

CANTON OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014 • hometownlife.com



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE SPECIAL SECTION

Board votes to close 2 elementaries

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday made official what Allen Elementary parents had feared since early October: Their school will close after this school year.

The board voted 5-2 Tuesday night to close Allen and the Tanger Center, both locat-

ed in Plymouth Township, and repurpose Gallimore Elementary School in Canton as part of a redistricting plan made necessary by declining enrollment and the opening of a new middle school next year.

In a separate vote, the board approved the first reading of a proposal for new middle school boundaries. The final decision on that plan will be made next week.

Allen and Tanger will be closed as educational facilities; no prognosis for their future has been discussed. Gallimore will be repurposed to house the elementary TAG program now split between Miller and Dodson elementaries, and the Infant and Pre-school Special Education Program currently at Tanger.

The decision did not come easily.

"It's heart-wrenching ... but our financial situation has gotten so difficult, and with the declining enrollment (district-wide) due to declining birth rate and the charters, it was something we had to do," board President Judy Mardigan said. "My heart breaks for the Allen and Gallimore communities ... But we're at the point where we had to make a decision."

As one might expect, Allen's parents and staff didn't take the news well. A large contingent from the Allen community turned out for the meeting, which was moved to Plymouth High School to accommodate the crowd.

As has been their custom at recent meetings, they were adorned in red and stood unit-

See CLOSE, Page A2



The Workman Elementary Choir performs.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Father faces trial on abuse charges

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Barring a plea deal, a 33-year-old Canton father is facing trial on charges he abused his 8-week-old daughter, who police say suffered three fractured ribs and a fractured femur in her right leg.

Vincent Joel French II, described by police as 6-foot-2, 280 pounds, was ordered Friday by 35th District Judge Ron Lowe to stand trial on two counts of second-degree child abuse as French appeared in court for his preliminary examination.



Vincent Joel French II

French could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted as charged in Wayne County Circuit Court. He is expected back in district court as early as Friday on misdemeanor charges of fourth-degree child abuse and domestic violence involving his 7-year-old stepdaughter.

Police have said the baby, the stepdaughter and a 9-year-old stepson, who apparently wasn't injured, have been placed in protective custody as the case unfolds.

French was charged after the baby girl was taken to a hospital Oct. 12 for a fractured femur and fractured ribs that police say had started to heal. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy subsequently charged French with causing the injuries to the baby.

French was jailed with a

See CHARGES, Page A2

Tuskegee Airman talks war, racism as Canton honors veterans

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Retired Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, a war hero and black fighter pilot who spent nine months in German prison camps during World War II, recalls fighting another battle - against racism and segregation - after proudly serving this county as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

Jefferson, who celebrates his 93rd birthday Nov. 15,

took his bravery from war-torn Europe to the streets of his hometown Detroit, fighting injustice amid the civil rights movement. Yet he is quick to defend his country.

"This is the best country in the world," he said Tuesday night in Canton.

Jefferson was the keynote speaker as a crowd packed the 400-seat Village Theater at Cherry Hill for a Salute to

See VETERANS, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Keynote speaker Lt. Col. (retired) Alexander Jefferson addresses war, racism.

Canton man gets prison time for injuring girlfriend, cop

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton man will spend two to 10 years in prison after authorities say he assaulted his girlfriend and stabbed a police officer who forced his way inside the home to intervene.

Nicholas Gregory Schumann, 24, was sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Deborah Thomas after he pleaded guilty to a charge of

assault with intent to do great bodily harm, less than murder, a court clerk confirmed Monday.

Schumann also was slapped with court fines and fees totaling \$1,998. He received credit for 77 days he already served in jail.

Schumann was charged



Schumann

after police were called to a domestic incident that was unfolding about 4 a.m. Aug. 21 at College Park Estates, a mobile home community on Mott east of Ridge.

A police officer who forced his way inside the home was "stabbed in the face near his eye" by a piece of wood that Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said came from a broken door jamb.

The officer was fortunate he only received minor in-

juries, Baugh said, but Schumann's girlfriend had to receive medical treatment for a brutal assault that left her eyes and face swollen.

Schumann was sentenced by Thomas after he agreed to plead guilty to the most serious charge against him. In return, authorities dismissed other charges including assault with a dangerous weapon; assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer causing injury; and aggravat-

ed domestic violence. Baugh described the officer who was injured as a 22-year veteran of the Canton Police Department.

Baugh said a 2-year-old boy and a 3-month-old girl were in the house when the incident erupted, but neither was injured.

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PRICE: \$1

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA
hometownlife.com
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Volume 40 • Number 42

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 | Return Address: 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi MI 48377

INDEX

Business	A7	Homes	B9	Services	B9
Crossword Puzzle	B10	Jobs	B9	Sports	B10
Entertainment	B6	Obituaries	B5	Wheels	B10
Food	B7	Opinion	A10		

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Salvation Army seeks turkey donations

Plymouth Salvation Army officials realize the obvious: No Thanksgiving dinner is complete without a nice turkey to carve.

And considering the PSA is determined to help some 400 families get a traditional Thanksgiving meal, that's a lot of turkeys. And so far, they're coming up short.

The Plymouth Salvation Army Corps, which services families in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, is in need of some 275 frozen turkeys (averaging size: 15 pounds) for their annual Community Thanksgiving distribution.

"The Thanksgiving meal is a family experience, and we want to

make sure as many families as possible have that experience," said Laurie Aren, the PSA's director of family and community ministries. "This community has always been more than generous, and we couldn't operate these programs without local donations."

Along with the tur-

keys, Aren said, families will get "all the fixins'" for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Donations will be "gratefully accepted," Aren said, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Deadline for donation (and distribution) is Saturday, Nov. 22.



BRAD KADRICH

Parents, kids and supporters crowded the curb in front of Allen Elementary School on Haggerty in Plymouth Township Sunday to show support for the school. On Tuesday, the Board of Education voted to close it.

CLOSE

Continued from Page A1

ed in their hope their school wouldn't be closed.

In the end, though, the board went with the administration's recommendation.

"I am deeply saddened by the decision of the board this evening," Allen parent Michelle McAvoy said. "I will stand by my position that the Steering Committee did not provide sufficient, consistent or reliable data to justify a 'yes' vote. I am confident that our Allen community will come together to support our school family through all of the upcoming transitions."

Trustee Mark Horvath was one of the two "no" votes (Mike Maloney was the other). Horvath said he couldn't support the plan because it still lacked data he said he'd been asking for.

That data included items such as the costs for optional, tuition-based programming - "All we got was the revenue side," he said - and transportation costs associated with the plan.

"The transportation data was just a guess ... The data just wasn't there," Horvath said.

"I'm a big advocate that we have to close schools and get our costs in line. At this point I don't know if we should close two schools or three or four. I didn't get the data to support the conclusions. I can't support what I can't explain to our customers."

The board also approved the first reading of the middle school plan. The boundary steering committee - and district administrators - recommended the second of three options.

The recommended option - Option 2 in the plan - is basically the original proposal with a couple of modifications. Eriksson Elementary students would move as a whole to Discovery Middle School, rather than being split between the new school and Discovery Middle School. This option also adds a piece of Workman to the new middle school and creates an additional elementary school split (Workman under Option 1 would move entirely to Pioneer).

The board is expected to formally vote on the middle school plan at a meeting Tuesday, Nov. 18, likely back at Plymouth High School.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The audience sings "God Bless America" with the Workman Elementary School Choir.

VETERANS

Continued from Page A1

Service ceremony marking Veterans Day.

Racism problem

One of the oldest surviving Tuskegee Airmen, Jefferson said blacks have fought for this country since before the Civil War, though he blamed racism for attempts to keep African Americans uneducated.

"With education is that stick in the hand to fight the system," he said.

That's just what he and other black soldiers did - become educated, go to war for their country and fight for their own freedom. Sadly, Jefferson said he often was treated with more respect by his German captors than as a black veteran returning home.

A black-and-white video honoring Jefferson's life was shown on a Village Theater movie screen before he addressed the crowd, receiving a standing ovation that marked a huge departure from his treatment as a civil rights-era war veteran. He also was given a birthday cake for his 93rd birthday.

Happy birthday

Canton Township Trustee John Anthony, who introduced Jefferson, said he would have to find out what soft drink Jefferson wanted with his cake.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Workman Elementary Choir sings "On Veterans Day."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marine Corps veteran Bob Paul, a collector of military memorabilia, speaks with Tanya and Rick Dubay. Tanya's mother, Lois Lyons, who passed away two years ago, was an Army nurse, serving in Vietnam.

"Pabst Blue Ribbon," Jefferson said, drawing laughter from the crowd. Jefferson's keynote address wove together his thoughts on war, racism and modern society. He lamented prayer disappearing from schools and, noticing the Village Theater crowd carrying small U.S. flags, worried about that such forms of expression could "be taken away."

Jefferson brought a message that education is the key to success. He was a graduate of Chadsey High School in Detroit and Clark University and, after serving in the 332nd Fighter Group during World War II, he returned to Detroit to teach elementary school science before he became an assistant principal.

Jefferson also penned his war memories in *Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW*. He said struggles for equality continue. He said white women on average make 75 cents compared to a white man's \$1 for the same job - and black women fare worse. He also spoke of war atrocities in places such as Rwanda.

Tough spot

While in a prison camp, Jefferson said he saw dead bodies piled high and still recalls the smell of burning flesh. After he was taken captive, he said a message was sent to his parents that he had been killed in action.

Despite the difficult situation, Jefferson, one

of the founders of the Tuskegee Airmen Detroit chapter, said serving in World War II "opened up avenues for black men."

In other Salute to Service highlights:

» The Workman Elementary School choir performed patriotic songs such as *On Veterans Day* and *You Are Our Heroes*, drawing accolades from Jefferson and the crowd.

» The Dearborn chapter of Michigan Military Moms collected nonperishable items that Regina Adams, corresponding secretary, said will be sent to service men and women overseas for the holidays. For more on the group, go to www.michiganmilitarymoms.com.

» Attendees saw numerous war memorabilia on display in the Village Theater lobby. Cheryl Vatcher-Martin, a disabled veteran who served stateside and in the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard, displayed military uniforms, photos and food rations along with her husband, John, a Vietnam veteran.

» Rich Mazurkiewicz of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 played *Taps* from a theater balcony. Early on, Rocky Barra, pastor of Canton's Connection Church, said a prayer for those "who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms."

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CHARGES

Continued from Page A1

\$500,000 cash bond after he was formally arraigned on the felony counts. He already had been jailed with a \$10,000 cash bond for the misdemeanor cases involving

the 7-year-old stepdaughter.

Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh has said the incidents allegedly occurred inside an apartment at The Crossings, a sprawling complex southeast of Joy Road and I-275 on Canton's north side.

Baugh has said the

child's mother was cooperating with police.

Police learned of the alleged abuse after the hospital contacted Child Protective Services, which then notified Canton police.

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734-972-0919

CANTON OBSERVER

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Community Office:

29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.00 (Sun. & Thurs.)
\$8.00 E2 pay per month
\$49.00 six months
\$98.00 per year
\$77.00 six months mail delivery
\$154.00 per year mail delivery

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FIGHTING BACK

Family fundraiser battles bone-marrow syndrome

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Not much is known about the bone marrow failure disease Shwachman-Diamond syndrome. There isn't much information about it, doctors have a tough time providing a prognosis and the symptoms are so variable that people can go for years without being diagnosed.

Rob and Erica Frew are hoping a fundraiser they're conducting at Super Bowl in Canton Saturday will help raise awareness of – and money for – the rare disease.

And if anyone should be able to help raise the syndrome's profile, it should be the Frews, whose three sons have all been diagnosed with SDS. The Frews are hoping their family will help put a face on the disease.

"Receiving a diagnosis of a disease like SDS is frightening," Erica Frew said. "We want people to know what SDS is and know that it is their community. We want people to connect faces to this disease that they have never heard of, and may never see again. Yes, we want to raise money – money is what helps families and funds research. But just as important is that people know that SDS exists."

Dealing with it

The Frew family has been dealing with the syndrome since January 2010, when their eldest son, Kyle, then 2 years



The Frew family – parents Rob and Erica with sons Ian, Kyle and Gavin – are fighting back against Shwachman-Diamond syndrome.

ERICA FREW

old, was officially diagnosed. Kyle had experienced poor growth, malabsorption and intermittent low white blood cell count since around his first birthday. While Kyle's pediatrician seemed unconcerned, his parents weren't convinced.

"We were initially concerned he had celiac disease, but that was ruled out," Erica Frew said. "Our doctor at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital suspected SDS in September 2009, and we received genetic confirmation in January 2010."

Twins Gavin and Ian were diagnosed in September 2012 based on genetic testing. They had no obvious symptoms at

the time. "We tested them at 5 months old simply because their older brother has the syndrome," Erica Frew said. "We received genetic confirmation of their diagnosis in September 2012."

Invisible illness

Part of the frustration of SDS is that it's an "invisible" illness. Eric said she frequently hears the boys "look too well to be sick." And that's true in large measure because the family works hard at it.

All three take pancreatic enzymes before they eat since their pancreases do not properly produce enzymes needed for digestion. The en-

zymes that they lack aid in the absorption of the fat-soluble vitamins, and they require high-dose supplementation to maintain normal levels of vitamins A, D, E and K.

She said Kyle, the 7-year-old, "struggles" with the chronic aspects of his syndrome.

"He doesn't like having to take (medication) at school, he doesn't like missing school for doctors appointments," Erica said. "He does not like being different from his friends."

While bone marrow transplants haven't been necessary for 7-year-old Kyle or 2 1/2-year-old Ian, Gavin underwent one in August. Since then, he's been busy in C.S. Mott

Children's Hospital's bone marrow transplant clinic weekly – a schedule that changes to bi-weekly when he hits the 100-day post-transplant mark Saturday.

Tough times

The disease has been hard on the family. They have to be cautious about illness, especially since Gavin has no immune system following the transplant. The family monitors the boys' exposure when they know people around them are ill.

"One person's cold could potentially send my boys to the hospital for strong antibiotics, with a potential 48-hour stay," Erica said. "We

RAISING THE PROFILE

What: Fundraiser for Shwachman-Diamond syndrome

When: Saturday, Nov. 15, 5-7 p.m.

Where: Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road in Canton

Why: Raise awareness and money for the Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome Foundation

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door (\$15 for kids)

Contact: For details, call Erica Frew, 313-492-4075, or email team-gavinfrew@gmail.com. More information is also available on Facebook at facebook.com/gavinfrew

avoid putting ourselves into those situations when we can."

Still, the family keeps busy, something that gets tougher as the weather cools and chances for safe activities outdoors dwindle. Being inside with large groups isn't safe for Gavin following the transplant.

All in all, the family is doing OK.

"We have a good support system, which helps a lot," Erica said. "Some days we are so mentally exhausted that it feels hard to function, though. Our reality is that we have three chronically ill kids, and we have no idea what their futures look like. That type of uncertainty – living with what-ifs – can be exhausting. So we take it one day at a time. Enjoy the good, deal with the bad when/if it comes around."

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Veteran cops announce retirements

The Canton Police Department will say goodbye to two of its lieutenants next week, as the men retire from long-standing careers with the department.

In their current positions, both serve as platoon commanders in the patrol division, overseeing the daily operations of their assigned shifts made up of sergeants and patrol officers.

David Schreiner was hired as a Canton Police officer in 1987. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2001, and lieutenant in 2013. Schreiner earned his bachelor's degree from Ferris State University



Gajeski

Schreiner

and his master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. He is also a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Police Staff & Command School.

During his 27-year career with the department, Schreiner spent 12 years assigned to the department's Detective

Bureau, seven years as a detective and five as the supervising sergeant, investigating and overseeing countless felony cases. Most notably, he investigated a criminal sexual conduct case that was featured on *America's Most Wanted*.

Schreiner also served numerous terms as union president for both the police and command officers unions.

Mark Gajeski was hired as a Canton Police officer in 1986. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2006 and to lieutenant earlier this year. Gajeski earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice

from Ferris State University, and is also a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Police Staff & Command School.

During his 28-year career with the department, Gajeski served 22 years on the Western-Wayne Special Operations Team. As a member of this elite SWAT unit, he specialized in chemical munitions and explosive breaching. He was promoted through the unit from team leader to senior team leader, to executive officer, serving as second in command of a multi-jurisdictional unit.

"The department is losing a

tremendous amount of skill and knowledge with the retirement of these two individuals," said Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler. "Their careers with Canton took them down two diverse paths, with both men excelling in their respective specialty of choice - Lt. Gajeski's being special operations, and Lt. Schreiner's being criminal investigations. They both have done an outstanding job of mentoring officers in their fields of specialty, setting the department up for continued success in their absence," Mutchler added. "I wish them both the best in their future endeavors."

Man arrested on disorderly charge

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A 31-year-old Wixom man was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge late last month after he became irate when officers questioned him about the ladder he was carrying near a construction site, police said.

The arrest occurred shortly before noon on Oct. 27 near the construction site at Robert Bosch LLC, at Five Mile and Haggerty. The Bosch facility there is being expanded.

According to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, police got a call from another police agency about a man in the area who was carrying an eight-foot ladder and wearing a backpack. An officer stopped the man and told him to put down the ladder, and he complied, the report said.

But he became agitated and, using profanity, told police the ladder belonged to "someone," but would not go into detail, police said. He was uncooperative and demanded to see a supervisor, and a sergeant was called to the scene, police said.

At one point, police said, the man reached into a pocket, and an officer grabbed his wrist until it was determined the man was only reaching for lip balm. The man then became irate and threw the tube of balm, nearly hitting an officer, police said.

Eventually, the man was arrested for disorderly conduct, issued a citation and released.

Police contacted a construction worker at Bosch, but he told them there were several contractors on the site and he didn't know if the ladder belonged to any of them. Police secured the ladder.

Drunken driving dad

A 39-year-old father was arrested for driving drunk and endangering his children, ages 12 and 17, after he was stopped shortly before 9 p.m. Nov. 4 on Michigan Avenue near I-275, a police report said.

Police stopped the man's 2009 Ford Fusion after receiving notice of a suspicious vehicle that had pulled onto Michigan Avenue from Morton Taylor, a police report said. The driver was accused of crossing lanes without signaling and then entering the southbound I-275 ramp.

The man told police he, his wife and their two children were coming from the Arctic Edge ice arena where his 12-year-old son been playing hockey. He said he had one beer but then admitted he had three. He told police he had stopped at a party store on Michigan Avenue before the traffic stop was made.

The man's car was towed. Police took the mother and children to a nearby McDonald's where they had arranged for another ride.

A test of the man's blood-alcohol level at the police station revealed he was nearly twice the legal limit of .08 percent.

CRIME WATCH

Unlawful entry

A Canton man was ticketed by police for unlawful entry after he was accused of forcing his way inside a house he has been renting to woman who formerly lived there with his stepson, a police report said.

A police report indicated the 63-year-old suspect knocked on the door, didn't get an answer, forced open a latch and gained entry so he could get his tile saw from the garage.

The incident happened Sunday afternoon on Alton, near Joy and I-275, police said. The 40-year-old female tenant, who lives there with her 3-year-old daughter, told police she was in a back bedroom when she heard a noise elsewhere in the house.

She told police she saw him rustling through a kitchen drawer, apparently to find a garage door opener. She said she warned him she would call police and he didn't object, though the report indicated he ultimately left in a Ford F-150 pickup truck.

Police saw the truck on westbound Joy near Haggerty, stopped it and asked the suspect to escort them back to the scene. According to police reports, he said he saw the tenant's car in her driveway, believed she was home, knocked on the door and went

inside, apparently breaking a latch.

A police report indicated the man's stepson had moved out following a domestic dispute in August. The report said the stepson has been ordered not to go to the house. The report also said the tenant has been issued an eviction notice.

The tenant told police the homeowner didn't threaten her, but he was issued a citation for unlawful entry because he hadn't made arrangements to go into the house and there was no emergency requiring it.

Crack cocaine arrest

Police arrested a 35-year-old Ypsilanti man for possession of crack cocaine after making a traffic stop shortly before 2:30 a.m. Saturday on Michigan Avenue near Beck, a police report said.

Police learned a 31-year-old man in the vehicle was wanted for unrelated warrants out of Allen Park and Dearborn for issues such as traffic offenses.

Police stopped the men in a 1995 Ford Thunderbird after the car passed a patrol car and an officer ran a background check.

- By Darrell Clem

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FOOD DRIVE

Date: Month of November
Location: Plymouth Comfort Keepers
Details: According to the Mayo Clinic and the American Dietetic Association, more than one in three seniors in the care of others is at risk for under- or malnutrition. The Plymouth office of Comfort Keepers will be conducting a food drive through November. Nonperishable food items can be dropped off at the Plymouth District Library (223 S. Main), the Plymouth Cultural Center (525 Farmer) and the Canton Community Foundation (50430 School House Road., Suite 200). The Senior Alliance and the Salvation Army of Plymouth will assist Comfort Keepers in distribution.
Contact: For more information, contact Comfort Keepers at 734-771-7404 or go to www.ComfortKeepers.com

DENTIST OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 15, noon to 4 p.m.
Location: Contemporary Dentistry, 1325 N. Canton Center in Canton.
Details: The Contemporary Dentistry team hosts its grand opening open house to celebrate its new location. The event features on-site tours, contests, hors d'oeuvres and a screening that shares the production of the new state-of-the-art facility. The first 100 people will be entered into a raffle. Grand prizes include an iPod for a child, a \$500 gift card to Nordstrom for a woman and a specialized bicycle for a man.

ANXIETY WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Location: New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty, Plymouth Township
Details: Local educational leader and psychologist Cheryl Blau makes a presentation on how to help children cope with stress, acknowledging that, in today's fast-paced world, many children ages 2-18, struggle with stress, anger and/or anxiety. The 45-minute workshop will explore how stress, anger and anxiety are triggered in children and what parents can do to help their children cope.
Contact: To RSVP, and for more information, email nicole@new-morningschool.com

NEW SCHOOL MEETINGS

Dates/Times/Locations:
 Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, 1-3 p.m.
 Monday, Dec. 1, at the Plymouth Township offices, 9955 N. Haggerty, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Details: New School High, a community-based, teacher-led, self-managed, tuition-free public school academy opening in Plymouth in fall 2015, is hosting informational meetings. Interested families may also visit the website at newschool-high.org or the New School High Facebook page.
Contact: School leader Cyndi Burnstein at cburnstein@newschoolhigh.org

TOASTMASTER ANNIVERSARY

Date/Time: Monday, Nov. 17, 6:45 p.m.
Location: St. Kenneth Church Conference Center, 14805 Haggerty, Plymouth Township
Details: The public is invited to attend a 60th anniversary party hosted by members of the Motor City Speak Easy Toastmasters Club. The free event will feature a brief history of the club, "Flashback," presented by Allen Moore, a 31-year member, and a keynote address "Toastmasters Drives Me" by Liz Cezat, a seven-year member. There will be prizes, refreshments and networking. Guests can take part in a public-speaking exercise known as table topics.
Contact: For more information, visit the website mcspeakeasy.toastmastersclubs.org. For questions, call 734-604-2910 or 734-454-1778.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 25, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz @ The Elks happens the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. This event features Ann Arbor's Paul VornHagen Quartet with Paul on sax and flute, Chuck Shermetaro on keyboard, Pete Siers on drums and Kurt Krahnke on bass.
Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or visit www.plymouthannarbor-elks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

GOODFELLOWS BENEFIT

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 15, 7-9:30 p.m.
Location: Joanne Winkleman Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The BaseLine Folk Society presents a benefit concert for the Plymouth Goodfellows. There are 10 open-mic spots available for performers to do two songs, original or cover. The featured group for the evening is The Folk Laureates, who have been together four years and present a fresh venue of new music. Host is BaseLine board member, singer and songwriter Julie Bengtsson.
Contact: Scott Ludwig, president of BaseLine Folk Society, by email at scludwig@aol.com or 734-453-0869.



FRANKLIN PUBLICITY, INC.

Ribbon cutting
 Cheryl and Tom Skynar with friends and politicians cut ribbon on the new location for Skynar Bookkeeping Services. The business recently moved to its new 1,130-square-foot office at 9397 Haggerty in Plymouth.

HOPE FOR HOLIDAYS
Date/Time: Thursday, Nov. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 N. Lilley, Canton
Details: Compassionate Care Hospice will be conducting "Hope for the Holidays," during which participants will learn helpful coping strategies for the upcoming holidays, as well as special ways to honor the memory of their loved one.
Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050. There is no charge for this event.

THANKSGIVING CONCERT

Date/Time: Sunday, Nov. 23, 4 p.m.
Location: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial,

Plymouth
Details: More than 100 voices will join in celebrating Thanksgiving with a music festival featuring choral anthems accompanied by hand bells, organ and piano, as well as audience sing-along of familiar Thanksgiving hymns. The combined adult choirs of Plymouth churches will present a Thanksgiving Choir Festival. Admission is free; an offering will be received to benefit the Salvation Army.
Contact: For more information, call 734-453-5280.

ANNUAL WCGH REUNION

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet, 6539 North Wayne Road, Westland
Details: The 30th annual Wayne County General Hospital employees holiday reunion will be held in the party room of the Hibachi Grill Supreme. There is a large choice of food selections and a senior discount. All retirees and former employees are invited to attend. No reservations are needed. You can pay at the door.
Contact: For questions, call the restaurant at 734-729-5688.

Spaghetti dinner helps send choir kids to Carnegie

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

Traditionally, school groups trying to raise money sell something: pizza kits, cookies, wrapping paper.

But with a trip to New York's famed Carnegie Hall - where they'll perform Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* - coming in April, members of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are selling something completely different:

Their talent. The choirs are set to take part in a fundraiser at Scrambler Marie's in Canton 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 21-22. It's an all-you-can-eat pancake dinner that features solo performances by P-CEP choir students.

According to choir director Jennifer Neumann, the fundraiser came about as a result of the efforts of "some wonderful choir families who thought outside of the box."

It has already worked once, last month, so Neumann decided to bring it back for a return engagement.

"Rather than selling product after product to raise funds, we decided we would give the students the opportunity to do what they do best - sing," Neumann said. "The students are passionate about performing, and they were thrilled for the opportunity."

Some 40 students are scheduled for the trip.



FILE PHOTO

P-CEP choir students are fundraising for an April trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The proceeds from this event will be divided equally among the participants. Neumann said the fundraising is "very important" so more students have this "once-in-a-lifetime educational and musical experience."

The group was invited by Trey Jacobs, who's conducting an upcoming concert at Carnegie Hall, as a result of the group's reputation for excellence.

"The music is quite challenging, and this is an opportunity outside of the classroom to learn collegiate-level music, and perform on a world-renowned stage

with other singers from all over the world," Neumann said. "Our students work hard and deserve this opportunity to expand upon their musical experience."

While there are not actual tickets (and a maximum of only 200 tickets per evening), the group needs to collect payment for the meal in advance. Anyone interested in going needs to fill out a flier and deliver it to Valerie Said in the Salem High School office. Potential diners who know someone in the choir program can send their reservation and money in with a choir student.

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BRAD KADRICH

The Plymouth Scholars choir sings the national anthem.

A GRATEFUL NATION

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The moral focus for November at Plymouth Scholars Academy is gratitude.

And students at the Plymouth Township charter school showed gratitude in large amounts Tuesday, thanking more than two dozen veterans of the military for their service to their country in a stirring Veterans Day ceremony.

Students, staff and parents applauded wildly for the veterans as they stood while the theme music from each of their branches played.

"My favorite part of the ceremony," Plymouth Scholars Principal Jaci Jeffrey said. "There's no better way for our kids to know what gratitude is than by showing our veterans our gratitude. To be able to have (veterans) in our presence, and for our students to know what it means to give back, is a great lesson for them to learn."

It was one of many tributes to veterans around the community, which included (but weren't limited to) official ceremonies in Plymouth and Canton. A veterans tribute at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton was Tuesday night.

The ceremony at Plymouth Scholars included an interpretive reading of the Pledge of Allegiance, plus the playing and singing of the national anthem by the school's choir and band.

Students interviewed two Air Force veterans in a package that played on the large video screen, and the school's Student Council presented them with tokens of appreciation.

Nathan and Christy Fox are both U.S. Navy veterans who attended the ceremony with their son, Evan.

"I thought it was very well done," Nathan said. "The kids did a great job. It was very touching."

Gratitude and appreciation were the watchwords of the day at the Plymouth Scholars ceremony, and taught lessons Jeffrey was hopeful her students picked up.

"If they walk away having that appreciation, that's the reason we do this," Jeffrey said.



PHOTO BY MATT JACHMAN

World War II veterans Russell Ash (left) and Gene Overholt reflect during Tuesday's ceremony at Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park. Ash served in the Navy and Overholt in the Army.



BRAD KADRICH

Veterans stand and accept the spirited applause of hundreds of Plymouth Scholars Academy students at the school's third annual Veterans Day ceremony Tuesday.



BRAD KADRICH

Plymouth Scholars Cyric Chazhikat (from left), Iyah Nasser, Dominic Cabrera and Emma Howell read a poem during the Veterans Day ceremony.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Disabled veteran Cheryl Vatcher-Martin holds a photo of herself, taken on Veterans Day, in 1981.

Plymouth chamber parties hearty at annual auction



PHOTOS BY DOUG WALLACE

Kristi Johnson (left), a mod-looking Kelly Doneth and Andrea Hoglen at Friday's auction.



Greg Coyne and his wife, Christina, were the high bidders for a trip to South Africa.

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth boosters marked the 50th anniversary of the British Invasion — and a silver anniversary of their own — with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce auction and gala dinner Friday night.

The event at Laurel Manor in Livonia drew more than 450 people, who bid on everything from a photo safari trip to South Africa to tickets to the Detroit Lions Thanksgiving Day game to a ride into Kellogg Park with Santa Claus later this month. There was also a silent auction and raffles for dozens of prizes, from household goods to services to a hotel stay, donated by

Plymouth-area businesses.

The 25th annual auction netted between \$45,000 and \$50,000 for chamber programs, said Wes Graff, the chamber president, who gave auction goers a preview of an upcoming promotional video.

"It was great to see the positive reaction to the trailer for the video we are creating to promote the Plymouth community," Graff said later. "Our ability to create a high-quality video is made possible by the contributions members make at events like the auction."

The auction master of ceremonies was Channel 7 reporter Nima Shaffe, and Charlie Wickens was the auctioneer during the live auction of big-ticket

items.

Those included, in addition to the South Africa trip, the ride with Santa and the Lions tickets, a guided hunting and fishing trip in the Upper Peninsula, a personalized ice sculpture at January's Plymouth Ice Festival, a week-long stay at a Florida condominium, and dinner and a night at the MGM Grand Casino hotel in Detroit.

'Party of the year'

The auction's theme was the British Invasion of the 1960s, and a rock trio in the lobby greeted attendees with tunes like *Gloria* (Van Morrison and Them) and *Summertime Blues* (The Who). The decor had a British flavor — including a cardboard cutout of Queen Elizabeth — and the Union Jack was everywhere. Event sponsor and

volunteers were thanked, and Graff later said that they made it happen.

"It takes hundreds and hundreds of hours of volunteer time to pull off this event and create the best party of the year in Plymouth," he said.

Chamber board chairman Mark Evenson, branch sales manager at Community Financial Credit Union, told the crowd that it's the people in the Plymouth area who make the community special. Even said that he recently had a job that took him to communities large and small around the country, and that none could compare to



Plymouth City Commissioners Oliver Wolcott (left) and Mike Wright (right) with Dan Johnson of the Ironwood Grill.

Plymouth.

"It's the people. It's the businesses," Evenson said. "Most importantly, it's the culture."

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mjachman

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shipping open house

America's Budget Storage has been a part of the Canton community for nearly 30 years, offering storage, packing and shipping supplies in addition to being a U-Haul super center.

The store is launching a new business with services that include packaging, shipping, personal mailboxes, faxing, copying and printing.

To celebrate the launch of that business, Express Shipping of Canton, hosts an open house from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19. The open house will benefit the Women at Risk organization and will feature refreshments, prizes, items sold by women who have been helped through Women at Risk and coupons that will offer discounts for customers and benefit Women at Risk.

America's Budget Storage (and Express Shipping of Canton) is located at 40671 Joy Road (just east of Hagerly).

For more information, call 734-459-6444 or 248-467-8427 or visit exshippocanton.com or americasbudgetstorage.com.

Blackwell event

Blackwell Ford in Plymouth is hosting the Thanksgiving on the Mayflower event designed to help feed those in need this month.

Blackwell Ford is hosting 98.7 AMP radio's Thanksgiving on the Mayflower event, and will be collecting non-perishables for families this holiday season. The dealership is bringing

the event to Plymouth and adding an additional day of fundraising. All items collected will go to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. Gleaners is gathering food for the Kids Helping Kids Backpack Program to help feed hungry children.

The dealership's goal is to collect enough non-perishable food items to stuff a 54-foot long Mayflower shipping truck during the 12 hours it is on location.

98.7 AMP radio will be on-site, from 5-7 p.m., for a chance to win One Direction concert tickets and other prizes.

Additionally, Blackwell Ford will make a donation to Gleaners Food Bank on behalf of anyone who test drives a vehicle at the dealership this month and mentions AMP radio.

Blackwell Ford is located at 41001 Plymouth Road in Plymouth. For more information visit BlackwellFord.com/Events

Christmas concert

The Ford Motor Company Chorus presents a Christmas concert, "Jingle All the Way," 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

Among the music to be performed will be "Walking in the Air," "Do You Hear What I Hear?" "The Little Drummer Boy," "Peace on Earth," "Pavane for a Silent Night," "Waltz for an Open Sleigh," "The Twelve Days After Christmas," "Mid-Winter," "Shepherds Echo Carol" and "Joy to the World."

For more information,

contact Bill Curtiss at bcurtiss@ford.com

Stopping hunger

The Cellular Connection announced 300 of its stores will be donating and volunteering at local food banks through its "Stop the Hunger" initiative this holiday season in a joint effort with its customers.

Through Friday, Dec. 12, participating TCC stores across the U.S., including the Canton store, are encouraging local families to bring in canned and boxed food, which will be delivered to the community's food bank.

The participating store in Canton is located at 46540 Michigan Ave.

In addition to the food drive, each participating store will donate funds and employees will volunteer at local food banks until the end of December.

"'Stop the Hunger' is the newest initiative under TCC's 'Culture of Good' movement, which empowers our employees to make a positive, charitable impact in their communities," said Scott Moorehead, president and CEO of TCC. "It's how our company gives back to every community where we do business. We're honored to have the ability to help families and children in need this holiday season by donating to and volunteering at local food banks throughout the U.S."

To learn more about TCC, visit cellularconnection.com. Consumers can also find more information about the company at facebook.com/tcc-talk and twitter.com/tcc-talk.

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Certified pre-owned Lincoln MKZs are hot sellers at Varsity Lincoln

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln MKZ-A-THON offers no gimmicks, no gifts, just great deals. More than 100 Lincoln MKZs are on-site — with Certified Pre-Owned vehicles for sale for as low as \$10,995.

Hurry over to Varsity Lincoln these next three days to catch the deals:
» Thursday, Nov. 13, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
» Friday, Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
» Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Certified pre-owned Lincoln MKZ vehicles come with many benefits, including:

- » A meticulous, 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians
- » Six-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage
- » Complimentary roadside assistance

Customers spoke for themselves when detailing their experiences with the team at Varsity Lincoln.

"I have an MKZ from Varsity Lincoln; I've had it for about a year now. It's a beautiful interior, a beautiful exterior, it handles well on the road and gives me good gas mileage!" Lincoln MKZ owner Gary Trudeau said. "I love this place. I wouldn't even consider buying a car from anybody else!"

"I'm very, very satisfied — very happy with it," said Rich Lewnau, describing his Lincoln MKZ purchase.

Jason Towe told us why he got into a Lincoln MKZ: "I definitely love the comfort and the sportiness of the Lincoln. The cost was a big factor for me; it was actually cheaper than my last car I owned and I feel I'm getting a better quality car for what I'm paying!"

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Lincoln MKZ, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," said Jere Law,



This certified 2012 MKZ Lincoln Ultimate is one of more than 100 Lincoln MKZs for sale during Varsity Lincoln of Novi's MKZ-A-THON.

Varsity Lincoln's general sales manager and pre-owned director. "The 100,000-mile free bumper-to-bumper warranty that comes alongside all certified pre-owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

Loaded with features, the Lincoln MKZ will satisfy any customer, Law explained.

"The Lincoln MKZ provides a combination of sporty and luxury. Benefits include FWD or AWD, dual-zone climate control, Bluetooth, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof and heated and cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few," Law said.

This model defines luxury that is incomparable in this price. With Lincoln, most premium luxury features come standard, as opposed to paying additional for similar features on other comparable brands. "The Lincoln MKZ stands alone in its class of vehicles," Law said.

Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that the Lincoln MKZ will hold its value.

"This model holds its value more than other models for many reasons," Law said. "Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, the advanced styling and dependability are advantageous and add to the Lincoln MKZ's value."

The MKZ-A-Thon event

includes the Lincoln MKZ Hybrid in inventory, which get an EPA-estimated MPG 41/39 (city/highway) and can drive in electric-only mode up to 85 mph.

"The Lincoln MKZ Hybrid's gas mileage, dependability and warranty make for a solid modern vehicle and overall excellent experience," Law said.

"The warranty is the key with all these cars; with certified pre-owned, you get the best from Varsity Lincoln — gas model or Hybrid," Law said. Certified pre-owned financing is available for as low as 0.9 percent APR.*

Varsity Lincoln is the No. 1 dealer in the nation, based on 2013 Total New Retail Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction,

per a Lincoln sales report.

"Leasing or buying from the No. 1 dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law said. "Our dealership is ready for any situation that may arise, whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are before, during and after the sale," he added.

*0.9 percent APR for 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

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*Based on 2013 Total Certified Pre-Owned Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction per Lincoln Sales Report. ^As low as 0.9% APR for up to 48 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details. *Price does not include tax, title, license and dealer fees due at point of purchase. Inventory and pricing subject to change. See Varsity Lincoln for details. Offers end 11/30/14.

OUR VIEWS

TOUGH CHOICES

School board did right thing following committee recommendations

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday did what its boundary steering committee recommended it do and approved the elementary redistricting plan it proposed.

They'll likely do the same next week when a final vote on a plan for middle school boundaries is taken.

As unhappy as Tuesday's vote made some parents — particularly those whose kids go to Allen Elementary — it was the right thing to do.

The committee, made up of 15 administrators, teachers, principals and a couple of community members, worked for months coming up with its recommendations. Despite what critics might believe, the group never was going to come up with something that made everyone happy.

Were there flaws in the process? You bet. Some board members don't believe they got information they request-



Parents, students and supporters rallied Sunday in an effort to save Allen Elementary School from closing.

ed. Members of the advisory committee felt under-utilized and, in some cases, misled about what their role would be.

The process stalled over the summer, so that when the

committee began bringing its recommendations together this fall, it seemed rushed. When the recommendation to close schools comes in early October and the vote to ap-

prove the plan comes barely a month later, parents feel bombarded.

The truth is, the process wasn't all that rushed. Despite what the critics would have you believe, there was plenty of opportunity for parents to voice their opinions, to let the board know of their frustration. There were several community forums and board meetings, featuring plenty of citizen comment.

But if discussions on social media are to be believed, much of the community still feels hoodwinked, as if the process didn't follow what was outlined (the action plan was on the website) and the committee used unknown criteria (the rubric they used for determining the closures has been on the website for months) to make its recommendations.

Barring an unlikely change

of heart, the decision is made. The board could have put off its decision, but what would that course of action have gained? Had they delayed the process, and the committee offered up a different recommendation, wouldn't the families of that school been just as upset. The board would have been right back where they started.

And what would they say to parents of those buildings? It was always going to be a case of "not my child, not my school."

Were they the right choices? Time will tell. In the meantime, families at Allen and Gallimore need time to grieve, to deal with the anguish of losing their beloved schools.

Soon, though, parents need to put away their anger and help their children adjust. Continued anger does no one any good.

OUR VIEWS

Controversial issues shouldn't wait until lame duck session

The midterm election has come and gone. Now what?

Various board and commissions locally will have some new members representing residents at the local, county, state and federal levels. They'll have to get up to speed on the various issues and agendas under consideration.

For the state Legislature, next comes the so-called lame duck session, the time between the election and the end of the legislative session. The session began Wednesday. Based on previous lame duck sessions, it's hard to determine what will come out of Lansing in the next month or so.

Two years ago, there was a flurry of activity — good or bad, depending on your point of view — coming out of the

lame duck session.

Most controversial of the actions was passage of right-to-work legislation, which made it illegal to require financial support of a union as a condition of employment for public- and private-sector workers. The bills exempted police and firefighters.

Other actions included creating a regional transit authority to coordinate public transportation in southeast Michigan; increased access for highly trained gun owners to carry their concealed weapons in formerly forbidden places, such as schools, day care centers, stadiums and churches; a new emergency manager law to replace the previous statute that was repealed by voters a month earlier; tougher recall require-

ments against elected officials; and increased regulations on facilities that offer abortions.

Some may applaud the new measures, and others cry foul. Some issues appeared to make sense. Others, not so much.

What's unfortunate is it appears too often state legislators wait to address anything remotely controversial until after the election. For those seeking re-election or a position in another governing body, waiting until after the general election allows the lawmakers not to worry about any repercussions if the bills passed go against the views of the electorate in the district. Even more so with the new recall requirements.

And that goes against the basic tenets of representative

government and elections overall.

Voters select the candidates they believe best represent their views and opinions. If they disagree with how the legislator handles the job, the electorate can select someone else in the next election. That's the whole point of elections in the first place. That's why incumbents sometimes see challenges from within their own party.

The state Legislature is a full-time position. It baffles us that so many issues are crammed into the final days of the legislature in session. Most any state senator or representative will argue that it's a full-time position and a move to a part-time legislator would hurt the state.

But the lame duck session

flies in the face of that argument, since the elected officials seem to be able to handle so much of their work in a few weeks.

Among the issues that could be addressed during the current lame duck session include funding for road and infrastructure improvements, term limits, how presidential electoral votes are awarded, civil rights and medical marijuana.

There's some controversy to all of these issues, at least in terms of how they will be addressed.

We urge our local legislators to limit their official decision making in this year's lame duck legislation and leave it to the incoming legislature to address the issues voters elected them to do.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recall energy expended

With regard to "Plymouth Township: two recall petitions OK'd, one rejected" (*Plymouth Observer*, Nov. 9), recall initiatives for reasons other than malfeasance (illegal or patently unethical behavior) are assaults on the democratic process.

Elected officials often take actions with which I disagree but we have elections precisely so that citizens can choose people to make these decisions, popular or unpopular though they may be.

Often, recalls are intended to encourage an especially motivated and self-interested subset of the electorate to nullify prior elections. Furthermore, recalls for purposes of policy disagreements are burdensome on taxpayers, as much time and money are required to hold these special elections.

The democratic process isn't fun when elected officials do things we don't like, but unless illegal or unethical behavior is involved, we ought to expend our energy convincing other voters that these decisions are wrong and marshaling opposition for the next election.

Thomas M. Doran
Plymouth

Township board broken

I pride myself in being an informed voter, particularly at

the local level. So it is with great disappointment that I write this letter. The Plymouth Township Board has just reached a new nadir with Supervisor Richard Reaume's decision to file recall petitions against Trustees Bob Doroshewitz, Michael Kelly and Charles Curmi.

There has been great disappointment in the community around the "Big Four" of the Plymouth Township Board (Mr. Reaume, Treasurer Ron Edwards, Clerk Nancy Conzelman, and Trustee Kay Arnold). This has been largely due to a perception of arrogance on the part of these four.

I voted for all four of these people at the last election, and actively promoted all of them (including lawn signs), and was very enthused when they all won. This enthusiasm was done to their prior competence, and in the hope that a unified board would be even better for the community. But it appears that these four in particular took the last election as a mandate to do everything at their choosing, rather than an affirmation of their prior "good" behavior.

I was initially against the recall petitions filed against these four, even though I did agree that their recent behavior has been at times arrogant and rude. This behavior has been demonstrated toward both the citizens in general and particularly against Mr. Do-

roshewitz and Mr. Kelly, the two trustees who have most frequently challenged them for such behavior.

But Mr. Reaume's filing of recall petitions against these three (seemingly in response to a citizens' initiative to file against the "Big Four") is the final straw. Before, his behavior seemed arrogant; now it is purely childish. This feels like one child tattling on their sibling, with the attitude "If I'm in trouble, then I'll make sure that you are also in trouble."

Mr. Reaume clearly is tone-deaf to the electorate's legitimate concerns, and instead is insistent on turning this into an "us vs. them" referendum at the board level. This is an incredibly destructive course, and I don't see how the board can recover from such a "scorched earth" approach to addressing disagreements.

If Mr. Reaume wants a referendum, he will get one. But at what price? What a sad situation we find ourselves in

Brad Heers
Plymouth Township

Voters haven't spoken

It used to be after an election, I would say to myself that the people have spoken, live with it. Whether my candidate won or lost. But now, with PACs, like labor unions and the Koch brothers, spending billions of dollars on elections, the people have not really spoken. The special interests have.

This isn't a knock on the electorate either. How does anyone avoid the negative ads, they're everywhere. The thing that bothers me most is, no one talks about what they will bring to Lansing or Washington, they only talk about what a bad, evil person their opponent is.

Now we have lost any

chance of compromise in Washington, we have to live with every decision or lack thereof that comes out of Lansing and the 2016 political ads start next week. Let the fun begin.

Skip Wehrle
Garden City

Have I got this right?

Milwaukee has had vouchers for 23 years and the United States Department of Education ranks them among the very worst urban schools in the country.

Sweden has had privatization and choice for 30 years. They rank below the United States on international testing and are in the process of changing to a public school system.

Chile was schooled in vouchers and choice by none other than Milton Friedman, the father of choice and vouchers. They are no longer financing private schools with public money.

Both "No Child Left Behind" and "Race to the Top" have been abject failures. Yet, *Detroit News* columnist Ingrid Jacques, in the face of charter school failure nationwide, wants more choice and vouchers.

What passes for "reform" in this country is an unmitigated disaster. For too long, we have listened to corporatists, who wish to profit through privatization of American schools and a few wealthy and well-intentioned citizens who are unschooled in how children learn (Bill Gates and Eli Broad).

We need to look for improvement by emulating our high-performing schools (Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut) and Finland, a top performing nation that is subjected to standardized testing a

grand total of once in the educational life of a student.

Al Churchill
Livonia

Monument bad idea

The Fallen Heroes Monument is a really bad idea. Police don't even make the top 10 for dangerous professions and firefighters don't even make the top 15, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The primary goal of police is to protect the city's interests not the citizens' interests.

Elevating public servants like this is wrong. It sends the message that their lives are more important than the citizens they serve and, of course, they are not. Prove me wrong by putting the name of every Livonian who has died on the job on the monument. If you do not, I am right and this is about elevating the government above its people. Put the name of every fisherman, logger, pilot, garbage collector, roofer, steel worker, farmer, driver and electrician on the monument because their jobs are more dangerous than police and fire. If you do not, you are making a very public statement that their lives are not worth what a cop or fireman's is worth. You are telling their families that their loved one is not missed as much the cop's family misses them. You are telling their orphaned children that their dad or mom was not as important as the dad or mom who was a fireman.

We have had this type of aggrandizement of government before, but then we were called "The Colonies." We all know how that turned out.

Edward Collins
Livonia

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Army veteran grateful for vehicle donation

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

In November 2013, U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil was involved in an accident that totaled the car she was driving and left her without transportation ever since.

Her inability to replace the vehicle made it tough to get to her job at the Veteran's hospital in Ann Arbor.

In a ceremony at the Progressive Insurance office in Livonia on Nov. 11, the Jack Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance joined forces to help her out, donating a refurbished 2005 Ford Escape to O'Neil, a Saline resident and a member of the Plymouth VFW.

"I really appreciate this," said O'Neil, who joined the U.S. Army in 1998 at the age of 20. "I've had trouble getting to work ... This is the best thing anyone could ever give to me."

When O'Neil's original enlistment was up in 2002, she decided she hadn't done enough, and signed up for a stint in the Army Reserves. Her unit was activated in January 2003, and by April, O'Neil was in Iraq. After her tour was up, O'Neil was discharged in November 2003.

When officials at Demmer and at Progressive were looking for a veteran to honor, Plymouth VFW officials recommended O'Neil. Demmer partnered with Progressive, the National Auto Body Council, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and several other organizations.

With parts donated from vendors, the staff at Jack Demmer Collision Centers repaired and refurbished the Escape for O'Neil, one of more than 100 veterans across the country who will receive a special vehicle on Veteran's Day through Progressive's "Recycled Rides" project.

"Amy's new job made her a perfect candidate," for the program, said project coordinator Tommy Ryan of Progressive. "We're hoping to make a difference in a lot of lives today."

Enterprise Rent-A-Car provided O'Neil with six months' worth of free auto insurance. Regional vice president Vincent LaBella pointed out that some 10 percent of Enterprise employees are veterans and Reservists. That, LaBella said,



Jim Demmer of the Demmer Automotive Group presents U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil with the keys to her 2005 Ford Escape.



BRAD KADRICH

BRAD KADRICH
U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil turns the ignition on the refurbished 2005 Ford Escape she received from the Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance Tuesday.

makes the company's participation in the program special.

"We get to give back to our communities, and we get to honor our veterans," LaBella said. "It's really important for us to give back to (O'Neil) for what she has done."

The Demmer family also has a military history. Patriarch Jack Demmer is a World War II veteran, and Jim Demmer, who spoke at Tuesday's ceremony, has a son, C.J., who is in the U.S. Marines.

"We want to say 'thank you' to all those who put their lives on the line for

our country," Demmer said. "We never take that for granted."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Compassionate Friends of Western Wayne County gather in Plymouth's Kellogg Park Dec. 14 for the 18th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting.

Compassionate Friends host annual candle lighting

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, which unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who left too soon, is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

As candles are lit at 7 p.m., hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the 18th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone.

Started in the United States in 1997 as a small Internet observance, the event has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance.

Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in

homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Starting in New Zealand, candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are started in another, creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world.

The local chapter of The Compassionate Friends sponsors the Kellogg Park ceremony. The event will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, a PowerPoint presentation of the children's names, poetry and songs.

Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of the children who have died too soon.

Friends and families are invited to the remembrance. For questions - or to register a child's name to be included - call 734-778-0800 or email tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com.

Candles will be provided and an ornament will be placed on the memory trees in the park when you register a child's name.



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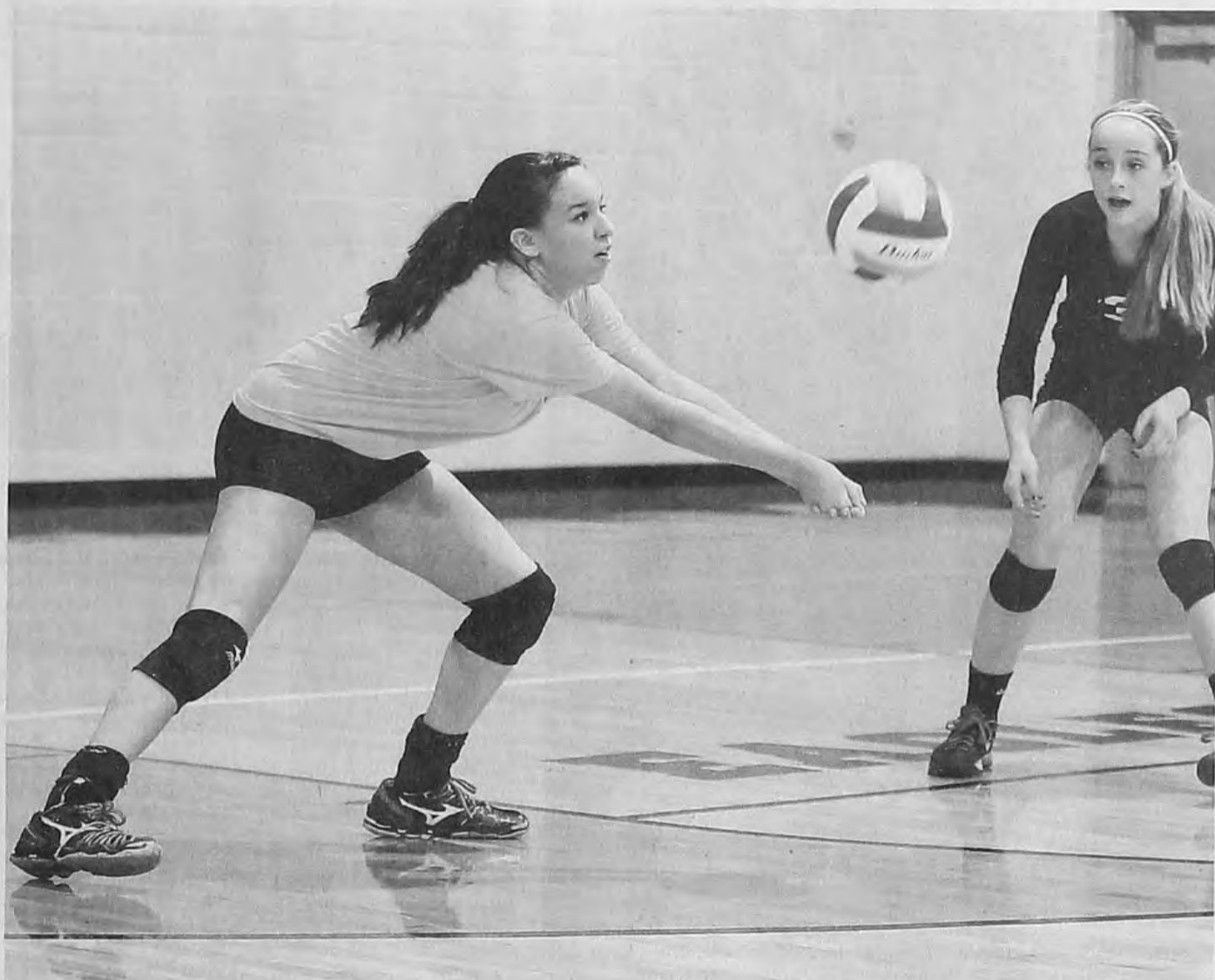
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CLASS D VOLLEYBALL REGIONALS



Keeping a volley going for Plymouth Christian during a recent game is libero Divna Roi (left), with Grace Kellogg (No. 3) standing by. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Stevenson is All-American

Recent Salem graduate finishes 2nd at nationals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Recent Salem graduate Natasha Stevenson's hard work during the off-season to overcome an injury yielded All-American dividends.

Stevenson, a 2014 Salem grad who was a standout runner both for the girls cross country and track and field teams, earned All-American honors Nov. 7 at the United States Collegiate Athletic Association cross country nationals in Syracuse, N.Y.

The Cleary University freshman finished second overall in the 6K race with a personal best time of 23:16. Her performance also helped Cleary finish second overall.

"The feeling of crossing the finish line was pretty overwhelming," Stevenson said. "It felt so unreal, and took a while to realize I had actually finished second."

During the months following her high school graduation, Stevenson put in countless hours of training as well as time spent rehabbing a knee ligament injury (IT Band, common for runners).

Those efforts were bolstered by the encouragement and advice she received from her Cleary coaches — not to mention all the guidance she received in recent years from Salem coach Dave Gerlach.

"Throughout the race," Stevenson noted, "all I could think of was all the hard work I have put in and all of the advice my current coaches, as well as my high school coach, have given me."

"Me accomplishing this honor is like a dream come true, with all my hard work finally paying off."

She added that her own accomplishment was further sweetened by Cleary's team success.

"My team finished second," Stevenson said. "I couldn't have asked for a better season or team to be on."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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COURTESY DAVE GERLACH

Salem High School alum Natasha Stevenson (left) accepts her All-American trophy.

EAGLES TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT

PCA needs Game 5 rally to defeat Hawks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Tuesday's Class D volleyball regional between Plymouth Christian Academy and Huron Valley Lutheran started out as a lopsided affair, with the host Eagles looking primed to roll to an easy victory.

That certainly isn't how it turned out. The Hawks — behind a 40-kill performance by senior outside hitter Madison Dest — rallied from a 2-0 deficit in games to force a fifth and

deciding Game 5.

Plymouth Christian finally closed out the match 3-2, with a 15-13 win in the fifth game to advance to Thursday's 7 p.m. regional final against Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes.

Even at the end, it was not a given that the Eagles would have their coveted rematch with Lakes (both teams met in last season's regional final, with the Lakers prevailing).

HVL senior Nikki Alcini brought her team to within 14-13 with her first serve.

But PCA stopped the Hawks' bid for the equalizer as PCA freshman outside hitter Grace Kellogg hammered home the set from sophomore Jessica Paulson for the clinching sideout point.

Keeping the final point alive for PCA was sophomore libero Divna Roi, who somehow prevented a Dest spike from hitting the floor and kept the volley going.

"She's really good, she has great

See SPIKERS, Page B4

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Super effort times two for Plymouth-Canton Steelers

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Saturday was a day for redemption for the Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football team and a day of perfection for the Steelers freshmen squad.

In the Michigan Youth Football and Cheer Conference Super Bowls held at Pontiac's historic Wisner Stadium, the varsity Steelers thumped previously undefeated and No. 1 seed Macomb 48-6 — just a few weeks after suffering an eight-point loss to the Mustangs — while earlier in the day the Steelers freshmen unit capped off a perfect 10-0 season with a thorough 32-6 triumph over the Lakes Area Hawks.

The freshmen Steelers yielded just one touchdown the



KAREN HANSEN

Members of the Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football team pose with their MYFCC Super Bowl trophies following Saturday's 48-6 victory over Macomb.

entire season.

The varsity Steelers broke a scoreless deadlock late in the second quarter when Carson

Miller — who scored five touchdowns in his team's semifinal victory one week earlier — hauled in a 60-yard TD pass

from Ben Wright to make it 6-0.

After the Mustangs returned the ensuing kickoff for

a touchdown to knot the game at 6-6, the Steelers answered on the final play of the half when Wright took a keeper 62 yards to the end zone to give the Steelers a 12-6 halftime lead. Ben Bennett, Seth Troszak, James Hansen and Nick Downs all executed bone-crunching down-field blocks on Wright's run.

The Steelers maintained the momentum on the first play of the second half when Troszak's perfectly placed onside kick was recovered by Jason Perko.

The final 24 minutes were owned by the Steelers, who were fueled by three more Miller touchdowns and two more six-point runs by Wright. The Steelers' "Gold" offensive line of Adam Turfe, Luke Fish-

See STEELERS, Page B3

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LEADING THE ROAR

Canton Lions cheer squads win medals at WSJFL Demolay Rally

The Western Suburban Junior Football League championships for football and cheer were held Nov. 8-9.

Yet even though the Canton Lions freshman and junior varsity football squads were absent from the Super Bowl, after falling in the play-offs round, it wasn't a season-ender for the Canton Lions' organization.

There were medals left to earn for the Lions' cheer squads at Saturday's WSJFL Keith Demolay Cheer Rally at Belleville High School.

The rally was renamed this year to honor Demolay, a longtime and cherished WSJFL board member and overall beacon for local youth sports.

Eight local cheer organizations, with up to four squads each, competed for medals in cheer and dance.

The Lions cheer squads, directed by Rosie Beadle, walked away with a total of two silver medals and four gold medals across both categories.

» The varsity cheer squad took gold medals in cheer and dance, with routines that included a kick line that had the fans on their feet.

The varsity squad is coached by LaKeysha Dobbins and Kathy Cor-



All four Canton Lions cheer squads walked away winners at the 2014 Demolay Cheer Rally. Posing together are members of the varsity, JV, freshman and junior freshman teams.

rea and assisted by Jessie Hackman and Kayla Turner.

Walking away with double gold was Emilie Borke, Ellie Borke, Rose Correa, Christina Farmer, Morgan Johns, Rieley Kahl-Jonca, Ke-Era Jor-

dan, Annie LaPlante, Katie McMillian, Bri Minghine, Amalia Stasa and Ally Stepek.

» The junior varsity squad also earned a gold medal in dance for a routine that energized the crowd with eye catch-

ing ripples, heel stretches and jumps.

A silver medal was awarded to the JV squad for cheer.

The JV Lions is coached by Tori Strong and Tamika Banks and assisted by Laura Knoll.



Amalia Stasa (front) and Katie McMillian perform the Canton Lions varsity gold-medal dance routine.

The winning routines were performed by Taki-ma Banks, Sophia Baugh, Alaina Beadle, Kaylee Beaudion, Cassidy De-vergilio, Brianna DiS-tefano, Kylie Dunn, Sophia Gabriel, Kassia Grandon, Morgan Mer-edith, Jade Palmore, Lauren Sanders, Melanie Slater, Alyssa Strong and Abby Vasilnek.

» The Canton Lions freshman squad's sharp performance earned them a gold medal in cheer. The Lions came back for round two with as much enthusiasm and walked away with the silver for a hip hop dance routine, coming in second behind the Westland Meteors. The Lions freshman squad is led by coach Krysti Harrigan, Renael Reed and assisted by Monica Williamson,

Kaitlyn Hoef and Shaniya Reed-Ginyard. The squad is formed by Alexis Bosanko, Cha'Maiya Brown, Madelyn Harrigan, Morgan Miller, Nina Oynoian, Xamora Reed and Haliona Vendlands.

» The Canton Lions junior freshman cheer squad performed both cheer and dance routines; and each organization's squads were given participation awards. The Lions junior freshman squad is coached by Lanaya Willis, Katie Modelski and assisted by Rachel Vaselnik.

Performing on the squad were Tamia Banks, Amya Bosanko, Kaylin Dobbins, Brielle Jonca, Kaylee Modelski, Samiya Palmore, Tiana Priestler, Madison Ramirez, Joslyn Roberts and Alycia Strong.

Chatham's overtime goal lifts Whalers

Connor Chatham's unassisted goal at 3:41 of overtime snapped a 3-3 tie and gave the Plymouth Whalers a 4-3 Ontario Hockey League

victory over the Kitchener Rangers on Saturday night at Compuware Arena.

A sellout out crowd of 3,577 saw the Whalers

(8-9-1-0) win their second game in a row. Kitchener dropped to 9-3-1-3.

Besides scoring his sixth goal of the year as the game-winner, Chat-

ham drew an assist on Bryce Yetman's fourth goal of the season. Matt Mistele scored a pair of first period goals for the Whalers (team leading 13th and 14th of the year). Sonny Milano recorded a pair of assists for the Whalers.

After Mistele staked Plymouth to a 2-0 lead after one period, the Rangers replied to tie the game at 2-2 in the second period on goals by Nick Magyar (sixth) and Brent Pederson (fifth).

Yetman gave the Whalers a 3-2 lead at 14:02 of the third period, but Gustav Franzen tied the game for Rangers at 16:14.



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Matt Mistele (right, shown from earlier this season) scored two goals Saturday night against Kitchener. He leads the Plymouth Whalers with 14 goals.

That set the stage for Chatham's game-winner.

Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 29-of-32 shots for Plymouth, while Dawson Carty stopped 30-

of-34 shots for Kitchener.

Plymouth plays in Kitchener Friday before returning home Saturday to face Sault Ste. Marie (7 p.m. at Compuware).

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SC men's cagers lose first game

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

A slow start cost Schoolcraft's men's basketball team, as the Ocelots lost 99-92 Saturday night at Owens Community College.

The defeat snapped Schoolcraft's modest two-game winning streak to open the 2014-15 season.

Schoolcraft (2-1) trailed 46-38 at halftime. Both teams cranked up the scoring in the second half, with the Ocelots outscoring Owens 54-53. But that still wasn't quite enough for a comeback

win.

Long-distance scoring turned out to be a key factor. Owens canned 11 of 21 tries from behind the 3-point line in the contest, while Schoolcraft made just one of 16 triple attempts.

Leading all scorers was Schoolcraft's Aveon Simmons, with 29 points. Adding 22 for the Ocelots was Ronald Booth, with Ja'Christian Biles and Anthony Wartley-Fritz contributing 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Wartley-Fritz led Schoolcraft with 11 rebounds, including nine pulled down at the defen-

sive end. For 3-0 Owens, the leading scorer was Shaakir Lindsey, with 22 points.

S'CRAFT (WOMEN) 51, LAKELAND 45: On Saturday at Schoolcraft, the Lady Ocelots parlayed a fast start into a win. Schoolcraft (2-0) led 29-16 at halftime.

Registering 14 points each for the Lady Ocelots were T'era Nesbitt and Ashley Bland (Wayne), while Sara Gammons added 10 points.

A dominant force on the glass for Schoolcraft was Rikki Sherdt, with 17 rebounds (including 13 defensive boards).

S'CRAFT (MEN) 94, JAMESTOWN 66: The Schoolcraft men's basketball team rolled to a second straight win Friday night.

The host Ocelots built a 48-28 halftime lead and cruised to the victory from there.

Six Schoolcraft players cracked double digits as the Ocelots featured a balanced offense.

Scoring 18 points was Ja'Christian Biles, with Ronald Booth chipping in with 16.

Aveon Simmons (15 points), Tyler Johnson (12 points) and Davon Taylor (10 points) also helped the cause.

Sharing team rebounding honors were Taylor and Anthony Wartley-Fritz, with six each.

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COLLEGE SOCCER

Catic hat trick sinks MU in WHAC semifinal

Dzenan Catic was the one-man wrecking crew Tuesday afternoon.

The junior midfielder, the 2014 USL Premier Development League Player of the Year from the PDL champion Michigan Bucks, tallied his 32nd, 33rd and 34th goals of the season Tuesday as 10th-ranked Davenport University rolled to a 4-1 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's



Cisse

soccer semifinal playoff win over host Madonna University.

The Crusaders ended their season at 14-5-1 overall, while Davenport advances to Saturday's WHAC championship game at 17-3.

Catic, a Bosnian native from East Kentwood High School

who originally signed with Michigan State, notched his hat trick by scoring at 44:02, 58:53 and 79:12 marks.

The Panthers unloaded 19 shots on MU goalkeeper Marcel Schmid (Stuttgart, Germany), who made six saves.

T.J. Ifaturto also scored at 70:05 and assisted on two of Catic's goals for the Panthers.

Senior Doug Beason (Northville) tallied MU's lone goal at

46:43 to make it 1-1 off an assist from senior Ryan Williams (Auburn Hills Avondale).

MADONNA (MEN) 3, CONCORDIA 2 (2 OTs): Amadou Cisse's goal in the second overtime enabled Madonna University (14-4-1) to escape with a WHAC men's quarterfinal win Saturday at home over upset-minded Concordia University (5-13).

Cisse scored his ninth of the season to break a 2-2 deadlock at 103:25 off an assist from Yago Scalet Pires.

Danny Swanson notched his fourth and fifth goals of the season at 18:48 and 62:42, respectively, both off assists from Cisse, a sophomore from Conarky, Guinea.

The Cardinals' Jon Pederson tallied his first goal of the season at 24:04 off an assist from Joshua Heyer

to make it 1-1 and then sent the match into OT with his second on an unassisted effort at 86:15.

MU goalkeeper Marcel Schmid made two saves, while Michael Erickson had three for Concordia.

N'WESTERN OHIO 1, MADONNA (WOMEN) 0: Pauline Quesson's goal at 53:01 off an assist from Ella Huusko gave top seed and No. 9-ranked University of Northwestern Ohio (17-1-1) a WHAC women's soccer semifinal victory over visiting Madonna University (12-7-1).

Madonna goalkeeper Blaire Schmalenberg (Warren Cousino) made 10 saves in defeat, while Nadine Stonjek notched her 16th shutout of the season for the Racers.

The Crusaders, who improved over a 6-0 thumping administered by Northwestern Ohio on Oct. 1, got only one shot off in the rematch (by senior Ashley Parent).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MU men's cagers fall in Tip-Off final

Three negative statistics stood out prominently Saturday as the Madonna University men's basketball team slipped to 2-2 overall with a 62-47 setback to host Spring Arbor University in the finals of the Trent Allen Memorial Tip-Off tournament.

The Crusaders committed 21 turnovers, shot only 11-of-22 from the foul line (50 percent) and just 36.4 percent from the field (16-of-44).

Zach Mendendorp and Collin Hewitt scored 18 points and 16 points, respectively, for Spring Arbor (4-0), which led 25-19 at half-time.

Madonna junior guard Tyler Stewart (Salem) scored 13, while freshman guard Austin Johnson added eight points off the bench.

In Friday's tourney opener, Johnson provided a spark off the bench with 13 points as MU handed Rochester College its first loss of the season, 61-49.

Sophomore point guard Khalil Malone chipped in with 12 points and seven rebounds, while senior center Donald Owens contrib-

uted a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Sophomore forward Dan Hall added eight points off the bench as the Crusaders added to their 33-23 halftime lead and overcame 22 turnovers.

Rochester College (4-1), held to 30.2 percent shooting from the floor (19-of-63), got 12 points from Paris Pereira and 10 points from Milton Cribbs.

POINT PARK 74, MADONNA (WOMEN) 55: The Madonna University women's basketball team shot just 3-of-23 from three-point range (13 percent) in dropping its season opener Friday against visiting Point Park University (Pa.).

Kelly Johnson paced the victorious Pioneers (2-0), who bolted out to a 39-17 halftime lead, with a game-high 27 points.

Oakland University transfer Michele Hayes paced the Crusaders (0-1) with 15 points, but committed six turnovers. Senior Rachel Melcher added eight points and a game-high 15 rebounds, while Lindsey Hernden tallied nine points.

As a team, MU hit 20-of-68 (29.4 percent) from the floor as Melcher and Hernden were a combined 6-of-28. The Crusaders were 12-of-19 from the foul line (63.2 percent).

Point Park connected on 27-of-61 shots from the floor (44.3 percent) and 17-of-28 free throws (60.7 percent).

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Thurston gridders headed to Division 3 'Elite 8'

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Of the eight teams still alive in the MHSAA Division 3 football playoffs, few are on a hotter roll than Redford Thurston.

Saturday afternoon on their home turf, the Eagles played a focused, relentless style of win-or-go-home football while overpowering Dearborn Divine Child, 37-17, in a D3 district final contest.

Losers of three of their first four games this season, the 8-3 Eagles will take a seven-game winning streak into Friday's 7 p.m. quarterfinal matchup at New Boston Huron (10-1).

Of the teams still playing in D3, only 11-0 Zeeland West has a longer winning streak going than the Eagles, whose three early-season setbacks came against eventual playoff-qualifiers.

Saturday's game — played in windy, cold conditions — was deadlocked 10-10 at the half, but Thurston regrouped at the break before outscoring the Falcons 27-7 over the final 24 minutes.

"We made a couple adjustments at halftime, but the main thing was we just executed better than we did in the first half and our offensive line took over," said Thurston head coach Bob Snell, whose team's previous trip to the final eight came in 2010. "In the first half, Divine Child did a good job of keeping us off balance and they brought some heavy pressure. We were able to take control up front in the second half and (senior quarterback) Travis (Wesenberg) made some outstanding throws."

After completing 4 of 8 passes for just 15 yards in the first half, Wesenberg found a groove down the stretch, completing 8 of 10 aerials for 117

yards.

"Travis made a couple huge third-and-long throws into tight coverage that kept drives alive," Snell said.

The winners' ground game was led by the dynamic senior duo of Laymon Giddings-Whatley and Chris Johnson. Giddings-Whatley ran 13 times for 78 yards and four touchdowns while Johnson picked up 87 yards on 17 carries and one TD. Johnson's most prolific run came on the Eagles' second drive when he smashed and dashed through the Falcons' defense for 24 yards to help set up a game-tying 26-yard field goal by Kobe Williams.

Divine Child seized an early 3-0 lead on Brent Rodden's 30-yard field goal.

An outstanding special teams play set up the Eagles' first touchdown of the day. With just over nine minutes left in the second quarter, Alonzo McCoy boomed a punt 60 yards that was down inside the Falcons 5 by a hustling Isiah Crofford.

Three plays later, Aaron Griffin intercepted a Jimmy Seewald pass and returned it to the DC 7. Giddings-Whatley then bulled into the end zone on a fourth-and-goal play from the 1 to put the Eagles in front 10-3.

DC evened the score at 10-10 at the break with a 94-yard into-the-wind drive that was engineered by backup quarterback Collin Goslin, who completed a couple pivotal third-down-and-long passes before capping the possession with a 16-yard keeper for a TD with just 32 seconds left before halftime.

"We were feeling pretty good at the half because we hadn't played well and were still tied," Snell said.

The Falcons nearly took the lead midway through the third

quarter, but Dionte Jones surged through the middle of the DC offensive line to block a 30-yard field goal attempt.

Inspired by the turn of events, the Eagles promptly drove 73 yards and scored on a 9-yard run by Giddings-Whatley to make it 16-10 (the extra point was no good).

Thurston put the game away with a 21-point fourth quarter, which was ignited by a 55-yard pass from Wesenberg to McCoy, which took the ball to the Falcon 28. Moments later, Giddings-Whatley took the ball around right end for a 17-yard scoring scamper to make it 22-10. A two-point pass

from McCoy to Dionte Jones ramped the lead to 24-10.

DC cut its deficit in half, 24-17, on a 49-yard scoring pass, but the Eagles countered with a statement-making 55-yard drive that was capped by Giddings-Whatley's 2-yard TD run. The score was set up one play earlier on a 23-yard run by Johnson.

A 2-yard TD run by Johnson with four minutes left closed out the scoring.

Wesenberg finished 10 of 17 for 132 yards. His favorite target was Crofford, who reeled in five spirals for 55 yards.

Snell said New Boston Hu-

ron will pose a strong challenge for his team.

"They have a very good, balanced offense with a lot of size up front," he said. "They run out of several formations and they have good, tough athletes all over the field."

Friday's game will be the first-ever gridiron encounter between the two schools.

The Chiefs advanced to the regional round with a 44-27 victory over Trenton. They have outscored their 11 foes 346-172 this season. Thurston has racked up 296 points, but has yielded just 164.

STEELERS

Continued from Page B1

er, Jeremiah Penick, Gage Wheatley, Chris Little and Ben Vetter cleared the way for Miller's second TD, while the "Black" O-line of Dean Kaye, Sam Beydoun and Liam Radoski had the Mustangs on their heels the rest of the way.

Powering the Steelers' defense were Kameron Arnold, Jack Yates, Troszak, Miller and Wright, who returned an interception to the Macomb 5-yard line.

The head coach of the varsity Steelers is Angelo Lanava.

Fabulous freshmen

Luke Janack got the ball rolling for the freshmen Steelers when he returned the opening kickoff 60 yards for a touchdown. Janack broke five tackles on the way to the end zone for his first of two TDs on the day.

Also lighting up the first-half scoreboard for the Steelers were Brayden Willis (2-yard TD run) and Baechler Houser, who hauled in a point-after-TD pass from quarterback Andrew Iaquaniello.

Defensively, the Steelers gave up just one first down and a TD run on a broken play to carry a 13-6 lead into the

intermission.

Bolstering the Steelers' defense in its dominating second-half performance were Evan Cosgrove, who returned an interception 35 yards, and Michael Beydoun, who recovered a Hawks fumble.

Both Steelers offensive-line units turned in steamroller efforts despite less-than-perfect conditions, which included a cold, blustery wind and intermittent showers.

The head coach of the freshmen Steelers is Paul Hult.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Members of the Plymouth-Canton Steelers freshmen squad pose with their MYFCC Super Bowl trophies following Saturday's 32-6 victory over Lake Area.

OBSERVER FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS

ALL GAMES 7 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

Friday, Nov. 14	Ed Wright	Dan O'Meara	Tim Smith
Canton (9-2) at Saline (10-1)	Canton	Canton	Canton
Thurston (8-3) at New Boston Huron (10-1)	Thurston	Huron	Thurston
Saturday, Nov. 15			
Flushing (9-2) at Farm. Harrison (9-2), 1 p.m.	Flushing	Harrison	Harrison
Last week's record	2-1	3-0	2-1
Overall record	95-30	108-17	82-43



ED WRIGHT
Thurston's Jacob Jenkins (77) and Alden Ingram (70) wrap up Divine Child running back David McCarty.

ron will pose a strong challenge for his team.

"They have a very good, balanced offense with a lot of size up front," he said. "They run out of several formations and they have good, tough athletes all over the field."

Friday's game will be the first-ever gridiron encounter between the two schools.

The Chiefs advanced to the regional round with a 44-27 victory over Trenton. They have outscored their 11 foes 346-172 this season. Thurston has racked up 296 points, but has yielded just 164.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Make Thanksgiving Day food prep easy with fare from area markets

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, so it's a perfect time to create the perfect menu that's sure to impress and please your guests.

Fortunately, many local markets have already done most of the work for you, creating a wide variety of unique and delicious appetizers, desserts and other holiday menu items featuring everything from farm-fresh produce, Michigan-made products and even gluten-free items for those with food sensitivities.

While ever-popular traditional offerings such as roast turkey, creamy mashed potatoes and savory stuffing remain holiday table mainstays, chefs at some area markets and grocery stores are adding new twists to long-standing favorites.

And once you've planned your menu, a beautiful centerpiece will add the final touch. Westborn Market, with locations in Berkley, Livonia, and Dearborn, can help make your tablescape pop with beautiful and unique fresh floral arrangements.

Adding flowers — even mixed with candles — can make a holiday table special, said Danny Sawalha, operations manager.

"We do flowers on a very large scale at Westborn, at a wide variety of price points. We have something for everyone," he added.

Appetizers

In Farmington Hills, Johnny Pomodoro's is introducing a new Pumpkin Dip appetizer featuring sweet cream mascarpone. Paired with ginger snaps or vanilla wafers for dipping, this sweet treat is a tasty way to start the festivities, said store manager Marc Miller.

Hiller's Market, with locations in Plymouth, Northville, South Lyon and West Bloomfield, offers an easy-to-serve Ultimate Snack Attack Tray that includes up to four super premium deli meats, two cheeses, potato salad or coleslaw, and pumpernickel or rye bread. It is presented with an assortment of olives, pickles, tomatoes, radishes and condiments.

For another easy and appealing appetizer, Busch's Fresh Food Market, with several locations in the metro area, offers a spread platter featuring a blue cheese ball and salmon pate — perfect when paired with crackers.

Papa Joe's Gourmet Market and Catering in Birmingham takes the pre-dinner nibbles up a notch with its bacon-wrapped dates, made with sundried dates, stuffed with Gorgonzola cheese and wrapped in Applewood bacon.

Side dishes

Papa Joe's also offers four different types of stuffing, including a gluten-free version made with quinoa, multi grains, signature spices, and a variety of fall vegetables, cherries and pumpkin seeds.

Other varieties of stuffing include a traditional version, made with house-baked bread; a Venetian version featuring pine nuts, roasted mushrooms, herbs and Parmesan cheese; and a Michigan stuffing, complete with fall



Busch's Fresh Food Market offers turkey dinners, complete with side dishes.

apples, walnuts and Michigan cherries, said Lisa Monroe, catering director at Papa Joe's.

Earthy greens are a wonderful way to incorporate nutrient-rich foods into the festivities, said Sarah Kerr, chef at Busch's Fresh Food Market in Livonia.

Oven-roasted Brussels sprouts tossed with fresh Michigan maple syrup, bacon and pecans are a customer-favorite, Kerr said.

Area Meijer stores also follow health-conscious food trends, offering nutritious alternatives to traditional Thanksgiving options including a new Kale Salad that features broccoli, grapes, apples and feta cheese as well as a Super Foods Salad that features kale, edamame, sunflower seeds, tomatoes, dried cranberries and more.

Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering in Livonia kicks the tired jellied cranberries up a notch with a Cranberry Farro Beet Salad featuring whole cranberries, orange marmalade, butternut squash and farro grains available throughout the holiday season.

Kroger, with locations throughout the metropolitan Detroit area, offers a Cranberry Celebration Salad made with cranberries, walnuts and a variety of other sweet fruits. It is available in the deli department.

Main course

If you are the one cooking the bird this holiday, be sure and pick up the Turkey Perfect Brining Kit available at Hiller's Markets. The kit features a brine mix and large brine bag and promises to infuse your bird with delicious herb flavors.

Brenda Jones, manager of Vintage Market in Westland, said the store of-

fers an alternative for those who don't like turkey or who want an additional main course: roast lamb.

"We sell a lot of leg of lamb for Thanksgiving. Not everyone likes turkey, or they might be sick of it. So it is nice to have another option, something a little different that it still special," she said.

Canton's Holiday Market also offers a mouth-watering addition to your Thanksgiving table. Seasoned prime rib — roasted on site — is ready to serve and easily carved, said store manager Diane Mackey.

Desserts

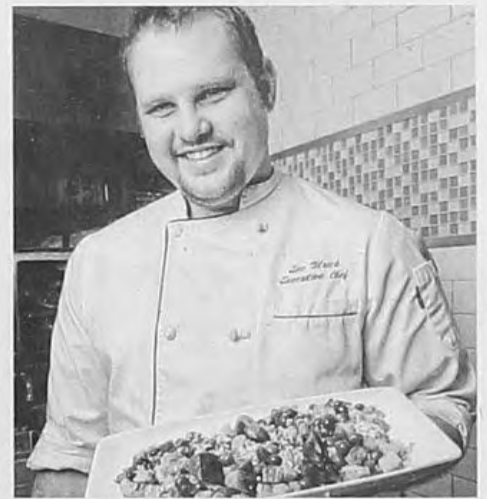
Holiday Market also offers sweet treats for your dessert menu, including a cannoli torte (yellow cake layered and frosted with homemade cannoli filling and covered with crushed cannoli shells, toasted almonds and shredded coconut). For those seeking a new twist on pumpkin pie, they also offer a Pumpkin Spice Roll filled with sweet cream cheese frosting.

Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering also takes pumpkin to the next level with Pumpkin Spice Cupcakes frosted with a cream cheese frosting and topped with candied pecans.

Pies, ranging from apple, cherry and other fruits, to pecan and pumpkin, made by the Grand Traverse Pie Company are available at area Busch's Fresh Food Market locations.

A special seasonal apple-caramel dessert featuring fresh apples, whipped topping and rich caramel — a lighter alternative to pies and cakes — is available from Vintage Market.

Hiller's Market's macaroon tray offers an opportunity to bring a French



Executive chef Lee Ulrich presents Cranberry Farro Beet Salad, at Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering in Livonia.

element to the holiday, and features 12 varieties of the trendy cookie and is available in the bakery department.

Wine

Dan Sonenberg, manager at Johnny Pomodoro's, recommends offering guests a sneak peak at the vintage year with a Beaujolais Nouveau. Usually introduced a week before Thanksgiving, Beaujolais Nouveau is a "lighter, easier wine. It's a great complement to your Thanksgiving feast," Sonenberg said.

Experts at Holiday Market recommend The Chook Sparkling Shiraz. A luscious, light bodied Shiraz, "it tastes like liquid cranberry," said Mackey.

Mackey also recommends the 2013 Essence Riesling from Germany — "fruity and great with a buttery turkey" — as well as a 2010 Marimar Estate Don Miguel Vineyard Pinot Noir that is "great with dark meat."

J. Lohr Falcon's Perch Pinot Noir (Monterey County) is available at Hiller's Market and is "a terrific value Pinot that just received a 92 point rating from *The Wine Enthusiast*," according to Justin Hiller.

For a white wine selection, Hiller recommends Pacific Rim Riesling (Columbia Valley)

In addition to prepared hors d'oeuvres and side dishes, many area markets also offer completely prepared Thanksgiving meals to make entertaining even easier.

Area grocery stores Meijer and Kroger, as well as Busch's Fresh Food Market and Hiller's all offer pre-cooked turkey dinners, complete with sides. Prices vary by store and selection of items.

Other area gourmet markets including Holiday Market, Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering, Johnny Pomodoro's, Papa Joe's Gourmet Market and Catering and Vintage Market also offer completely cooked Thanksgiving meals with prices varying depending on serving size and selections.

If you plan to serve a pre-cooked meal, be sure and order early, advises Marc Miller, manager at Johnny Pomodoro's.

"We want to make sure everyone has what they need in order to have a wonderful holiday," Miller said.



Submitted
Chef Gale Gand will visit Busch's Fresh Food Market in Plymouth on Nov. 14.

Meet Food Network chef at Busch's in Plymouth

Gale Gand, nationally celebrated pastry chef, restaurateur, cookbook author and host of Food Network's dessert series *Sweet Dreams*, will meet customers 3-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 15185 Sheldon, Plymouth.

Gand will be on hand to pose for photos and sign autographs as well as her cookbook *Brunch*, which will be available for purchase. Busch's also will prepare several of Gand's cookie recipes for customers to sample and will hold raffles to win baking essentials and other prizes.

For more information, call Busch's at 734-414-5200.

Looking great: Set a beautiful table on Thanksgiving Day

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Preparing your Thanksgiving table is about more than just setting the table. It's also about setting a mood and creating the ambiance to complement your food and your guests.

For Karen Ingoglia, that means keeping it fun and fairly simple in order to accommodate the approximately 40 guests that converge on her Farmington Hills home to celebrate the holiday each year.

"I tend to go with deep gold, oranges and red — fall colors — for the cloths and runners," Ingoglia said.

Small pumpkins and gourds mixed with synthetic leaves and other decorative autumn pieces are placed on shelves and tables to add a festive touch.

"I want it to be pretty but not extravagant," said Ingoglia, the mother of three small children, all under age 6.

Complementing the fall jewel tones with wooden serve ware and accent pieces also heightens the atmosphere, said Nada Abbate, owns of Nada and Company in Royal Oak.

Establishing a mood also is easy with lanterns filled with candles or even flowers and other greenery for an effortless but elegant centerpiece, Abbate said.

Mason jars, covered with chalk-based paint and filled with tea lights or used as vases with fresh fall flowers, can create the same effect, she added.

Choosing the right serve ware can also make an impact and help set the mood for your dinner, said Kathy Magaluk, owner of the



Submitted
Karen Ingoglia of Farmington Hills and family, Ava, 5, Michael, 4, Anthony, 18 months, and husband Chris. The family entertains close to 40 people over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Acorn Farm, a kitchen home goods store in Milford.

Magaluk recommends Juliska, earthenware from Portugal, in a hammered pewter finish to add a special touch, not just for the holiday but for everyday use as well.

"It has a wonderful finish and is still microwave, freezer, dishwasher- and oven-safe," Magaluk said.

She often pairs it with Juliska's Berry and Thread pattern, in Whitewash, for a simple yet sophisticated look.

Linens, in understated fabrics such as burlap, can play a big part in making your table look chic as well, Magaluk said.

"Adding a burlap runner over a tablecloth is a great look," she said.

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CPA
Southfield CPA firm now hiring a replacement for one of our CPAs retiring after 35 years.

DIRECT CARE:
Staffing Agency seeks caring staff to assist and support individuals to live in their homes.

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT
Farmington Hills based accounting firm. Must be experienced in small business accounting.

Boring Mill Operator & CNC Operator - 3 Axis
Experienced only. Benefits & Overtime! Start immediately.

DRIVERS for Snow Removal
Contract \$50-\$60/hr. Must have own truck & plow.

CASH FOR HOMES
*\$500 Bonus
Any condition-Redford & Surrounding areas

\$198 MOVES YOU IN!
Free rent until Jan. 1st 2015

MOVE IN READY HOMES IN CANTON
3 bedroom / 2 bath with all appliances including washer/dryer

Commercial Cleaner
Part time - Evenings
No experience necessary. Paid training.

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Erickson Living is hiring for these full time positions:
CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICER

Erickson Living is hiring for these full time positions:
CAMPUS SECURITY SUPERVISOR

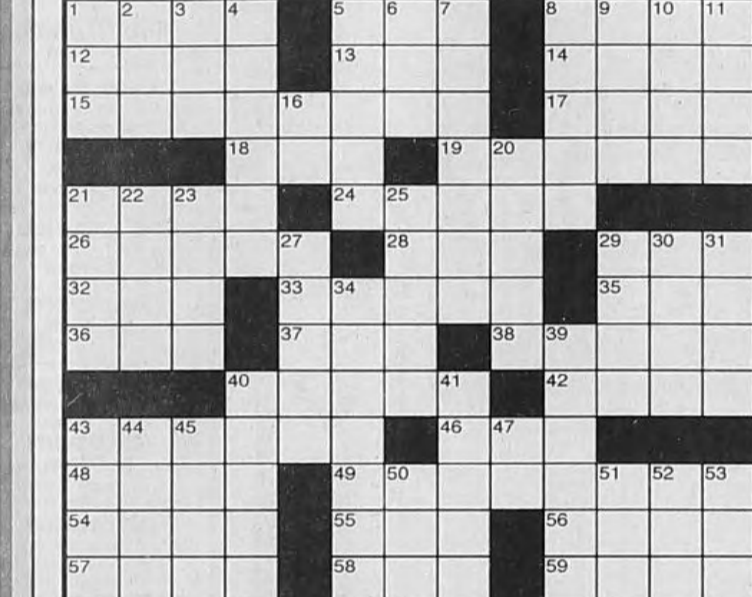
TEACHER
For Livonia preschool. 12 college child development credits req. Full or Part-Time.

Challenging fun for ALL ages
Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Male raccoon
5 Sitcom waitress
8 Any old thing
12 Drury Lane composer
13 Family mem.
14 Prince Charles' sister
15 Subway art
17 Beatles' meter maid
18 "Pulp Fiction" name
19 Spoils taker
21 Beagle features
24 Horse's brakes
26 Leads
28 Actress - Thompson
29 Acorn dropper
32 Low-graphics
33 Anagram for north
35 Opposite of post-
36 Yech!
37 Ooola's guy
38 Put in a log
40 Hauled off
42 Cold War power
43 Practical, as a plan
46 Libras' mo.
48 Norwegian port
49 Biotin (2 wds.)
54 Sketch
55 Scrape by
56 - McClurg of sitcoms
57 Latin I verb
58 Cincinnati player
59 Near-hurricane-force wind

DOWN
1 Mail pouch
2 Ex-Bruin Bobby
3 Literary collection
4 Turn down
5 Monk
6 Give the go-ahead
7 Noted Hamlet portrayer
8 DEA agents
9 Put a lid on!
10 "Render - Caesar..."
11 Around the corner
16 Radio band
20 Really stupid
21 Pantyhose shade
22 Not - to stand on
23 Send overnight
25 Wed on the run
27 Happy-hour perch
29 Chooses
30 Mars, to Plato
31 "The King and I" actress
34 Yet
39 Spice rack item
40 Steakhouse order (hyph.)
41 Was overfond
43 Meadow rodent
44 Wife of Osiris
45 Beggar's cry
47 LA locale
50 Likable prez?
51 Ms. Lupino
52 Less than one
53 Start of a bray



Answer to Previous Puzzle
L O N T A U T W H I R
A L E I F S O L E A V E
S E W B A S R E L I E F
H O L L E R O W L
Y E T E S S A Y
K I W I P E A R P G A
E S E F I R M S O U R
L L D L E A P R O A N
P E S T O H O N
R O E F I T F U L
S E A U R C H I N E N O
A T V S H A F T E D O
D E E T O N E S D O N

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

Table with columns: NMLS#, 30 Yr., Pts., 15 Yr., Pts. and rows for various mortgage lenders like 1SPMortgage, 1st Choice Mortgage Lending, AFI Financial, etc.

Above information available as of 11/7/14 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above.

TO PLACE YOUR AD 1-800-579-7355

ADOPTION
HELP WANTED-TRUCK DRIVER
\$3000 SIGN ON BONUS
DRIVER TRAINEE NEEDED!
GORDON TRUCKING, INC.

DENTAL HYGIENE WORD SEARCH

Grid for word search with words listed on the right: ABCESS, EXTRACTION, FILLINGS, etc.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE
Sudoku grid and Word Search grid for verification.

