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Canton door-maker growing, creating new jobs

By Darrell Clem
 Staff Writer

A Canton-based manufacturing company that makes industrial doors could potentially double its 45-employee workforce within two years after expanding its building on Ronda Drive, near Joy and Lilley, on Canton's north side. International Door, Inc., is ramping up production amid increased demand and intends to expand its 28,000-square-foot facility by nearly 22 percent.

"We are creating jobs for the American people," said John Kaounas, president and owner. IDI plans to add 25-50 new jobs as it invests more than \$800,000 and adds 6,000 square feet of space to its Canton site. The company makes doors and control systems for airport hangars, auto companies, movie and recording studios and numerous other industries. IDI has been in Canton since 1988, though it incorporated in 1974 and has its roots in Byrne Door, which started

in 1936, according to IDI's website. The company has a global customer base, Kaounas said. Company officials hope to expand the building by year's end. The effort gained momentum Tuesday as IDI received a 50-percent, six-year tax abatement – only on its new investment – from the Canton Township Board of Trustees. "We're happy to see you grow," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy told company offi-



See **JOBS**, Page A2 International Door, Inc., in Canton is expanding and creating new jobs.



Master gardener Deirdre Hope works in the community garden at Preservation Park.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Community gardens reflect labor of love



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Sunflowers towering over the Cabbage Patch Kids garden were planted by preschoolers.

By Darrell Clem
 Staff Writer

Community gardening has taken firm root in Canton. Everything's coming up roses, tomatoes, purple coneflowers, cucumbers, milkweed, columbine, cilantro, green peppers, zucchini, sunflowers – and more, much more. As bulldozers, developers and construction crews continue to alter Canton's remaining rural landscape, community gardening has blossomed among 39 plots in Preservation Park, also home to historical landmarks such

as the Bartlett-Travis House and the Cady-Boyer Barn, off Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill. The gardens are lovingly tended by volunteer master gardeners, Canton Farmers Market manager Tina Lloyd and her helpers, special-needs children attending Camp Able at the old Cherry Hill Schoolhouse, other youngsters from Camp Canton, Canton Leisure Services employees, a CLS preschool program and, for a small fee, local residents who plant their own gardens. "It's a real community effort," Can-

See **GARDENS**, Page A2

District ponders what to do with bond savings

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

A favorable construction climate already has saved the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district more than \$5 million in projects paid for in the 2013 bond. Now the district's administration and Board of Education are trying to figure out whether to spend it and what projects should be priorities if they do. Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen presented the board Tuesday with a variety of projects, including a track at the new middle school in Canton, that either aren't officially approved or were scheduled to be done later in the bond program that could be moved up and paid for with savings realized so far. "Our thinking is that we should do them now," Meissen told board members. "There is value to doing this work now. It helps kids and it helps the programs." Bill McCarthy, president of McCarthy & Smith, construction managers for the 2013 bond projects, said the district could benefit from a favorable economic construction climate. "The idea is there may be some economic opportunities here to take advantage of a favorable building climate," McCarthy said. "It addresses needs sooner." Among the projects Meissen and his team are recommending: » New middle school track

See **BOND**, Page A2

Back-to-school blitz helps 300 kids

Connor and Sydney Moore were already set for the beginning of the school year. They just wanted to make sure other kids were, too. So the siblings, the children of Jennifer Moore of Canton, were among the more than 80 volunteers who put in 219 hours at the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps this week for the annual Back 2 School Blitz. It's the Salvation Army's annual effort to help youngsters in Plymouth, Canton and Northville get the back-to-school supplies they need to begin the school year. A similar drive was done in Belleville. "It was fun and I like help-

ing children get their school stuff," Sydney said. Her brother was just as supportive. "I think it's a great idea to help out families who can't afford all the supplies," Connor said. "Education is a good thing." The annual drive drew some 300 kids to the Salvation Army to outfit themselves for school. Available supplies were the traditional things – backpacks, pens and pencils, papers, etc. – along with some clothing, donated by businesses and residents throughout the community. All told, the community donated some \$10,000 in

school supplies and \$3,600 in monetary gifts, according to Laurie Aren, the Salvation Army's director of family and community ministries. "These communities are always so generous," Aren said. "We couldn't do the things we're able to do without such awesome support." It's not too late to contribute. Monetary gifts are still be accepted to offset the purchase of Payless gift cards. Also, as school supplies go on clearance, Aren said, "it's a great time to pick up items that we can store until next year's efforts."

'Cats scratch fever



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Salem Rocks took the field Thursday for the battle against their cross-campus rival Plymouth Wildcats with high hopes. Those hopes were dashed, though, when the Wildcats scratched the Rocks, 40-18, on opening night of the 2014 prep football season. For more on the game, turn to page B1.

Canton Farmers Market offerings announced

Canton Farmers Market will be open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today (Sunday) despite the Labor Day holiday weekend, manager Tina Lloyd said.

Musician Ryan Brake performs from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and master gardeners are available to answer gardening questions. It marks the last Canton Public Library story time of the season and a children's bounce house also is on hand, weather permitting. Children can make a corn craft and sign a thank-you card for library volunteers.

Biggby Coffee serves coffee and iced drinks on the Bartlett-Travis House porch. Returning vendors include Sansonetti Sauces, Steinhauser Farm, Woolsey's Wonders (girls accessories) and Jen's Gourmet Dressings.

Lunch at the market is available from Qais Truck. Michigan goods available include apples, garlic, corn, tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, melons, garlic, summer strawberries, summer squash, blueberries, raspberries, apples, beans, spinach, kale, broccoli, scallions, cherries, herbs, bok choy and other Asian produce, cauliflower, cabbage, greens, lettuce, radish, potato, chard, onion, turnip, leeks, arugula, cut flowers and more.

Conventional and grass-fed meat, farm eggs, baked goods, artisan cheese, bread and jams also are available. Hand-crafted goods include soap, jewelry and girls accessories.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This is the first year for the butterfly garden at Summit on the Park.

GARDENS

Continued from Page A1

ton recreation coordinator Jennifer Provenzano said, standing near a garden tended by yet another group from The B.L.O.C.K., or Building Leaders Out of Canton's Kids. "It's a tribute to the rural roots here."

It's also indicative of Canton's giving spirit. Fresh produce from one garden already has made its way this season to First Step, a nonprofit agency offering shelter and services to victims of domestic violence.

"We've delivered six to eight times this year to First Step," Lloyd said.

Across town, a decorative butterfly garden adorns the lawn of Summit on the Park. It's tended by volunteer master gardeners, Lloyd and a dedicated group of special-needs people, age 15 and older, from the Summit's therapeutic recreation program, allowing them to exercise their minds and their hands as they learn about Michigan's native flowers.

Canton's community gardening effort began as a mere seedling in 2008. It began to blossom after master gardeners became involved as an offshoot from their involvement in the Canton Farmers Market, where they educate local folks on how best to tend their gardens. These volunteers, such as Deirdre Hope, are part of Michigan State University Extension Services and have grown in number from three to 16.

Hope led efforts to spruce up decorative gardens around the Bartlett-Travis House, built in the 1800s and moved years ago to Preservation Park. There, Hope and her helpers tend to oak-leaf hydrangea, sedum, purple coneflowers and black-eyed Susans, among other flowers that, like the house, reflect Michigan's history.

"They were around when this house was in a neighborhood," Hope said.

Canton Leisure Services employees have nothing but praise for the volunteer master gardeners, who have become an

integral part of local community gardening. They work full-time jobs, donate supplies and spend evenings tending the gardens.

"They move mountains," Provenzano said. "They make it happen."

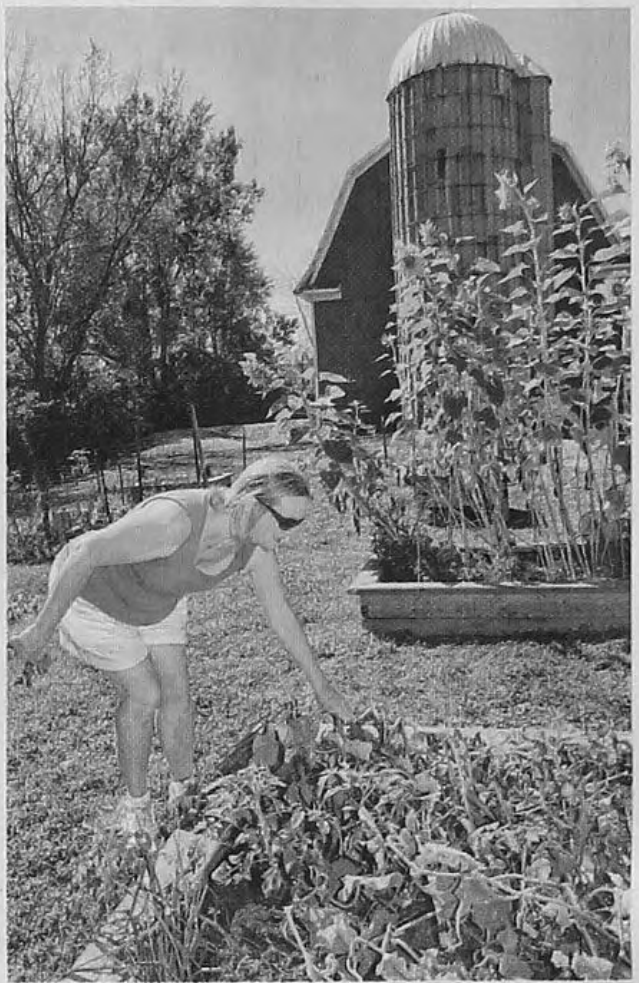
Others are content to grow a few tomatoes, cucumbers and green onions. Canton resident Jean Zawlocki, who rents a garden plot in Preservation Park, stopped by on a perfect summer day to check on her produce and plant lettuce seeds. It's an earthy escape from condominium life.

"I had a bumper crop of cucumbers," Zawlocki said.

Garden plot rentals have become so popular that there is a waiting list, with Provenzano saying demand "is through the roof."

Not far from Preservation Park, construction equipment can be heard as it plows the once-rural land for more housing. Yet here, in this park, in these gardens, a part of old Canton survives.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jean Zawlocki tends to her garden at Preservation Park.

BOND

Continued from Page A1

(\$203,560) - "A new middle school track is necessary to the middle school athletic programs," Meissen wrote to board members in a memo. The track would be built at the new middle school, located on Cherry Hill near Canton Center.

The track at Central Middle School, slated to be closed after the 2014-15 school year, will likely

be sold in any deal for the property. Officials said there is no room at either West or East middle schools. Discovery has space, but "not in optimal areas of the property," Meissen wrote.

» STEM lab at Canton High School (\$385,000) - There is a need to provide "flexible learning space" at Canton High School, Meissen told board members, because of STEM additions being made at the middle school level and the ris-

ing popularity of the program. "There will be a need to expand the STEM capacity" at the high school level, he said.

» Dance studio - Board members want a dance studio at Salem High School; the problem is where to put it. The space where the clothing bank is located was suggested, but officials say it might not be suitable.

The cost is also as-yet-unknown. Board President Judy Mardigian asked the administration to determine that cost, because she thinks the studio would be a hit in the district.

"It will provide a legitimate career path," Mardigian said of the potential dance curriculum. "There's going to be a lot of demand for this."

The administration also made several recommendations, totaling some \$4 million, that were deemed "safety/security" upgrades.

These include roof upgrades, media center

upgrades, improvements to the varsity athletic field, exterior doors at Eriksson and Field elementaries, sidewalk replacement at The Park and paving at the transportation building.

Trustees were a little more hesitant to OK those, because the district is facing the likelihood of closing at least one building next year and the plan didn't specify which buildings would need the improvements.

Trustees Mike Maloney and Sheila Paton expressed reluctance at making expensive improvements at buildings that would end up being closed.

"I support the plan, but I think we should wait on (the safety/security) until the boundary study is complete," Paton said. "I would have a harder time on those until we know what schools we're going to close."

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JOBS

Continued from Page A1

cial.

The township board's decision came after Canton's economic development office received

an application from IDI for what is called an industrial facilities exemption certificate.

IDI's customer base

has included The Big Three domestic auto companies, foreign car-makers, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Caterpillar

Corp., U.S. Steel Corp., all branches of the U.S. armed forces, major airlines and airports, power companies and

performing arts centers, among many others.

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District OKs sale of Starkweather property

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Wendy Harless was hoping a last-minute plea to sell the former Starkweather school property to someone who would keep the old building in place would convince the school board to wait to sell the property.

It didn't. After hearing Harless, president of the Plymouth Preservation Network, and Mark Oppat of the Old Village Association and a preservationist himself, make their case at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting, board members voted unanimously to approve the sale for more than \$1.15 million.

The nearly six-acre property, on Holbrook in the city of Plymouth, was bought by Livonia-based Curtis Building Co., which will build up to 26 single-family homes on the site.

Curtis Building's Mark Menuck said the homes will be upscale, likely selling in the \$400,000 range. The homes will likely range between 2,000 and 2,500 square feet and should be comparable to

homes found in Canton's Cherry Hill Village, but with a Plymouth ambience.

Harless said Curtis' contention that the homes could be like those in Cherry Hill Village isn't much solace.

"Cherry Hill Village is a whole different animal from a historic building," Harless said. "There are a lot of older homes in the (Starkweather) area. (Curtis' plan) will change the whole dynamic of the neighborhood."

The Starkweather property became available following the 2011-12 school year, when the district closed Fiegel Elementary School. The following fall, Starkweather moved to Fiegel, located on Joy Road in Plymouth Township.

The district has been looking to sell the property since then, making its sale a priority this year as it battled a budget deficit.

"We're excited to be moving forward with this project," Menuck told Board of Education members at an earlier meeting.

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COURTESY PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS
Dr. Mike Meissen, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton schools (from left), Kathleen Owsley, executive director of the Bosch Community Fund, Bosch's government affairs representative Kimberly Lindsey-Feagin and Board of Education President Judy Mardigian are all smiles after Bosch was honored for its \$125,000 grant to the district.

Bosch continues support of Plymouth-Canton schools

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Officials at the Robert Bosch Corp., obviously believe partnering with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is a good thing.

That's why the company's most recent donation lifted Bosch's total contribution to the district the last three years to some \$345,000.

"We're absolutely thrilled to come back," Kathleen Owsley, executive director of the Bosch Community Fund, told Board of Education members at Tuesday's meeting. "We're always thrilled to partner with you and help sustain these programs."

The most recent donation

came on top of \$220,000 the company had already donated to Plymouth-Canton programs.

The money has funded instructional programming and a variety of equipment for the district's science, technology, math and engineering curriculum. The donations have come in the form of classroom grants, as well as a district grant to fund STEM.

Erin MacGregor, the district's assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, said some of the programs are only in place because of Bosch's generosity. Courses in place at the high school park, MacGregor said, including programming in

both the biomedical and engineering fields.

The latest grant will help expand STEM opportunities for elementary and middle school students, as well as upgrading science equipment at The Park.

"Bosch's support has provided the district an opportunity to execute a vision to ensure all students have opportunities to engage in programming that develops critical thinking, inquiry and problem-solving," MacGregor said.

"We couldn't do those things without the support of Bosch."

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ON CAMPUS

Saginaw Valley

Seven projects put together by 26 Saginaw Valley State University students were on display during the mechanical engineering senior design symposium Friday, Aug. 15, in Pioneer Hall.

Martin Savage of Canton designed the project, titled "Covaron Advanced Materials Engineering and Testing of Thermosetting Ceramic Matrix Composites for Defense Applications," for Covaron Advanced Materials.

All mechanical engineering students are required to have a company sponsor their product in order to graduate.

Savage worked on the project with fellow SVSU mechanical engineering students Fergus Fleming and Tom Harri-

son.

Companies sponsoring products at the symposium were Acra Cast, Covaron Advanced Materials, Dupon Corp., General Motors, Nexteer Automotive and Fullerton Tool.

Iowa State

Iowa State University awarded a total of 832 degrees at the end of the 2014 summer term. Of the students receiving degrees, 500 were awarded undergraduate degrees, 222 master's degrees and 110 doctor of philosophy degrees.

Charles Henry Jr. of Canton earned his master's degree in education.

Of the students receiving bachelor's degrees, 52 graduated "With Distinction" (cum laude, magna cum laude or summa cum laude).

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Independence Village

Police officer 'stabbed' while investigating domestic dispute

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A veteran Canton police officer responding to a domestic dispute escaped serious injury when he was "stabbed in the face" by a suspect wielding a piece of wood from a broken door jamb, Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said.

The officer, described as a veteran of 22 years, sustained only minor injuries when he was struck near his eye while intervening to help the suspect's girlfriend, who received medical treatment for an assault that left her eyes and face swollen, Baugh said.

The incident unfolded about 4 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at College Park Estates, a mobile home community on Mott, east of Ridge. Police had received a call for help amid accusations the

suspect was assaulting the woman.

The 24-year-old defendant, Nicholas Gregory Schumann, has been arraigned in 35th District Court on charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder), assault with



Schumann

a dangerous weapon, assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer causing injury and aggravated domestic violence.

A not-guilty plea was placed on his record. He was jailed with a \$100,000 cash or surety bond as he awaits a Sept. 5 preliminary examination to determine if he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

If convicted, Schumann could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison.

The police officer dodged a potentially serious injury as he forced open the door to the home to help the suspect's girlfriend, Baugh said. The door jamb broke and the defendant was accused of picking up a small piece of wood.

"The officer was stabbed in the face near his eye," Baugh said.

The woman was more seriously wounded when she was assaulted. She received medical treatment.

A 2-year-old boy and a 3-month-old girl were in the house at the time, Baugh said, but they were not injured.

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Canton bank robbery defendant renews plea, faces sentencing

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton bank robbery defendant, abandoning a motion to withdraw his no-contest plea, is facing sentencing after he renewed his plea to charges he robbed the Comerica branch inside the Krogger store near Canton Center and Ford roads last October.

Nathan Michael Kuhn, 29, faces sentencing Sept. 9 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Richard Skutt after his latest no-contest plea to a charge of bank robbery.

He could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Kuhn had pleaded no contest in June, then sought to withdraw it before he renewed his

plea Aug. 22, court records show.

Kuhn had once sought a dismissal of charges altogether by contending he was incompetent to stand trial and aid in his own defense, but Skutt ruled against him.

The roller-coaster developments, barring yet another snag, could end Sept. 9 with Kuhn's sentencing.

Kuhn had initially pleaded no contest in June on the same day Skutt ruled he was competent to stand trial. However, his decision to withdraw his plea sent the case into a tailspin.

He has remained



Kuhn

jailed with a \$50,000 bond – or 10 percent of \$500,000 – as he now awaits his sentencing.

Canton police had described Kuhn as a drifter who had lived in Livonia and Westland before he was charged with the Canton robbery.

He was arrested in a Wayne motel room after a witness tip helped police track him down following the Comerica robbery.

Prior to this arrest, Kuhn had been paroled 11 months earlier for crimes involving uttering and publishing, or forging a check or other financial document.

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Canton Historical Society seeks board members

The Canton Historical Society is looking for volunteers who are interested in keeping the history of Canton alive for future generations, said Bill Tesen, the group's president.

The society board needs three new members who are willing to serve three-year terms.

The board meets 7-9 p.m. the third Monday of each month at the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center.

The board's duties include governing society matters, along with setting policy, overseeing historical properties and handling finances.

If interested in being considered for a position or for more information, contact Tesen at 734-844-1374.



FILE PHOTO

The Canton Historical Museum is among the properties cared for by the Canton Historical Society, which is seeking board members.

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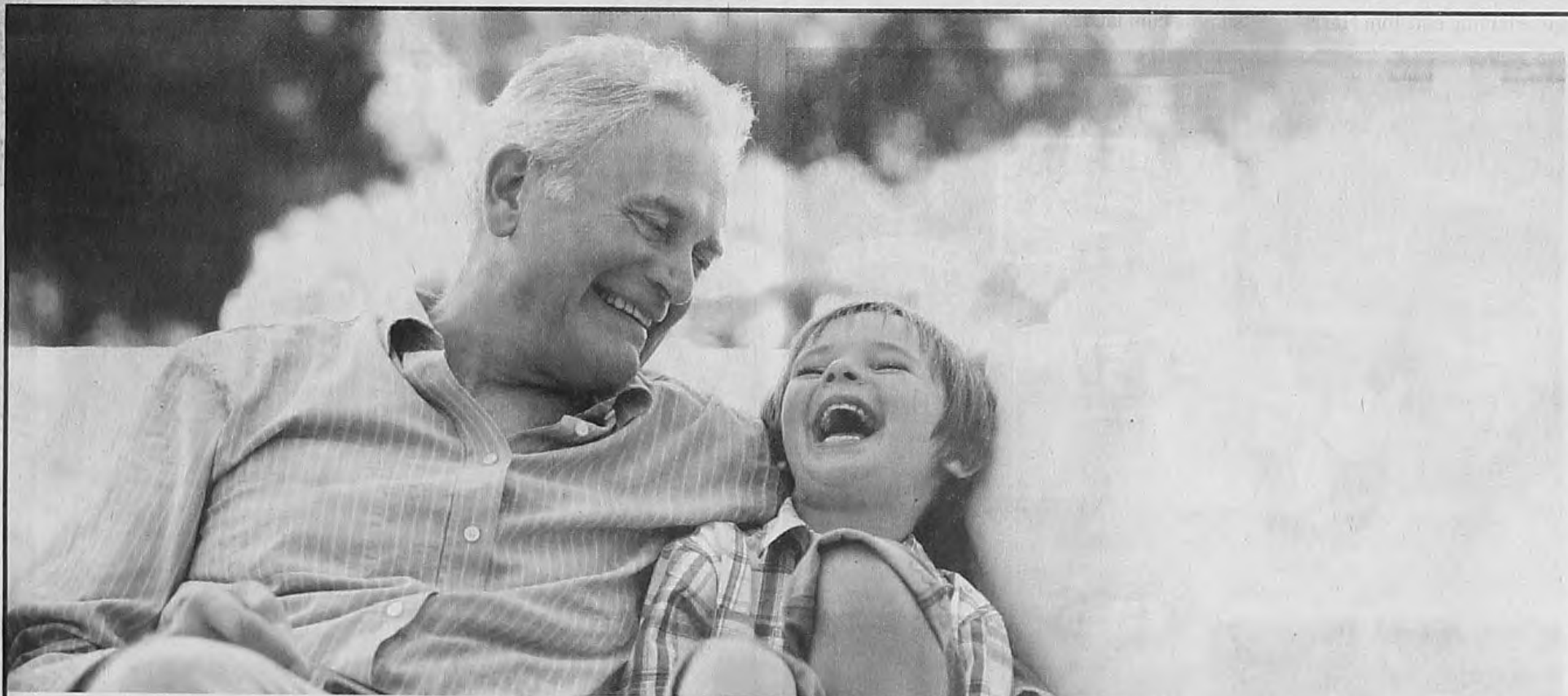
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Canton's B.L.O.C.K. launching new programs

With the school year fast approaching, it's a great time to start exploring after-school programs where teens can enjoy a fun, teen-friendly environment that features all of their favorite activities.

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center, located on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center, does just that by offering a safe, supervised and social setting for kids ages 11-17, along with a variety of program options available to choose from.

From Sept. 2 through Jan. 30, the B.L.O.C.K. provides all supervised activities 2:30-8:30 p.m.

in a space designed for teens, including Foosball, video games, computer lab with Internet, the B.L.O.C.K. café, lounge, quiet study room, pool table and more.

The After School Membership Program will pick up students from school at dismissal time and transport them to The B.L.O.C.K., where they can participate in a variety of supervised activities until as late as 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, school days only.

Transportation is available from the following Plymouth-Canton schools: Achieve, Canton Charter, Central, Discov-

ery, East, P-CEP, PCA, Pioneer, South Canton Scholars and West. Membership for residents is \$225 and \$282 for non-residents.

If students do not attend one of the schools included in the After School Membership Program, they still have the ability to participate in the Drop-In Membership Program. Although no transportation is provided, a parent or guardian would be able to drop children off as early as 2:30 p.m. and pickup would be no later than 8:30 p.m.

The Canton Express Shuttle can be combined with the After School Membership Program or

the Drop-In Membership Program, offering shuttle services daily starting at 4:30 p.m. This shuttle service covers an 11-mile radius from The B.L.O.C.K. Semester fees for the Express Shuttle Program are \$152 for residents and \$193 for non-residents.

"We are super excited to announce that we will be expanding our programming this fall and offering free classes and clubs every day from 4:30-5:30 p.m.," said Laura Mortier, B.L.O.C.K. coordinator. "This includes a Newspaper Club, art classes, tutoring, production of a teen TV cable show, piano lessons, library pro-



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gramming and much more." To register or for more information about

this and other B.L.O.C.K. programming, visit www.cantonfun.org or call 734-398-5570.

Wayne County Commission adopts county budget for 2014-15

With an 11th-hour settlement reached between Wayne County and the Prosecutor's Office, the Wayne County Commission voted 13-0 Thursday to approve a \$1.68 billion budget for the county for the 2014-15 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. The 2013-14 adopted budget was approximately \$1.43 billion, meaning that the 2014-15 budget grew by about \$256 million or 15 percent.

The county and Prosecutor's Office agreed late Monday to settle litigation in exchange for the

Prosecutor's Office receiving about \$1.3 million more than the administration had recommended. The Prosecutor's Office had an adopted budget of about \$36.9 million for 2013-14 and was asking for nearly \$46.5 million. For 2014-15, it will receive close to \$40.7 million.

As part of the settlement, which the commission approved Thursday by a 12-1 vote, the Prosecutor's Office, operating in deficit spending in 2013-14, agreed to spend within its budget, but can

ask for budget increases from the commission during the fiscal year. The roughly \$1.3 million will come from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund operated by the Treasurer's Office. The county plans to hire consultants to recommend efficiencies, along with a to-be-determined number of assistant prosecuting attorneys.

The commission's Committee on Ways and Means held hearings over the span of nearly a month to deliberate the budget on a department-by-department basis.

During the departmental hearings, the Committee on Ways and Means also heard pleas from the Sheriff's Office for additional funding. The Sheriff's Office adopted budget for 2013-14 was about \$143 million and it requested about \$181 million for 2014-15. The Sheriff's Office will receive about \$145.4 million.

Individual seats available for Western Wayne Business Leadership Banquet

Individual seats are now available for those interested in joining a unique gathering of chief elected officials and business leaders from across 18 western Wayne County communities who will meet for an evening of networking and insights into the region.

The second annual Western Wayne Business Leadership Banquet - presented by Bank of America and Winchester Consulting Group - will be Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Ford Motor Co. Conference and Event Center in Dearborn. Individual seats are \$100 per person. The inaugural event last year drew 350 people.

"This event not only provides valuable information, it is also serves as a catalyst for relationship building between business and political leaders," said Tracey Schultz-Kobylarz, Redford Town-

ship's supervisor and chair for the Conference of Western Wayne Board. "As a result of events like this, we are able to work together, blend geographical lines and put our best collective proposals forward for the betterment of the region."

The Conference of Western Wayne, an advocacy organization serving the elected leaders of the region's 18 cities and townships, is partnering with several local chambers of commerce to coordinate this program designed to build stronger municipal-business relationships in a region that represents 700,000 residents and more than 54 percent of Wayne County's tax base.

The banquet emcee will be Mary Kramer, publisher of *Crain's Detroit Business*, while the keynote speaker will be local economist David Sowerby, portfolio manager for Loomis,

Sayles and Co. in Bloomfield Hills. Sowerby will speak about economic and business trends for western Wayne County and metro Detroit.

"It is an example for regionalizing and showcasing our attributes, talents and efforts for the good of state, western Wayne County and, of course, the local communities we each serve," Kobylarz said.

In addition to individual seats, corporate table packages are also available for companies interested in promotional consideration.

"The business community enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many leaders and learn more about the region during our event last year," said Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and a lead banquet planner.

To reserve a seat, contact the Conference of Western Wayne office at 734-953-8834.

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Oct. 22: **Bladder Dysfunction and Overactive Bladder**
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40941 W. 8 Mile Rd., Northville
Nov. 20: **Pelvic Prolapse**
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6 p.m. - Presentation

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Be cautious when moving money to new annuity

Q: Dear Rick: I attended one of your library talks about six months and discussed my variable annuity. The annuity was worth \$85,000 and was paying about 2 percent. You recommended that, since it was only six months until the penalty period ended, I wait and then cash the policy out and use that to pay off my mortgage. My mortgage is at 6 1/4 percent and because of some issues in the past, I wouldn't be able to refinance. When I went to cash out the policy, my agent advised me not to because I would have to pay too much in taxes. I have had this annuity for 10 years and I have not taken anything out of it. I originally invested \$90,000 in the policy and today it is worth a little over \$85,000. My agent says I will be taxed on the full \$85,000. He recommends transferring the money into a different annuity. Currently, I lose about one-quarter of my money in income taxes. Does it make sense to move the money into another annuity? This is not an IRA and I don't have enough in my 401(k) plan to borrow. Help.

A: My advice to you six months ago is the same today. It is in your best interest to cash out the annuity and use the proceeds to pay off your mortgage.

Think about it this way. Consider the money that you have invested in your annuity as a loan. You're loaning the annuity company money and it is giving you a return on that investment. The return



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

that you are getting pre-taxed is 2 percent.

When it comes to your mortgage, you are borrowing money. Your cost to borrow money pre-taxed is 6 1/4 percent. So when you think about it logically, if you're lending money and only receiving 2 percent and at the same time you're borrowing at 6 1/4 percent, it makes good economic sense to pay off your loan.

When it comes to annuities and life insurance policies, many people are confused when it comes to the taxes. In this situation, your annuity agent is either confused, clueless or out and out lying to you. Because this money is not IRA money or any other type of qualified account, it means that you have a basis.

It is no different than if you bought a stock for \$10,000 and sold it for \$12,000; you are not taxed on the \$12,000. You are taxed on the sales price less your cost basis, which would be \$2,000.

The same concept applies to your annuity. You paid \$90,000 for it, so that is your basis. When you liquidate and get \$85,000, there is no gain because your basis is more than the sales price. You will not pay tax on the \$85,000. In fact, even though you have a loss, you cannot deduct that loss for tax purposes. That is one downside of annuities.

If the annuity was in a qualified account like an IRA and you cashed

that money out and did not roll it into another IRA, there would be tax consequences.

However, in your situation, the money was not an IRA so when you cash out the annuity, there is no tax consequences.

I've seen annuity salespeople trying to push people to roll their annuity into another many times during my career. In some situations, there's a good economic reason to do so. However, in many situations the agents are recommending moving money from one annuity to another because they can generate more commissions.

If you have an annuity that is maturing, you don't automatically have to transfer it into another annuity. There are other options to explore. Remember, when you move the money from one annuity to another, typically, the annuity penalty period starts again. Therefore, proceed with caution.

One last note: Remember not all annuities have high fees and back-end penalties. Companies like Fidelity and Vanguard (to name a few) have commission-free, low-cost, no-penalty annuities.

When annuities have low costs and no penalties, that means that more money ends up in an investor's pocket — exactly where it belongs.

Good luck.

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

Online portal helps county schools report emergency drills

A new state law requiring schools to be more engaged in conducting and reporting emergency drills is getting a boost from Wayne County's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

DHSEM has launched the online reporting portal for Wayne County schools that allows them to file their emergency drill reports in a timely, effective manner. Amendments to State Act No. 12 of Public Acts of 2014 created the opening for DHSEM to create the online tool.

The new law mandates that Michigan schools file their schedule of emergency drills for the 2014-15 school year with their county emergency manager by Sept. 15. Local public safety agen-

cies will have access to the online reporting portal through Wayne County's website at www.waynecounty.com/hsem via the "School Drill Reporting Form" icon. The drills help enhance preparedness in the event of a fire, severe weather or school lockdown against an intruder.

The new state law also requires schools to perform 10 emergency drills a year, broken down in the following manner:

» Five fire drills (three must occur before Dec. 1)

» Three lockdown drills

» Two severe weather drills (one to be held in March before severe weather season begins)

Schools cannot hold more than one drill a day and at least one drill must occur when students are

not in a controlled classroom setting. Public safety agencies may opt to participate in the school emergency drills.

"We believe the online reporting portal gives school leaders the opportunity to comply with state law and, in the long run, enhance the safety of students and teachers in the event of an emergency or unexpected situation," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "I commend DHSEM and our Department of Technology for creating this important tool."

For information on other DHSEM programs, including Flood Recovery information, go to the Wayne County website at www.waynecounty.com and click on the Homeland Security page under the Departments tab.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HEISE HOURS

Date: Monday, Sept. 8.

Times/Locations: 10-11 a.m., Parthenon Coney Island, 39910 Ford Road, Canton; noon to 1 p.m., Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady; 3-4 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main.

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll-free 855-REPKURT or email kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Date/Time: Sunday, Sept. 21, 2:30 p.m.

Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth Township

Details: Widowed Friends, a peer support group, invites all widowed men and women to celebrate Mass together. Refreshments follow.

Contact: For more info, call Angie at 734-905-7262 or visit the website at www.widowed-friends.org.

GRIEF SUPPORT

Date/Time: First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

Contact: For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

THRIFT STORE SALE

Date/Time: Monday, Sept. 1, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.



PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Supply line

Members of the Canton Christian Fellowship held a school supply drive over the last two Sundays of services and collected enough to fill and donate 20 school backpacks to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools with numerous school supplies for students of varying ages. Here Kimberly May (left), director of state and federal programs for P-CCS, accepts the bags from church members Tamika Wright (center) and Selena Howard. "We're very thankful for the donation from Canton Christian Fellowship. Families of some of our children are going through tough times economically now and these bags and the supplies help meet a great need," May said.

Location: Salvation Army Thrift Store, Canton

Details: The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center family-thrift stores host their annual Labor Day sale. In addition to 50-percent savings on clothing, shoppers will have opportunities to pick up deals on accessories, home goods and other items during bonus sales announced each hour. Proceeds

from all stores benefit The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Centers, independently funded, 180-day residential rehabilitation program for adults.

Contact: Call 734-416-1925 for more information.

CRAFT BAZAAR

Date: Saturday, Dec. 6.

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum is accepting applications for its annual Juried Craft Bazaar. Applicants are required to submit three or four photos of craft items for judges to select participants as there is a limit of crafters to five per category. Table rentals are \$30 each and most are 8 feet wide, although there are some space variations available. The museum is offering free admission

that day for both museum patrons and Craft Bazaar shoppers. Crafters are requested to donate an item for the museum's raffle. The application is available at www.plymouthhistory.org/cm/dpl/downloads/events/117/craft_show.pdf.

TASTE FEST

Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 5, 6-8 p.m.

Location: Station 885, 885 Starkweather, Plymouth's Old Village

Details: The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club and Station 885 are sponsoring the Taste Fest, which will offer great food and wine tasting. Participants include Bahama Breeze, Claddagh Pub, Cupcake Station, Elite Catering, Grand Traverse Pie Co., Happy's Pizza & Ribs, LaBistecca Italian Grille, Max & Erma's Plymouth, Mitchell's Fish Market, Noodles & Company, Plymouth Roc, Rocky's of Northville, Rusty Bucket, Station 885, Vintner's Canton Winery and Zoup Soup, Salad & Sandwiches. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. There's a live band, cash bar and more food and tables. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Station 885 and at U.P. Pasties on Main Street.

Contact: Call 734-459-1896 for more information.

SENIOR FITNESS

Date/Time: Wednesday, Sept. 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Location: Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth Township

Details: The Plymouth YMCA offers an open house and demonstrations of fitness classes offered by the center. The Silver Sneakers yoga classes feature a modified version of yoga designed for adults 65 and older. Zumba Gold is a specialty dance-inspired fitness class that takes the Zumba flavor and modifies the moves and pace to suit the needs of active older adults, baby boomers and the beginning fitness person. Six-week sessions start Sept. 9. Classes are free with participat-

ing Health Plans or \$39 annual YMCA fee or \$25 per session.

Contact: Registration will be available at the open house. For more information, contact the Plymouth YMCA at 734-453-2904.

BLOOD DRIVE

Date/Time/Location: Wednesday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Bigby Coffee, 44601 Five Mile, Plymouth

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors a series of blood drives in the Plymouth-Canton area. Appointments can be made and walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: Call Diane Risko to set up an appointment at 313-549-7052.

PERENNIAL EXCHANGE

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 6, 9-11 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Fall Festival, east end of Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth

Details: The Trailwood Garden Club sponsors a Perennial Exchange at the Plymouth Fall Festival. This is open to the community without charge; bring something (healthy plants only), take something or just stop by and see what is available. Members will be available to answer questions. Trailwood Garden Club is a member of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association.

Contact: For further information, call 734-459-7146.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID COUNSELING

Date/Time: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste 250, Canton

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

Contact: Heather Pinage, 734-727-2063. Please specify you are requesting an appointment for the United Home Health location. For MMAP information visit www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html

OLGC ALPHA SERIES

Date/Time: Courses begin week of Sept. 9 and end week of Nov. 18. Times vary.

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth

Details: Registration is now open for the parish's Alpha Course. The 11-week program involves interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Each session includes a meal, short talk and informal group discussion. Our Lady of Good Counsel launched Alpha September 2013. By the end of the winter session in 2014, a total of 1,500 people completed the course.

Contact: To register or for more information, go to www.olgparish.net/events/alpha or call 734-453-0326. Open to all, Alpha is free to anyone living in the OLGC Parish boundaries and not registered at another parish.

HEAD START ENROLLMENT

Date: Starts Sept. 8

Location: Plymouth-Canton Head Start, 5880 Canton Center, Suite 450, Canton

Details: Registration is now open for Plymouth-Canton's Head Start program. The program is open to children ages 2 1/2 to 4 years old (must be 3 years old by Oct. 1). Head Start is a free preschool for low-income families and accepts children with disabilities/special needs.

Contact: For more information and to enroll, call 734-354-5196.

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11:15, 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05
FRI/SAT 11:25
FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR (R)
2:10
THE EXPENDABLES 3 (PG-13)
4:30, 9:35
THE GIVER (PG-13)
11:25, 7:15
LET'S BE COPS (R)
11:35, 2:05, 4:40, 7:25, 9:50
FRI/SAT 11:45
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG-13)
11:40, 2:20, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (PG-13)
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Livonia figure skater to tour with Disney on Ice



Madison DeLuca placed among the top 12 figure skaters nationally in her level in 2012.

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Madison DeLuca, 18, of Livonia is living a figure skater's dream.

The 2014 Stevenson High School graduate leaves today (Sunday) to perform with Disney on Ice.

"A lot of skaters, that's what they hope to do some day," said DeLuca, who has been ice skating since age 3. "I think it's very exciting and I can't wait to go and start it."

DeLuca auditioned for and received a role in "Worlds of Fantasy," a nine-month touring show that begins Sept. 18 in Florida. After practicing for three weeks, DeLuca and the other skaters on tour will travel all through the United States and Canada, performing up to three shows a day in some cities.

DeLuca was a competitive skater whose accomplishments include being a three-time U.S. Figure Skating Junior National Championships



Madison DeLuca said she was ready for a change from competing when she decided to take her performing to the next level.

competitor, Eastern Great Lakes Regional Novice Ladies Champion and U.S. Figure Skating Championship competitor. She is most proud of placing among the top 12 figure skaters nationally in her level in 2012.

While she loved competing, she also really liked performing in front of a crowd, her mother Kelly DeLuca said.

After graduating high school, DeLuca found

herself at a crossroads. She could continue competing, start college – although she doesn't know yet what she wants to study – or take performing to the next level.

"The Disney thing was just a better option," she said, adding she decided to enroll in college after the tour is over.

Her coaches at Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton helped her put together an audition tape for Disney, which led to an invitation to have its casting director watch her skate in person the next time she visited Florida. That took place in June.

"She passed unanimously," said her grandfather John Elkins, a former Schoolcraft College trustee, who remembers taking DeLuca to learn to skate lessons at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, not far from the family's Livonia home.

"This is literally a dream come true for Maddy," he said.

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Madison DeLuca, 18, with her many competition medals.

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Professor: Geotourism catching on locally, statewide

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident and Eastern Michigan professor Kelly Victor-Burke is one of just a few in the country teaching a new concept: geotourism.

"It is a tourism approach that tries to protect the geographic place and its assets," she said. "That means that its landscapes, its geology, its culture, its historic properties. And at the same time, it meets the needs of the local population."

Victor-Burke, a Livonia Franklin High School graduate, has worked with students studying a wide array of Michigan areas and the effects of geotourism, just recently doing a session near the Grand Traverse Bay. EMU is one of two colleges in the country that focus on geotourism, a concept that's only been around since the early

2000s, Victor-Burke said.

With the advent of tourism campaigns such as Pure Michigan, the concept of geotourism has grown in popularity, with some in the tourism industry working to incorporate its principals into the state's marketing.

The concept has evolved over the last several years and is seeing a fast adoption rate, she said.

"It is a game-changer," Victor-Burke said. "This concept is new and it's exciting to see that there are businesses and pioneers in terms of entrepreneurs. We're starting to see a lot of evolution and people starting to use geotourism."

Some of those principles can be seen locally in western Wayne and Oakland counties, Victor-Burke said. One major location many metro Detroit residents enjoy is located in Dearborn: The



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kelly Victor-Burke, a professor at Eastern Michigan University, has led student groups to several areas of Michigan to study geotourism.

Henry Ford. The village and museum work to conserve local history, while serving local residents and those who travel a great distance to visit.

"The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village is one of the state's top tourism attractions," she said. "It is, without question, an excellent example of

geotourism. They are pioneers in embracing this concept."

Other areas embracing this concept include Nankin Mills Nature Center in Westland and Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia, Victor-Burke said.

Food a big factor

Another big part of geotourism in southeast Michigan that's growing is locally-sourced food.

Victor-Burke said this concept of farm-to-table is growing in many areas, including Detroit and Birmingham.

"People are very interested. I think there's a lot of awareness of where your food comes from these days," she said. "It's very exciting."

One concept seeing more footing in geotourism is farmers markets, which supply many locally-grown foods.

"I see so many com-

munities that are not just having one-day farmers markets, but they're becoming more innovative to where their markets are," she said.

One such market embracing more local roots and innovation is in Redford Township. The Market at the Marquee, held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Sunday through mid-October near Five Mile and Beech Daly, has a wide array of not only food, but other items such as soaps.

Melinda Graczyk, market master in Redford, said she's seen an increase in the number of people coming from neighborhoods surrounding the marquee, as well as other communities.

The market has also hosted several children's concerts, which were moved from Saturday the previous year to attract a more diverse audience, Graczyk said.

"Now we've moved it as a part of the market on Sundays," she said. "That brings the kids and their families in the whole thing."

Jay Johnson, a township trustee and member of the Jaycees, said the Redford chapter receives many requests from other Jaycee groups across the state to view the community gardens that have been launched in recent years in the township.

Many groups come to share ideas. The concept of leasing plots to community members is something others across the state from as far as Grand Rapids and Frankenmuth are looking to do as well.

"I've had five or six Jaycee chapters visit," Johnson said.

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Historic Rotary Well site getting a makeover

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Diane Pittaway has been working hard to restore the Northville Rotary Well back to a gem and focal point for the community.

"It holds a lot of historical significance for Northville, so I thought it was important to do this," said Pittaway, a member of the Northville Beautification Commission.

She credits the project to make this old well and gazebo area off of South Main Street a more welcoming site to support from the Beautification Commission, city Public Works Department and Northville Rotary Club. But make no mistake, she has led the way.

"She has worked tirelessly over the last few years to make this a truly incredible spot," said Julie Mantay, chairperson of the Northville Beautification Commission.

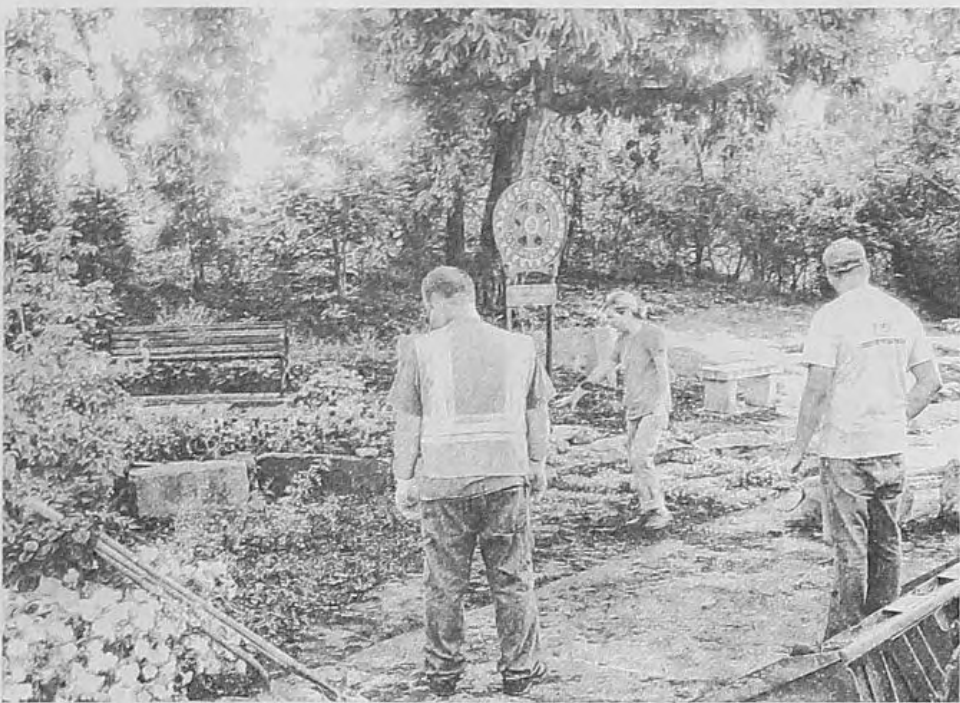
Historically, there was an artesian well on the site, which became a popular stop around 1913 when residents as well as visitors, especially those on the train passing through Northville, would stop to fill up their bottles with the water.

"The well really helped put Northville on the map," Pittaway said.

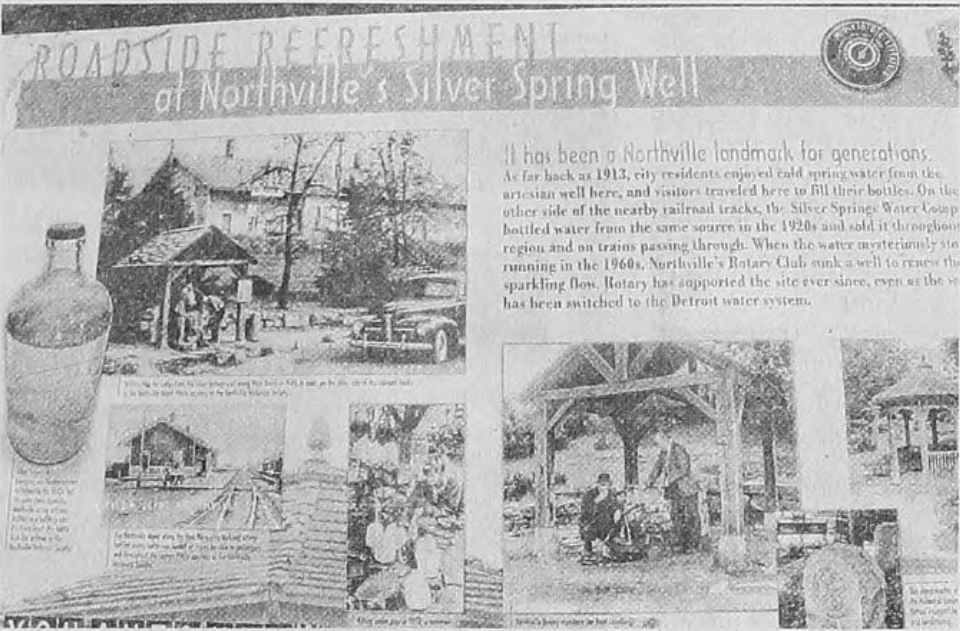
This led to the creation of the Silver Springs Water Co., which used the site to bottle water. However, in the 1960s the artesian well went dry. The Rotary Club put in a new well and it's now connected to the Detroit water system. Today, under the gazebo is a drinking fountain.

Over time, the site lost some of its beauty and that's when Pittaway and the Beautification Commission stepped in to do what they do best and that's make it look better and more inviting to the weary traveler needing a drink.

Over the past few



Northville Beautification Commission member Diane Pittaway (middle) has been working hard to restore the Rotary Well.



The Rotary Well site now has new signage and national landmark status.

years, Pittaway has put in new plantings, flowers, ground cover and trees. She worked with a landscape designer friend to formulate a plan for the site overall. She said there was potential, but it needed some reshaping. They were even able to get some historical signage at the site, marking it as a na-

tional landmark for passersby to see.

"We needed to look at the whole site, not just certain details," Pittaway said. "To make it better, we had to look at the whole picture and I think we have."

There's still more work to do, with some finishing touches. Just recently, she got help

from the DPW with moving some big rocks.

"I believe this well is a point of community pride and should be treated as such," Pittaway said of the plan going forward to maintain it as welcoming spot.

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A drinking fountain hooked into the Detroit water system is all that remains of the old spring that produced water coveted by travelers throughout much of the 20th century.

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STOPPING MEDICINES

The usual view is that the hard decision for doctors comes in deciding what medicine to start. However, physicians spend equal effort deciding when and how much a medicine should stop.

One example is prednisone. The doctor may know that for a patient experiencing a flare of Lupus, the starting dose of prednisone is 20 mgm a day.

The flare may resolve, but then the physician must determine when it is safe to start decreasing the dose and how fast to do it. The answer is made more difficult because the medical literature lacks studies that investigate the question in sufficient detail to give the doctor guidance. One physician may drop the drug at the rate of one mgm a week as long as the Lupus flare does not return. Another physician may decrease the prednisone at 5 mgm every 2 weeks. In almost every instance the decrease will end if the Lupus re-appears. Then the doctor faces another problem that neither textbook or literature reviews discuss. If the flare starts again, how high does the physician raise the prednisone dose? Some physicians would return the patient to the original 20 mgm dose, other physicians would go back to the dose that the patient took before the flare returned. There is insufficient evidence to support either approach.

Stopping an injectable drug like Enbrel presents an easier problem. A patient injects that medicine weekly. If the patient remains in a stable state for months then changing the dose to every 2 weeks is in order. If the patient decreases to once a month and feels no worse, then stopping the drug altogether is a consideration. The rule is not a sudden end but a gradual withdraw. That approach works well with most rheumatic medications.

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'Let's do this:' Locals head to Kentucky for Corvette event

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Tony Sereno has wanted a Corvette for more than 50 years. He finally got his wish a few years ago.

"I saw my first Corvette in 1956," he said. "I've wanted one since."

Now, he and his wife Thelma drive a 2011 Corvette Grand Sport around town. They left with more than 80 other Corvette owners in a caravan Tuesday from George Matick Chevrolet in Redford to head to the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky., as part of the fifth National Corvette Caravan.

Drivers from all over Michigan and other parts of the United States and Canada met for breakfast Tuesday morning at Matick. From there, their route planned on taking the enthusiasts to Marshall to meet up with other Corvette drivers. Indianapolis was the planned stop for Tuesday night, with arrival into Kentucky scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.

The trip to Kentucky, with participants from all across the country, is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the museum dedicated to the GM muscle car.

Susan Miller and her husband Ray have done several trips revolving around their Corvette, a 2012 Corvette Grand Sport, in recent years and began planning to make the trek to Kentucky about a year ago.

She said they planned on participating in several of the activities scheduled for the Michigan caravan, including driving a lap Wednesday at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

"We've never seen the museum; we've never seen the assembly



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thelma and Tony Sereno are from Livonia.

plant," the Farmington Hills resident said. "We try to do something like this every year."

Milford resident Pat Bean said she and her husband Stephen Bean own several Corvettes, including a 2014 Corvette and a 1964 Corvette Grand Sport, and have made it a habit to feature their vehicles as often as possible.

This trip has been a year in the making for the couple, who collaborated with other members of the North Oaks Corvette Club on the details.

"This one is kind of an exciting event, because they're anticipating anywhere from 7,000 to 10,000 cars," she said.

"We just all got together and said, 'Let's do this.'"

The new car purchase came shortly after it was revealed at the North American International Auto Show last year, Stephen Bean said.

"We watched the unveiling on the Internet," he said. "Both of us were sitting in the living room, both of us are sitting with our laptops on our lap. It drives out onto the stage and both of us said at the same time, 'We're buying one.'"

Not just Corvette owners

Some in attendance just came for the ride and have not owned a Corvette. One of those people was Al Stone, a Ludington resident who grew up in Wayne and lived for many years in Redford.

Stone showed up with longtime friend Mark Barton, a metro Detroit native who drove up from his current home in Clermont, Fla., to travel with Stone to Kentucky.

While Stone admitted he's more of a Ford Mustang person, the camaraderie and spirit present with many of the Corvette drivers is fantastic. It's been many years since he did a Corvette caravan and he remembers vividly leaving Livonia to drive to Kentucky.

"The last one we did was 1999 out of Schoolcraft College," he said. "That was the fifth anniversary of the Corvette museum. Now we're doing the 20th."

Karl Zimmermann, owner of Matick Chevrolet, said he was approached a few years ago about hosting the event to launch the Corvette drivers on their journey. Tuesday morning, dozens of Corvettes



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Al Stone of Ludington, formerly of Redford, will ride with Mark Barton of Orlando, Fla.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

lined the parking lot of the dealership at Schoolcraft and Telegraph, a sight that left him smiling.

"A lot of people remember where they saw their first 'Vette," he said. "It's America's sports car."

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Romanowski VFW Post hosts Big Time Wrestling show

The original Big Time Wrestling continues its Detroit invasion by coming Saturday, Sept. 6, to Westland's Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., with matches starting at 7:30 p.m. The post is at 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt.

A lineup of the top stars is coming to not only entertain Westland fans, but the entire United States.

The All Word Wrestling League, the new name for Big Time Wrestling, will be filming the show to broadcast on a number of national TV shows.

The shows will air on the Tuff TV network at 6 p.m. each Saturday, starting Sept. 23. The shows will be aired in more than 63 broadcast markets throughout the

country.

Replays of the broadcast will air three times the same week.

The lineup at Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post includes AWWL World Champion Rastakhan taking on former four-time champion Black-jack Phoenix. It will be the first time the two wrestlers have met.

The former JCW Champion Rude Boy will be in a revenge match after being burned two weeks ago by "The Lunatic" Brutus Mac. This is scheduled for a blood towel hardcore match. The first wrestler to get his towel filled with blood loses.

The show also will have the massive 400-pound, 6-foot, 5-inch "African Destroyer" Dima Wakazi vs. Big Country Stax, who's the

hometown favorite.

"Prime Time" Tommy Johnson also will take on his biggest rival, Cold Brother Loverman. Women wrestling stars also will be in action.

Matches featuring Lou Crank, Jerome Do It Pruitt, The Claw, Jontae Keith, "Krazy" Nick Pope and many more are planned, with wrestling scheduled for October, November and December 2014.

There will be concessions and refreshments available.

Limited seating is available. Show tickets are available at Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896. Prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 10 years and under. For more information, go to awwlbtw.com.

All proceeds will benefit veterans programs.

County places charter amendment on ballot

The Wayne County Commission has placed a proposed charter amendment on the Nov. 4 ballot that would allow the chairperson of the commission to appoint a designee on the Wayne County Retirement System board.

The retirement board consists of six elected members - four active employees and two retirees - as well as two ex-

officio members. The ex-officio members are the Wayne County executive and the chairperson of the Wayne County Commission. Under the current charter, the Wayne County executive is allowed to appoint a designee to represent him/her on the board. However, the commission chair is not afforded this same privilege. The charter amend-

ment is a minor technical change that would give this privilege to the chair. The rationale is to provide the chair with the option of appointing a board designee who has more expertise in retirement and investment matters.

For instance, the Wayne County executive's current designee is the county's chief financial officer.

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Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Adrienne Davis, Secretary

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON OPENS

WILDCATS FLEX MUSCLE

Big plays spark Plymouth to 40-18 victory over Salem



Cameron Stella (No. 32) takes the football and heads downfield for Plymouth's first touchdown Thursday night.

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There were plenty of big-yardage plays Thursday night in the season opening high school football game between Plymouth and Salem.

Turns out the Wildcats made more of them, building a huge halftime lead and coasting to a 40-18 triumph at Plymouth-Canton-Educational Park's varsity turf field.

One player who made his fair share of impact

plays was Plymouth junior Cameron Stella, who not only got the Wildcats rolling with a 77-yard touchdown run midway through the first quarter, but sealed the victory with two interceptions in the second half.

"He's a stud athlete and he's very coachable," Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk said about Stella's penchant for being a catalyst. "So that's the kind of kids we like."

Stella grinned when asked whether he pre-

ferred touchdowns or interceptions. He likes the offensive side of things more, but stressed that he gets the most out of doing whatever it takes to prevail, especially against a campus rival.

"Last year, we had a lot of adversity we had to deal with," Stella said. "I think this year, coming back and getting the win right off the bat really helped us change and show everyone that Plymouth is still here to stay."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Salem receiver Calin Crawford is dragged down by Plymouth's Van Nguyen and Chris Walls (left).

Costly mistakes

Salem head coach Kurt Britnell, meanwhile, downplayed the notion of his team fighting some opening-night jitters.

"I don't believe in the jitter stuff, we just made too many mistakes and they're a good team," Britnell said. "When you make those mistakes, you're not going to win too many games like that."

Stella opened the night's scoring with his first-down burst up the middle and then down the left sideline, shredding Salem defenders to go the distance with 6:52 remaining in the first quarter.

Salem moved the ball on the ensuing drive and came close to scoring a game-tying TD.

On a second down at the Plymouth 7-yard line, Rocks junior quarterback Alex Nicholson (9-of-23

See WILDCATS, Page B3

SEASON KICKS OFF

Power trip for Chiefs

Grind-it-out Chiefs roll to 31-21 victory in opener

By Evan Paputa
Correspondent

Holland West Ottawa had spent countless hours this off-season envisioning the day in late August when the Canton Chiefs would come to town.

The Panthers kept last season's opening loss at Canton in their memory banks and wanted to return the favor with a home victory — they even painted "Beat Canton" on a rock in the stadium concourse.

However, the Chiefs' vaunted power running game strangled the Panthers, 31-21, Thursday night. Canton gained 285 of its 357 total yards on the ground.

Those tough yards were a mini snapshot of what the offensive line had been working on all off-season, according to Canton offensive line coach Bob Williams.

"They did just about what I expected them to do," Williams said. "They're set, but I have to polish what's there."

Sophomore Marcus Sanders was the only Canton running back to gain more than 100 yards, but several other Chiefs made considerable contributions. Chuck Turfe carried 18 times for 61 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior Jake Pagel scored a touchdown on Canton's second play from scrimmage on a 43-yard scamper only 56 seconds into the game. His night ended early due to an injury on his next carry.

Junior Jakob Wickens was next in line with seven carries for 41 yards.

"It was a great win," Turfe said. "Last year, we came out with a 28-21 victory. They drove three hours and now we drove three hours. It was a big win; I'm proud of the team."

Turfe made his name on defense, too, and forced a West Ottawa fumble on the first play of its next drive. He stripped senior running back David Rich before he could reach the line of scrimmage.

On the ensuing possession, Turfe put the Chiefs up 14-0 on a 4-yard rushing touchdown with 6:04 left in the first quarter.

"We got a chance to schedule non-conference teams and we wanted to play one of the best teams in the state," West Ottawa head coach Rory Zegunas said. "We didn't execute. Anytime you turn the ball over like we did, it's going to kill you."

Defensive gems

Canton senior cornerback Robert Guajardo picked off West Ottawa senior quarterback Caleb McNitt twice inside the Chiefs' 25-yard line.

The first came with 2:34 to play in the third quarter on a deep throw midway through a potential 75-yard Panthers drive.

The next interception proved to be the nail in the coffin, as Guajardo picked off McNitt at the goal line with 3:18 to play in the fourth quarter and the Chiefs leading

See CHIEFS, Page B3

OHL TRAINING CAMP

ALREADY UP TO SPEED

Whalers rookies Milano, Bitten impress with skills, work ethic

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was nice to day dream Wednesday afternoon for Plymouth Whalers fans.

Those who checked out their Ontario Hockey League team's scrimmage at Compuware Arena must have wondered what the future might hold for the Whalers.

They watched Plymouth rookie forwards Sonny Milano and Will Bitten criss-cross in the offensive zone as though they've played on the same line for years.

Milano was drafted 16th overall by the Columbus Blue Jackets of the National Hockey League, while Bitten is a first-rounder of the Whalers.

"Our coach (Don El-land) loves to say there are kids that play hockey and then there's hockey players," Plymouth first-year general manager Mark

Craig said. "Sonny Milano and Will Bitten are hockey players; they live for it."

Both are gifted offensive players with a track record of working harder than anybody else and having the skills that shouldn't take long to blossom in the OHL.

Milano — first drafted by the Whalers in 2012, but playing last season with the National Team Developmental Program in Ann Arbor — someday might even be as dominant a player for the Whalers as Tyler Seguin was.

Seguin was the No. 2 pick in the 2010 NHL Draft by the Boston Bruins and now is a scoring machine for the Dallas Stars.

"Not a doubt in my mind that (Milano) could be the next Tyler Seguin," Craig said between Wednesday's morning and afternoon Blue-White scrimmages. "After seeing him, the ability, great ability, changes speeds, great hands, probably as good a



TIM SMITH
Whalers rookie forward Sonny Milano skates during Wednesday afternoon's scrimmage at Compuware.

hands as I've seen since Seguin was here.

"Yeah, Milano's the real deal and he's going to be a good pro. A very good pro."

Craig also has high praise for Bitten, picked seventh by the Whalers in the OHL Priority Selection earlier this year. He played last season with the Ottawa Jr. 67s.

"Will's an enlightenment for me, because I

had not seen him play before," Craig said. "I came on board after we had already drafted him. Everybody in our organization felt they would have taken him whether we had the first pick overall or the seventh pick, that we would have picked Will Bitten. So it's pretty neat to get a kid you wanted."

"After seeing him, I can

See WHALERS, Page B4



FILE PHOTO
Canton's Chuck Turfe, shown here from a 2013 game, got his senior season off to a stellar start Thursday night.

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GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING PREVIEW - PART 1

All-state nucleus key to Rocks' hopes

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Veteran Salem varsity girls swim coach Chuck Olson has a returning nucleus of state qualifiers who should spark the Rocks to another winning season.

The Zhang twins — juniors Linda and Lisa — already have accomplished plenty in their prep careers and both return, along with Molly Rowe and Katie Xu, to form a 200-yard medley relay that scored at the 2013 Division 1 state meet.



Lisa Zhang

Linda Zhang

Rowe

Xu

Linda Zhang also will compete in the 200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke (events in which she garnered all-state honors) and is slated as part of the 400 free relay with Lisa Zhang and returning state qualifier Patricia Freitag.

All-state butterfly

Lisa Zhang should help Salem collect plenty of points in that event and she also is part of an impressive cast in the 200 individual medley with returning state qualifier Stephanie Solterman and Xu.

Freitag also was a state qualifier in the 200 free and 100 backstroke (along with Rowe, Xu and Solterman) to demonstrate the team's collective versatility.

Xu, Solterman, Freitag and Rowe will be another formidable quartet in the 200 free relay.

Strong senior leadership in co-captains McKenzie Maurice, Solterman and Hannah Tardiff will be a plus for the Rocks. The team's remaining seniors include Alyssa Bucciarelli, Megan Finkbeiner, Melina Frantzeskakis, Samantha Howell, Sarah Mapes, Madison O'Donnell and Grace Smith.

"We are looking forward to the new season and to see what this new team can lead to," Olson said. "I believe we have a strong team, including the returning divers Alyssa Bucciarelli and Haley Allgeyer, and seeing the talent of the new divers Camille Burt, Jordyn Williams, Jennifer Moss, Rachel and Lilly Lepper."

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GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING PREVIEW - PART 1

Positives abound for Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Kenn Forbes doesn't mind double duty at the Plymouth High School pool.

He is starting his first season as head coach of Plymouth's varsity girls swimming and diving team, taking over from Doug Schade.

This winter, Forbes also will return for his third season at the helm of the Plymouth boys team.

"I am very pleased with how practices are going," Forbes said. "We are showing great signs of depth and are improving every day."

"As with every season, I have great expectations. I hope we are competitive in all of our meets and drop times as the season progresses."

"All of the girls are working very hard and getting along with each other very well. It's really great to see them help each other and have such a positive energy."

The Wildcats (3-1 in the KLAA South Division last season) feature plenty of solid leadership in seniors Alexa Earls, diver Megan McKeehan and Caylin Waters, along with junior Meghana Somsale.

Forbes, formerly a swim coach at Redford Union, also welcomes former RU swimmer Kim Landon as assistant coach with the Wildcats.

Meanwhile, Carla McNamara succeeds Vikki Jouney as the squad's diving coach.

The Wildcats did get off to a victorious start to the season with Tuesday's 119-64 victory over visiting Farmington in a non-league match-up.

"We had some good swims and times,"



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Plymouth's Megan McKeehan works on a dive last year. She is expected to again be a key member of the Wildcats this season.



Sullivan and Abigail Zacharias.

Juniors on the roster include Somsale, Alexis Bell, Katherine Harris, Madelyn Harton, Caitlin Hunter, Allison Lennig, Jessica Lynch, Amy

Olevnik, Amy Roth, Sruthi Sundar and Elizabeth Walton.

There is plenty of long-term potential, with 12 sophomores and 12 freshmen on the Wildcats.

On board among 10th-graders are Cequoia Bobee, Madeline Caswell, Isabella Giacobone, Sarah Haggitt, Elizabeth Henderson, Emma Leaser, Rachel Medley, Nicole Misquitta, Maria Tortorici, Kathryn Waters, Caroline Whitaker and Kaylee Yang.

Rounding out the roster are freshmen Grace Borst, Olivia Buchele, Alyssa Crisp, Emma Jakubowski, Mariyah Kapuswala, Noelle Lehrke, Grace Maclellan, Emma Reeves, Manasi Sharma, Carol Sturgeon, Noelle Wolf and Sarah Zrull.

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GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW PART 1

Seniors ready to set pace for Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The immediate future for Plymouth's varsity girls cross country team is looking pretty rosy.

With a number of key returnees and a large group of talented newcomers (including eight freshmen), the Wildcats definitely could wreak havoc in the KLAAs South Division.

Plymouth head coach Dale Maskill and assistant coach Alice Ahearn already know they have strong team leadership in senior co-captains Hailey Foster, Maddie Bartek, Emma Swales and Surmeet Gill.

The Wildcats roster includes two other seniors in Megan Wilkerson and Molly McSween.

Juniors are Charlotte Clark, Marianne DeBrito,

Alison Morren, Emma Radke and (newcomer) Genevieve Parkey, with a group of sophomores including Kelly Gryniewicz, Abby Rhoades, Rebecca John, Brenda Silva and — especially — Annie Bonds.

"The top spot on the team has been claimed early by sophomore Annie Bonds," Ahearn said. "Her off-season efforts have paid off as she started out with great intention for a successful season at the South Lyon Invitational (last) weekend, finishing seventh overall with a time of 21:10.

"The next three spots are closely contested by Hailey Foster, Charlotte Clark and Emma Radke."

Vying for spots on the traditional seven-person varsity team are DeBrito, Bartek, Swales and



Surmeet Gill (from left), Emma Swales, Maddie Bartek and Hailey Foster are co-captains of Plymouth's girls cross country team.

incoming freshmen Claire Curvin and Madelyn Rush.

They also have a roster with plenty of depth

and potential, from the veterans to newcomers such as ninth-graders Risa Berlanga, Camryn Clark, Curvin, Reese Green,

Savannah Grieve, Noelle Rogalski, Rush and Asha Shah.

"With a large incoming freshman group, the

JV team will be able to build a strong base and keep the varsity team on their toes," Ahearn wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "Reese Green is coming back from an injury, but has tremendous potential to help build a competitive team."

"Other incoming freshmen Risa Berlanga, Camryn Clark, Savannah Grieve, Noelle Rogalski and Asha Shah have much to offer the Wildcats and will contribute to the bright future of the team."

Ahearn added that Rhoades, Gryniewicz, Morren, McSween, Gill and Wilkerson "will be able to add their collective years of experience to help round out the development of the team."

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BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW - PART 1

Strong start by Salem vets essential

Path to state meet begins in tough KLAAs Central for Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Salem varsity boys cross country team knows the drill.

In order to contend for the Division 1 regional crown and a spot in the state meet, the Rocks must strut their stuff against ultra-top foes in the KLAAs Central Division.

Salem head coach Steve Aspinall knows that is a fact of life.

It helps that Aspinall's roster features eight returnees who broke the 18:10 mark last year. Those runners include junior Chaz Jeffress, seniors Noah Enger, Jason Rogers, Nabil Ahmed, Peter Sonnegga, Paul Vander and Ethan Sanfilippo and sophomore Alex Kroll.

"We compete in one of the more difficult divisions in the area, with Northville (fifth in the state last year), Novi, Stevenson, South Lyon and South Lyon East," Aspinall said. "Northville will be again one of the top teams in the state after graduating only two guys from their top 13 from a year ago."

"Novi returns a solid

crew and will also be tough to beat. Livonia Stevenson has a great program and will be a battle as well. So we definitely have a work cut out for us. However, if we can continue to work hard and have some early season success, I'm confident we'll peak at the end of the season when it counts."

Others will be heard from, including junior Jacob Kubinski, senior captain Brendan Genaw and juniors Griffin Skaff and Austin Siterlet.

Kubinski has "worked extremely hard to become one of the fastest guys on the team. I fully expect him to be in our top five this year," the coach said.

Skaff and Siterlet "may surprise after having good track seasons this past spring."

Team depth also is getting stronger, bolstered by 15 freshmen and two transfer students (Markous Mar and Jad Makarem).

Ninth-graders Andrew Beyer, Ryan Exell and Marvin Lopez are showing "a tremendous amount of potential" as are Mar and Makarem.

The Rocks begin the journey Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Ramblin' Rock Invitational at Willow Metropark in New Boston.

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WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

passing, 200 yards, one TD, two interceptions) tried to hit a receiver at the goal line. But Wildcats senior Kalen Dunham broke up the attempt and the Rocks settled for a 24-yard field goal by junior John Kwiecinski to make it 7-3 late in the first quarter.

Plymouth's outstanding special teams led to a pair of touchdowns before halftime. Sophomore Isaac Emminger did most of the damage to the Rocks.

On the kickoff following the Kwiecinski field goal, Emminger raced 57 yards down to Salem's 25.

On the next play, Plymouth senior quarterback Deji Adebisi (8-of-18 passing, 168 yards, three TDs) calmly stepped back and lofted a perfect strike into the hands of junior Victor Abraham in the end zone.

An extra point by sophomore Van Nguyen gave Plymouth a 14-3 lead in the final minute of the opening quarter.

Plymouth's defense stopped the Rocks on four downs, got the football back and went to work on a 52-yard scoring drive in seven plays. Adebisi connected with senior Connor Theodorakakos on a crucial fourth-down 21-yard gain that kept the drive going.

Three plays later, Adebisi threaded a 25-yard TD strike to Dunham and it was 21-3 with 7:21 to play in the first half.

Salem bounced right back, with Nicholson throwing a 60-yard touchdown pass over the middle to junior wideout Christian Pearson (104 yards receiving).

Just special

But any possible momentum shift in favor of the Rocks was reversed once again by Emminger.

On the subsequent kickoff, Emminger scooped up the ball near his own 10-yard line, zoomed through Salem defenders and then down the right sideline before leaping as he crossed the goal line, making it 28-9 just 14 seconds after Pearson's TD.

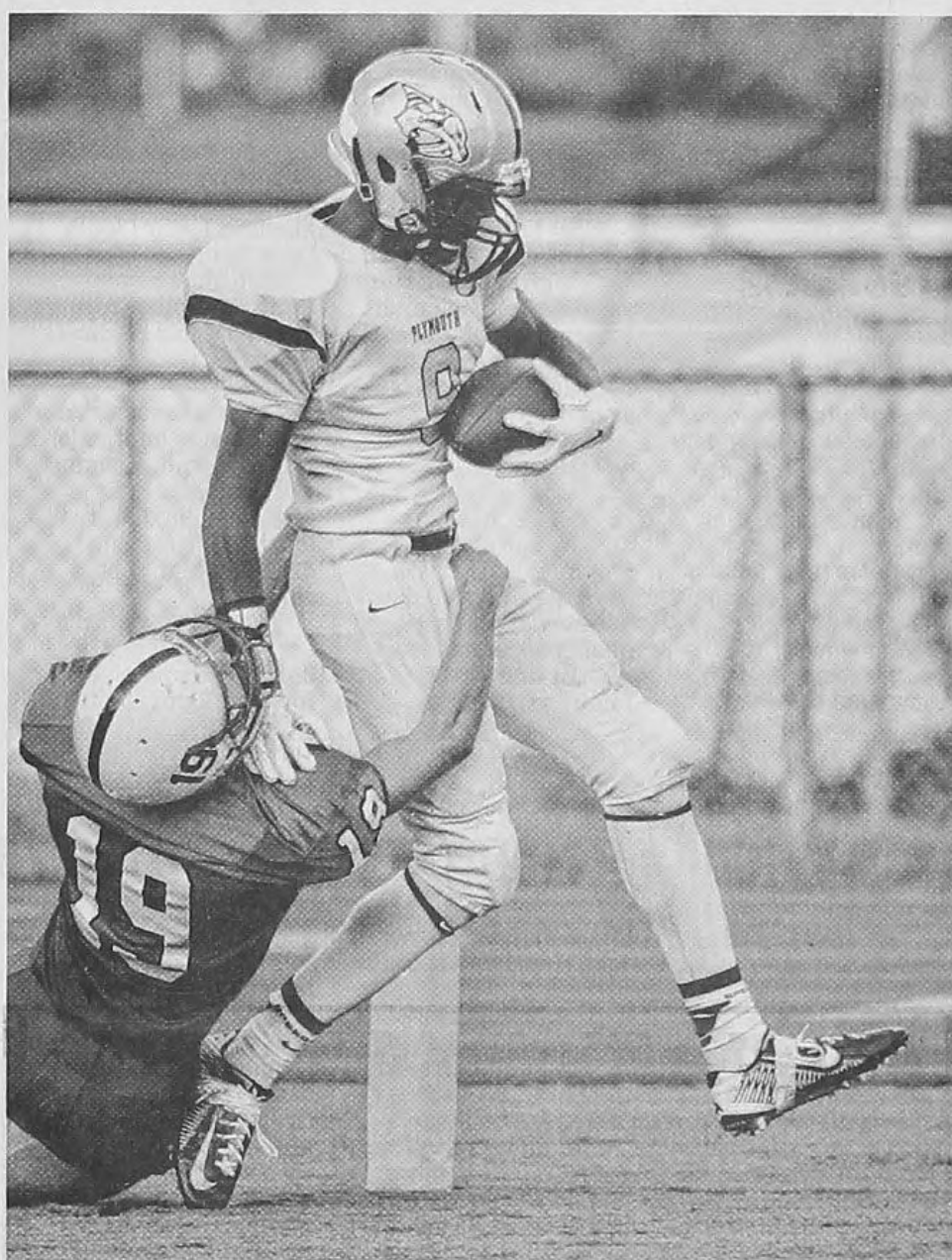
Sawchuk said that touchdown, with 4:51 left before the half, very well might have been the game's turning point. He also said it showed once again the importance of putting in "a ton of time" in practice on special teams.

"When they kick it to us and we return it, we're usually on the 35 or better," he said. "It's a huge advantage."

On the Emminger touchdown return, Sawchuk wasn't sure which players came through with the key blocks.

"Everybody had to have a hat on a hat," Sawchuk said. "I got to watch film, I couldn't really see. But it's a scheme we use and it's a good one."

Salem answered with another field goal, a 36-yarder by Kwiecinski



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Victor Abraham is in the end zone and brings Salem's Jason Arnold with him.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Christian Pearson makes the catch and evades Plymouth defender Carlton Rose.

with only 38 seconds remaining in the half. Nicholson's 53-yard completion to junior Jacob Miller (72 yards receiving) set up that opportunity.

However, Plymouth once again showed resiliency and found the end zone as time elapsed to take a 34-12 lead into the locker room.

Adebisi ran for one first down and then completed passes of 12, 13 and 30 yards on the next

three plays — to Abraham, junior Chris Walls and senior Xavier Gardner, respectively.

Gardner nabbed the TD toss, finishing a series in which Adebisi worked with the precision of a surgeon knifing through the Salem defense.

The Rocks opened up the second half in promising fashion, putting together a 65-yard scoring drive, capped off by Nicholson's 3-yard boot-

leg around right end with 9:22 to go in the third. A 13-yard burst by senior fullback Devin Cameron turned out to be a big play in the drive.

"We did (have some big plays). Some things worked well," Britnell said. "We just got to build on that and get our playmakers the ball."

Figuring it out

Plymouth closed out the scoring when senior fullback Anthony Kenney bulled his way into the end zone from the 1-yard line. Adebisi's 41-yard toss to Abraham earlier in the drive helped set up the score.

After the victory, Sawchuk talked about how the team continues to jell.

"We had to change the attitude of these kids; they bought in," Sawchuk said. "We still have some stuff we have to clean up. It wasn't a clean game. We had some penalties, some mental errors and we'll go to work when we watch film."

Sawchuk also lamented that the Wildcats won't have the so-called "Black and Blue" campus rivalry game with Salem in 2015 and 2016.

"It's a shame we're not playing them again next year. I like this rivalry," Sawchuk said. "We don't play them for two years and then they play Canton next year. It's an on-and-off rotation."

"I'm not sure who made that decision, but I would like to play them every year. It's just the way it is."

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CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

31-21.

"The pass game, we wanted to take away the deep ball and tackle on the short stuff," said Guajardo, who tallied five tackles. Junior defensive lineman Tommy Evely also had five tackles for the Chiefs.

West Ottawa countered Canton's 14-0 lead on a 14-yard McNitt rushing touchdown with 1:57 left in the first quarter.

Canton then added a 33-yard field goal by senior Andrew Loehnis with 8:08 to play in the second quarter.

But West Ottawa answered with a 20-yard McNitt touchdown pass to senior Braden Carl with 3:24 to play in the first half.

Canton capped the half with a 1-yard rushing touchdown by Turfe, putting the Chiefs up 24-14 with one second remaining. Canton struck first

in the third quarter (after holding the Panthers to one first down on the opening possession) on a 4-yard Sanders touchdown.

West Ottawa senior Christian Rodino kept Panthers hope alive with a 4-yard rushing touchdown with 6:54 to play in the fourth quarter, but a failed onside kick and eventual interception in the end zone by McNitt helped seal the Canton victory.

Canton's defense held West Ottawa to 1-of-7 on third-down attempts.

Getting off the field on third downs was a point of emphasis entering the season, according to Turfe, and he was pleased with the performance in Game 1.

"The proudest moment — the way our defense played. A lot of juniors stepped up: (safety Micah) Rinke, (linebacker Jacob) Stefan and (safety Jared) Stephens all played big for us tonight," Turfe said.

WOMEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW

Plenty of promise for Lady Ocelots

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Deepak Shivraman is a battle-tested coach who has pretty much seen everything in nearly 25 years on the soccer sidelines.



Shivraman, entering his ninth season at the helm of Schoolcraft College's women's team, has seen it all before, including losing key players to bigger colleges. It is why he isn't one to put too much stock in annual preseason forecasts. "After coaching for so many years," he said, "I have learned that it doesn't really matter when making predictions, because until we take the field against an opponent and see actual game pressure, it is futile to say that we are a good team."

Such is the case this season, with All-America forward Kelly McKay moving on to the School of Art & Design in Georgia.

"One of my friends is the coach there and he presented a good opportunity for Kelly and we didn't want her to miss that opportunity," Shivraman said. "They have her major (film studies) and have a strong women's program."

"But she was the leading scorer for our team last year and her



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Last spring, Aly Mann stopped the ball for Salem. This fall, she will look to do the same for the Lady Ocelots.

contributions will surely be missed. I am excited to see our team come together and find success in our journey this year."

Last year's journey was pretty good, for the most part. The 2013 Lady Ocelots were a force in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association before getting knocked out early during the postseason.

That lingering disappointment — coupled with McKay's departure — might be a negative entering the new season with some teams. But not with Shivraman's squad.

On board

"Our goals season to season are made created by our players," Shivraman said. "They have been handed down a legacy of playing good quality soccer and winning by our former family of players."

"So from day one, players are asked to embrace that mission."

Shivraman might have lost some offense, but "I feel that we have added some speed and strength in our back line."

Freshman defenders include Livonia Churchill product Erin McDonald, Sarah Mulcahy (Livonia Stevenson), Clenna Whitsitt (Ann Arbor Skyline) and Madison Lyons (South Lyon East).

Mulcahy's sister Emily is another former Spartan joining Schoolcraft. She is slated for midfield.

Other newcomers of note include midfielder Kelly Schmidt (Canton) and goalkeeper Aly Mann (Salem), both looking to follow up excellent high school careers.

Those first-year players will augment a core of returnees, such as forward Remi Houtaker



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
One of Schoolcraft's freshmen is Canton alum Kelly Schmidt (No. 3), shown from a game her senior season with the Chiefs.

(Bloomfield Hills Andover), midfielder Jessica Parry (Waterford), forward Hannah Hasbrouck (Hartland), midfielder Tiffany Gales (Maryland), midfielder Alexi Cano (Riverview), defender Danielle Howard (Livonia Franklin), midfielder Taylor Breaux (Novi) and forward Shaunae Whitsitt, a transfer from University of Detroit-Mercy.

"The returning players are hungry again in their quest to defend our league championship and go further in the playoffs," Shivraman said. "The last two seasons have been disappointing in that we have been knocked out early and I know our players that played last year can't wait to take the field again to be relevant in the postseason."

PAL CLINIC: Schoolcraft players and coaches are doing a special clinic for the Detroit Police Athletic League from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at Clark Park in Detroit.

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COLLEGE SOCCER

Madonna men's soccer better from 'A to Z'

Zathey confident team can challenge in WHAC

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Second-year Madonna University men's soccer coach Mark Zathey is beginning to put the pieces in place to make a run at a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title.

The Crusaders are coming off an 8-6-4 season, including a 5-2-3 record (third place) in the WHAC.

Madonna ended 2013 with a 2-1 loss to No. 19-ranked Davenport in the conference semifinals. Four starters were lost to graduation, including all-WHAC midfielder David Edwardson, who finished with six goals and four assists.

"I think we're a better team. I think we should be more competitive," Zathey said. "I think the conference should be stronger, so I'm not sure how our results will be affected. We certainly suffered a loss with David Edwardson to graduation. The kid that we brought in, who is a Brazilian, is ineligible, so we don't have the answer that we thought we were going to have."

"Having said that, everyone else on the field we're just as good or better. So it will be an issue. Are we stronger in the sum of all parts versus relying heavily on Dave all year? I think we'll be more dangerous in the attack. Last year, we outshot everybody we played except Davenport in the regular season. We really, really struggled to score goals and got caught on a couple of counterattacks pushing players up to score goals."

Six players who started in the Davenport match should continue to make an impact, led by senior forward-midfielder Ryan Williams (Auburn Hills Avondale), who had a team-best six goals and six assists, along senior defender-midfielder Nick Peper (Northville), who made honorable mention all-WHAC.

Also returning is sophomore goalkeeper Marcel Schmid (Stuttgart, Germany), senior defender-midfielder Nichole LaRocca (Chippewa Valley), junior defender-midfielder Colin Wilden (Rochester Stoney Creek) and senior midfielder Luis Gomez (Mexico City, Mexico/Schoolcraft College).



Zathey Peper

pewa Valley), junior defender-midfielder Colin Wilden (Rochester Stoney Creek) and senior midfielder Luis Gomez (Mexico City, Mexico/Schoolcraft College).

Sophomore forward Amadou Cisse (Conakry, Guinea/Willow Run), an honorable mention all-

WHAC selection who contributed a team-best nine assists, also returns, along with senior midfielder Jose Viloria (Caracas, Venezuela/Schoolcraft) and back-



Cisse

up goalkeeper John Boudreau (Livonia Stevenson).

Redshirt junior James Robinson III (Flushing/Jackson CC) will also help at outside back, while senior forward Doug Beason (Northville/Schoolcraft), who played for MU in 2012, should lend a big hand up top.

Two Brazilians could also factor in heavily: Reinaldo Caetano, a 28-year-old senior striker who transferred from the University of Windsor, and freshman Yago Pires, an outside back.

Zathey also signed four freshmen: midfielder Ryan Schifano (Stevenson), defender Hayden Steinman (Livonia Franklin), forward Strahinjo Ljubevic (Farmington Hills/Walled Lake Central) and goalkeeper Jeff Wielczopolski (Windsor, Ontario, Holy Name).

They are joined by junior college transfer Tom Ashmore (Farmington Hills/Schoolcraft).

Rounding out the squad are two freshmen from Kenya — defender Douglas Ogolla and striker Ludvick Asigo, who will also run cross country for MU.

"I think we'll be a more balanced team," said Zathey, whose team opened its season Friday night at Cardinal Stritch (Wis.). "I don't think we'll have any elite players, give the ball to one person and rely on. I think we're going to be pretty diverse and balanced as a team. We're a lot further ahead now than we were at this time last year, that's for sure."

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BOYS SOCCER ROUNDUP

Northville seeing red in 2-1 loss at Canton

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Canton's soccer field resembled a dandelion patch Wednesday night.

Yellow cards were popping all over the pitch as the host Chiefs rallied for two goals in the second half to beat Northville, 2-1, in a crossover meeting of KLAA Kensington Conference boys soccer foes.

Josh Posuniak tallied the game-winning goal off an assist from Jack Zemanski with only 13:15 remaining.

That came after Northville coach Henry Klimes was ejected from the match with his second yellow card with 19:50 remaining and the Mustangs already down two players following the banishment of senior captain Alec Morgan, who received a straight red card, fol-

lowed by junior forward Jake Reitzloff's second yellow.

Morgan's penalty kick with 35:16 left in the first half had staked the Mustangs to an early 1-0 advantage.

But Canton tied it up with 25:50 to go in the match, when Hunter Olson's direct free kick sailed off the crossbar and teammate Carter Schenck gobbled up the rebound to make it 1-1.

The game-tying goal came with Northville already a player down.

"Overall I thought we played well, controlled play in the first half, hit three crossbars, but just couldn't finish," said Canton coach Mark Zemanski, whose team improved to 4-0-1 overall. "We only gave them one or two opportunities the first half. It was a difficult game; I don't ever remember being up two men. They're a

good squad."

The loss dropped the Mustangs to 0-1-2 overall.

Northville, which accumulated six yellow cards from head official Greg Calabrese, will be missing two starters, each of whom will be serving an automatic one-game suspension for next Tuesday's KLAA Central Division opener at South Lyon East.

Klimes will also have to sit out as assistant Andy Cosenza will take over the coaching reins.

"I lost a little bit of discipline, some boys ended up getting yellows and red cards to make the game a little uneven in the sense of eight against 10," Klimes said. "A little misunderstanding between the head referee and myself, which caused the second yellow."

"But I thought the boys had a valiant effort of playing two men down. I think the game-winning goal may have even been offside. But the guys played their hearts out. It's a defeat and we'll learn from it and we'll get better. We'll get ready for our divisional game Tuesday."

Senior Alec Merlucci went all the way in goal for Northville, while Jay Krebs (first half) and Dylan DaSilva (second half) split time for the Chiefs, who also received sterling play from defender Sam Belcher.

PLYMOUTH 3, W.L. WESTERN 0: The host Wildcats improved to 3-1 on the season with Monday's victory over Walled Lake Western. Jaden Huxtable, Mike Blake and Calvin McCracken scored for Plymouth.

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

see why the scouts were so high on him. Great acceleration, really smart."

And it won't take long for Whalers fans (at least those not there Wednesday) to see for themselves.

Warm welcome

Before returning to the ice for the afternoon scrimmage, both Milano and Bitten discussed the warm welcome they've

received with the Whalers, as well as what might be in store for the team in 2014-15.

"I noticed that pretty much all the guys get along. It's a real close group of guys, a lot of returning players," said Milano, an 18-year old from New York state. "So that's always good; hopefully, I'll fit in. What I'll bring to the team is being an offensive player. I'll make players around me better and be an impact player right away."

Milano laughed when the Seguin comparison cropped up.

"I don't know about that, I mean Tyler's obviously a great player," Milano said, smiling. "Hopefully, I can do some of the stuff he did. I don't know if I'd say the next Tyler Seguin, but we'll see."

He did say fans should notice his on-ice style is straight out of the play-book of Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane.

"I'm like a Patrick Kane kind of player. He's my role model on the ice," Milano said. "Just pretty much the way he plays, his skill set, he's an American boy like me

and pretty much took the same route as me growing up."

"He's a fun player to watch and I think I kind of play just like him."

After Saturday's preseason game against Windsor (a benefit for slain soccer referee John Bieniewicz), Milano will head to the NHL prospects tournament in Traverse City and then the Columbus camp.

Fast and fun

As for the 16-year-old Bitten, he described himself as a "speedy forward (who) likes to

get on the offense and create vision and try to set up teammates."

Bitten said the transition to the OHL already is going well.

"It's been a great time, being a rookie on the Whalers, learning from the older guys," said Bitten, an Ontario native who speaks fluent French. "In our league, it's all our age and with the older guys, they teach us the law and they show us around. It's been really a great time."

"I've been training all summer long and I hope it will pay off. I feel great

on the ice right now and excited to get started with the Whalers."

Meanwhile, nothing Bitten has experienced out on the ice so far is different from what he anticipated during the summer months leading up to training camp.

"We all knew it would be bigger, stronger and faster and that's what it is," Bitten said. "It's bigger guys and it's fast hockey. I really like that and I'm excited for this year."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

SPORTS ROUNDUP

P-CEP and the Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers are hosting a fund-raising exhibition game at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at Compuware Arena for teams and activities at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

All proceeds from ticket sales (\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door) will be earmarked to benefit P-CEP teams and activities (Canton, Ply-

mouth and Salem high schools).

Tickets for the Whalers-Windsor game are limited and are available at all three high schools and the Plymouth Whalers box office (14900 Beck Road).

For more information, go to www.plymouthwhalers.com or call 734-453-8400.

Senior fitness

The Plymouth Family YMCA is hosting an open

house complete with class demonstrations and refreshments 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, at the Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft Road.

Those who stop by will be welcome to register for any of the offerings, geared mostly toward older residents (age 65 and up), which will begin Sept. 9. For more information, contact the Plymouth YMCA at 734-453-2904.

Class offerings include the following:

Silver Sneakers: Offered to seniors age 65 and up. Move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activities for daily living.

Hand held weights, elastic tubing with handles and Silver Sneakers balls are offered for resistance.

Silver Sneakers Yoga:

A modified version of yoga designed for adults 65 and over. Classes offer a variety of stretching exercises in both seated and standing positions. Silver Sneakers Yoga will help increase muscle tone and build strength.

Flexibility, range of motions and balance are improved through yoga, each of which help prevent falls and the injuries they cause.

Zumba Gold: This

specialty dance inspired fitness class that takes the same fun Zumba flavor and modifies the moves and pace to suit the needs of active older adults, baby boomers and the beginning fitness person.

Zumba Gold has a longer warm up and cool down to allow participants a program to improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular strength. Zumba Gold is available to all ages.

'Let your light shine' at local prayer service

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Unity of Livonia will add a new twist to its annual prayer day activities in September.

In addition to a worship service and individual prayer, members and guests will get a chance to walk the church's outdoor labyrinth with lit candles at dusk.

"It's not a maze. It's a very ancient tradition and the walk is a walking meditation," said the Rev. Eileen Patra, senior minister. "The idea is that as you're walking in, to concentrate on your prayer intention. When you get to the center you take a few moments to listen and you listen on the way out. Prayer is talking to God, meditation is listening."

Prayer chaplains will be available for individual prayer from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by a prayer service at 6:30 p.m. and the labyrinth walk at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at the church, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia.

The activities are a part of the 21st annual Unity World Day of Prayer, a 24-hour prayer event held the second Thursday in September by Unity churches and Silent Unity, an international 24/7 prayer ministry. This year's theme is "We Are the Light of the World: Let Your Light Shine." At Unity's world headquarters in Missouri, the prayer vigil begins with a service with author and poet Mark Nepo, followed by a candle-light walk. The opening service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, and the closing service with singer/songwriter Karl Anthony at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, will stream live at www.worlddayofprayer.org.

Organizers also added a virtual candle lighting this year to symbolize the power of united prayers. To participate, go to www.worlddayofprayer.org and click on the "light a virtual candle" link. The website includes a map showing where and how many candles are lit throughout the world. Individuals in more than 85 countries had lit candles by Aug. 29. The virtual candles will be available through Sept. 11.

"Unity was founded on the power of positive prayer. It was founded by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, two people who experienced incredible health healing through prayer," said Patra, a Royal Oak resident. "When people are together in prayer there is a beautiful energy that touches



Cheryl Goddard, office assistant and bookstore manager at Unity of Livonia, meditates at the center of the labyrinth.

SUBMITTED

them."

Everyone welcome

She said that although the prayer day originated with Unity, it's intended to be an ecumenical event. When she was pastor of a Unity church in West Branch, a local Methodist congregation participated in Unity's prayer activities.

"I'm really excited about adding the labyrinth. We have some musicians that have vol-

unteered their time. There will be a large candle burning in the center of the labyrinth. It should be sufficiently dark by then," Patra said. Labyrinths are circular and generally consist of a circuitous path that starts at the outer edge and weaves its way to the center.

"They'll walk to the center and light a candle, walk out and form a circle. And I will have a closing prayer.

Patra noted that the walk occurs less than two weeks before the autumnal equinox on Sept. 23, which signals the start of fall.

"I thought it would be cool to have a ceremony where you walk the labyrinth and recognize that the our days are getting shorter," Patra said, "but the light within us is always bright."

Other area Unity World Day of Prayer services:

» 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 at Friends of Unity, held at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth; friendsofunity.org

» Prayer vigil starting at 7 a.m. with prayer sessions every hour; interfaith service runs 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, Detroit Unity Temple, 17505 Second Blvd. Detroit; 313-345-4848

Stretch at yoga event, benefit nonprofits

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Yoga changed Kerrie Trahan's life.

And she says it could change yours.

"A lot of people have experienced life-changing results from practicing yoga," said Trahan, who teaches yoga at Lifetime Fitness in Canton and Novi. "Students have told me it changes their outlook and makes them feel more positive."

Trahan, co-founder of YogaFlow, an organization that teaches yoga throughout Detroit, will join other yoga instructors from Southeast Michigan to lead a two-hour class at YogaLove 2014, a celebration of all things yoga Sunday, Sept. 7, at Kensington Metropark, 2240 Buno, Milford. The class will start at 1 p.m. and will include music by DJ Baksheesh of Dance Meditation Technique. Admission is by donations of either \$10, \$20 or \$30, payable online at yogalovedetroit.org. Walk-ins also are welcome.

Proceeds will benefit Danialle Karmanos' Work It Out, which has teamed with DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan to promote health through yoga and nutrition in Detroit-area schools, and Mentors Plus, a program of Oakland County Youth Assistance. Mentors Plus matches adults with young persons who need a positive influence in their lives.

A yoga lifestyle expo, with vendors, nutrition experts and yoga studio representatives, will be open before and after the class.

YogaLove's 2013 event was



Yoga practitioners stretch outdoors.

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held at the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan Warehouse in Detroit. It raised \$4,300 for Gleaners. YogaLove Detroit was formed in 2012 to benefit the Detroit area through yoga and service.

Trahan said the yoga class at Kensington is open to all levels.

"The practice will start with breathing," said Trahan, adding that the routine will include postures and a cool down. "There is no age minimum, however it is a two-hour yoga practice, so it's probably not recommended that kids take it, although they are more than welcome to come with their parents."

Yoga in school

In addition to teaching yoga classes, Trahan is the program and volunteer coordinator for Danialle Karmanos' Work It Out. The organization was founded nine years ago.

"It's awesome. We go into

schools for 10 weeks in the fall and winter. We teach yoga and nutrition. The kids love it," she said.

Trahan tried yoga in 2005 but didn't pursue it until after moving to South Korea in 2007 to teach and save money for law school.

"I was reading about things to do to deal with stress and yoga was one. I gave it another chance," she said. "and I got hooked." She returned to the United States and began pre-law school classes at Cornell University.

"I loved it, but it took me away from my yoga practice because I had to study so much," she said. "I realized it wasn't for me. It took me away from what made me feel so amazing. I moved back to Michigan and I became a (yoga) teacher."

For more about Danialle Karmanos' Work It Out, visit dkwio.org. For Mentors Plus, visit oakgov.com and click on circuit court and then volunteer.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Meet critters

See some of the animals, such as turtles and snakes, that make the Kensington Metropark Nature Center their home, 2 p.m. every Sunday. The program is free. To register or for more information, call 810-227-8917.

Edible plants hike

Friends of Maybury State Park will hike through the park and identify edible wild plants — some that can be eaten raw and some that need to be cooked — from 10-11:30 a.m. Sept. 6. Participants also will learn to identify plants they should avoid. Meets at the concession building in the park. friendsofmaybury.org for more information.

Butterflies

Brenda Dziedzic, author and co-founder of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will talk about winter garden maintenance and overwintering of butterflies, 7 p.m. Sept. 17, at Nankin Mills Interpretive

Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Nonmembers pay \$3. Annual memberships are \$15. www.sembabutterfly.org.

English Gardens

» Get the basics on landscape design in a free presentation, 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at all stores.

» Get information on designing, planting and maintaining flowers and plants in outdoor containers at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. Free.

» Learn the basics of designing a bulb garden at a free presentation 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

Bug hunters

Train to become a leader for the Friends of the Rouge River fall bug hunt, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 Haggerty. www.therouge.org.



Get the basics of landscape design at a free presentation Sept. 6 at English Gardens stores.

Mental health first aid helps battle stress, trauma

One of the standard questions in a children's psychological evaluation is "What should you do if you cut your finger while playing?" This question attempts to solicit issues about the child's awareness of safety and the use of judgment.

Medical CPR and first aid classes are more prevalent than ever before. Often sponsored by the American Red Cross, these trainings continue to be seen in medical and health facilities, high schools, day care centers, public and private businesses, athletic facilities and more. AED's and CPR directions, and first aid kits are readily available.

But what about first aid for mental health?

Mental health first aid as defined by the Michigan Department of Mental Health is a course dedicated to providing individuals with the basic tools required to assist



Len McCulloch
OUR MENTAL HEALTH

others in case of a developing mental illness or a mental health situation.

My first interest in this area of response to mental health issues was more than 20 years ago when I trained with the Red Cross and obtained membership on the American Red Cross Mental Health Disaster Team.

Our role was to provide first responders, such as police, firefighters, and EMS personnel, with support and onsite counseling and debriefings. The "venues" included hurricanes, floods, forest fires, tornadoes, mass murder school shootings, terrorist attacks, like 9/11, and so forth. We were trained to be an onsite team of mental health providers available to these emer-

gency personnel who are at high risk for acquiring post-traumatic stress and associated mental health problems.

Recently, I came across information about local mental health first aid programs. These trainings are largely developed and offered free of charge by local Red Cross chapters and associated programs.

Examples of situations in need of mental health first aid include violence in the workplace, school shootings, terrorist threats, suicide threats, domestic violence, concerns about child abuse, prevention workshops, resiliency training and so forth.

Applying first aid

Techniques of rendering mental health first aid may include supportive listening with gentle, purposeful questioning in order to help absorb, digest and process emotional shock of being part of or witnessing horrific

events. Another is to debrief the victims/survivors of trauma right at the scene in order to attempt to prevent what could later be a post-traumatic stress disorder. Yet another might be to counsel school children who have just received news of a death or kidnapping, or rape of a school chum.

Since the tragic Columbine School mass murders on April 20, 1999, and Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on Dec. 14, 2012, our news media, civic leaders, and even our president of the United States, have publicly raised the question, "When are we going to start talking about mental health issues?"

I strongly support the awareness and use of services in our community geared toward mental health first aid. This column "Our Mental Health" is offered as a resource.

Feel free to contact us

to pursue join-up program possibilities as did our prior Call to Action Coalition in the past. Feel free to use our 200-plus archived articles at the Farmington Hills Library (www.farmlib.org) to disseminate mental health and mental illness resources. "Our Mental Health" column is a subsidiary of the nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, The Therapy Choirs of Michigan. TCM has been headquartered in Farmington Hills for 17 years and continues to champion the cause of suicide prevention and mental health awareness and related issues.

The stigma remains, evidenced by, "When are we going to talk about mental health?" Dare we say, "Talk about mental illness?"

Perhaps, a correlate question to the original question within the child mental status exam, "What should you do if you cut your finger?" would be the application

of mental health first aid, asking "What do you feel about having cut your finger and would you like some help to talk about it?"

Resources

- » Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC), 866-807-6940
- » Community Mental Health of Livingston County, 800-615-1245
- » Common Ground, 800-231-1127
- » American Red Cross, www.redcross.org

L. J. McCulloch has been a monthly guest columnist for the Observer & Eccentric Media for 15 years. McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association and holds credentials in mental health, addictions, traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and social work. He can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext.22.

Classes to begin at Inspire Theatre

Inspire School of Theatre Arts in Westland offers two classes for students during the fall semester.

Discovering the Stage is for beginning theater students, kids who want to act and need a place to get on stage. Youngsters will learn many of the basics of the stage. Students will receive instruction in stage directions, theater terms, the stage positions, finding their voice, and confidence in public speaking. The class project will be "Merry Christmas Charlie Brown" in December. The class is for ages 7-11 (younger upon interview.) The class is at 9 a.m. Sat-



Len Fisher

urday, for 10 weeks beginning Sept. 13. Theatre 101 is the advanced class for students who have had previous training. This course will build on the skills previously learned. The class will use the text, *Everything About Theatre*. Class assignments will include memorizing monologues and scenes, learning about costume and makeup, as well as set design, emotion, character development, lighting, sets, makeup, method acting, immer-

sion, finding truth, and picking the part. The class project will be a script written by the students and O. Henry's *Gift of the Magi*. The class, for ages 12-18, is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, beginning Sept. 13. Acceptance into class is by interview. There will be a \$10 book fee.

Each class costs \$20. Or a 10-week series is \$165 if paid at registration.

Registration is 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at Inspire Theatre, 5767 Executive Drive, Westland. For more information, contact Len Fiksher at inspire@inspiretheatre.com or call 734-751-7057.

Call for artists: Ofrendas wanted

Sugar skulls, flowers, favorite foods and mementos are traditional ingredients for annual Dia de los Muertos — Day of the Dead — altar displays called ofrendas.

But artists responding to the Detroit Institute of Arts' call for ofrenda proposals, can get creative, using their own unique items and media. Proposals are due by the end of the day Monday, Sept. 29. Artists who are selected for the exhibit will be contacted by the DIA by Monday, Oct. 6. Participating artists will receive a small stipend and payment for materials.

An ofrenda is a collection of objects and



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An ofrenda from last year's display at the DIA by Gabrielle and Juan Javier Pescador of Ann Arbor

usually is created for a person who has died, but

contemporary ofrendas have been created as a way to pay homage to places, moments in time, ideas and events that individuals feel are worth commemorating.

Proposals will include a short biography, dimensions of the work, materials that will be used in the work, a description of any technical needs such as extension cords and electrical plugs, a description of the work and a sketch of the proposed piece.

The chosen works will be on display Oct. 24 through Nov. 2. For complete proposal guidelines, visit <http://bit.ly/DIAOfrendas>.

Guide to Employment

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CHILDCARE ASSISTANTS
Part-Time for Christian Early Childhood Center in Plymouth. Experience is helpful. Call: 734-455-3196

CHILDCARE POSITIONS
Individuals exp'd in childcare. Early childhood education or CDA a plus. Mon-Fri, positions. Dearborn Hts: 3-6p.m. (toddler, preschool, elementary levels) Canton: 6:45-9am (preschool). Dearborn Heights: lspringer@montessori.org or 313-359-3000 Canton at: pcmontessori@sbglobal.net or 734-459-1550

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Full-Time, 11-6pm.
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Education

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Year-round, private school in Farmington Hills seeking an Upper Elementary Teacher who is passionate about teaching, loves being hands-on with children, has great classroom management skills & is comfortable with a multi-age classroom. Small group of students. Must be reliable and dedicated. Montessori certified teachers and state certified teachers are welcome to apply, as well as new graduates.

Email resume & cover letter: RHMAFH@yahoo.com

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Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering plus 2 years of related experience required. Qualified applicants should apply online w/resume & cover letter at: <http://dtna.jobs/>. Reference Job ID# CFDE-DDC1.

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Only qualified persons apply. Send resume and work history/experience to: resume_hr_department@yahoo.com

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General

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Help Wanted - General

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Help Wanted - General

MAINTENANCE WORKER

Water & Sewer Dept.



The City of Farmington is accepting applications for a Maintenance Worker in the Water and Sewer Department until 4:30 p.m., September 19, 2014 at the Public Works Office located at 33720 W. Nine Mile Road. Applicants should have three to five years of experience relating to construction, maintenance, or repair involving underground utilities, experience operating heavy equipment involving underground utilities, along with valid Michigan driver's license and CDL-B certification with air brakes. Starting pay at \$21.52/hr plus benefits.

City of Farmington employment applications are available at: Farmington City Hall 23600 Liberty Street and the Public Works Office.

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Experienced for oil change locations. Flexible scheduling. Veterans welcome. Resume: employment@victorylane.net

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Part Time / Full Time
Experience required. Must adore cats. Apply at: Carousal Cat Clinic 38437 Grand River Ave Farmington Hills 48335 248-476-9860

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Canton area business looking for a full-time office clerk. Quick learner with sharp data entry skills and detail oriented person needed. Benefits and great opportunity for the right candidate. Forward resume: Reference Box 1001 oceresume@hometownlife.com

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DENTAL ASSISTANT

Minimum of 2 yrs assistant experience in General Dental Office mandatory. Proficient in all areas of assisting. Good organizational & people skills. Good at multi-tasking & critical thinking for busy dental office. Full-Time with benefits. Some evenings & weekends req. Fax resume to: 313 557-0956

Dental Receptionist Part-Time/ Full-Time
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Five generations come together to applaud their family's patriarch

George DuVall's 92nd birthday brought together a dozen family members in May for a celebration lunch at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center of Plymouth. Five family members also posed for a photo.

"My dad has been a resident of Redford Township since 1950," said his daughter, Joyce DuVall, 60. "He is a long-time resident. He was an insurance adjuster. He's very active in the VFW in Redford Township."

DuVall's birthday was May 26. During the brunch celebration on May 25, Joyce DuVall, her son, Wayne Yates of Warren, her granddaughter, Alisha Yates of Westland, and great-grandson, Charles Pavloff, posed for a photo with the family patriarch.

DuVall describes her family as "very close-knit." Both she and Al-



SUBMITTED

George DuVall, (left), 92, of Redford Township celebrated his birthday and posed for a five-generation photo in May. With him are his daughter, Joyce DuVall, 60, also of Redford, his grandson, Wayne Yates, 39, of Warren, great-granddaughter Alisha Yates, 19, of Westland, and great-great-grandson Charles Pavloff, 6 months.

isha Yates work for Wayne Yates's heating and cooling business, Yates Service, in Warren. DuVall also lives with her father.

"I left to raise my children and then came

back to the family home," she said. "In 1995 we thought it was stupid to have two households with all the expenses for two households. I moved in."

— By Sharon Dargay

Plymouth couple marks their 50th wedding anniversary with family



SUBMITTED

Elizabeth and William O'Mara of Plymouth

William and Elizabeth (Stephens) O'Mara were married Aug. 27, 1964, at Cherry Hill Baptist Church in Dearborn Heights.

William is a retired marketing associate and a Vietnam veteran. Elizabeth is a retired teach-

er. They enjoy retirement life with family and friends in Plymouth, where they've lived for 38 years.

They have three daughters, Mary Beth (Jeffrey) Frank, Kelly (Jonathan) Stone, along

with four grandchildren, Kayla, Isabella, Liam and Keira.

The O'Maras celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a special dinner given by family.

CLASS REUNIONS

Send school reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

DEARBORN EDELFORD CLASS OF 1964

50-year reunion is planned 5-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, at Andiamo, 21400 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Email Judy (Berry) Buck at jarcuck@sbcbglobal.net for more details.

DEARBORN FORDSON HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1952

62nd reunion set for both January and June classes, Saturday, Sept. 13, at Park Place in Dearborn. Contact Al Orloff at orloffal@aol.com or 734-432-9308; or Marvin Smyth at mmsmyth@juno.com or 313-562-4378 for more information.

CLASSES OF 1965

50th reunion is set for Aug. 7, 2015, at the Italian American Banquet Center, 39200 Five Mile, east of Haggerty, Livonia. Tickets are \$60 each. Deadline is April 11, 2015. Contact Virginia (Mariani) Koch at 734-981-4763, ginny6491@att.net; Rochell May-Bridge at 734-675-2680, wildchild48138@aol.com.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS HASTON CLASSES OF 1963-64

Reunion organizers seek alumni, teachers and staff from 1963-64 and also friends from Brainard Elementary and Haston Jr. High who may have left school before the classes graduated at Haston. The main event is a dinner party Saturday, Sept. 20, at Andiamo Restaurant, Bloomfield Hills. Advance tickets are required. Email Diane Jones at dianejones816@gmail.com or by phone at 610-436-4915.

DETROIT CENTRAL HIGH CLASS OF 1954

60th reunion, 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, at Knollwood Country Club, 5050 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Includes dinner and entertainment. For more information, call Elaine Cohen Bass, 248-626-0146, Marion Carel Kantor, 248-661-0507, or Sandra Rogers Brenner, 248-200-7783.

DETROIT CODY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964

50-year reunion runs 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, Sept. 19, at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty, Novi. For more information, contact Mike and Barb Kerby, 734-525-0546, kerby66bam@msn.com.

DETROIT EASTERN HIGH ALL CLASSES

Annual reunion set for 1-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes a meal. Reservations deadline is Sept. 26. For more information call Judy Elias Thun at 586-296-2949 or Nancy Germain Linhard at nancylinhard@comcast.net.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Students traditionally toss their hats at the end of graduation ceremonies. Reunions are equally as traditional.

DETROIT MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1950S, '60S

Fourth annual picnic set for noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, at Nankin Mills Pavilion in Hines Park, corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive, Westland. Bring your own picnic or buy Michigan-made hot dogs, chips, pop, water and ice cream on site. Seating available under the shelter, or bring your own chairs and pop-ups. Questions? Call Janet Cable at 734-377-4009 or email mackenzie50s-60s@hotmail.com. Or check out www.classcreator.com/Detroit-MI-Mackenzie-1960

DETROIT REDFORD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1974

40-year reunion is set for 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at St. Aidan's Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Ticket purchase deadline is Sept. 1. Contact Tom Shaw at tomshaw7@aol.com, or call 734-524-0698.

GARDEN CITY EAST CLASS OF 1964

50th reunion is planned for Sept. 13 at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland. Contact Carol Hill at cph064@aol.com, Karen Berry at karber@comcast.net or Judy "O" at judeeeo@aol.com.

LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1984

30-year reunion, 7 p.m. Sept. 27, White Lake Inn, 3955 Ormond Road, White Lake. No need to RSVP for this casual night of conversation and catching up. For information, email heyboxman@wideopenwest.com.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL CLASS OF 1989

Gathering planned for 7 p.m. Sept. 20 in the bar area at One Under Bar & Grill, 35789 Five Mile, Livonia. Cash bar. For more information, email tsteale37@yahoo.com or nedoff@yahoo.com.

LIVONIA STEVENSON CLASS OF 1974

40-year reunion, planned by Linda Armstrong, Kim Geiger and Jack Karbowski, 7 p.m. to midnight Nov. 29, Corsi's Restaurant, 27910 Seven Mile, Livonia. Includes dinner, photo booth, disc jockey, pizza. Reservations and payment with Karbowski, 313-530-9634; karblitski@yahoo.com.

PLYMOUTH CANTON AND SALEM CLASS OF 1984

30-year class reunion is set for Saturday, Sept. 13. For details, visit PlymouthCantonSalem1984.com.

REDFORD THURSTON CLASS OF 1969

45th reunion is set for 6:30 p.m. Oct. 10, at Northville Hills Golf Club, 15565 Bay Hill Drive, Northville. Tickets are \$45 and include dinner, dancing and cash bar. RSVP by Sept. 1. Contact Jill Serbay at jjsrbay@gmail.com for more information.

ST. MARY'S OF REDFORD CLASS OF 1964

A 50-year reunion is planned for 6 p.m. Sept. 13, at Embassy Suites in Livonia. Call Pat Marunich at 313-690-4480.

CLASS OF 1969

45th reunion planned for Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. Contact Mark Coulter at 734-453-5423; mcoulter@gr-lakes.com.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN CLASS OF 1979

35th reunion starts with a informal get-together, 7:30 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 24, at Doc's Sports Retreat, 19265 Victor Parkway, Livonia. The reunion runs 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 25, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland. Cost of \$65 per person includes dinner, open bar, dancing and disc jockey. Make checks payable to JGHS Class of '79 and send to JGHS Class of '79, 887 Eton Ct., South Lyon, MI 48178.

CLASS OF 1994

20-year reunion is planned for 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at One Under Banquet Center, Livonia. Additional details are available at Eventbrite.com.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

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BELLAIRE, JOANNE MARIE

71, of Northville, went up to the "Spirit in the Sky" on August 26, 2014. She was born in Flint, Michigan to John and Anna Elston on November 2, 1942. Joanne grew up in Detroit and attended Visitation High School. She put up with her husband, Gord, for 50 years and 100 days. She is survived by their eight children, Jim (Maryanne), Margaret (Charlie) Harris, Gayle (Mike) Killingbeck, Tim (Andrea), Ellen (Joe) Elliott, Ed (Lisa), Mike, and Helen (Rich) Pianowski; and 15 grandchildren, Annemarie, Katie, Elizabeth, Joanne, Paige, Abby, Michael, Nate, Zach, Phil, Jackson, Melanie, Sarah, Stephen, and Mark. She also leaves behind one brother, Dick (Cindy) Elston; one brother-in-law, Michael (Sue) Bellaire; three nephews and one niece. Joanne held a Doctorate in Ministry, served as a chaplain at Huron Valley Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township and was an Associate of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. She will be remembered for her abundant kindness and quiet compassion; always giving never taking. Her award-winning talents included painting, drawing, doll making, quilting and puppetry. She also enjoyed reading, going to the movies, playing euchre and volunteering for various charitable organizations. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the charity of your choice are suggested. As per Joanne's wishes, no funeral will take place. A card party will be held in her memory at a later date. To leave a condolence www.schrader-howell.com.

Schrader-Howell
FUNERAL HOME



COTE, DEANNA

August 29, 2014, age 54 of Canton. Cherished wife of Serge. Loving mother of Nicholas, Ben and Chantel. Dear sister of Janice Menter, and the late; Robert (Kathy), Louise and Kenneth (Arlene) Menter. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation Tues 1-8 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., (between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Wed 10 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. funeral Mass at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Rd., Canton. Memorials may be made to the Cancer Support Community of Ann Arbor. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

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DAILY, MICHAEL "JERRY"

August 16, 2014. Age 76. A long time resident of Plymouth, MI passed away peacefully under Hospice care in Walnut Creek, CA. He was 76 years old. Born in Detroit, MI, to George and Mae Daily, Michael attended St. Mary's Catholic HS in Wayne, MI, honorably served in the US Army and received his BS and MBA from Michigan State University. He married Linda McKinley in April, 1966 and settled in Plymouth, MI, where they raised their family. Michael taught English and History for 35 years in Livonia, MI, first at Whitman Junior High then Stevenson High School where he retired in 2000. He was active in the community as a member of Plymouth Civitans and supporting Special Olympics. As a big Spartan fan, Michael attended and enjoyed many Michigan State Football games. He also loved to travel, sail and ski. Michael is survived by his wife of 30 years, Linda Daily, of Walnut Creek, CA; children, Bridget (Daily) and Gary Counce of Walnut Creek, CA and Kellie (Daily) and Rich Turkisher of Portland, OR; grandchildren, Sean, Alexandra and McKenzie Counce and Cameron and Reese Turkisher; brothers, Thomas Daily and wife Maryanne of Wayne, MI and Stan Daily and wife Susan of Stockbridge, MI; numerous special cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. Funeral service and burial with military honors will take place on Friday, September 12, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at Skylawn Memorial Park, 10600 Skyline Blvd., San Mateo, CA. A Celebration of Life and Christian Service will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014, 11:00 a.m. (family and friends will be received at 10:00 a.m.) at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI. Donations can be made in his honor to Vitas, CA East Bay at vitas.com/about-us.

MOSES, JANE

Age 88, wife of the late Don Moses; loving mother of Kathleen Costello, Jake Costello, Shaun Gorman, Lindsay DeBoer, and sister of Joan Karsten, passed away August 1, in hospice, in her home, in Dana Point, California, with her family around her. She was the cherished grandmother of Collin Costello, Conor, Katie, Haley Gorman, and Jake DeBoer. Her family and friends drew inspiration from her and loved her dearly. Her family will remember her and celebrate her life by scattering her ashes in the Pacific Ocean, per her wishes.

PETERS, ELEANOR

August 18, 2014, age "classified". Resided in Beverly Hills. Loving wife of James F. Peters for 67 years. Mother of James (Judith) Peters, Carolyn (Jerry) Hemphill, John (Donna) Peters and Lawrence (Nancy) Peters. Grandmother of Erika, Carey, James, Michael, Nicole, Jaclyn, Daniel, Julie, Ellis, Owen, John, Anthony and Matthew, great grandmother of Skyler, David, Anja and Naia. Our matriarch. Proud, elegant, strong of will, devoted, loving and witty. Small of stature, but large of presence - a presence which will be missed by all. Memorial Mass Saturday, September 27, 2014, 10:00 am at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, 32340 Pierce St., Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025 with a luncheon in her honor to follow. In lieu of flowers please contribute to a charity of your choice in Eleanor's honor. Memories or notes of condolences may be sent to the family at www.pixleyfuneral.com



SCHMIDT, WILLIAM T.

Of Birmingham, Michigan, born in Highland Park, MI, on September 24, 1931, passed away on August 25. He is survived by his son, Hans Christian of Portland, Oregon; and grandchildren Trevor and Elderkin Schmidt; brother Robert (Trudy) Schmidt of Arwheiler, Germany; and sister Ellen O'Donnell Anderson (Richard) of Nashville, Tennessee. Predeceased by his parents Hans and Esther Schmidt of Clinton, MI., and wives Anna Marie and Patricia. Bill served with distinction in the U.S. Marines in the Korean War and then graduated from Michigan State. He taught Math at Derby Middle School, Barnum Middle School and Seaholm High School where he also coached the girls' softball team. Bill enjoyed serving as a board member of the Birmingham Credit Union for several years, also frequent trips to the family cabin where he rebuilt vintage tractors, his "victory" garden and Saturdays at Eastern Market. Celebration of Life Service will be held by the family at a later date. Donations may be made to Bill's favorite charity, the Salvation Army.

WILLIAMS, ROSE M.

Aug. 18, 2014 Age 83 Visitation Sept 3, 4-8pm; Funeral Sept 4 6:30pm Swanson Funeral Home 14751 W. McNichols in Detroit.



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one...

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Hospitals win awards for improving stroke treatment

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Garden City Hospital recently received its third award in three consecutive years for following guidelines and procedures that improve outcomes for stroke patients.

It's one of eight hospitals in southeastern Michigan that earned recognition from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association for complying at least 85 percent of the time with the organizations' treatment guidelines, an improvement program called Get With The Guidelines.

Garden City Hospital earned a Stroke Gold Plus Award, signifying that it complied with the guidelines for two years and took additional steps to improve patient care.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia earned a Stroke Silver Plus Award, which marked a



Garden City Hospital staffers are proud of the recognition they received.

year of compliance with the guidelines.

Other award winners were Detroit Receiving Hospital, Henry Ford Hospital and Health Network, Detroit, Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, McLaren Oakland Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, and University of Michigan Health System.

"We received the Gold Plus for achievement for

2013 and I believe in 2012, the Silver," said Elaina Tsikaris, marketing communications specialist for Garden City Hospital.

Stroke center

Garden City Hospital became a certified primary stroke center a little over two years ago.

"We're identifying more people. Anyone who comes into our emergency room show-

ing certain (stroke) symptoms, we do a stroke alert," said Barbara Coldren, director of the emergency department at Garden City Hospital. "They go through triage, they're sent directly to CAT scan to see if they have a stroke and we bring the to the emergency department to give them TPA (medication to dissolve clots). It happens in 17

minutes from the time they come to our door to TPA."

Garden City Hospital sends stroke patients in need of more comprehensive care to St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac, which is certified as a comprehensive stroke center. Garden City Hospital also uses a stroke robot to help diagnose and determine the severity of a stroke. A neurologist at St. Joseph Mercy serves as the "eyes and ears" of the robot as it examines the patient.

Coldren said she's proud of the emergency department team at Garden City Hospital and that the award underscores the "good work we do."

"We're here for the community," she said.

Recognizing stroke

Coldren said strokes can occur at any age and that the best way to prevent them is by maintaining a "good weight,"

avoiding smoking, by exercising and knowing your blood pressure.

"We had a person who was 17 years old. Her mother said she isn't normal. We had neurology come in and they diagnosed a stroke," Coldren said. "It can happen at any age. We have to be aware of facial problems, speech problems and arm deviation."

The acronym, F.A.S.T., helps recall symptoms of stroke — drooping face, downward arm drift and slurred speech. The last letter stands for "time," indicating that 9-1-1 should be called immediately.

Both Garden City Hospital and St. Mary Mercy Hospital offer classes to help individuals maintain a healthy weight, stop smoking and follow a healthy diet. They also run support groups for stroke patients. For more information, visit gch.org and stmarymercy.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Upcoming

American Red Cross

Upcoming blood drives:
Redford — 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Aug. 31, Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, 17116 Olympia St.

Southfield — 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile.

Call 800-RED CROSS to make an appointment.

Back pain

A panel of Oakwood Hospital orthopedic spine specialists will present a free class on back pain, its causes, and treatments 6-8 p.m. Sept. 2 at Oakwood Hospital — Southshore, 5450 Fort St. in Trenton. Register at Oakwood-d.org or call 800-543-9355.

Breather's Club

The Oakwood Cardiac Rehab Center — Dearborn offers the Breather's Club program as an educational resource and support system for anyone who has been touched by COPD. This month's free program runs 6-7:30 p.m. Sept. 2 at the center, 22060 Beech St. in Dearborn. For more information, visit Oakwood.org or call 313-562-4132.

Desserts

Learn ways to make desserts and still stay on track with your health goals in an interactive workshop with Botsford Hospital dietitian Denise Cykiert, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Busch's Fresh Foods Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$5 and includes a \$5 Busch's coupon, recipes, and samples. Seating is limited. Register by calling or visiting the Guest Service Counter in the store; 248-427-7400.

Diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a free six-week workshop for adults with diabetes, 2-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, beginning Sept. 2. Diabetes PATH (Personal Approach Toward Health) will teach participants to handle with the challenges of diabetes, manage symptoms and communicate more effectively with physicians and family members. Register by calling 734-655-8950 or at stmarymercy.org.

Grilling

Botsford Hospital dietitian Denise Cykiert will give tips on how to keep grilled recipes healthy and nutritious. 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Busch's Market, 33300 W. 14 Mile, West Bloomfield. Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron will demonstrate grilled dishes. Cost is \$15 and includes a \$5-off-of-\$50 coupon, recipes, samples

and more. Register by calling the store or visiting the Guest Service Counter. 248-539-4581.

Hearing support

Hearing Loss Association of America will hold an "open mic" for sharing and learning 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Contact Tony at 734-664-3297, afterack@comcast.net

NAMI Walks

The 11th annual Walk of the Minds starts with registration at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Heritage Park, 46202 Heritage Park Road, Canton. The 5K walk will start at noon. NAMI Walks is a nationwide fundraising and mental health awareness program that is being held in nearly 100 communities around the country. For more information, call Shelene Hahn, Walk manager, at 800-331-4264; shahn@namimimi.org.

Women's health

Paul Makela, M.D., medical director of gynecological robotic surgery at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, will present information about bladder dysfunction and overactive bladder 6-7 p.m. Sept. 24 at Meadowbrook Country Club, 40941 W. Eight Mile, Northville. Register by Sept. 19 at 734-655-1980.

Ongoing

Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The program helps those with eating and exercise disorders find recovery. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. To join or for more information, visit www.ymca-detroit.org.

Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the

second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Blood pressure

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (\$5), and lipid panel (\$10) testing, 10 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of each month in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, at Wayne Road in Westland; 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at

Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City; and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

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Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs. Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

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The Henry

300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, MI, 48126

Seating & Exhibitor Area: 10:45 am

Lunch Program: 12 Noon – 2:15 pm

Individual Tickets: \$75

Table of 10: \$750

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Job-search gimmicks:

The good, the bad & the ugly

By Robert Half

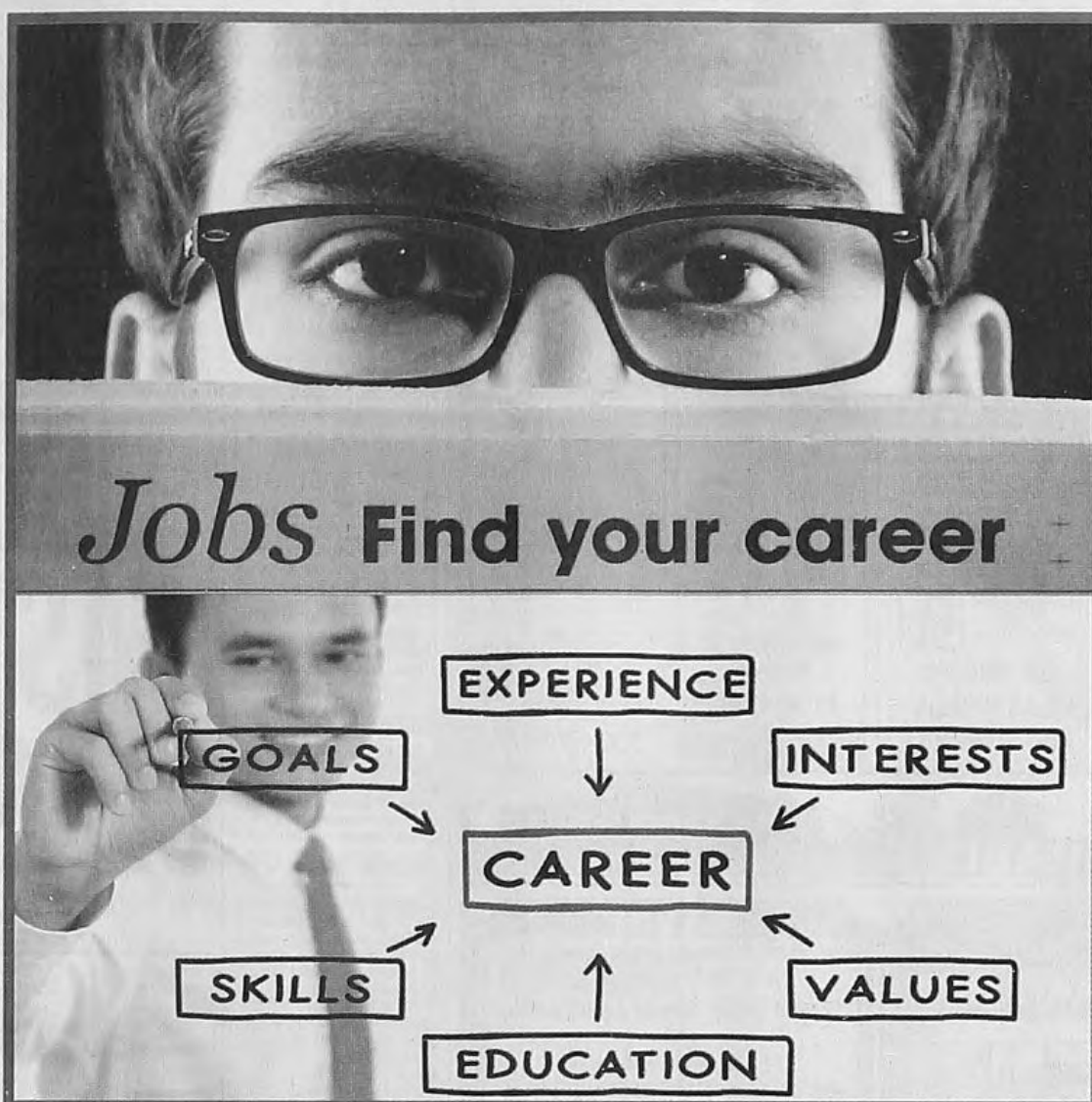
In today's ultra-competitive job market, it can sometimes help to make yourself stand out from other job seekers through a bold gesture or nontraditional résumé. After all, if you or your résumé don't stand out in some way, you run the risk of being overlooked for what could be your dream job. So why not be bold and take a risk? I'll tell you why -- because there can be a very fine line between being innovative and being overbearing and even a little scary.

The key to success is to carefully consider the atmosphere of the company you are applying to (a staid accounting firm may not appreciate your dressing up in a gorilla suit to deliver your résumé), and learn what you can about the hiring manager before making first contact. When trying to separate yourself from your competition, consider these moves made by fearless -- or frightening -- job seekers. Sometimes they pay off, and sometimes they fall flat.

The good

Be innovative: A laid-off sales manager targeted his dream company by creating a website that was devoted to his job search at that company. The site included photographs of himself, his résumé and even a blog detailing his job quest. It got the attention he wanted, and it paid off with a phone interview and meeting with company recruiters. In this case, putting himself out there was a good way to get noticed.

Go where the decision-makers go: You don't want to come off as a stalker, but you do want to find out where influencers meet and join the club, like one job seeker did in New York. This entertainment industry executive joined an exclusive gym frequented by ce-



lebrities and media moguls in order to increase his visibility, and it paid off. In essence, this is like taking networking to the extreme, and we all know that networking is one of the best ways to land a job.

The bad

Don't be childish: One job seeker got a bit too cutesy with his cover letter in his application to a company in Florida. He used the letters of his first name to high-

light his strengths, sort of like an elementary school writing project. (For example: D is for Determined; A is for Attentive; N is for Nice). N must also be for "No way!" He didn't get the interview.

Always be professional, and don't resort to gimmicks or toys. Another job seeker brought a Rubik's Cube to her interview to illustrate her problem-solving skills. It was distracting and socially awkward. Remember that you're an adult and a professional.

Don't bring food:

Although most office workers appreciate those home-baked goodies their co-workers bring in, it's not a good practice for a job seeker to employ. You may be a great baker, but delivering cookies (or candy or even office plants) to a potential employer smacks of desperation and perhaps a bit of bribery.

Your merits should stand on their own; plus, many people are wary of eating items brought by strangers.

The ugly

Don't be a stalker:

Sure, you want to get your name out there; you may even want to hand-deliver your résumé. Just don't do what this desperate Boston job seeker did. She visited the company every day for several weeks, each time asking to speak to a different company representative. She then sat in the reception area for hours, waiting for that person. It came across as creepy, and no one ended up meeting with her.

Don't go bananas:

That gorilla-suit example mentioned previously really did happen. A man delivered his résumé in costume to a construction company and then sang about the qualifications he had that made him the perfect candidate. He even brought balloons. The company CEO was not amused, and the man was escorted from the building.

When trying to stand out during a job hunt, it's still best to stick with traditional means: Express your qualifications in your cover letter and résumé and shine in that coveted job interview. If you want to do more, make sure your gesture is appropriate for your industry and for the particular company to which you are applying. Sometimes, taking a risk can really pay off, like the MIT graduate who stood on a busy New York street corner handing out résumés. He ended up landing a job at an accounting firm.

Sometimes with risk comes great rewards.

Adrienne Erin is a freelance writer and social media marketer who loves collecting oddball stories about professional development. To see more of her work, follow @adrienneerin on Twitter or visit her blog, Design Roast.

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City of Farmington employment applications are available at:

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Some evenings & weekends req. Fax resume to: 313 557-0956

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Part-Time/ Full-Time

Some Sat's for Periodontal & Implantology Practice in Milford/Farmington Hills. Must have dental knowledge. Contact Karen at: 248-851-1034

Histotechnologist
Mohs surgeon seeks Histotechnician with frozen section experience to process fresh tissue with Mohs frozen section techniques in his expanding, private practice. Background in histology, crystal preparation and maintenance, and histochemical staining is essential. Full or part-time, excellent pay and benefits. Ann Arbor area. Email or Fax resume to: azderm@aol.com (734) 996-8767

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Help Wanted - Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Minimum of 2 yrs assistant experience in General Dental Office mandatory. Proficient in all areas of assisting. Good organizational & people skills. Good at multi-tasking & critical thinking for busy dental office. Full-time with benefits. Some evenings & weekends req. Fax resume to: 313 557-0956

Dental Receptionist
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Car Report

Toyota Boosts Michigan Vehicle-Development Capabilities, Adds Jobs Here



By Dale Buss

Mainly lost amid the uproar in California over the planned move of Toyota's headquarters operations to Texas has been news of the other big state beneficiary in the reorganization of the company's U.S. operations: Michigan.

Toyota also is moving 250 direct-procurement jobs from its Erlanger, Ky., operations to its Toyota Technical Center research-and-development complex near Ann Arbor, Mich., as part of the restructuring under which Toyota will uproot about 4,000 sales, marketing and administrative jobs from Torrance, Calif., and set them down in Plano, Texas, over the next few years. It just formalized the Michigan move after receiving guarantees of \$4 million in state incentives.

"To have everyone under one roof and working together – suppliers and engineers and purchasing people – allows for greater efficiency and better communications and ultimately a

much stronger R&D activity," Bruce Brownlee, general manager of external affairs for Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing in Ann Arbor, told me.

Toyota will invest \$32.5 million to construct a new office building on its 690-acre engineering and testing campus, where it already employs 1,100 people, mostly engineers and designers. Toyota houses five chief global engineers in the facility, where it oversees engineering worldwide for important vehicles including the Camry, Sienna, Avalon and Tundra.

Brownlee explained that with Toyota's engineering managers in Michigan and its supply-chain chiefs in Kentucky, where Toyota has had a manufacturing operation for three decades, "often there was miscommunication between the engineering and purchasing sides in terms of direction. It was important to bring all the parties that are engaged in this activity onto one

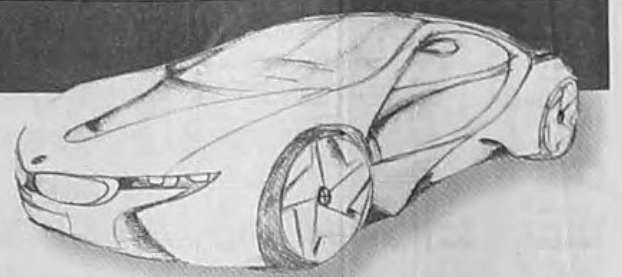
campus. And the portion that was missing was our purchasing and procurement folks in Erlanger. They work closely with suppliers, and so do engineers."

The plan to move the 250 procurement jobs to Michigan is just the latest augmentation of the massive base of white-collar automotive activity in southeastern Michigan, the biggest such brain trust in the world – and a crucial economic asset that is often overlooked in the focus on actual vehicle-manufacturing activity in the state.

In addition to the thousands of researchers and product developers employed by each of the Detroit Three automakers in the area, and other foreign-owned automakers such as Hyundai and Kia have established R&D operations in Michigan as well.

Also, major suppliers house their own technical centers; Robert Bosch, for instance, just broke ground on an expansion of its technical center in Plymouth Township, Mich., that will nearly double its size and add as many as 200 jobs in the next three years. The 220,500-square-foot expansion and total investment of \$40 million at the site will allow Bosch to consolidate and add to its Michigan operations and help accelerate growth in automotive electronics, start-stop motors, electrical drives and other technologies.

Toyota has had research-and-development operations in



The Toyota Tundra is one vehicle whose global engineering is overseen in Michigan.

Michigan for more than 30 years. "The synergy we already have in Michigan is unique around the world," Brownlee said. "No other place in the world has such a high concentration of engineering talent. It's not easily duplicated; things don't work that way. It makes a whole lot of sense for us to be moving these jobs here too."

Brownlee also praised the improving business climate in Michigan that has occurred under Gov. Rick Snyder, former CEO of Gateway Computer, since his election in 2010. It has included elimination of an omnibus tax on companies that vexed nearly every business chief in the state, as well as a recognition that fostering its unique edge in automotive engineering is important for the economic future of the state.

"Michigan now is a very excellent place to do business," Brownlee said. "The administration has been very positive in terms

of some of its policies related to business. Those are all pieces of the puzzle."

The potential hangup for Michigan's continued growth in this area is a lack of qualified college graduates in engineering and related disciplines, which is blamed on many factors including a lack of focus in lower education on science, technology and math. Michigan isn't alone in facing this challenge -- but because of the importance of the auto industry to the state, the challenge is more important to Michigan than to most other states.

"It's an issue we're all contending with," Brownlee said, "and we've appreciated the direction the state is taking in trying to address this as an important issue. A lot of very intentional efforts are being made, and it's a huge area of concentration for all of us."



The Toyota Technical Center near Ann Arbor.

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