» Monday, June 30, Salem High School, 46181 Jay in Canton, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors the above blood drives.

Contact: Donors can make appointments by calling 800-RED-CROSS or going to www.redcrossblood.org and enter search by zip code.

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The team enters the building and begins the search for a shooter and assessing the number of victims. A trainer (right) watches and critiques the team's response.



After clearing a classroom, the team prepares to move farther into the school. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

'AS REAL AS IT GETS'

Wayne County police officers train for school shooting situations

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

They may use bullets filled with paint, but Livonia Police Capt. Ron Taig knows the school shooting training session done Tuesday by several Wayne County police agencies has the feel of being authentic.

"This is as real as it gets," he said. "We're trying to test their abilities in the struggle."

Several police officers from agencies such as Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, the Wayne County Airport Authority, Dearborn Heights, Northville and Northville Township are participating in a four-day training session, learning the ropes of proper tactics when

dealing with a school shooting situation. Officers ran real-time simulations Tuesday morning at Dickinson School, 18000 Newburgh, in Livonia, complete with "gunmen" opening fire on police. The training runs through today.

The training was made possible by a federal grant obtained by the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security, totaling about \$45,000 for eight days of training for officers. No local dollars funded the sessions.

Officers used Dickinson, which was not in use, as a training ground. Several officers donned blue jerseys, indicating their status as a shooting victim, while others wore

red, labeling them as a shooter in the school.

And these aren't SWAT team officers, either: Taig said the goal is to train every first responding officer to step in and handle a shooter situation inside a school.

"We want to make sure patrol officers were given the equipment and also training to be able to react to an active shooter," he said. "So we put the training together."

Bullets containing paint were fired by officers and shooters during the training, leaving a mark and showing where someone had been shot. Teams of officers covered

See POLICE, Page A11

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11 - 11:45 a.m.

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Review, compare fees for financial services

I recently read a story about a man who took a large amount of loose coins to the bank and deposited the money into his checking account. He was upset because when he received his monthly statement, he noticed the bank had charged a fee for counting the coins.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

deposits and automatic withdrawals, but as he said at the end of the column, it was worth it.

Over the last few years, most consumers have gotten used to paying fees. Whether it is a hotel charging a resort fee in addition to the room rate or an airline charging for checked bags or an aisle seat, fees have become a fact of life.

In many situations, consumers have to accept the fees. However, in many situations, there are options. One of those is a banking relationship. Banks have a history of charging excessive fees. Look at what banks have charged for things such as bounced checks, wire transfers or even the cost of printing checks.

And banks have instituted even more fees. Some are charging to talk to a teller, closing out an account or even sending a statement.

Banks have implemented these and other new fees because they know that on the whole

the American public is unaware when it comes to fees.

Many people tend to believe that bank fees are standard and that every bank or financial institution charges the same fees. This is not the case. Every bank has its own set of fees and different accounts at the same bank also have different fee structures. The key is to focus on the fees for services that you use.

Once you understand your bank's fees, you can begin to compare other banks and financial institutions. In addition, also check with credit

unions. Typically, credit unions will have lower fees and just as many amenities as banks.

I recognize banks are a business and need to make a profit. However, just as banks look for ways of cutting costs, consumers need to look for ways to be more efficient and control costs.

Don't forget that fees can be waived. If your bank assesses a fee that you are unaware of, contact the bank to see if it will waive it. You may be surprised how often banks and even charge card companies will waive fees if you request it.

Changing banks is a bit of a hassle and shouldn't be done on a whim. However, if you can save money on a regular basis, it may be worth the change.

Whether you make a change or not, it is important to review your banking relationship to determine if your bank deserves your business.

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

POLICE

Continued from Page A10

themselves going through the hallway, actively searching for the "shooter" and carrying "victims" lying in the hallway to safety.

After the simulation, officers will gather for a debriefing session and break down positives and negatives.

Students become teachers

And as well as learning tactics, participants will then turn around and be able to teach others who were not able to attend. Timothy McGilivray, director of Wayne County's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said once these officers are trained, the expectation is that they will return to their departments and conduct the training themselves.

"We can't touch every police officer in Wayne County," he said.

The hope is that every one of more than 1,000 law enforcement officers will receive similar training. In addition to police,

Taig said several firefighters have also taken part in the training, including firefighters from Canton and Livonia.

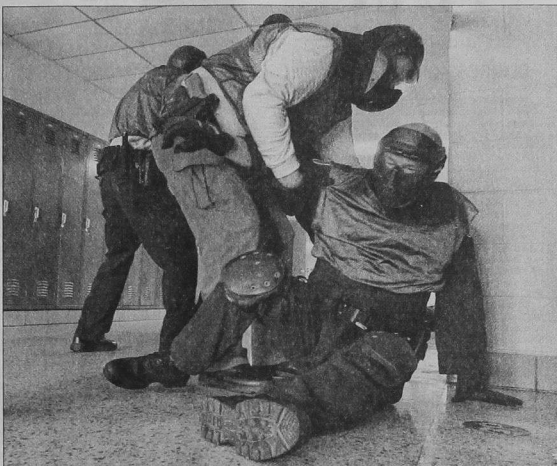
Taig said the hope is that other communities, such as Redford, Garden City, Westland and Wayne, that have not participated in the training could take part in another session they hope to hold in 2015.

McGilivray said it's hoped the skills learned this week will not ever be needed, but it's important officers in the county know how to handle the situation properly if the need arises.

"We deal with low-frequency and high-consequence events. God willing, this training will never be utilized," he said. "But we know all these police departments have tight budgets. What we bring to the table are the financial resources: the equipment, the training, the support equipment for the guys out on the front lines. And this is an example of that."

"School safety is definitely a priority."

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Team members guard officers helping a victim. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doesn't add up

The PCCS 2014-15 budget dated April 29 states the custodial maintenance cost is \$2,383,266 per year. The contract with the private company states the cost will be \$208,687.17 per month, times 12 months, totals \$2,504,246.04. Subtract the amount of \$2,383,266 that the district currently pays its own custodians from \$2,504,246.04 that the district will be paying the private company and that equals \$120,980.04 more that the district will actually be paying out, plus the additional \$75,000 per year for equipment.

So a total of \$195,980.04 more per year it will actually cost the district by going with a private company. Yet Brodie Killian stated the district would be saving between \$600,000 and \$700,000 by doing this?

Please publish this to the taxpayer so we can see exactly how these people are running - or should I say ruining - our once great school district.

Lisa Mark
Plymouth

Senate disgust

Sen. Colbeck: I cannot express the level of disgust I feel for you and your fellow state senators who wasted yet another opportunity to make serious inroads on the deplorable status of Michigan's roads. Poll after poll has told you that your constituents want this taken care of and urge you to make the compromises needed to get this done - including raising taxes to pay for it.

Instead, you chose the spineless approach of having nothing get done if you couldn't ram your personal plan through unchanged. I can only assume that this was to avoid offending the vocal minority who are unwilling to pay for anything the state does.

Well, guess what? You have offended me. I can't wait to vote against you at any available opportunity. Maybe the next person will be willing to work in the best interests of the state, even if it entails a bit of political risk. If not, at least we'll have a different scoundrel in office.

Bob Nelson
Canton

Supports Proposal 1

Please vote yes Aug. 5 on Proposal 1 to reform the way local governments are reimbursed for providing important local services. The changes would help our local communities and the state.

The proposal is not a tax increase. It would create a Local Community Stabilization share to provide a more stable system for local governments to pay for local services that keep our communities safe, including police and fire, ambulances, jails, roads, schools and libraries.

The proposal also keeps in

place business tax reforms approved by the Legislature, which immediately eliminate the Personal Property Tax on small businesses and phase it out for larger businesses. This makes our local businesses more competitive by allowing them to invest more in job-creation and expansion.

For these reasons, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce urges citizens to vote yes Aug. 5 to help local governments provide the services we all need and help local businesses thrive. For more detail about our support of Proposal 1, please go to our website www.plymouthmich.org.

Wes Graff
president
Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

Great courage

I would like to thank the Canton Board of Trustees for passing the Human Rights Ordinance last week and not waiting for the state to do something.

It took great courage and I thought for five of the Canton Board of Trustees to change their minds and pass the ordinance as they did June 10. They knew it was the right thing to do, but were looking to see if the state would act first. It seems in this day and age, everyone is always waiting for the "other person" to do something; it was a breath of fresh air to experience the change and see five of the board members change their mind and pass the ordinance now instead of later.

Leaders lead, they do not follow, and those five trustees did exactly that; they listened and they acted. As one of the speakers quoted at the June 10 meeting, justice delayed is justice denied.

The ordinance should be important to us all, as it is important that discrimination of any kind be stopped. As a member of the community of Canton and a lesbian, I am now proud to say I live in a community that believes in equal rights for all. I had another member of our community share with me that she's "waited for 74 years to see this happen." The importance of the ordinance to me, my family and my friends is that I am now protected by the ordinance. I cannot be discriminated against because of my sexual orientation and I can live in a community who respects who I am.

Tina Turill
Canton

New Peters ad

A new ad sponsored by Ending Spending seeks to demonize Gary Peters by harping on the false memo (that, not coincidentally, Terri Lynn Land has also glommed on to) that his opposition to the Keystone pipeline is a job-killer. Where? In Michigan? Not likely.

This long debunked claim of tens of thousands of jobs has been cast asunder by the State

Department's Environmental Impact Report that stated only 3,900 collar shirt-size-term construction jobs will be created and that it will take only 35 workers to patrol the entire 1,000-mile plus length of the pipeline once completed. It is difficult to imagine how any Michiganders will be employed on the project.

The ad also makes nebulous reference to federal rule and regulation that are stifling our economy of course without naming any. "What kind of regulation?" The kind that outlaws dumping piles of toxic pet coke like those left on the banks of Detroit River by Koch Carbon to blow around freely, polluting the air of several downriver communities, Detroit neighborhoods, riverside sections of Ontario and, of course, the waters of the Detroit River?

What type of red tape? The type which regulates pipelines like the one that ruptured along the banks of the Kalamazoo River, spilling a million gallons of toxic tar sand crude into that waterway, raining it perhaps forever? This same type of toxic sludge will flow through the XL pipeline and will threaten the Ogallala Aquifer when the inevitable spills occur that sadly we lack the technology to clean up.

Do those at Ending Spending or Terri Lynn Land know or care that since Canadian tar sands oil now comes to Michigan and to the Midwest refined into gasoline, a Keystone pipeline will divert that supply to Texas, creating shorthages here and ultimately driving gas prices up in Michigan? Is it not the National Resources Defense Council?

And the audacity of the ES ad calling Tom Steyer a "special interest" is beyond hypocritical, although it is pretty "special" for a person to use his personal fortune to stifle global warming. Steyer's stated goal. At least Tom Steyer's "save the planet" based motives seem altruistic rather than steeped in un-abashed greed. Conversely, the Koch-sponsored special interest AFP exists for no other reason than to support candidates and pursue policy that will personally enrich the Kochs. Now that is one lofty goal. I guess \$40 billion each just isn't enough.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Ignoring the citizens

I have been attending the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meetings for the past several months and am appalled by some of the things I have observed. It appears the board has no interest in what the people of the community have to say when the wishes of the residents of Plymouth Township differ or conflict with the undertakings of the Board of Trustees.

I have seen dozens of people stand up to express their opinions

See LETTERS, Page A13

OUR VIEWS



The state Senate adjourned last week without a plan to deal with roads. BILL BREKLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO ROAD PLAN

Senate ignores will, business of the people

It would be considered poetic justice if state senators leaving Lansing last week hit giant, car-damaging potholes after adjourning without doing anything substantive about the condition of the state's roads.

Oh, sure, they adjourned having sent a budget to Gov. Rick Snyder for the fiscal year that begins in October, which includes \$3.7 billion for the Michigan Department of Transportation, but Snyder had sought an additional \$1.2 billion and the House had approved a package that would have raised an estimated \$500 million.

But the Senate couldn't - or wouldn't - reach consensus on new road revenue. Instead, senators say there's more money in the budget to perform stop-gap work on roads now and the Senate will deal with the need for a more comprehensive plan when it reconvenes.

Of course, when it reconvenes, candidates who survive the Aug. 5 primary will be worrying about re-election. Even more likely, they're worrying about re-election now, which is one reason they kicked this particular can down the divot-filled road.

Surveys show most Michigan voters want better roads and they're willing to pay for them. Snyder and Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville proposed a wholesale gas tax hike as a long-term solution to Michigan's constant under-funding of roads. Voters are pounding legislators with complaints about the condition of the state's roads, which cost motorists money on a daily basis.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, a Republican from Plymouth Township, said the House plan to raise an extra \$500 million would have earmarked more existing money for roads, increased the penalties for overweight trucks, tied the gasoline tax to the wholesale price of gas and increased the diesel fuel tax.

The wholesale gas tax hike is unquestionably a tough sell, especially in an election year and when you consider the state already has the fifth-highest gas tax in the country (19 cents per gallon for gasoline, 15 cents per gallon for diesel fuel).

But if voters are willing to pay for the additional money - and if even Republican leaders think it's the best of what may be bad options to get it done - shouldn't senators have either considered it or come up with ideas of their own?

Isn't it reasonable to ask the Senate to have gotten something - anything - done?

Apparently, Senate leadership is saying the road issue will be dealt with in lame-duck session. That's the chosen way of dealing with tough, unpopular issues lately (road plan, right-to-work, etc.) and it lacks a certain level of accountability. Heise and others have said they'd "be happy to come back" to Lansing to get a plan in place, but that's not going to happen. Legislators instead will spend the summer running for re-election, rather than doing the business of the people, business that should have been done in the first place.

GUEST COLUMN

Canton leads where state should follow

Fairness means that an employee should be evaluated and promoted based on the ability to do the job.

Fairness means that a lease should be renewed based on whether the tenant pays the rent and takes care of the place.

Fairness should not discriminate. But despite living in a democratic republic, where all people are "equal," there are thousands of people who cannot live their full truths, because in the state of Michigan, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people can be fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes and denied access to public



Sommer Foster
GUEST COLUMNIST

space simply for being who they are.

Thirty-five municipalities in Michigan have decided to lead by passing local ordinances that offer protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Last week, Canton Township took a bipartisan vote to become the 35th municipality to provide these protections.

The ordinance Canton approved states that no person be denied

equal protection of the law; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights or be discriminated against because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, condition of pregnancy, marital status, physical or mental limitation, source of income, family responsibilities, sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status."

A study titled "Degrees of Equality: A National Study Examining Workplace Climate for LGBT Employees," found that 42 percent of LGBT employees report lying about their personal lives as a result of working in an environment that is not always accepting of them as people. As reasons for hiding their identities, 28 percent fear not being considered for advancement, 17 percent fear getting fired.

Hiding takes a toll on workers' ability to put 100 percent of them-

selves into their jobs. They have to separate their home life from their work life, which means no personal phone calls that can be overheard or e-mails that can be read, no pictures of loved ones on the desk and no honest personal dialogue with co-workers, clients or customers. ("Are you married and do you have kids?")

All of these things you and I take for granted.

Some think we should have waited for the state of Michigan to act and amend the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. But our local elected leaders took heed to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and embraced the "fiery urgency of now." They not only took a courageous vote to protect all the citizens of Canton, but they also passed a resolution encouraging the Legislature to act before the end of this legislative session.

Our Board of Trustees should be com-

mended - it led and showed the state of Michigan that equality, fairness and the golden rule mean something to the 90,173 residents of Canton.

Waiting for the Legislature would not have helped the lesbian mom feel comfortable putting a photo of her family on her desk at work, but Canton's action will.

Waiting would not have helped the gay college student figure out whether he has a welcoming home in the place he grew up or if he should move to Ann Arbor, Birmingham or Royal Oak like the majority of his friends, but the actions Canton took will.

We all know people who are gay and transgender and they are our neighbors, friends, co-workers and family members. They deserve the same security as everyone else. They deserve to go to work every day knowing that if they do a good job, they will be able to keep that job.

Seventy-four percent of Michiganders believe in these protections. Gov. Rick Snyder's Department of Civil Rights has said that amending the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act is the right thing to do. The business community and 85 percent of Fortune 500 companies are already offering protections.

It is time for the state of Michigan to follow the lead of Michigan's second largest township and 11th largest community. We have proven that we are willing to be proactive and welcoming to all people by passing this equal rights ordinance. It is time for the state of Michigan to take a step forward in its quest for equating protections.

King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." I would argue that it also bends toward inclusion.

Sommer Foster is a Canton resident and director of political advocacy for Equality Michigan.



Brad Kadrich,
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Advertising

County executive candidates try to break through voter anger

Ane Gautrau probably summed up a sentiment shared by many Wayne County residents after she sat through a League of Women Voters-sponsored candidates forum last week that featured 10 of the individuals running for Wayne County executive.

"I just wonder how many lies I heard to-night," the retired Dearborn school teacher said June 12 as she walked out of Henry Ford Community College's Mazzara Conference Center.

Her statement goes to the heart of what so many feel about the current state of Wayne County government. There just isn't much trust anymore.

The forum itself was pretty uneventful. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of it was the fact that most of the heavy hitters were on one stage - with the exception of state Rep. Phil Cavanagh, who was stuck in Lansing working on the state budget.

All the other candidates with a legitimate



Kurt Kuban

STAFF COLUMNIST

shot of winning the race were there: incumbent Robert Ficano, Wayne County Commissioner Keven McNamara, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans and Westland Mayor Bill Wild. I suppose you could include Christopher Wojtowicz in that group, due solely to the fact that his father, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz, is a near incumbent in county government, and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, who has served as a state representative.

Other Democrats participating included Westland resident Russell George Leviska and Adam Salam Adamski, neither of whom has much chance to win. There were also two Republicans - Canton's Fred A. Bolden and John Dalton, who probably have no chance considering Wayne County leans

so heavily toward the left.

All in all, there were few surprises during the event. The candidates answered a series of questions, including what their thoughts were on the failed jail project that is going to cost taxpayers dearly.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the night was when Ficano said that has brought "fiscal integrity" to county government since being elected 10 years ago. Integrity probably isn't the adjective most Wayne County voters would use when describing Ficano's stewardship of Wayne County.

There's just no getting around it - there likely aren't many Wayne County residents happy with Ficano right now, which isn't surprising considering the controversies that have surrounded him in recent years, including the failed jail project that has cost taxpayers about \$160 million so far, federal investigations and indictments of members of his administration or the

fact the county has only had one balanced budget during his tenure as executive.

The most recent poll in the race, conducted by Washington-based Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, reflects the dismay with Ficano, who is polling dead last at 10 percent. Wild, Cavanagh and McNamara are all in the 12- to 14-percent range.

While many of us out here in the suburbs probably thought the race would be won by one of those four candidates, it is clear Detroit still rules the roost of Wayne County politics.

If the poll is to be believed, they are all far behind Evans, who is up double digits at 28 percent. Evans is polling well among black voters, who make up 92 percent of the voters in Detroit, which comprises about half of the eligible voters in Wayne County. So it may just be a long-shot for any of the suburban candidates to catch him, though if there is one

positive for them it's the fact that nearly 40 percent of those polled said they haven't yet made up their mind for whom to vote.

There is the thought out there that Ficano could slip through and win the Aug. 5 primary election, because the other major candidates would carve up the vote.

But the reality is Cavanagh, McNamara, Wild and even Ficano are all vying for the same bloc of votes and if they want any chance at winning are going to have to chase the Detroit vote - and chase it hard - because absentee ballots are going to start being mailed out at the end of the month.

So there is little time

to waste to make up the ground and, in the case of Ficano, do enough damage control to turn around his prospects.

Perhaps they can take heart, though, because even the wary Anne Gautrau said she felt pretty good about a couple of the candidates after the forum and wants to learn more about them. She didn't say who those candidates are but, like a lot of Wayne County residents, she is hoping to find the right candidate that she can trust and throw her support behind.

Kurt Kuban is editor of the Northville Record. He welcomes your feedback at kkuban@hometownlife.com or 248-437-7071, ext. 245.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A12

tion to the building of an amphitheater in the township park. There are many reasons for their opposition: 1) people do not see the practicality of an amphitheater; 2) citizens were not informed of the plan to issue a bond and use the proceeds for an amphitheater; 3) the board did not take the time to study the impact of such a project on the surrounding neighborhoods; 4) this money would be

better spent on maintaining the facilities that are already in the park and which are used on a regular basis; 5) the noise level, traffic and the crowd control could create unwanted problems and disrupt the tranquility of the adjacent neighborhoods; 6) there is a greater need for our fire station to be reopened than the need for an amphitheater; 7) the community was told there was no money to support a fire station, but now they have the money for an amphitheater? 8) why can't this project be put on hold

until some of these concerns are addressed?

The board plans on spending \$9,000 to \$25,000 on a survey to find out what the community wants in regard to recreation. Is the board waiting until the completion of this amphitheater project before it presents a survey? By that time it will be too late to stop a project that seems nobody in the community wants.

The board has not adequately addressed the concerns of the citizens. Since the board appears to be ignoring pleas to reconsider this

project, there are now whisperings of picketing the construction site and inviting the news media out to record the incident. I would never have thought that this community would have to resort to demonstrating in the streets in order for the citizens to be heard. When democracy is not practiced in your own community, then perhaps such measures are necessary.

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township

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Falvo was tough, thoughtful coach

Longtime Mercy softball skipper succumbs to cancer at age 63

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer



Falvo

Jack Falvo is remembered as a demanding and tough-minded softball coach who cared about his players and wanted to make them winners in life as well as sport.

His purpose and objective was very much in step with the Mercy High School mission of preparing young women for college and the career world.

Mr. Falvo, the highly successful coach of the Marlins for 17 seasons, died Friday at his home following an eight-month struggle with pancreatic cancer. He was 63.

"When the players were between the lines, he was competitive and hard-nosed," longtime Mercy assistant coach Jerry Ashe said.

"But those student-athletes

were better prepared for the real world and what a woman of the new millennium would face in life and in the corporate world.

"He was a hard-nosed guy, but he was really a teddy bear off the field — and so generous to his players, as well as the Mercy program."

Dana (Falvo) Haller, who played four years on the Mercy varsity for her father, said she had the best of both worlds.

"He was my dad and he was my coach," she said, citing the many former players who called on the family this week to share their memories.

"I'm glad I was able to share him in that way, as a coach.

You really see the impact he had on so many lives.

"For me personally, he was my first coach in life. So often in my career, he would call me and coach me through different things and give me advice."

A former all-area outfielder, Dana Haller played at Hillsdale College and is now a television producer with NBC in New York.

Always a teacher

While the details of the play are now forgotten, she recalled her dad using a game situation to teach more than softball.

"He said to me, 'Dana, what you experienced at that moment is a lot like you'll experience in business,'" she said.

"He would always give these lectures in the car after a game, equating a play to business, and I never understood



Jack Falvo is inducted into the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

what he was saying. Then, when I had my own career, he would say, 'See, it was just like that play!'"

"When I was in college, he

would send clippings and motivational cards. He always believed there were bigger les-

See **FALVO**, Page B4

DIVISION 2 GIRLS SOFTBALL FINALS

Blazers thwarted in state title bid



Ladywood's Christina Meyer tries for a diving catch during fifth inning action against Stevensville Lakeshore in the Division 2 girls softball final. PHOTOS BY KIRTHMON DOZIER | GANNETT MICHIGAN

Stevensville Lakeshore holds off Ladywood, 4-3

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood finally ran out of lady luck in Saturday's MHSAA Division 2 girls softball finals.

The Blazers, making a bid for their second title since 2012, fell one run short in a 4-3 setback to Stevensville Lakeshore, which garnered its seventh championship since 1997 under coach Denny Dock, in a game played at Michigan State University's Secchia Stadium.

Ladywood, which could only muster three hits off Lakeshore senior right-hander Haley Thibeault, ends its season at 29-14 overall.

Lakeshore (35-9) spotted the Blazers a two-run deficit in the top of the first inning.

Lead-off hitter Christina Meyer was hit by a pitch and Haley Lawrence reached base on an error. Rozlyn Price's grounder was misplayed at first, bringing Meyer home and Lawrence tagged up from third on Hallea Garcia's sacrifice fly to right field to make it 2-0.

But Stevensville tied it with two in the fourth and took the lead for keeps with two more in the bottom of the fifth inning.

The big blow came in the fourth when Rachel Riedel took Rozlyn Price's first pitch and belted it over the left field fence to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Rebecca Meyer then singled. Courtesy runner Mahri Younger stole second and took third on a fielder's choice before



Ladywood catcher Anna Lewis (left) waits for the ball as Stevensville runner Mahri Younger slides at the plate in Saturday's Division 2 final.

coming home on Rachel Clem's successful suicide squeeze bunt to make it 2-2.

The Lancers then took the lead when Price, the junior right-hander, walked both Haley Thibeault and pinch hitter Mackenzie Sanders to start the inning. Hunter Thibeault was hit by a pitch to load the bases which led to the go-ahead run thanks to Alex Forsythe's bloop RBI single to center.

Riedel then followed with an RBI sacrifice fly to right field to put Stevensville up 4-2.

"I think it was just adjustments between the cars as much as anything," Stevensville coach Denny

Dock said of his team's slow start. "Just from the standpoint that you can't make errors. We were a little nervous, I think. We just needed to get a grip, get a hold of things a little bit. We struck out six out of the first nine times."

"Then, Rachel Riedel got us going. She put a charge into one there. I think that relaxed us a little bit. We said, 'We can do this.' And we had a beautiful squeeze bunt, a suicide to tie it up."

With two-out in the top of the sixth, Ladywood mounted a rally. Price singled, Hallea Garcia reached base on an error and Lauren Holdsworth walked to load the bases.

Rachel Hendrickson,

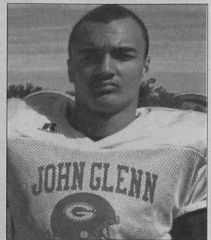
the hero in Ladywood's 4-3 state semifinal win Thursday over Wayland Union, then hit a chopper in front of the plate and reached first safely in what was ruled a single to 4-3.

But Haley Thibeault, who struck out three and walked two, got out of the inning when Michaela Warner flied out to center.

Ladywood then went down in order in the top of the seventh as Thibeault got senior shortstop Haley Lawrence to pop out to third to end the game.

Ironically, just the batter before, the Blazers' Christina Meyer made a bid for an extra base hit near the

PREP FOOTBALL



Spalding

Glenn back Spalding is co-MVP in Border War

Rocket's 60-yard TD run fuels 27-13 win against Team Ohio

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's Devon Spalding wanted to do the state proud in Saturday's first-ever Ohio Michigan High School Border Classic.

And the Rockets' All-State running back, who will report to Central Michigan University on June 28, came up with one of his signature plays when he broke free for a 60-yard touchdown run to help spark Team Michigan to a 17-7 third-quarter advantage en route to a 27-13 football victory over Team Ohio in a game played at the University of Findlay.

"We pulled our right tackle through the hole to seal off the linebacker, then we just split the sea," said Spalding, who was named the game's co-MVP along with Jared Wangler, a linebacker from Warren De La Salle headed to the University of Michigan.

Spalding, who rushed for 1,761 yards and 25 TDs in his senior season at Glenn, had 79 yards on six carries.

The 6-foot-1, 197-pound Spalding was more than happy to share the load as Team Michigan ran for 240 yards on 47 rushing attempts.

"That game was the most fun I've ever played in because it wasn't all about me," said Spalding, who once ran for a school-record 491 yards in a regular season game against Livonia Churchill. "I wasn't getting the ball every play. In order to win a game like that you have to play as a team. And like I said, we came together really well. We bonded like we were brothers actually. And we were representing the state of Michigan."

Some pre-game banter during Friday night's banquet from Team Ohio fueled Spalding and his teammates.

"We took what they (Ohio) were talking at the banquet," Spalding said. "They were pretty much saying that it was it was going to be easy. They kept saying Ohio has 159 scholarships (play-

Shaw's free camp stresses character as much as technique

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

You can file Saturday's fifth annual Tim Shaw "Dream It! Do It!" Football Camp inside the "The Best Things in Life Are Free" folder.

For the modest investment of four hours of sweat equity, close to 130 area youngsters soaked in the teachings — both football- and life-related — of Shaw and a roster of stellar coaches and former players who he has befriended throughout a sterling gridiron career that took him from Livonia Clarenceville to Penn State University and the National Football League.

In addition to learning some of the intricacies of their favorite positions, the campers were educated on several character-based skills — a point Shaw emphasizes.

"Yes, I want the kids to learn a little football

while they're here, but more important than that is I want them to be around some positive role models," said Shaw, who currently resides in Nashville, Tenn. "I want them to see that, just because I was in the NFL, I'm a normal guy. I want to help them answer the questions, 'How do I get somewhere I want to go?' and 'What does it take to be successful?'"

Despite being under-derisive by NFL standards, the 6-foot-1, 230-pound Shaw was a special-teams force for four NFL teams from 2007 through 2012. Prior to announcing his retirement prior to the 2013 season, he compiled 127 career tackles and earned a spot on the USA Today's "All-Joe Team."

"When I first got into the NFL, I wanted to find a way to give back to my community, my school and the area that I grew up in and love," Shaw

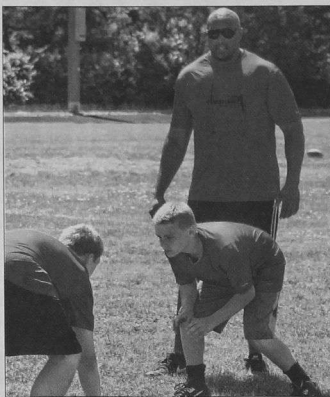
said, when asked why he decided to start the annual camp. "At first, I thought I had to make a name for myself (in the NFL) before I could do something like this, but even after I got cut a couple of times, I decided it doesn't matter if I'm playing or not, I'm going to do it."

Despite a modest advertising campaign, Shaw's camp has drawn at least 100 kids each June. Saturday's draw was the largest to date.

Holmes Middle School eighth-grader-to-be Jack Nolita said he's attended the camp three straight years and has enjoyed every minute of it.

"I like how they do everything to us, so every time we get crammed into one big group," said Nolita, a tight end for the Livonia Eagles. "I've gotten a lot better at making sharp cuts on my routes thanks to coming here."

Nolita said he's



Among the assistants at Tim Shaw's football camp were former Penn State offensive lineman Gerald Cadogan. ED WRIGHT

learned a lot of valuable off-the-field lessons from Shaw and his staff.

"Probably the most important thing I've learned is to surround myself with people who want to do the same things I want to do," he said.

Thirteen-year-old Dan Sweikowsky, a two-year veteran of Shaw's camp,

said it's non-football advice that he'll remember the most from the "Dream It! Do It!" get-together.

"I've learned how important it is to do well in school, not just in football," said the former Westland Comet.

Looking as fit and trim as he did during his playing days, Shaw said

he doesn't have an itch to return to the gridiron.

"The game and I have definitely run our course," he said, smiling. "I currently have some business interests that are keeping me busy while I figure out what that next passion for me is beyond football."

ewright@hometowilife.com

Comerica champ



Livonia's Shane Rakowski, 12, captured first place in the 11-12 age division of the Major League Baseball's Pitch, Hit & Run contest, sponsored by Scotts, held June 7 at Comerica Park. The top three winners from each age group among all 30 MLB teams will have the opportunity to compete in the national competition during All-Star Week on July 14 at Target Field in Minneapolis. The top three winners will be announced June 29 on the MLB Network. Earlier at the third annual Diamond Dig Tourney at Livonia's Rotary Park, Rakowski, who will attend Holmes Middle School in the fall, went all seven innings throwing a one-hitter and striking out 16 in a recent 7-0 victory over the South Farmington Blues travel team. STEVE RAKOWSKI

Despite the tough times, Blazers persevered

Even when times got tough this season, Livonia Ladywood's softball team stayed the course.

The Blazers would be the first to admit they were downright awful at times, but when the MHSAA Division 2 tournament started, something radically changed.

Maybe Hallee Garcia's walk-off three-run homer in the district final proved to be a turning point. And maybe the Blazers' recent history of tournament success also played a factor.

Ladywood walked off the stage Saturday at Michigan State University's one run short of its ultimate goal in a 4-3 loss to Stevensville Lakeshore, which won its second title since 1995 under coach Denny Dock.

But despite the heartache, there was some satisfaction in getting to the finals for the third time since 2009 and the fifth trip to the Final Four in seven years.

"I think the seniors always take it hard and they're going to miss those two seniors (Haley Lawrence and Garcia), and we only have two and they're like the ultimate mother hens," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said. "They're really taking care of the sophomores and freshman that are there throughout the lineup and that's what



Brad Emons

they're going to miss the most. The girls had to take so much responsibility being the only two seniors. Usually we have four or five. But having only two they had to take a lot of responsibility. That's what they're going to miss about those two. They're quality people."

Ladywood's 29-14 final record was a bit deceiving because the Blazers played a mostly Division 1 schedule this season trying to get ready for the tournament.

But it became certainly a season of hard knocks as Combs divided the first half of the spring juggling two different programs after taking over the University of Michigan-Dearborn softball team.

"For this team, the only word I have is perseverance," Combs said. "There were a couple of times in midseason tournaments when I just had to grab my bag and walk out and tell them they didn't deserve to be on the field. We took four or five days and just conditioned. We never saw a softball. So our attitude adjustment worked."

They realized they just couldn't flip the light switch on and they need-



Ladywood players react following a tough 4-3 loss Saturday to Stevensville Lakeshore in the Division 2 girls softball final at MSU's Secchia Stadium. KIRTHMOM DOZIER | DETROIT FREE PRESS

ed to get going. And they did get going, my hats off to them. They all made adjustments, they got better. And that's what I'll remember about this team. They persevered and they knew they were supposed to be here because they couldn't wait too long and go through the motions."

Ladywood's signature win came Thursday at MSU when they upended top-ranked Wayland Union, 4-3, in 10 innings, surviving a tough call by the first base umpire in the bottom of the seventh which would have ended the game right then.

But the Blazers persevered and won it with a hand in the top of the 10th to hand Wayland only its second loss in 44 games.

Eight of the Blazers' starting 10, including starting pitcher Rozlyn Price, are scheduled to return, so the future looks bright once again in 2015.

"I'll remember all the personalities," said Lawrence, a senior shortstop who will play next season at Hillsdale College. "There's so many different personalities and they're just really, really upbeat people. And they're always positive, no matter what's happening."

Brad Emons is a sports editor for the Livonia-Westland Observer.

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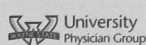
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BLAZERS

Continued from Page B1

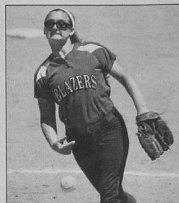
200-foot mark at the base of the bat at fence trying to have it curve barely foul.

Meyer, however, struck out.

"If we could have gotten one more hit at a crucial time... might have been the difference," said Ladywood coach Scott Combs, who was making his third state finals appearance since 2009. "But that's softball and baseball. It's an inch. That last hit by Christina Meyer down the right field line, whether it's a home run or hits fair, she's on third. There's no question of that. It's that close. Good ballgame."

In six innings, Price allowed five hits, walked three, hit three batters and struck out nine. After giving up two runs in the fourth, the two fifth-inning walks and a hit, batter proved costly in the fifth.

"I'm not sure those were bad innings," Combs said. "She (Price) was getting the pitches she wanted and she's trying to jam them inside. It's a matter of two or three inches and it's a hit batsmen rather than a pop out."



Ladywood pitcher Rozlyn Price fires toward the plate in Saturday's Division 2 girls softball final against Stevensville Lakeshore. KIRTHMOM DOZIER | GANNETT MICHIGAN

Thibeault was a member of Stevensville's 2010 Division 2 state championship team, but as a second baseman and left fielder.

This time she was on the mound and the central focus. "I knew we could pitch and she's a competitor," Dock said of his ace. "And in that seventh inning she threw five great pitches in there."

Thibeault allowed just one hit through the first five innings and the 2-0 deficit failed to faze her. "I was a little nervous, but I knew we could come back and get it," the senior pitcher said. "I wasn't panicking very much. It actually took a little stress off me

something, and I don't know how. Knowing that they weren't hitting the ball hard off me gave me a little bit of confidence because I knew my team could get it under control."

And when she took the mound in the seventh, the intensity heightened.

"I was praying the whole time, holding back so many emotions," she said. "After that strikeout, the second out, I had to hold it together because I was about to lose it."

Combs said his team tried to make some slight adjustments at the plate. "I think maybe they were overthinking themselves at the plate," the Ladywood coach said. "I tried to tell them to cut the plate in half. Go inside or outside because I watched her (Thibeault) pitch and that's really what her game plan was, to go either in or go out. I think they were thinking a little too much instead of relaxing than going one side or the other."

The Blazers did make contact, but couldn't find the holes against Thibeault. "We hit off her pretty well," said Lawrence, who will play next season at Hillsdale College. "I think we were just in our own heads today a little bit. We just didn't come up with the one. It was just unlucky. We knew what we had to do. It's just unlucky that we didn't come up with what we wanted."

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Vonn Pallett Farmington



Joe Ghafari Farmington



Jamal Dixon Canton



Malik Benson Harrison



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THE OBSERVER HURDLES FOR ALL-AREA BOYS TRACK AND FIELD SQUAD

FIRST TEAM
Vonn Pallett, shot put, Farmington: Pallett had the area's best shot at 54 feet, 2 inches. He is the city and OAA White Division champion and was second in the Oakland County and regional meets. He was ninth in the state.

Pallett threw a personal record in the discus (155-4) at the state meet to advance to the finals and earn all-state honors (seventh place).
 "Vonn is a hard-working athlete who loves the weight room and is a fierce competitor," coach Kim Sturm said.

"Vonn's throwing never looked better than in the last few meets of his junior year, when he set personal bests in the shot put and discus—a fantastic time to do that!"

"He had a phenomenal junior year and is poised to have a great senior year. We are very thankful to have Vonn on our team and are thrilled we were able to compete against him!"

Joe Ghafari, discus, Farmington: Ghafari broke a 28-year-old school record in the discus with a throw of 166-5 at the state meet. He finished fourth and was all-state.

Ghafari is the city, OAA White, Oakland County and regional champion in the discus. He also qualified for state in the shot put, taking third at the regional. He was seventh at the county meet.

"Joe has improved tremendously since he came to FHS his sophomore year," Sturm said. "He's a hard worker who truly loves throwing. He loves working with other throwers and seeing everyone improve."

"Joe's best attribute is his short memory in that he is able to clear his mind before each throw and doesn't let what happens in the ring, his best throw is about to happen. He will be greatly missed next year."

Jamal Dixon, high jump, Canton: Dixon, the senior captain carried his stellar high school career with a third-place (all-state) finish in the high jump. He registered a record of 6 feet, 7 inches.

But that wasn't Dixon's best mark of the season. At the D-1 regionals at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, he hit the 6-9 mark. That was the best showing in the event among athletes from the Observer coverage area.

He also finished first at the Kensington Conference meet, posting a record jump of 6-8 in the process, and was undefeated in dual meet competition.

"Jamal Dixon had an outstanding year," coach

Jess Shough said. "High jump coach Xavier Clais did a masterful job in making him a very consistent jumper and we are very proud of Jamal's accomplishments."

Dixon this week participated on Team Michigan in the Midwest Meet of Champions in Granville, Ohio.

Malik Benson, long jump, Harrison: Benson had the area's best jump at 21 feet, 9 inches and finished eighth in the Division 1 state meet.

He was second in the regional, third in Oakland County and fourth in the OAA White Division.

Johnson also helped the Hawks win the long jump relay at the Observerland Relays with teammates Iwarrt Smith and DeAndre Lipscomb.

"Malik has consistently improved each year," coach John Reed said. "It was great to see him go out as an all-stater in his senior year."

Jacob Hage, pole vault, Churchill: Three-time state qualifier wound up sixth in this year's Division 1 finals after placing fifth as a junior.

Hage bound for Lenexa Heights, posted a personal best 15 feet even as a senior and is a two-time Livonia City and Kensington Conference champion (2012 and 2014). He also was runner-up in the regional and captured the Lakeland Coaches Invitational, Huron Relays and qualified for the New Balance Indoor Nationals in New York City. He also led Churchill to an Observerland Relays record of 41-0.

"Jacob has been a steady varsity performer since his freshman year," coach Rick Austin said of the team MVP. "Through hard work, dedication and year-round commitment to training, Jacob has improved each season, culminating with a personal best. Jacob is one of the most focused athletes that we have coached at Churchill. He is a future-looking kid who is always searching for the next challenge."

Michael Ojemuda, 110 hurdles, Harrison: Ojemuda came into his own and made great progress this year. He went from being a good hurdler to an outstanding one.

He is the Observerland and OAA White Division champion in the high hurdles. He finished third in the regional and seventh in the state.

"He's really done a great job with putting in the effort necessary to be an elite hurdler," Reed said. "The sky is the limit for Michael next year."

Aaron Johnson, 300 hurdles, Harrison: Johnson had an outstanding season as a hurdler, too,

and concluded his high school career by finishing eighth in the state meet.

He also won the OAA White Division championship in the 300 hurdles, placed third in the regional to earn an additional qualifying berth and was 11th in Oakland County.

"Aaron is the hardest-working athlete on our team," Reed said. "He willed his way to being all-state in the 300 hurdles. We're very proud of him."

Steven Homrich, 100, Salem: From the start of his career at Salem, Homrich has had a knack for breaking records and that didn't change during his senior season.

Homrich's time of 10.7 seconds in the 100-meter dash broke a school record that stood since 1985. During his career, he ran 10.9 or faster 10 times when no other Rocks runner surpassed that feat three times.

At the D-1 regionals, he finished fourth with a max of 11.9.

He also is ranked No. 6 in school history in the 200 and was an integral member of Salem's sprint relays (part of record-setting 400 and 800 relay teams in 2013).

"He is extremely coachable and will do whatever is asked of him, including running a number of 400s throughout his Salem years," coach Steve Aspinall said. "He has been fun to watch and we wish him the best in the future."

Jaron Flournoy, 200, John Glenn: The junior placed third in the Division 1 finals in the 200 (21.9 seconds), while adding a 10th in the 100 and 12th in the 400.

Flournoy posted area bests of 10.76 (100), 21.84 (200) and 48.59 (400). He was regional champion in 100, 200 and 400. In the Kensington Conference meet, he was champ in the 100 and 200 (21.9 seconds), while adding a 10th in the 100 and 12th in the 400.

Jaron is a multi-sport athlete, a rare triple threat to say the least who can contest in all three open sprint events," coach Jason Dixon said. "Three school records (100, 200, 800 relay) have fallen victim to his killer speed. He is now beginning to realize the talent he holds within and what he can do with hard work. More determined than ever, he has set his eyes on the 2015 state championship title."

Montel Hood, 400, Wayne: The sophomore ran the third fastest 400 in school history at the Kensington Conference meet (48.88 seconds), where he finished second.

Hood, who ran sub-52.0 in seven of eight races in

the 400, also won the Brighton and Saline invitations and ran the second fast 200 time in school history (22.09) in a dual meet against Canton.

"Montel's success in the track, especially the 400, doesn't come as a surprise," coach Tom Gibson said. "When you see the effort he puts in every single day at practice, you expect him to win races. From the beginning of the season, he has been an outstanding athlete, but more importantly, an outstanding leader. Normally with success at such a young age comes cockiness and a poor attitude, but he hasn't picked up any of those attributes. He has remained humble and extremely coachable. Due to injuries this year, Montel's potential hasn't truly yet been scratched."

Jonny Dalton, 800, Plymouth: Dalton already has established himself as one of the most dominant distance runners in the state and can add to his legacy next season.

He was the hallmark of consistency, finishing first in the 800 in the city, Kensington Conference and Division 1 regional meets. In the latter, he finished in 1:58.34.

At the D-1 state finals in Rockford, he placed 13th with a mark of 1:55.98—the fastest time in the 800 this season for any runner from the Observer coverage area.

"He will be one of the fastest returning 800-meter runners in the state next year," coach John Mikosz said. "Jonny has the potential to make it to an elite level next year in the 800."

Keenan Jones, 1,600, Franklin: The junior, who led the Patriots with 138 total points, wound up 10th in the Division 1 finals in the 3,200 (school record 9:29.67) and was also a record in the regional and Livonia City champion in the 1,600.

undefeated in dual meets in both the 1,600 and 3,200, the two-time state quarter miler track and cross country champion posted season bests of 1:58 (800) and 4:24.0 (1,600).

Keenan is a very special athlete and not your typical distance runner," coach Pat Koelzer said. "He can excel in the mile, two-mile and 5K, yet he also has the leg speed to win the 800 and compete with the top 400 runners. He has been a key contributor since his freshman year and this year he proved he can race with the best in the state. He is a fierce competitor who never backs down in a challenge. He trains hard and is mentally strong enough to know his conditioning will

carry him through to a great finish."

Max Bradley, 3,200, N. Farmington: The senior ran an area-best time of 9:28.42 when he shattered the school record and finished third in the Oakland County meet May 23.

Bradley is the OAA White Division champion in this event. He was a regional runner-up and finished 12th in the state meet.

"Max is a phenomenal athlete and an ultimate team guy," coach Todd Schultz said. "Whatever the team needed, he wanted to contribute to that. He's just a humble guy and it's fun coaching those kind of guys."

400 relay, Franklin: The quartet finished 16th in Division 1 (43.37 seconds), runner-up at the regional and Kensington Conference and captured an Observerland title.

Alex Perelli, a four-year relay winner, qualified for the D-1 state final in the 100 after taking second at the regional.

Spencer Opie, a four-year member, and Danny Cebula, who was in his second season, are seniors. Nathan Rodgers, who broke the school record in the 200 (22.64), is a junior.

"This is a group that has really come together well this year," Koelzer said. "Perelli was hampered by an injury last year and also qualified for state and broke the school record in the 100 this season. Spencer steadily improved each year and had the best hand-offs of the group, while Danny was excellent out of the blocks and was also a good high jumper. Nathan always either caught people or separated them from the anchor leg."

800 relay, John Glenn: The foursome went an area-best 1:28.50 en route to a third-place finish at the Division 1 Finals after finishing runner-up in the regional and winning the Kensington Conference meet.

All four return next season to Flournoy and Austin Hickerson are both juniors, while Kenyatta Mason and Freddie Thompson are sophomores.

"This is a 200 team is a force to be dealt with," Dixon said. "They've made themselves top competition in the state. These four young men are talented, dedicated and hard-working athletes. They will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat in every race. It was those type of performances that led to the school record being broken twice in one season."

1,600 relay, Harrison: The team of Michael Ojemuda, Jaron Flournoy, Austin Hickerson, soph. Kenyatta Mason, soph. Freddie Thompson, 2. Danny Opie, soph. Darren Dixon, 3. Spencer Opie, soph. Jacob Miles, soph. Steven Homrich.

800 relay: John Glenn, 3. Jaron Flournoy, 4. Austin Hickerson, soph. Kenyatta Mason, soph. Freddie Thompson, 2. Danny Opie, soph. Darren Dixon, 3. Spencer Opie, soph. Jacob Miles, soph. Steven Homrich.

3,200 relay: Max Bradley, 3. N. Farmington, 2. Zane Bieriaga, 3. Plymouth, 3. Matthew

Palu, 3. Plymouth.

400 relay: Franklin (1. Franklyn (1. Danny Cebula, 2. Alex Perelli, 3. Spencer Opie, 4. Nathan Rodgers), 2. Aaron Hickerson, soph. Kenyatta Mason, 3. Freddie Thompson, 2. Danny Opie, soph. Darren Dixon, 3. Spencer Opie, soph. Jacob Miles, soph. Steven Homrich).

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COACH OF THE YEAR
John Reed, Farmington

2014 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS TRACK AND FIELD INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
Shot put: 1. Vonn Pallett, 3. Farmington, 2. Michael Wilson, soph., Plymouth, 3. DeWayne Baker Williams, 3. Westland John Glenn.
Discus: 1. Joe Ghafari, 3. Farmington, 2. Danny Rogalski, 3. Livonia Stevenson, 3. Nick Hitchcock, 3. Franklin.
High jump: 1. Jamal Dixon, 3. Canton, 2. Terry Bulford, 3. Harrison, 3. Felix Daniels, 3. 1. North Farmington.
Long jump: 1. Malik Benson, 3. Farmington

Harrison: 2. Josh Ceaser, 3. Farmington, 3. Leroy Polite, 3. Garden City.
Pole vault: 1. Jacob Hage, 3. Livonia Churchill, 2. Matt Mitchell, 3. North Farmington, 3. Stephen Hedd, 3. Churchill.
110-meter hurdles: 1. Michael Ojemuda, 3. Harrison, 3. Livonia Stevenson, 3. Steven Homrich, 3. Livonia Huron Westland, 3. Franklin.
300 hurdles: 1. Aaron Johnson, 3. Harrison, 2. Keyon Thomas, 3. Redford Union, 3. Redford Union, 3. John Glenn.
400 hurdles: 1. Steven Homrich, 3. Salem, 2. Isaac Smith, 3. Harrison, 3. Alex Perelli, 3. Livonia Franklin.

200 dash: Jaron Flournoy, 3. John Glenn, 2. Nathan Rodgers, 3. Franklin, 3. Doris Ubayke, 3. Harrison.
400 dash: 1. Montel Hood, soph., Wayne Memorial, 2. Colin McCormack, 3. Salem, 3. Jamal Dalton, 3. Plymouth, 3. John Glenn.
800 run: 1. Jonny Dalton, 3. Plymouth, 2. Kinan Doulay, 3. Livonia Clearwater, 3. Berlin Heights, 3. Plymouth.
1,600 run: 1. Keenan Jones, 3. Franklin, 2. James Wensley, soph., Harrison, 3. Hialeah Johnson, 3. Harrison, 3. Harrison, 3. Harrison.
3,200 run: 1. Max Bradley, 3. North Farmington, 2. Zane Bieriaga, 3. Plymouth, 3. Matthew

1,600 relay: Harrison (1. Michael Ojemuda, 2. Jaron Flournoy, 3. Austin Hickerson, soph. Kenyatta Mason, 3. Freddie Thompson, 2. Danny Opie, soph. Darren Dixon, 3. Spencer Opie, soph. Jacob Miles, soph. Steven Homrich).

800 relay: John Glenn, 3. Jaron Flournoy, 4. Austin Hickerson, soph. Kenyatta Mason, soph. Freddie Thompson, 2. Danny Opie, soph. Darren Dixon, 3. Spencer Opie, soph. Jacob Miles, soph. Steven Homrich).

3,200 relay: Max Bradley, 3. N. Farmington, 2. Zane Bieriaga, 3. Plymouth, 3. Matthew Palu, 3. Plymouth.

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

McDonald's 4-nitter puts Rams back in 1st

Targus tosses 3-hit gem in Hurricanes' win over Lightning

Chris McDonald's four-hitter has the Michigan Rams all alone in the Liverson Collegiate Baseball League.

The right-hander from Livonia Stevenson and Hillsdale College struck out seven and walked only one in going the distance as the Rams upended the Michigan Bulls, 4-1, in a game played at Ford Field.

Mark Weist went 3-for-4 with two RBI, while Trent Drumheller and Travis Harvey (Stevenson) each added a double and RBI as the Rams improved to 9-2 in the LCBL.

Jordan Frayer, who went five innings allowing three runs on seven hits, took the loss for the second-place Bulls, who slipped to 7-3-1 in the LCBL.

Jeremy Shea doubled in the Bulls' only run, while Todd Phelps tripled and Theo Pacirilli doubled in a losing cause.

On Saturday, the two teams split a double-header at Ford Field as

the Bulls took the first game behind Nick Sarmiento's four-hitter, 3-1, but the Rams came back to win the nightcap, 3-1, as left-hander Jeff Sorenson (Livonia Stevenson/Wayne State) picked up victory with six scoreless innings.

The Rams salvaged the split as Sorenson struck out 10, walked only two and scattered five hits. Reliever Jake Balicki gave up a run in the top of the seventh, but picked up the save.

Losing pitcher Jimmy Chase went the distance, allowing just four hits, but he walked eight in six innings of work. Offensively, Drumheller led the Rams, going 2-for-3 with a RBI and RBI. Adam Morales also knocked in a run.

Phelps went 2-for-4 with an RBI, while Frayer in Conway added two hits for the Bulls. In Game One, Sarmiento allowed just one run over seven innings. He struck out four and walked six.

Losing pitcher Brody Harris went the first 6 1/2 innings for the Rams. He allowed all the runs on six hits without a walk, while striking out six.

Mike Battistelli went 2-for-3 with a triple and

two RBI, while Conway went 2-for-2 with a double and scored twice for the Bulls.

Mark Weist and Johnny Slater each tripled, while McDonald knocked in the lone run for the Rams.

HURRICANES & LIGHTNING: Jon Targus (Livonia Churchill) tossed a complete game three-hitter Monday leading the Michigan Hurricanes (4-6-1) to an OCLB win over the Southeast Lightning (1-1) in a game played at Ford Field.

Targus struck out four and walked only two in seven innings, while reliever starter A.J. Garcia-Hall, who gave up five runs in seven hits in four innings, took the loss.

Ben Morrison (Churchill/Madonna University) and Dan Cameron (Churchill/Henry Ford CC) each went 2-for-4 with an RBI against the Hurricanes.

JAMES TELLI (OVERS) CO. LIGHTNING: 2-for-4 with one RBI and scored in a 2-1 victory over the Bulls.

2-2: On Saturday, the Michigan Hurricanes (4-6) took both ends of a double-header from the Southeast Lightning (1-1) at Ford Field.

In Game One, Hurricanes starter Targus went six innings, allowing three runs on seven hits, while reliever starter A.J. Garcia-Hall, who went the first five innings before giving way to Christian Bilalovic, took the loss.

A.J. Garcia-Hall, who went the first five innings before giving way to Christian Bilalovic, took the loss.

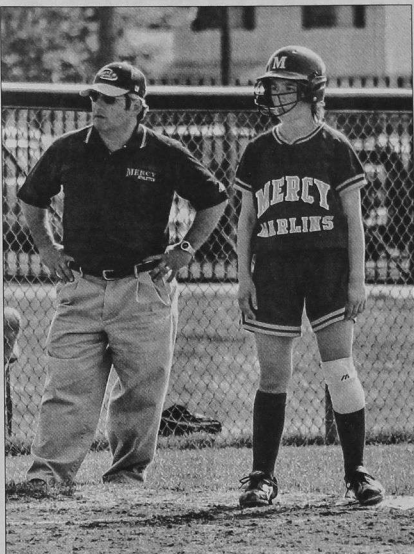
Under his leadership, the Marlins won 10 district and eight regional championships. They went to Battle Creek for the state semifinals four times and were the state runners-up in 2002.

Mercy also won seven Central Division titles and two Catholic League championships (2001 and 2003).

"He was a great coach," Nancy Malinowski, the director of athletics at Mercy and an assistant softball coach, said. "He was tough on the kids; he was a competitor."

"But he got results. He put his heart and soul into the program. He turned out some excellent teams."

"He was very generous man with his time, his giving back, to do different things for the school. He was always quick to offer help in any way he



Jack Falvo always coached third base for the Marlins.

FALVO

Continued from Page B1

could." Mr. Falvo also was a huge Red Wings fan. He was recognized at a game last November for being a longtime season-ticket holder (since 1976).

"He loved any sport, whether it was baseball or hockey," Dana said. "We recently took up golf as a family. He just loved to be on the field or on the course. He was a big sports fan."

"He taught us to be scrappy. That competitive spirit is something I got from my dad that I will never forget."

Mr. Falvo is a wrestler at Dearborn Fordson High School and Western Michigan University before going to dental school at the University of Detroit.

He also coached his oldest son, Nick, in the South Farmington Blues baseball organization. Nick later played at U-D Jesuit High School and is now a lawyer.

"He really wanted me to toughen up," Nick said. "Part of him telling you that was also telling you to grow up, to be more mature on the field and in life, to be a better person as well."

"He always pushed us to be students of the game. That led us to be better athletes, but his big thing was definitely to compete."

"He really loved what he did and we all picked up on his passion," Dana said. "He stayed at (Mercy) longer after me, so it was a love of the game and influencing young women."

"He was really proud of all his players. I'm proud of what he contributed to so many lives that I didn't even know about. It made me proud to be his daughter."

Mr. Falvo is also survived by his wife, Kris, daughter Michele (Kendall), son Jonathan, grandchildren Jack and Katherine and mother Caroline. A funeral mass was said Tuesday at St. James Catholic Church in Novi.

Memorial donations may be made to the KIND-Unicef (www.unicefusa.org) or St. Vincent de Paul Detroit Dental (www.svpdpet.org).

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Spartan grid outing

The Livonia Stevenson Football benefit golf outing will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 22, at Idyl Wild Golf Course, 35786 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Included in the \$80 is 18 holes of golf (with a cart), lunch, a tournament dinner and raffle prizes.

A registration form can be printed at www.stevensonford.com.

For more information, email mlmical@lf2@gmail.com.

Pro wrestling card

The Midwest Pro Wrestling Alliance will stage its MPWA Retaliation card beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at Idyl Wild Golf Course, 35786 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and general admission tickets can be purchased the day of the event, for \$10 (adult) and \$5 (children). Discount tickets are also available on MPWAPro Wrestling.com.

SPALDING

Continued from Page B1

ers) and Michigan has only 89, something stupid like that. And we took it personal. Just because they have more school, it doesn't mean anything. We bonded like brothers and it wasn't Devon's show."

Despite the limited practice schedule leading up to the game, Spalding said the team came together quickly.

"We're all there for a reason," the Glenn back said. "One of the reasons being is that we can adapt to situations. For us coming off together, that was off the equation. We didn't have a problem doing that at all."

"I'm not going to lie, the week was pretty tough. We had a lot of practices in the three days, a walk-through the day before the game on Saturday. The week was actually tough, but I had a good time with it. I got to meet some new guys and I got to meet some real good athletes as well and I made some new friendships, met some really good guys."

Spalding also struck a good relationship with

The card includes a MPWA championship triple threat match between Buddy Hanlon, "The Righteous Maker" Rick Baker and Joe Coleman, along with a tag team tornado match with the Punch Drunk Saints against the Sons of Strongstyle. Also scheduled are Leash Voo, Dutch and John Bolen.

There will also be a V.I.P. meet and greet for \$15 starting at 5 p.m. along with a DJ party. Merchandise and concessions will also be available.

For more information, call 734-525-9454.

Hole-in-one club

Livonia's Dennis Drabicki used a 6-iron to aceed the 136-yard, No. 15 hole Monday at Raisin River's West Course.

Drabicki, who carded his second hole-in-one, 75 for his 18-hole round.

Franklin grid outing

The 2014 Livonia Franklin football golf outing is set for Saturday, July 26 at Idyl Wild Golf Course, 35786 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

There will be a shot-

gun for the four-person scramble starting at 8 a.m. The cost is \$65 (includes prizes, contests, hot dog and pop at the turn, dinner and afterglow at the Under Bar & Grill).

Checks should be made payable to Franklin football and mailed to: 9623 Westmore, Livonia, MI 48150.

For more information, call Chuck Roth at 734-637-6719 (cell) or Dan Cline at 734-748-5283 (cell). You can also email chuckrothcarpent@gmail.com or dan.cline@trw.com.

Coaches wanted

Livonia Churchill is seeking a girls and boys head varsity swim coach following the recent resignation of Aaron Rieder, who spent 10 years with the boys and 11 with the girls.

Livonia Red (Churchill and Franklin) is in need of an assistant high school gymnastics coach for the 2014-15 season.

If interested, contact Churchill athletic director Marc Hage at 734-74-2650, ext. 4617, or fax resume and letter of interest to 734-74-2824.

FINAL BOYS TRACK AND FIELD HONOR ROLL

Table listing boys track and field athletes with their names, schools, and event times. Includes categories like 50M, 100M, 200M, 400M, 800M, 1600M, 3200M, 5000M, 10000M, 1500M, 2000M, 3000M, 4000M, 5000M, 6000M, 7000M, 8000M, 9000M, 10000M, 11000M, 12000M, 13000M, 14000M, 15000M, 16000M, 17000M, 18000M, 19000M, 20000M.

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Jazz sax artist brings award-winning sound to Schoolcraft College

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Student jazz musicians at Schoolcraft College will rub elbows with a Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Monday, June 30.

Kirk Whalum will teach a music clinic from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Presentation Room at the VisTaTech Center, on campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. At 8 p.m., he'll perform with the college's jazz ensemble and jazz improv bands in the DiPonio Room at the VisTaTech Center. Both events are open to the public.

"He is at an international level of incredible achievement. He has performed with the most notable musicians. It's a pleasure to have someone of that caliber here," said Ricardo Selva, Ph.D., director of jazz studies. "This is a gentleman of international reputation who also plays in nursing homes."

Whalum, an ordained minister who has a master of arts degree in religion, reads Scripture in his daily podcast, Bible in Your Ear. In addition to playing at senior residences and nursing homes, he also works with schools and missions. He serves as the creative director of STAX Music Academy and STAX Museum of American Soul Music in Memphis, Tenn.

"Music isn't just about making money. People should support artists, but music is about touching lives and changing lives and making life richer. ... music really has a positive effect on people spiritually, physically and psychologically," Selva said.

Gospel roots

Whalum grew up in Memphis, Tenn., where he performed with his father's church choir. While at Southern Texas University, he formed a band and began playing clubs in Houston. One night, he opened for jazz pianist Bob James, who invited him to tour and play on one of his recordings. That led to session and touring work with such artists as Barbra Streisand, Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross and Quincy Jones. His sax solo is featured on Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*. Whalum has earned multiple Grammy nominations for his own albums throughout the past two decades. His song, *It's What I Do*, won a Grammy in the Best Gospel Song category in 2011. The tune, with Lalah Hathaway on vocals, is on his album, *The Gospel According to Jazz Chapter III*.

Selva interviewed Whalum while working on his Ph.D. at Northwestern University. His dissertation looked at the way churches included saxophone into sacred music to connect with the current culture. While researching for the 2003 academic work, Selva discovered that Whalum, early in his career, had learned to model his playing on gospel singers and had been influenced by Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin.

"Mr. Whalum described the tone of the saxophone as a 'voice' rather than as a sound," Selva wrote in his paper. Whalum told Selva the more successful and celebrated saxophonists all demonstrate a "recognizable voice" when they play.

"I was once told by R&B crooner Luther Vandross, with whom I have recorded many times, that I play like he sings. That's a very big compliment and I believe a testament to something innate in the saxophone," Whalum told Selva during dissertation interviews.

Familial song

After earning his Ph.D. and while working in Chicago, Selva met Whalum again, when he visited the Windy City to play a church concert.

"We spent the day together and got to deepen our friendship. Fast forward years ahead to last August at the jazz festival in Detroit. I was at the jazz festival and heard him play a gospel tune I do myself," said Selva, who also is saxophonist. The experience compelled Selva to invite Whalum to Schoolcraft College.

Selva plans to join jazz students and Whalum in playing the song, *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*, at the concert.

Admission to the clinic is free, although donations will be accepted at the door for students scholarships and the Schoolcraft College Jazz Program. Concert tickets are \$15; \$10 for students and seniors and \$5 for children under 12. All tickets are general admission and are available at the door and at the Livonia campus bookstore or by calling 734-462-4409.



Kirk Whalum will perform with jazz students Monday, June 30, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Stretch, breathe, relax with yoga outdoors

By Diana Wing
Correspondent

Feeling stressed out? Find tranquility, improve your health, have fun and attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the "Longest Yoga Chain." Sunday, June 29, at the Detroit Zoo.

Join The Yoga Movement at 8 a.m. in its attempt to create the longest sequence of poses.

"This is a passion of mine. I wanted to do it," said Gabrielle Gagnon, of United Shows, a Pontiac-based company that puts on consumer shows, like senior expos and home expos. "This will be our first yoga event and the first at the Detroit Zoo. It's going to be very exciting."

The experience includes an hour-long yoga class led by Gagnon's friend Kacee Must, owner of Citizen Yoga in Royal Oak, and two of Must's instructors — Ann Fancy and Todd Tesen. Must said they'll probably teach a Slow Burn class, defined as "slowing down movement so one can move deeper into the muscular system."

"A Slow Burn is completely led, so nobody's going to feel lost. It will definitely be a challenging class," she said. "Because it's going to be such a big



Kacee Must will lead participants in creating the world's "Longest Yoga Chain" Sunday, June 29, at the Detroit Zoo.

crowd, we'll probably do a bit more playfulness, like some inversions or something that takes people out of their comfort zone and allows them to see that they're more capable than what they think."

Practicing yoga for 20

years, beginning at age 10, Must opened her Royal Oak studio nine months ago.

"We love doing events that are outside what a normal yoga studio would do," Must said. "We like to participate with mass amounts of people, so

(yoga at the zoo) really fits who we are."

Tickets for The Yoga Movement are \$30 and include a T-shirt, an event bag, zoo admission and on-site parking. Check-in is 6:30-7:45 a.m. You must register in advance at

www.TheYogaMovement.net. Call 248-891-4393 for more info. Visit www.citizenyogastudio.com. The Detroit Zoo is located on 10 Mile (I-696 service drive) at Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak.

Looking for more outdoor yoga? You won't have to travel far:

Farmington Hills

Bring a mat and blanket and dress for the weather in layers for this series of one-hour classes in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile.

The class runs 8-9 a.m. Wednesday through Aug. 20 and is for adults of all skill levels. The series began June 18. The fee is \$10 per class. The class meets in front of the Heritage Park Visitor Center. For more information, call 248-477-1135.

Plymouth

Sun & Snow offers yoga at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, June 25, July 23 and Aug. 20 in Kellogg Park, in downtown Plymouth. Refreshments and shopping follow the class until 8 p.m. at Sun & Snow, 388 S. Main, Plymouth. A \$5 donation to the Plymouth downtown tree lighting project is suggested. RSVP at meetups@sunandsnow.com.

corn on and off the cob

Corn on the cob is a popular summer side dish, but you can do much more with the fresh, juicy vegetable.

"Sweet corn is a truly versatile ingredient," said Justin Timineri, executive chef and Culinary Ambassador of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida. "There are several ways to enjoy this healthy grain."

When buying corn on the cob, follow these tips from Timineri:

» Look for fresh sweet corn with husks. Ears should feel and look moist and thick, with fat and shiny beads of corn. Corn silk should be somewhat sticky, shiny, stiff and wet.

» To peel, pull the husks down to see the grain. Continue to remove the husks and silk.

» To remove the kernels: Hold the tip of the corn, resting the thicker side firmly on the table. Take a sharp knife and cut downward, removing the corn kernels. Be careful not to cut too deep.

These recipes make the most of fresh, sweet corn and are sure to become family favorites. For more ideas about cooking with fresh corn, visit freshfromflorida.com/Recipes.

Courtesy of Family Features

FLORIDA SWEET CORN WITH SOUTHERN BARBECUE BUTTER

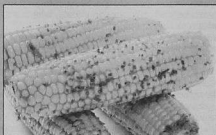
- ½ cup your favorite barbecue sauce
- ½ stick butter
- 4 ears fresh sweet corn, shucked
- kosher salt to taste
- fresh ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven broiler on high. In small saucepan over low heat, combine barbecue sauce and butter until melted and smooth.

Place sweet corn in a medium-sized baking dish and pour barbecue mixture over sweet corn. Broil sweet corn, 4 inches from broiler, being sure to watch the whole time. Turn and baste the sweet corn until golden. Serve warm.

Other ways to spice up corn on the cob:

- » butter with basil and garlic
- » cilantro, lime and honey
- » pesto sauce and Parmesan cheese
- » cinnamon, sugar and butter



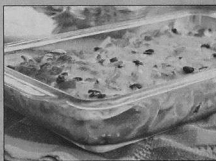
SWEET CORN AND BLACK BEAN ENCHILADAS

- ½ cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels
- 2 bell peppers, diced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 cup salsa, your favorite kind
- 1 can low-sodium black beans, rinsed and drained
- 10 (6-inch) corn tortillas
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 1 can enchilada sauce
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- pan-release cooking spray
- kosher salt to taste
- freshly ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly spray an 11-by-7-inch (2-quart) baking dish with pan-release cooking spray. Add vegetable oil to a medium pan. Cook onion, corn and bell peppers over medium high heat for 3 minutes. Add cumin, salsa and black beans and continue to cook for two minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove pan from heat and let cool slightly.

Place an even amount of the filling mixture in each of the 10 tortillas. Using 1 cup of shredded cheese, evenly distribute it on top of each of the 10 tortillas. Carefully roll up each stuffed tortilla, and place them seam side down in the sprayed baking dish. Pour the enchilada sauce over the rolled enchiladas, spreading to coat all tortillas. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until cheese is melted and sauce is bubbly around edges. Remove enchiladas from oven and let cool slightly. Serve enchiladas with diced avocado, salsa and sour cream.



SWEET CORN AND RICOTTA FRITTERS

- 2 ears fresh sweet corn, kernels removed
- ½ bunch fresh cilantro, chopped fine
- 4 ounces low-fat ricotta cheese
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- ½ cup self-rising unbleached or whole-wheat flour
- olive oil (for shallow pan frying)
- kosher salt to taste
- fresh ground pepper to taste

In a medium-sized bowl, combine corn, cilantro, ricotta, eggs, flour and a pinch of salt and pepper. Add a small amount of olive oil to a medium-high preheated sauté pan. Carefully add spoonfuls of the corn mixture to the hot pan. Cook on both sides until golden brown. Test the first done fritter, and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.

Serve with low-fat sour cream if desired.



CREAMY CORN AND JALAPENO SOUP

- 6 ears sweet corn, cleaned
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 small fresh jalapeño pepper, minced, seeds removed
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1½ cups low-fat milk
- fresh cilantro for garnish, chopped
- kosher salt to taste
- fresh ground pepper to taste

Heat oil in heavy large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion, jalapeño, garlic and cumin; sauté until onion and jalapeño are tender, about 10 minutes. Cut corn kernels from cobs. Add corn to pot. Stir in broth. Cover and simmer over medium-low heat until corn is very tender, about 20 minutes. Transfer to processor or blender and carefully puree. Add enough milk to thin to desired consistency. Return to pot; stir to heat through. Don't boil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve in bowls and garnish with cilantro.



RELIGION CALENDAR

JUNE CHURCH CLOSING
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Mass, Sunday, June 29
Location: St. Hilary Catholic Church, 23901 Elmira, Redford Township
Details: A reception and tour of the church buildings will follow the service. The church is closing after 60 years

CONCERT
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 25
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton Township
Details: The Canton Concert Band performs on the north lawn at the church. Bring a chair or blanket. Donations of non-perishable food will be collected and delivered to Open Door Ministry, Canton
Contact: 734-459-3333

FILM
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, June 20
Location: Faith Community Church, 14550 Merriman, Livonia
Details: Bring a chair or blanket to see "Lord of the Beans," a family movie, on the church lawn, free popcorn and snow cones
Contact: Rev. Jason Thomas at 313-155-1121

LECTURE
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 25
Location: Congregation Beth Ansh, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Watch the second part of Howard Lupovitch's lecture, "Transforming the Jewish Landscape: Great Jewish Philosophists," on DVD. The topic is "The Brofman and Max Fisher." Admission is free
Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-377-1931; nancyellen79@aatt.net

MUSIC CAMP
Time/Date: Through July 20
Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 S. Merriman, Garden City
Details: Majestic Melodies music camp, for students entering grades 1-6 in the fall, will run Aug. 18-22 at the church. Classes will include instrumental and vocal instruction, music history and theory. Cost is \$150 per child. Registration forms available at the church or mailed upon request
Contact: 734-421-0472 or email JessikaKogelinn@gmail.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Time/Date: 9:15 a.m. to noon, June 22
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inker Road, Livonia
Details: "Weird Animals - Where Jesus Loves 61-of-a-Kind" is the theme. The sessions, for 3-year-olds through students entering fifth grade, will include story time and lessons, music, crafts, recreation and snacks. Cost is \$8 per child
Contact: 734-422-1470, ext. 17; www.sppc.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to noon, June 23
Location: Livonia Church of Christ, 15431 Merriman, Livonia
Details: "Summer JAM" is for grades K-6. Students will learn about parables and making movies. The session closes with a free family movie night at the Phoenix Theater at Laurel Park

Contact: 734-427-8743; livoniachurch.org
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Time/Date: 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday, June 22-Wednesday, June 25; registration will start at 5 p.m. followed by a light supper and the program
Location: First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square, Wayne
Details: The theme is "Neighbors around the World." Youngsters will visit Australia, Zimbabwe, Japan, the United Kingdom and Mexico through video lessons. There also will be Bible time, music and recreation
Contact: 734-721-4801

JULY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 26
Location: Hosanna Taber Lutheran Church, 9600 Levee, Redford
Details: Free festival with Christian music performances by The Fire Within, The Repeat Offenders, Bekah Greenman, Aaron Lucas and Co. Connor Roy, Heavenly Embros and more. Crafters and vendors will be on site 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food concessions will be available
Contact: 313-937-2424; www.hosannataber.org

YOGA CLASSES
Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m. July 18, 15 and 22
Location: St. John Neumann, 4480 Warren Road, Canton
Details: Lauren Burtell teaches a Tuesday yoga class. Walk in each class for \$10
Contact: Burtell at 313-671-7909

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Room A101, 4000 W. Six Mile, Northville Township
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: 248-374-5920



The Canton Concert Band will perform June 25 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Canton.

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Cony Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-664-9491

Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays
Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Catholic author Gary Michuta leads a study of Acts of the Apostles
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200; or www.livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Room A101, 4000 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: Salvation Army, 27500 Shawawee, 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) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6677 and Jody Fieszer 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: MOOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Location: 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: 27887 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
Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed
Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304
Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwvo.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

Steve's Family Restaurant
Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others
Contact: 313-534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday
Location: 4000 Six Mile, Northville Township
Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: 248-374-5920

SONG CIRCLE Congregation Beth Ansh
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew
Contact: 248-377-1931 or email nancyellen79@aatt.net

Passages
 Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oecobits@hometownlife.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

BANGAY, BETTY JANE (NEE TOOLE)
 Born September 30, 1920, passed away on June 15, 2014. www.schrader-howell.com



CHURCHILL, DOROTHY
 Age 96 June 12, 2014. Beloved wife of the late John Ailes and Orville Churchill. Dear mother of Jacqueline (Richard) Ball Beverly (the late Charles) Swarthout and Carl Ailes. Grandmother of seven. Great grandmother of 15. Great great grandmother of 12. Funeral services were held at the John N. Santeu & Son Funeral Home, www.santeufuneralhome.com

HERZOG, ALBERT PINGREE JR.
 Of Onkama, Michigan died June 14, 2014. He is survived by his children, Alison (Stephen) Lang, Laura (Thomas) Serrino, Albert Pingree III (Judy) Herzog, Elizabeth Ellen (Steve) Eagon, Rose Anne (James) Foley, John P. (Sue) Herzog, Mary Herzog, daughter-in-law, Lisa Herzog and 15 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his loving wife (Betty) and his son Thomas Herzog. A Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Onkama, MI. Please sign Albert's online guestbook at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com. The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City, MI.



KRAFT BERNARD "CHUCK"
 Age 79, June 14, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Lynn for over 50 years. Survived by sisters Heus Schuster, Hellen Temmen and many nieces, nephews and great friends. Visitation Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Funeral Service at the John N. Santeu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inker Rd. (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill), Garden City. www.santeufuneralhome.com Santeu Funeral Home

MENDRYGA, LINDA ANN
 Passed away suddenly June 9, 2014. Loving wife of Bob for 47 beautiful years. Beloved mother of Robert E. (Chris), cherished grandmother of Courtney and great-grandmother of Jason, sister of William, David, Christine, Peter, and the late Michael, Janet, and Larry. A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, June 21, 11:00 a.m. at St. Genevieve - St. Maurice Catholic Church in Livonia. A gathering of friends begins at 10:00 a.m. until Mass begins at 10:30 a.m. with www.Tarvos.killifeStory.com where you may sign the guest book, upload a photo, or share a memory.

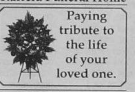
BONNER, MICHAEL EDWIN
 Age 58 of Westland. Lost his battle with cancer June 12, 2014. Retired from Ford Motor Co. after 33 years. Beloved husband of Michele (nee Tuttle) and loving father of sons Kelly and Brendan. Dearest brother of the late Barbara Hawn. Loving uncle of the late Barbara Tuttle and brother-in-law of Kevin (Jayne) Tuttle. A Memorial service on June 21, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Community Baptist Church, 28237 Warren Rd., Garden City, MI 48135. In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to St. Joseph Hospice of Ann Arbor or American Cancer Society. Michael will fulfill his life long dream of space travel when he is launched into space in a Rocket ship on the Mission CosmoVoy 1.



May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



MOODY, HARRY G. JR.
 Age 84, June 17, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Joanne and the late Annette. Loving father of Paul, the late Ken, Mike, Duane, Harry, Helen, Debra, Kathy, Denise and Darlene. Also leaves 28 grandchildren; 75 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral Friday 11 a.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington (1 1/2 W. of Farmington Rd.) Visitation Wednesday 6-9 p.m. and Thursday 2-9 p.m. Memorials suggested to www.thayer-rock.com

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 88110 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 a.m. Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m. Confession 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Confraternity Board Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>Rosedale Gardens PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9001 Hubbard #18, Chicago, Livonia, MI (734) 422-0494 Friends at Faith Service 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Visit www.rosedalegardens.org for information about our many programs.</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p><i>A Church for Seasoned Saints</i> OPEN ARMS CHURCH</p> <p>Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm</p> <p>Pastor: Grandjean & Music Minister: Ale Fazzini</p> <p>33015 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia 48150 Business: 248.671.5281 Access from Jan's Pruders Church As You Remember It!</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>St. Paul's Ev. LUTHERAN Church & School 17810 Farmington Road Livonia 48150-1306</p> <p>Worship Services: Sunday 8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M. Tuesday 6:30 P.M. Website: www.250thlutherans.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48166 248.319.1600</p> <p>Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. / 9:30 a.m. / 11 a.m.</p> <p>4 different music styles from classical to modern www.wardchurch.org 2012001242</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass 40007 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 463-1828 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW READING FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER NEW HADDOCK FOR ADULTS 3:15-6:00 (734) 463-3186</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday: 9:30, 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrew Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>			<p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48166 248.319.1600</p> <p>Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. / 9:30 a.m. / 11 a.m.</p> <p>4 different music styles from classical to modern www.wardchurch.org 2012001242</p>

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

REAL ESTATE

Midtown booms, but do homework

Survey: Realtors' incomes on the rise, younger pros enter field

Reflecting the 11.5 percent growth in home prices last year, income and sales volume jumped for the third year in a row, according to the 2014 National Association of Realtors Member Profile. The survey also found an increase in new and younger members to NAR in 2013.

The survey's results are representative of the nation's Realtors; members of NAR account for about half of the approximately two million active real estate licensees in the U.S. Many nonmember licensees are inactive or part-time. Realtors go beyond state licensing requirements by subscribing to NAR's Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice and committing to continuing education. NAR members also have access to professional resources to better serve their clients' needs.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said recovery in the housing market since the downturn continues to improve the earnings of real estate professionals. "Fueled mostly by strong sales and prices, the median gross income of a Realtor increased to \$47,700 in 2013 from \$43,500 in 2012, marking a 9.6 percent rise and a sharp gain from \$34,900 in 2011," he said. "Although the median number of transactions or commercial deals remained unchanged from last year at 12, this marked a continued return to pre-recession levels after bottoming out at seven transactions in 2008 and 2009."

There are two sides to every real estate transaction—one each for the seller and the buyer. As expected, median gross income and number of transactions generally increase with experience. Last year, NAR members in business for more than 16 years earned \$70,200 and made 15 transactions. On the contrary, those with three to five years earned less than half that amount (\$30,100) and had 10 transactions. Incomes also varied by license type, as members licensed as brokers earned \$66,300 in 2013, while the median earnings for sales agents increased \$1,000 from the previous year to \$35,000.

Last year also brought an influx of new and younger members to NAR. Years of experience in real estate decreased to 12 years from 13 years in 2012; the typical tenure at a firm decreased to six years from seven years; and the age of members decreased to 56 years from 57 years. Three percent of all Realtors are under 30 years of age, 16 percent are between ages 30 and 44, and 24 percent are 65 and older.

"Realtors bring value to buyers and sellers, help build communities, and encourage responsible homeownership behaviors," said NAR President Steve Brown, co-owner of Ironton Inc., Realtors in Dayton, Ohio. "The fact that the number of members with one year or less of experience rose to 9 percent in 2013 from 5 percent the year before shows that those agents getting into the field are attracted to the many benefits and



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

business opportunities that come with being a Realtor."

The typical NAR member works 40 hours per week. Women represent 57 percent of all members, accounting for 53 percent of brokers and 62 percent of sales agents. More than three-quarters of all Realtors cite real estate as their only occupation, and 82 percent (up 2 percent from last year) are certain they will remain in the business for at least two more years. This share is higher than the previous two years, indicating the optimism that's seen in today's market.

Most members—57 percent—are licensed as sales agents; 26 percent are brokers, 17 percent broker associates and 3 percent appraisers (some hold more than one license). Thirteen percent of members have one personal assistant, while 3 percent have two or more personal assistants.

Several factors limit potential clients in completing transactions. Members said finding the right property was the biggest challenge (53 percent) followed by obtaining a mortgage (25 percent).

"The survey indicates that inventory shortages, overly restrictive mortgage lending standards and the rise in home prices and interest rates last year had an impact on Realtors ability to help their client find the right property," said Yun.

Similar to 2012, eight out of 10 NAR members focus on residential sales and 73 percent have secondary real estate real estate specialties. Of those members with secondary specialties, residential brokerage is the largest at 35 percent. Both residential property management and relocation were next at 17 percent, followed by commercial brokerage at 16 percent. Smaller percentages were also in counseling, land development, auctions and commercial appraisal.

Realtors continue to rely on repeat business and referrals. Repeat business accounted for a median 21 percent of activity in 2013 and is higher for those with more experience. For members in the business 16 years or more, repeat business was 42 percent of their activity. Referrals accounted for an additional 21 percent of all business.

NAR members understand the importance of a web presence and communicating with their clients through several channels. More than two-thirds have a personal website—operational for a median of eight years—and 91 percent report their firm has an online presence. Sixty-one percent of the respondents use social or professional networking sites—an increase of 5 percent from 2012—and 12 percent have a blog. Realtors use a variety of communication methods when interacting with current clients or customers, with 94 percent preferring e-mail, followed by telephone at 80 percent and text messaging at 80 percent.

Compensation structures for Realtors and firm affiliation remained mostly the same from 2012. Sixty-eight percent of respondents are compensated through a split commission arrangement, 17 percent receive all of the commission and another 4 percent receive a commission plus a share of sales and retail (15 percent) some other form of compensation. Eighty-two percent of members work as independent contractors for their firms. The vast majority of Realtors received no complaints, although 33 percent are covered by errors and omissions insurance. Only 5 percent receive health insurance through their firm.

NAR members are well-educated (50 percent hold a bachelor's degree or higher), own a home (86 percent), invest in at least one residential investment property (39 percent), and bring a wide range of expertise, skills and experience to the profession. Only 6 percent began their career in real estate, with the majority having previous full-time careers in management, business or financial (19 percent) or sales and retail (15 percent). Forty-one percent of those fluent in other languages speak Spanish and 96 percent are registered to vote.

Respondents worked for a firm typically with one office and had been with that firm for six years. Fifty-seven percent of members are affiliated with an independent firm, and 38 percent are with a franchised company; 5 percent are other. Nine percent of Realtors report their firm was bought by or merged with another firm during the past two years, down from 11 percent in the 2012 study.

The 2014 National Association of Realtors Member Profile is based on a survey of 95,340 members, which generated 6,462 usable responses, representing an adjusted response rate of 6.8 percent. Member responses were weighted to be representative of state-level NAR membership. Income and transaction data are for 2013, while other data represent member characteristics in early 2014. The study can be ordered by calling 800-784-6500, or online at www.realtor.org/produser/Research. The profile costs \$145 for NAR members and \$149.95 for nonmembers.

Q: I am thinking about buying a condominium in Midtown Detroit. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Just as with any other purchase, find out as much as you can about the developer. Some developers use inferior LLCs to develop their condos even though they have gotten in trouble in other condos and do not disclose that information. Some developers may have even filed for bankruptcy which may impact on their ability to complete and/or otherwise develop a condo in a proper fashion. The more you know about the developer, particularly if it is a conversion, the better prepared you are to make a wise investment.

Q: I am a new developer trying to build in a subdivision in a municipality where they are requiring me to make all kinds of improvements to the subdivision which I never contracted to do. Is there any recourse that I have?

A: It may well be that the municipality is trying to "exact" unreasonable concessions from you. There is a legal term called "exaction" that basically means that the municipality, as a condition of permitting you to develop your property, is unreasonably trying to make you do things that are not reasonably related to the proposed development and which you legally do not have an obligation to do. Such concessions can be deemed to be a taking of property without providing just compensation, which is unconstitutional. You should see an experienced real estate lawyer at your earliest convenience to both advise you on your rights and to assist you in negotiations with the municipality.

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 \$5.55 for tax, 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 tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

On board

Weichert Realtors - Cass Realty has announced that Realtor Eric Waldon has joined the sales team of the agency's Dearborn office. A native and resident of Detroit with nine years of experience in the real estate industry, he will assist property buyers and sellers throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Livingston counties. He is a member of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors (GMAR) and has a background as a loan officer.

Waldon earned an associate's degree from Henry Ford Community College and studied finance at Wayne State University.

Short sales

If you owe 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 jane.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market overview. Meetings are at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, who will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road. Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-0991 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursdays

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 at 800-260-5484.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 7, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
11333 Bonny Cove Ct	\$360,000
16997 Madoline St	\$203,000
BIRMINGHAM	
981 Ann St	\$875,000
655 Chester St	\$395,000
2450 Cole St	\$575,000
2109 Dorchester Rd	\$200,000
1248 Hennetta Ave	\$492,000
1146 Henrietta St	\$465,000
10111 Springfield	\$620,000
1823 Embroke Rd	\$745,000
1410 Yorkshire Rd	\$370,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
5017 Dianna Dr	\$400,000
9303 Echo Rd	\$190,000
1667 Fairfield Dr	\$275,000
644 Fuggate Rd	\$120,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
150 Blankingate Ct	\$130,000
1517 Franklin	\$425,000
2550 Lampighter Ln	\$345,000
795 Oakleigh Dr	\$825,000

5160 Provincial Dr	\$333,000
4531 Walden Cir	\$311,000
COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP	
9431 Arbor Way	\$411,000
2801 Augusta Dr	\$206,000
5092 Carinas Way Ct	\$295,000
8420 Cascade St	\$75,000
8420 Cascade St	\$75,000
19352 Marleboro Rd	\$258,000
1183 Palmetto	\$258,000
4408 Philip	\$390,000
2359 Solace Dr	\$55,000
8655 Van Bonnet Dr	\$165,000
FARMINGTON	
20002 Colchester Dr	\$131,000
31923 Lamar Dr	\$136,000
19362 Wadellbridge Dr	\$140,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
33542 Argonne Rd	\$225,000
22099 Boulder Dr	\$395,000
25327 Chapelweigh Dr	\$195,000
292 Chestnut Ct	\$340,000
20956 Gill Rd	\$90,000
30300 Gladstone St	\$192,000
11671 Harmony Ln	\$360,000
29149 Hemlock St	\$145,000
21728 Manchestr Ct	\$315,000
29606 Middlebelt Rd # 30105	\$101,000
30167	\$128,000
21769 S Brandon St	\$128,000
30565 Sequoia Cir	\$265,000

36585 Valley Ridge Dr	\$319,000
33780 Vista Dr	\$146,000
25380 Wessex St	\$212,000
27804 Westcott	\$196,000
Crest Cr	\$195,000
27243 Winterset Cir	\$280,000
LATHRAP VILLAGE	
26350 Meadowood Ct N	\$120,000
MEDFORD	
597 Deep Valley Dr	\$338,000
2931 Hiding Pl	\$399,000
2933 Hiding Pl	\$389,000
3199 Katie Ln	\$348,000
3654 Lake Vista Ct	\$827,000
654 Summit Ridge Dr	\$158,000
NORTHVILLE	
52975 Niles Mile Rd	\$270,000
22121 Cumberland Ln	\$294,000
52347 Ferndale Dr	\$100,000
22384 Innesbrook Dr	\$210,000
21481 Woodfarm Dr	\$370,000
NOVOI	
25000 Delmont Dr	\$305,000
22468 Havergale St	\$377,000
16745 Northvue Dr	\$165,000
50458 Langley Dr	\$587,000
23582 N Rockledge	\$80,000
24663 Old Orchard St	\$101,000
1847 Genevieve Ln	\$41,000
47690 Rochester Dr	\$500,000
24685 Vench Dr	\$324,000

39763 Village Wood Ln	\$192,000
23138 W Leost	\$178,000
23392 W Leost	\$175,000
24235 Weaverhse Ct	\$195,000
24156 Westmont Dr	\$437,000
28544 Witherspoon Dr	\$111,000
SOUTH LYON	
6233 Lincoln	\$253,000
52665 Fremont Dr E	\$182,000
737 Knowlwood Dr	\$173,000
1078 Paddock Cr	\$399,000
190 Paddock Cr	\$273,000
1050 Paddock Ln	\$325,000
28405 Pontiac Trl	\$150,000
22270 Quail Run Cir	\$120,000
Unit 4	\$2,000
52437 Trailwood Dr	\$2,000
SOUTHFIELD	
20930 Avon Ln	\$460,000
21055 Concord St	\$160,000
28958 Fall River Rd	\$140,000
25861 Plumbecker Dr	\$125,000
19898 Rumbling Rd	\$120,000
25322 Saint Clair	\$117,000
16071 Sherwood Cir	\$93,000
WHITE LAKE	
685 Oxbow Lake Rd	\$318,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 24-28, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
1960 Brookfield St	\$159,000
15 De Hurst Pl	\$181,000
CLAWSON	
44997 Chocomaan Ct	\$150,000
41445 Cooper Creek Dr	\$125,000
48158 Covington Ct	\$365,000
43998 N Umlerland Cir	\$174,000
4235 Richmond Ct	\$223,000
41924 Saratoga Ct	\$165,000

42238 Saratoga Cir	\$159,000
41626 Stacey Ct	\$209,000
GREENSBORO CITY	
28220 Beechwood St	\$48,000
32322 Florence St	\$75,000
28149 Forest	\$112,000
32021 Sheridan St	\$90,000
LIYONIA	
14340 Ardor St	\$149,000
18568 Berkwick St	\$114,000
19116 Berkwick St	\$150,000
14183 Cardwell St	\$120,000
15108 Country Club Dr	\$161,000
9627 Jamieson St	\$122,000
36731 Bayburn St	\$174,000
14680 Santa Anita Ave	\$200,000

28643 Terrence St	\$187,000
96028 Westmonte Ct	\$140,000
TROYVILLE	
44926 Broadmore Cir S	\$437,000
19824 Irontone Ct	\$114,000
46099 Neeson St	\$154,000
19745 Northvue Dr	\$165,000
311 Saint Lawrence Blvd	\$325,000
PLYMOUTH	
45391 Amesbury Dr	\$415,000
23726 Cambridge Ct	\$354,000
6335 Jener Pl	\$180,000
44700 Joy Rd	\$210,000
11404 Junction St	\$177,000
REDFORD	
25682 Deborah	\$90,000
17133 Delaware Ave	\$38,000

13568 Woodbine	\$26,000
5719 Wormer	\$48,000
WAYNE	
35726 Brush St	\$58,000
34035 Glover St	\$23,000
WESTLAND	
16731 Beechwood St	\$130,000
8228 Fremont St	\$87,000
8166 Huntington St	\$23,000
700 N Carlton St	\$210,000
815 N Huron	\$38,000
32018 Ontario St	\$14,000
810 Patricia Place Dr	\$195,000
8444 E	\$117,000
86601 Shelby Dr	\$2,000
1167 Shoemaker Dr	\$45,000

Home

"CHARLVOE BEST KEPT SECRET"
Crested Hill, Michigan, in home only 2 w/ door walk to large wrap around deck, finished walk up, finished walk down, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, 2nd floor laundry, granite island and counters, 14 ft. high Master suite with hardwood floors, master suite with walk-in closet, master bath with jetted tub, granite double vanity, sitting room, walk in cedar closet, lower level with large family room, media room with wet bar, 30' high and wide back porch, 2 car driveway and driveway attached 2 car garage, see photos.

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AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	4.125	0 3.125 0
Ameriprog Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	4.125	0 3.125 0
Coop Services Credit Union	400356	(314) 466-6113	4.25	2.00 3.00 0
Dearbom Federal Savings Bank	399721	(311) 565-3100	4.25	0 3.375 0
Fifth Third Bank	402645	(800) 782-8833	4.125	0 3.25 0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.125	0 3.125 0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.075	3.00 3.00 0.5
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.25	0 3.375 0

Additional information available at 6/13/14 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific program calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcportal.com

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