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COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

Canton could be first community in state to gain accreditation in all departments

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Township appears positioned to become the only Michigan community where all municipal departments are accredited by outside, independent agencies that demand top-tier performance, officials say.

The achievement could make Canton, which already receives high marks on community surveys, an even bigger draw for new residents and companies while bolstering

property values and quality of life for those already here, local leaders say.

"It's about being the best you can be at what you do – and that's our goal," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "This is a way to identify best practices put together by outside agencies. It allows you to give better service to the residents."

Canton Township also could potentially save money from reduced insurance rates, LaJoy said, by achieving independent opinions that playgrounds are safe, sewers are working effi-

ciently, police officers are highly trained and firefighter paramedics are efficiently handling emergency calls, among hundreds of other criteria.

Two of Canton's four municipal departments already are accredited. The Canton Police Department for years has touted its rating by the International Commission on Law Enforcement Agencies, while Canton Leisure Services has achieved its standing through the Commission for Park and Recreation Agencies.

Now, the Canton Municipal

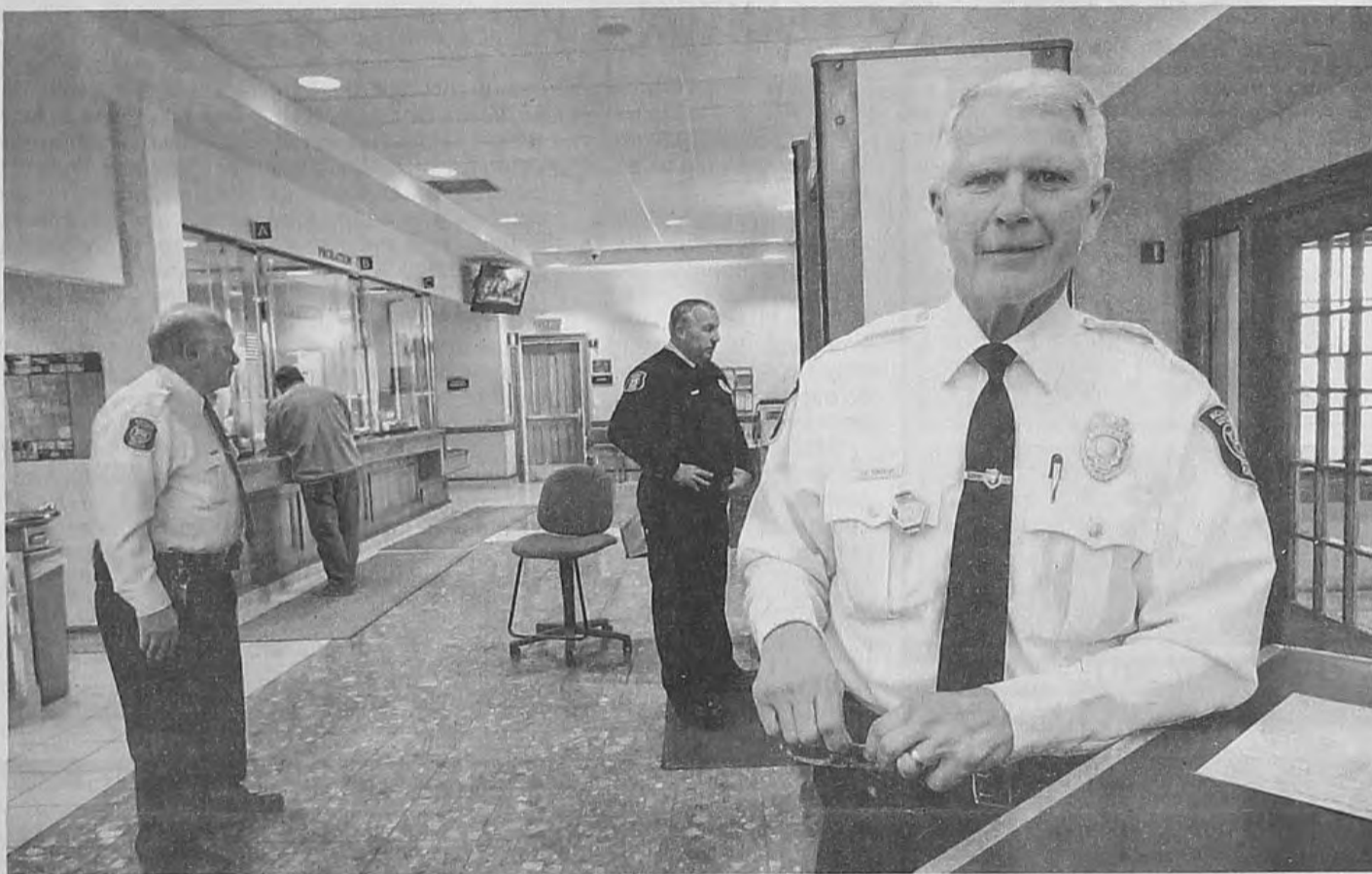
Services Department has embarked on a rigorous process to become accredited through the American Public Works Association, while the Canton Fire Department has initiated a similar move through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Both have begun an exhaustive internal analysis and hope to potentially achieve their accreditation status by late 2016.

Officials are confident it will happen, meaning all four of

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton Fire Chief Joshua Meier is confident his department can pass an accreditation process along with the Canton Municipal Services Department.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Court Officer Dave Fendelet stands at the security desk. In the background, officers Frank Wren and Andy Zazula check people through the metal detector.

Heise: Road plan doesn't hurt schools

Michigan's roads and bridges would see much-needed repairs under a proposal approved by the Michigan House, state Rep. Kurt Heise announced.

The plan, which Heise said is a variation on one originally proposed by House Speaker Jase Bolger, also saves funding levels for local governments and public schools at 2015 levels.

Heise applauded the proposal for ensuring taxes collected on gasoline sales would be used to help fix the roads instead of being used for other purposes.

"The simple explanation for this plan is that taxes paid at the pump will finally be spent on our roads and bridges and not for other purposes," said Heise, R-Plymouth Township. "This is the kind of solution Michigan taxpayers want to see. Instead of Michigan motorists paying both a fuel tax and a sales tax at the pump, all taxes collected from gasoline sales will be going to fixing the roads, eliminating what currently amounts to a double taxation on local residents."

Under the plan, the 19-cent per gallon tax on gasoline is converted into a wholesale tax, while the sales tax on gasoline would be phased out over six years. The new plan generates to \$1.2 billion to fix state and local roads. At the

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COURT'S IN SESSION

Officers help justice prevail in 35th District Court

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Todd Ye has good sense of humor – and that's a good thing.

As court officer in 35th District Court for the past year-and-a-half, he needs it. From traffic violations

and other civil infractions to landlord-tenant disputes all the way to serious criminal cases, Ye and his five fellow court officers have pretty much seen it all – at least they hope they have.

The court serves the cities of Plymouth and Northville, along with Plymouth, Canton and Northville townships, with three judges.

The six court officers, all

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Court officers Todd Ye and Andy Zazula clear a man entering 35th District Court in Plymouth.

Finance chief back to his roots in Plymouth-Canton

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

It took Pat Briggs a little over a year to realize he wanted to get back where he belonged.

So when Briggs, at the time an associate vice president for finance at Ferris State Univer-

sity, saw the posting for a job as the assistant superintendent for business and operations with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools come up, he jumped at it.

Briggs, who before moving to Ferris State over a year ago had spent 12 years at Cadillac Public Schools and a couple of

years working for the Saginaw Intermediate School District, was eager for a chance to get back to the secondary level.

"I really just wanted to get back to K-12," said Briggs, who replaced Brodie Killian at P-CCS. "I feel strongly about what I have to offer."

Briggs brings a "wealth of

experience" in public education finance, according to a statement on the district's website. In addition to his work at Ferris State, Briggs was the assistant and interim superintendent in Cadillac and the executive director of business

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BRAD KADRICH
Patrick Briggs is new on the job as Plymouth-Canton's assistant superintendent for business and operations, replacing Brodie Killian.



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ROAD

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same time, a provision in the proposal would protect schools and local governments from budget cuts.

Additionally, the funding from this plan would be split, with 40 percent of the funds going to state roads and 60 percent of the funds going to local roads.

State Rep. Dian Sla-

vens, D-Canton, voted against the measure, saying the loss of sales tax on gas is going to hurt local communities and public school districts.

"Getting rid of the sales tax on gas ... those dollars go to our communities and our schools," Slavens said. "We don't have any fix for the money we're going to get rid of."

"Where are we going to get the dollars for our schools and municipal-

ities? That's a huge concern."

But those concerned the loss of sales-tax revenue on gasoline will cut funding from schools and local governments needn't worry, Heise said.

"We recognize that by transferring gas tax from the sales tax to a monetary-based tax that, as the sales tax is eliminated over six years on the price of gas, that could result in reduction of funding for school

districts and local governments," Heise said. "What the bill does is create a guarantee that school and local government funding isn't going to go below 2015 funding levels. It sets a floor, but doesn't set a ceiling. Any additional money generated by the sales tax for anything else does not go below the 2015 levels."

Heise said Bolger and the House Fiscal Agency are predicting an annual growth between 2.5 and 3 percent.

FINANCE

Continued from Page A1

and finance for Buena Vista schools in Saginaw.

He's got a bachelor's degree in economics and management from Albion College and his master's in education leadership from Saginaw Valley State University.

He started out doing auditing work; his contact with school officials

led him into the public education realm.

"When I was auditing, I got close to business managers and principals," Briggs said. "They felt good about doing good for kids."

It was that part of the job he missed at FSU, so he started looking for a K-12 district "two or three months ago." Friends from college had gone to Canton and he knew kids from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park "do really well" at the college level.

When he saw the job open, it seemed a natural fit.

"It's exciting," Briggs said. "Plymouth-Canton

has a lot to offer. Hopefully, I can contribute to that moving forward. There are a lot of positive things I can be a part of moving forward."

Briggs' breadth of experience, including his work at Ferris, will be very helpful at Plymouth-Canton, according to Dr. Michael Meissen, the district's superintendent.

"He has deep and varied experience," Meissen said. "That will help us with improving academic output while maintaining financial solvency. His experience in higher education should be helpful, because it broadens his

perspective on public education."

Briggs comes to Plymouth-Canton at a challenging time. The district is always wrestling with a budget that's several million dollars in deficit and this year is no different in that regard.

In addition to that, the district is building a new middle school, closing four buildings (Central Middle School, Gallimore and Allen elementaries and the Tanger Center), re-purposing Gallimore and redistricting its remaining elementary boundaries.

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CANTON

Continued from Page A1

Canton's municipal departments would be accredited.

"We'll be the only community in the state of Michigan that has that moniker," Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said. "The heart of why we're doing this is to be even better at what we do."

Moreover, he said, sweeping accreditation across all departments could make Canton an even more desirable community where property values enjoy robust gains.

Right now, Brighton is the only Michigan community accredited

through APWA. Canton Municipal Services faces a list of 593 standards – mostly through the Public Works Division – as it seeks to achieve accreditation for efforts such as handling water-sewer services, protecting the Rouge River and inspecting buildings.

Fire Chief Joshua Meier, meanwhile, said his department has to compile documents proving it has emergency response plans in place, for example, if an industrial building containing dangerous chemicals erupts in flames, a senior high-rise catches fire or Canton-Plymouth Mettetal Airport has a crash.

"The whole idea of accreditation is continuous improvement," Meier said. "No matter how

good we think we are or how good we become, we always want to focus on areas of improvement and how we can better serve the community."

The fire department faces 253 performance indicators as it works toward accreditation. Some of those focus on response efforts from the time a dispatcher gets an emergency call until a firefighter paramedic arrives on scene.

He conceded the department has set a tough pace to finish its accreditation process by late 2016, but he believes it can be done.

"It's a very lofty goal," he said, "but I, as chief, am confident that we have the right people in place to make it happen. We're excited about it."



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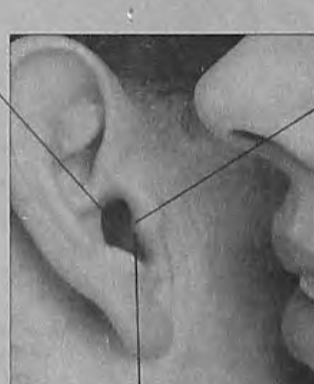
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Donating stock is best option

Q: Dear Rick: Every year I sit down and do my charitable contributions. I generally write checks to four or five different organizations. Generally this time of year, I receive a bonus and I use it to make my charitable contributions. I've been notified that I will not be receiving a bonus this year, however, I still want to make my contributions. What should I do to free up some cash? I have a few different options. The first is to borrow from my 401(k) plan. I've been told at work that I can borrow what I need. My second option is to withdraw some money from my IRA. I am over 59½, so I don't need to worry about any penalties. My last option is to sell some of my Ford stock. I bought Ford stock a number of years ago when things were not



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

doing well at the auto industry and I have a substantial gain. Which option should I consider?
A: It is admirable that you are not going to receive a bonus, but you still want to help those less fortunate. Americans are the most generous on Earth because of people like you.
In reviewing your situation, borrowing from your 401(k) plan is not bad, but there is a better option. One issue to be concerned with when you borrow from a 401(k) plan is whether you can continue to contribute to the plan. Many plans do not allow new contributions if there is an outstanding loan.
The second option, withdrawing from your IRA, can also have a significant downside. When you withdraw money from the IRA, it is taxed to you. Considering that you're working, it is potentially possible that withdrawing money out of an IRA can throw you into a higher tax bracket.
The third option, selling your Ford stock, will require you to pay taxes on the gain. The resulting capital gain that you would have

to pay can also cause other negative tax consequences for you.
I recommend that you donate your Ford stock directly to the various charities. In this transaction, you would receive a double tax benefit because you would not have to pay the capital gain tax (you would have been required to if you sold the Ford stock).
For those who are charitable in nature, donating appreciating securities is a great tax strategy. Not only do you receive a double tax benefit, but the charity is also in a favorable position because it would not have to pay taxes either. It is a win-win situation.
One last note and that is the question many of you may still be asking, what about the charity? From a charity standpoint, it can sell the appreciated security immediately and it will have no tax consequences.
Good luck.
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Canton police release sketch of knifing suspect at Meijer

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer



An employee outside the Canton Meijer store was cut on the face as he broke free from a suspect who held a knife to his throat during an attempted robbery that occurred shortly before 8 p.m. Tuesday, police say.
Police have released a composite sketch of the suspect in hopes of receiving tips about his identity and whereabouts.
Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said the 23-year-old male victim was taken to a medical facility for treatment of injuries.
The employee had gone outside the Meijer store at Ford and Canton Center to smoke a cigarette while he was on break, police said. He told police he was near the east end of the store

when a suspect approached him and asked for a cigarette.
As the victim reached for his cigarettes, he told police, the suspect brandished a knife, put it to his throat and demanded money. The victim managed to break free and run away, but not before his assailant cut him on the face, police said.
The suspect has been described as a white male, 5 feet, 11 inches to 6 feet, 2 inches tall with a thin build, blondish hair and light brown eyes. He is wearing a hoodie in the composite sketch.

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Gallimore marrow drive aims to strengthen registry

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

If there's anyone who knows the importance of next week's blood/bone marrow drive at Gallimore Elementary, it's Erica Frew.

After all, Frew watched as her 2-year-old son Gavin received a life-saving bone marrow transplant in August to battle the Shwachman-Diamond syndrome with which he was born.

And she has two other sons born with the same disease. While both are healthy at the moment, the family knows that's a situation that could change at any time. If it does, there's no way of knowing whether either brother would have a matched donor.

That's what makes drives like the Dec. 15 event at Gallimore so important, because it's a way to add names to the national bone marrow registry.



ERICA FREW

Patients like Daniel Jolivar of Haiti (left) and Gavin Frew of Canton will benefit from an increase in awareness of the bone marrow donor registry. That's one of the focuses of the annual Gallimore Elementary School blood drive.

"We don't know if they have matched donors available in the event they need a transplant," Erica Frew said. "We know the best way to increase

the odds of them having a donor when needed is to grow the registry."

And while Frew hopes to grow the bone marrow donor

REGISTRY AWARENESS

What: Blood/bone marrow drive
Where: Gallimore Elementary School, 8375 N. Sheldon, Canton
When: 2:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15
Contact: Tarita Gibson at Be the Match, tgibson@mmdp.org or 313-802-1044; or Erica Frew, teamgavinfrew@gmail.com or 313-492-4075.

registry, she knows the blood drive is just as important. Gavin, for instance, received some 40 red blood cell transfusions in 21 months since his body wasn't producing its own. He also received two platelet transfusions in the period right after his transplant. Because it takes so much to produce one platelet treatment,

getting a good response to the blood drive is a key.

"He's been receiving intravenous immunoglobulins monthly since August and will until at least February to support his immune system with donor antibodies until it's functioning on its own," Frew said. "IVIG is a blood product ... extracted from donor plasma. It can take 1,000 donors to produce one dose."

Frew points out joining the marrow donor registry is pretty easy. All it takes, she said, is a cheek swab and a few minutes of paperwork. And it usually takes less than 90 minutes to donate blood.

The return on the investment could mean saving lives. "The impact of these simple actions can be felt for years to come," Frew said. "You just may be someone's hero."

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P-CEP Madrigal Singers wow AAUW yule party

By Julie Brown
 Staff Writer

This coming April, the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Madrigals will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City, as will the P-CEP's male Festival Singers. *Dona Nobis Pacem* is their selection and fundraising is underway to send the musicians to the Big Apple.

The evening of Thursday, Dec. 4, members and guests of the Plymouth-Canton branch, American Association of University Women got to hear Christmas classics and other selections from 13 of the 22 total Madrigals under the direction of Jennifer Neumann.

"We are going to sing holiday songs and a couple non-holiday songs," Neumann said



JULIE BROWN

Some of the P-CEP Madrigals perform Thursday, Dec. 4, for the AAUW members and guests.

before the young women sang. "It's always a pleasure to come out in the community and make events bright," she added of the 11th- and 12th-graders who performed Dec. 4.

That evening, *If Ever I Would Leave You* was among non-Christmas selections. Their holiday songs ranged from *The Christmas Song* (*Chestnuts Roasting on an*

Open Fire), to *Silver Bells*, *Silent Night* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.

"Whoever invites us, I always try to say yes," said Neumann, whose ensemble finished up with *Carol of the Bells*.

The student musicians have a fundraiser on tap 1:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza in

Canton, with a portion of sales funding the New York trip. The AAUW women applauded enthusiastically for the recent performance, with a standing ovation at the end. At Neumann's urging, they joined in on several Christmas songs.

The AAUW branch had its annual raffle to support its national Legal Advocacy Fund that night, said branch Presi-

dent Mickey Edell of Canton. That supports women who've faced discrimination in higher education, as well as assisting women who've been sexually assaulted in the military.

"The other reason to to enjoy camaraderie with friends new and old," she said. "And to celebrate the holidays."

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
Joshua Clark of Romulus tells a Schoolcraft College audience Thursday of the life-changing injuries he suffered when a drunken driver hit him in 2002.

MADD: Avoid drinking and driving this holiday season

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Joshua Clark has traveled all over Michigan, sharing his story of an incident that almost left him dead.

Driving home from playing pickup basketball in 2002 near his home in Lansing, Clark was struck by a woman motorist with alcohol in her system. It left him with severe injuries that could have taken his life.

"Although I had a seat belt on, I still ended up on the passenger seat floor," the Romulus resident said. "That woman decided to drink and drive and make a selfish decision."

Clark was a speaker during the kickoff event for Mothers Against Drunk Driving's "Tie One On for Safety" event Thursday afternoon at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The campaign, known for its red ribbons tied to car antennas, launches in December each year, a month where alcohol tends to play a part in holiday celebrations, said Tyler MacEachran, the Michigan executive director for MADD.

"Celebrate the holidays, but make sure your loved ones and yourself survive the holidays," he said.

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that more than 10,300 fatalities occurred in 2012 as a result of drivers with a blood-alcohol content level of more than 0.08, the legal limit in all 50 states. That fatality figure accounted for 31 percent of all traffic deaths that year.

Clark, who speaks on a monthly basis on panels and other events for MADD, shared his story of spending a month in a coma after his accident, with his family not knowing if he'd survive.

Afterward, Clark experienced some paralysis and had to work for months to regain the ability to do everyday things he had done for so long.

Fixing people's perceptions is still something that needs to be done regarding drunken driving, Clark said. Incidents involving drunken drivers are something seen "every day in our newspapers," referencing the recent death of Bloom-

field Hills School District employee Shelley Lazarus, who died Nov. 30 in Genesee County after her and her husband's vehicle was hit by someone suspected of driving with alcohol in their system.

"It's a socially accepted problem," he said. "Drinking and driving is not common sense."

Photos of individuals who had died after accidents involving drunken drivers cycled on the screen behind him as he spoke.

Karen Bonanno, program coordinator for the Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition, said it's important to keep those reminders to not drink and drive readily available, even though many in Livonia have heard that chorus since they were children.

"We've all heard the messages to not drink and drive," she said. "We've learned that from a very, very young age."

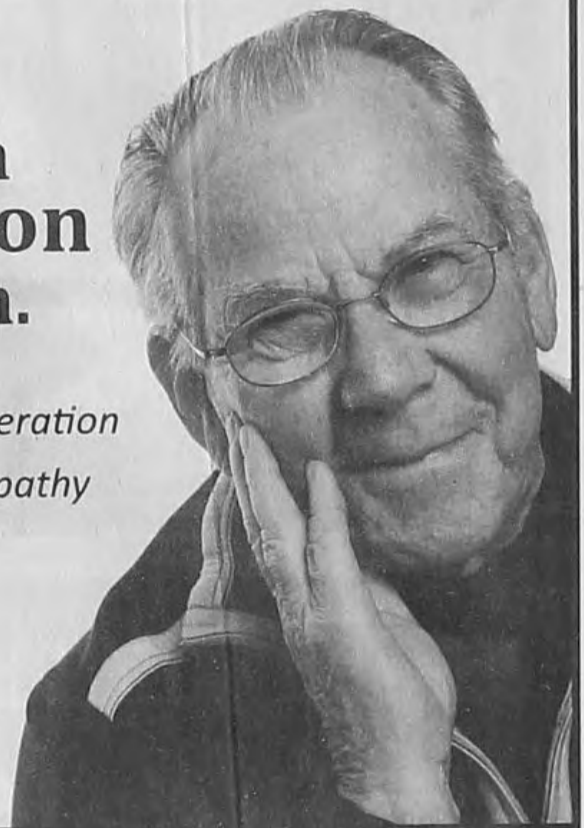
More information on the MADD campaign can be found at the organization's website, madd.org.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIBRARY CONCERT

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: The Friends of the Plymouth District Library present Lee Murdock and The Christmas Tree Ship Concert: Great Lakes Maritime History. Murdock combines music and stories of the inland seas, Great Lakes and port cities of the early 1900s. Murdock will also share his favorite holiday songs as part of the magical season. His song about the Rouse Simmons is the centerpiece to this concert, a story and song of hope and tragedy, of loss and renewal, as the famous ship struggled into a raging winter storm in November 1912.

Contact: Register for this free concert in advance by contacting the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibra-

ry.org

FOOD/WINTER WEAR

Dates: Through Dec. 18
Locations: Nico & Vali, The Sardine Room, Fiamma Grille, Compari's, the Post Local Bistro, Sean O'Callaghan's, Penn Grill, E.G. Nick's and the Ironwood Grill in downtown Plymouth
Details: Diners at any of the participating restaurants who donate either non-perishable food or winter wear can receive 5 percent off their bills (up to \$50) in a drive to help the Plymouth Salvation Army in a drive being sponsored by the *Metro Times*.

Contact: For more information, call the Salvation Army at 734-453-5464.

BAREFOOT PRODUCTION

Dates/Times: Dec. 7 and 14 at 2 p.m.
Location: Barefoot Productions

Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: Barefoot Productions presents *The Desk Set*, a comedy by William Marchant which inspired the movie starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. All seats are \$15.

Contact: For tickets, call 734-560-1493 or go to www.justgobarefoot.com.

PEARL HARBOR CEREMONY

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park, in front of Central Middle School, downtown Plymouth

Details: At about 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plymouth time - Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked. This ceremony will "Remember Pearl Harbor." Pearl Harbor Day is a day that should be a quiet memory of those military men and women who never asked questions, but

followed orders - and died. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695, Plymouth Passage-Gayde American Legion Post No. 391 and the Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter No. 528 invite you and your family to attend.

BLUES @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7-10 p.m.

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

Details: Big Ray and the Motor City Kings bring their mix of blues, rock 'n' roll and country. The group features Big Ray Haywood on sax and vocals, Davey Fender on guitar, Mike Rupprecht on keys and vocals, Louis Eurns on drums and Richard Bright on bass and vocals. There is a \$5 donation at the door.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

BAREFOOT AUDITIONS

Date/Time: Dec. 8-9, 7 p.m.

Location: Barefoot Productions theater, Main near the railroad tracks in Plymouth

Details: Barefoot Productions announces auditions for *Disfranchisement*, a dark comedy by Lisa Loomer. The play deals with A.D.D. and its treatments. Roles for three men and six women. Actors should bring a resume and headshot, if available.

Contact: For more information, call Chris at 734-673-4244 or go to www.justgobarefoot.com.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m.

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

Details: This New Year's Eve event features Judie Cochill with the Ron Kischuk Trio. The group features Judie Cochill on vocals, Ron Kischuk on trombone, Tad Weed on piano and Jeff Halsey

on bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

ANNUAL WCGH REUNION

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet, 6539 N. 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.



PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Game of Thrones

A tree zapped by lightning that snapped during the Plymouth Fall Festival in September has found a new purpose. The folks at Art's Tree Service spent much of Friday carving it into a throne.



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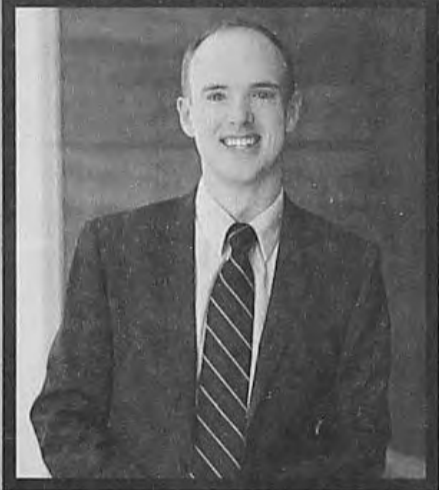


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MON. - WEDS. 10 AM - 7 PM - THURS - SAT: 10 AM - 5 PM

Lack of support shutter's warming center for winter

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

For the first time in more than a decade, Lighthouse Home Missions will not open its warming center for the homeless Jan. 1.

A combination of factors, including a drop in volunteers and an increase in demand at the shelter and LHM's food pantry, led the Rev. Ruby Beneteau to close the center this year and focus on acquiring a building to provide year-round sheltering.

"We decided to take a step back and close for this winter," Beneteau said. "Rather than open and be in mid-stream and have to put them out because we didn't have enough people, we decided to not open at all and look at getting our own building."

"Our fear was that we would have a winter like last year this year and have no watchmen and then we would have to put them out in the cold," she added. "We're totally out of room."

Located at the Full Gospel Temple on Palmer in Westland, the warming center is a volunteer operation that's open Jan. 1 through March 31, providing an evening meal and a place to sleep for the homeless. It is supported by churches in Wayne, Westland, Canton, Plymouth and Livonia, which provided a meal and volunteers to serve as watchmen during the night.

Several of the churches indicated they could no longer assist with the center and there was a drop in the number of volunteers, Beneteau said.

LHM also operates a soup kitchen that's open for lunch Monday

through Friday, a food pantry and clothing bank and works with the homeless to get them assistance.

With the extreme winter weather last year, the center attracted an overflow crowd that was permitted to stay there day and night.

"We have run out of room. Last year, we had people sleeping on mats around pallets of food," Beneteau said. "We had people there night and day and that can wear on volunteers. When you have 80-90 people, that's too many for two or three people to watch."

"We were so packed, we now know we need a building," she added.

Continue work

LHM will continue to work with the homeless. They will be able to come in to eat, shower and get a clean set of clothes and a blanket. They will be able to stay at the center until the soup kitchen closes and will get a meal to take with them.

According to Beneteau, individuals can decide to throw away their clothes or throw them in a hamper to be washed and used for the next person.

"We'll do what we've always done, except allow people to sleep there," Beneteau said. "If we have a winter like last year, if it gets bad, we'll keep the soup kitchen open longer."

Once the decision was made to not open the warming center, LHM volunteer Thelma Ivey and Tim Copely began working with homeless people to get them services and find them shelter for winter. LHM has been working with other shelters and is providing bus tickets to get the homeless to the other

facilities.

Both Ivey and Copely have committed to working with the warming center when it re-opens.

"We're trying to get them help and let them know in advance that the shelter won't be open this winter," Beneteau said. "We've been finding them shelter and tucking them in where we can."

And even though the center won't open Jan. 1, LHM is still in need of blankets, hats, gloves, long johns and especially tube socks to keep patrons warm. Sweat shirts and pants are also great because they can be worn under other clothing.

"Socks are the most important thing," Beneteau said. "Tube socks both men and women can wear and they can put double on. You need dry socks to stay warm."

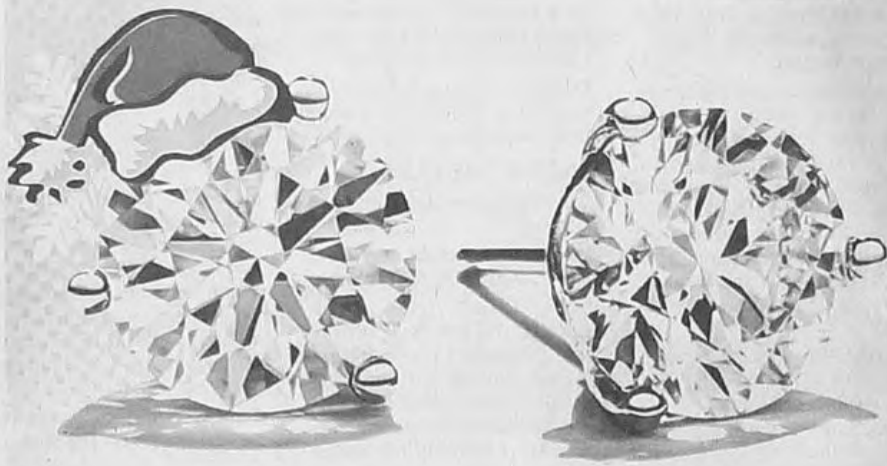
Beneteau debunks the idea that the homeless are mainly single and drug addicts or drunks. Many are families or mothers with children who don't have the money to get a place to live. And from what she has heard, many stay in abandoned buildings and foreclosed homes.

Looking for a building

Beneteau has already been looking at buildings and has three or four in mind. However, she is waiting to see what becomes available. The goal is to open a shelter year-round.

Light House Home Missions is located at the Full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, in Westland. For more information, call 734-326-3885.

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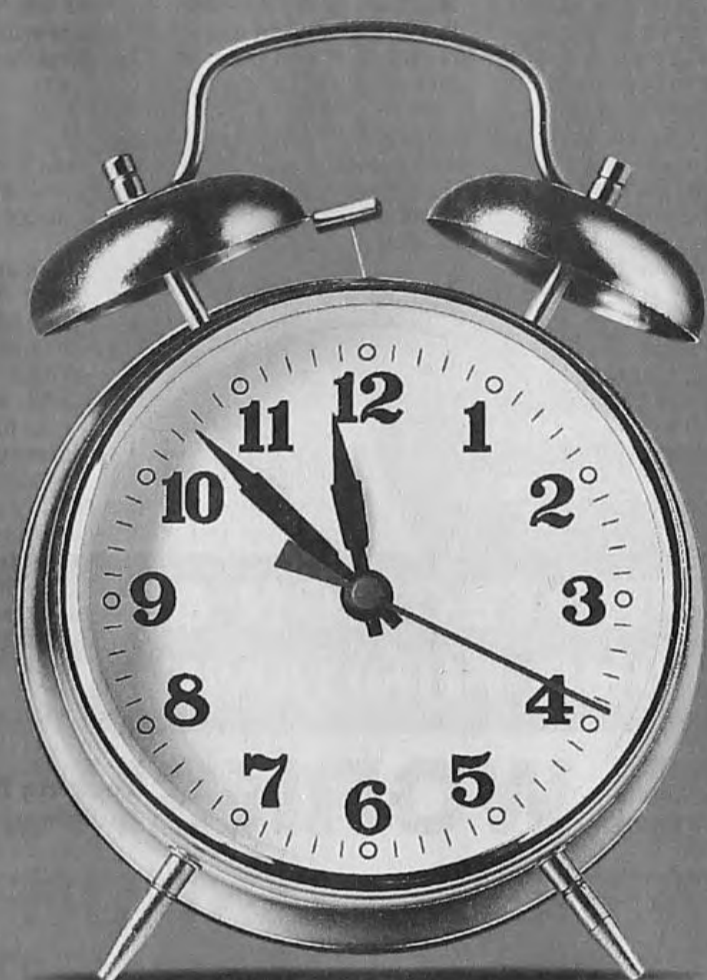
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Officer Margo Hadden worked as a Wayne County sheriff's deputy before joining the court staff.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Court officer Peggy Donohue speaks with an attorney in Judge Ronald Lowe's courtroom.

COURT

Continued from Page A1

with strong backgrounds in criminal justice as police officers or county sheriff's deputies, are on the front line of the court, responsible for providing court security and keeping order in the court, as well as working with judges to ensure that the court runs smoothly and efficiently.

That task can be challenging at times, all agree, since the busy court handles about 35,000 new cases annually.

Human view

For some court visitors, like the repeat offenders who occasionally pepper the court dockets, a day in court is old hat. For others, their visit to the court is their first interaction with the judicial system. And while the experience can be fraught with anxiety, it also provides onlookers — court officers included — a most interesting view of human behavior.

"Many walk in the doors of the courthouse and don't have a clue what to expect. And that's where we come in — trying to guide them through the process and make it as smooth and painless as possible," Ye said.

"But when they pass through that metal detector at the front door, some people just stop right in the middle and won't move forward. They just stand there like they are waiting to be transported to another dimension ... maybe Pluto or some other planet," Ye adds with a smile.

Although the frequent occurrence provides a bit of comic relief in a very busy day, Ye said that he and his peers understand and have compassion for court visitors.

"I think that people are dumbfounded: It is something new and they are anxious. It is often their first time in the court system and they can't believe that they are here," Ye said.

Providing comfort

The opportunity to provide guidance and assistance are just some of the reasons that Ye looks forward to coming into work every day. A former Wayne County sheriff's deputy for 25 years and father of two grown children, Ye lives in Livonia.

The job calls for empathy, he noted.

"I understand that it can be painful to be here," he said. "It affects their livelihood, some-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Officers of the 35th District Court include (standing, from left) Todd Ye, Andy Zazula and Dave Fendelet and (sitting, from left) Margo Hadden and Peggy Donohue.

times their personal life. We try to make them feel more comfortable with the process."

Peggy Donohue, a court officer with 14 years' experience, agrees.

"The first part of our job is security, but the second is customer service," Donohue said. "People are scared when they come in here. They have no idea what is going on; what to expect."

The chance to help someone through the system is her favorite part of the job, she said: "I see between 75-100 cases a day and it's my job to make sure they get taken care of properly."

Adjustment period

Donohue began her career as a police officer in Westland, where she met her husband, a fellow officer. After staying home and raising their two children, now grown, Donohue worked as a court clerk in Ann Arbor before joining 35th District Court.

Although going from the "streets" to the court was an adjustment initially, the Plymouth Township resident said that she loves the opportunity to continue to work in the criminal justice system in a different capacity.

"I love the opportunity to see things from a different perspective," she said. "I'm here to help make sure that everyone gets a fair chance; that is what the justice system is about. There are a lot of good officers, good judges, good prosecutors and good defenders. If they all do their job, it all comes out right in the end. Justice happens."

Justice prevails

Frank Wren plays a large role in helping ensure that justice does happen. After serving as a Wayne County sheriff's deputy for 29 years, he joined the 35th District Court as an officer more than 10 years ago and was appointed court magistrate almost two years ago.

Although he does not render judgments, as magistrate, Wren handles a variety of duties for the court system including arraignments, informal traffic cases, both search and arrest warrants and more.

A Canton resident, he and his wife have raised two grown daughters and are grandparents to seven. He said that serving as a magistrate has strengthened his respect for the work that the court judges do on a daily basis.

"I give the judges a lot of credit. They have some hard decisions to make every day — decisions that affect lives — and I think they do a very good job," said Wren, a veteran who served four years with the U.S. Air Force from 1971-75.

The court is extremely organized and he credits the entire district court staff with creating a "very professional setting."

Not boring

That does not equal boring, however.

"It is always interesting, especially when you have a high-profile case or when there is tension between two opposing sides of a case in a courtroom," Wren said. "People might be surprised how much really goes on these communities."

"We are not the enemy; we're here to help. We are a source of information. ... We can't answer legal questions, but we can point them in the direction of someone who is able to address them."

DAVE FENDELET
35th District Court officer

Arbor Police Department prior to joining the 35th District Court.

He, too, cited the efficiency of the court, crediting "the people behind the glass" for their hard work.

"It really is a very well-functioning court," he said.

Zazula said his experienced colleagues play a role in keeping the court operating effectively.

"We all come with a lot of experience. Our backgrounds are all very strong; we've had a lot of training," he said, and although "it's a different sort of environment, we are still there to help and make sure the justice system is working."

He also noted the contrast to his previous job as a police officer.

"It is a huge difference from apprehending — catching bad guys — to facilitating with court function," he said. "When

we don't have an incident, it's a successful day."

Dave Fendelet served as a police officer for the city of Northville prior to joining the 35th District Court almost 11 years ago.

"I thought it was a good way to stay in law enforcement and work as part of the criminal justice system," said Fendelet, a Canton resident who raised three now-grown daughters with his wife.

Serve and protect

Although the role he now plays has changed, it is still centered firmly around the concept of both "serving and protecting," he said. "We are here to help people, whether it is by keeping them safe or helping people navigate their way if this is their first experience in the court."

He enjoys the varied aspects of the position, whether dealing with victims of a crime or a simple traffic offense.

He said he is hopeful that visitors to the court recognize that court officers "are a source of information."

As frightening as the court can appear to some, "We are not the enemy; we're here to help. We are a source of information. If someone is lost as to what to do next, we will help them. We can't answer legal questions, but we can point them in the direction of someone who is able to address them," he said.

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- P-CEP Varsity Field Lighting and Sound System Replacement

will be received at the office of Mr. Patrick Briggs, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

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

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

- 102: Asphalt Paving / Site Utilities
- 143: Electrical Stadium Lighting / Sound System
- 166: Synthetic Turf Replacement
- 167: Track Surfacing

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

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com free of charge by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

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

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith**, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

Publish: December 4, 2014

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- January 1 (Thursday)
- March 13 (Friday)
- April 5 (Sunday)
- May 24/25 (Sunday/Monday)
- July 4 (Saturday)
- July 12 (Sunday)
- September 6/7 (Sunday/Monday)
- September 12/13 (Saturday/Sunday)
- November 26 (Thursday)
- December 24/25 (Thursday/Friday)
- December 31; January 1, 2016 (Thursday/Friday)

- New Year's Day
- Staff In Service Day
- Easter
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Art in the Park
- Labor Day
- Fall Festival
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- New Year's Day



The Budden family from Canton enjoys holiday music at the Canton tree-lighting. TOM BEAUDOIN



Cole Bongard of Canton poses with the Grinch. TOM BEAUDOIN



Seeing Santa for the first time is not much fun for Jacob Cabble of Canton as even Santa is surprised by his response. TOM BEAUDOIN

Canton tree-lighting kicks off holiday season

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Ella Budden of Canton will celebrate her sixth birthday Christmas Eve.

She got an early gift Wednesday evening as she and sister Kenzie, 3, saw Santa, sang Christmas carols and decorated cookies during Canton's 36th annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony at Summit on the Park.

Their parents, Stephen and Renee Budden, have taken them to Canton's holiday kickoff for four straight years.

"It's actually for us the start of the Christmas season," Stephen Budden said. "I think of it as a tradition."

The family joined an estimated 800 to 1,000 people who celebrated the tradition as Santa arrived in a Canton fire truck and joined Supervisor Phil LaJoy and township mascot Bartlett the Beaver to turn on the lights of a holiday tree outside the Summit.

The crowd watched as a fireworks display of sorts erupted over the Summit, sending confetti streamers raining down, while others began gathering inside the building

for activities such as making arts and crafts and watching Tim the Balloonatic, who transformed balloons into creations of life-sized carolers.

"The kids loved it," said Laura Mortier, Canton Leisure Services recreation specialist.

Children watched holiday ventriloquist Richard Paul, while some families shopped a tree-lighting marketplace for mittens, handmade snowmen, glass ornaments, holiday jewelry and, of course, holiday sweet treats.

Organizers reported no glitches as Canton officially started the holiday season amid an upbeat atmosphere throughout the Summit.

"Everything was extremely smooth-running," Mortier said. "It brings everybody together, for sure. It was really successful."

The tree-lighting event was sponsored by Atchinson Ford, Community Financial, The Goddard School and Jack Demmer Ford.

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734-972-0919



The BeckRidge Chorale and Cherry Hill singers perform for the first time at the 36th annual tree-lighting event Wednesday in Canton. TOM BEAUDOIN



Santa waves to the crowd as he arrives at the Summit in Canton for the 36th annual tree-lighting. TOM BEAUDOIN



Nicholas and Leo Provenzano of Canton are thrilled as Santa arrives at the Summit in Canton for the tree-lighting. TOM BEAUDOIN

Canton father accused of abusing daughter set for trial

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A jury trial has been set for a 33-year-old Can-

ton father who could face up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted of abusing his 8-week-old daughter.

Barring a plea deal, Vincent Joel French II is facing trial Feb. 11 in Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin's courtroom on two counts of second-degree child abuse, court records show.



French

As he awaits the outcome of his case, French remains jailed with a \$500,000 cash bond that was set when he was formally charged in October with abusing his baby girl. Police Lt. Michael Steck-

el has said the child had been taken to a hospital after she suffered three fractured ribs and a fractured femur in her right leg.

Authorities have said the baby's wounds already had started to heal when she was taken to a hospital.

Canton police Lt. Chad Baugh said the incident happened at The Cross-

ings, an apartment complex southeast of Joy Road and I-275, on Canton's far north side.

Police learned of the alleged abuse from Child Protective Services, which had been notified by the hospital.

Aside from the felony child abuse case, French also faces misdemeanor charges of fourth-degree child abuse and domestic

violence in 35th District Court involving his 7-year-old stepdaughter, police have said.

Baugh has said none of the charges are linked to French's 9-year-old stepson.

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PILOT ERROR - 4:30 & 7:00 PM MON. 12/8, TUE. 12/9, TH. 12/11
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (R) 11:15, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:35
PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR (PG) 11:25, 11:45, 1:50, 2:10, 4:05, 4:40, 6:30, 6:55, 9:00, 9:20
HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 1 (PG-13) 12:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
DUMB AND DUMBER TO (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
BIG HERO 6 (PG) 11:05, 1:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10
INTERSTELLAR (PG-13) FRI/SAT 11:00, 2:30, 6:05, 9:30
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE
To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at www.plymouthtwp.org under Agendas/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.
Regular Meeting dates in 2014: December 9.
Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.
Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk
Publish: December 7, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting
The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting December 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.
The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:
Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0750 x 217
Publish: December 7, 2014

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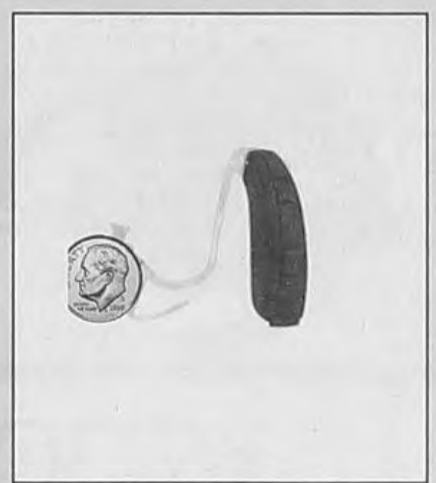
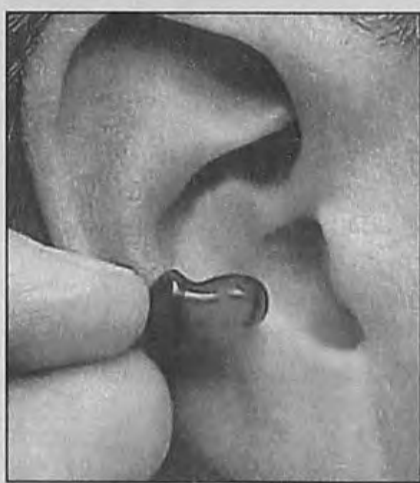
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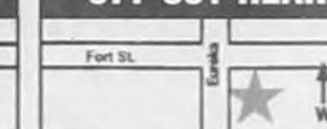
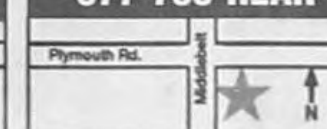
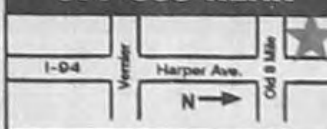
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U.S. Marine returns to St. Raphael School

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Tyler Dwyer, fresh out of boot camp, returned to St. Raphael School in Garden City for a visit.

"He was my third-grade student," said Judy Rausch, who now teaches second grade at the school.

A new Marine, Dwyer came to meet Rausch's class of 11 students. Dwyer, 19, was Rausch's student about 14 years ago.

"We have been praying for him and sending cards while he was in Marine boot camp," Rausch said. "I have a song and book ready to present to him on this day. He is our prayer buddy."

For two weeks, the class practiced *Proud to be an American*, a song by Lee Greenwood.

"They are very excited," Rausch said.



Tyler Dwyer, fresh out of Marine boot camp, returns to his elementary school at St. Raphael.

Student Gabbie Chavez, a Canton Township resident, said just that. "I am so excited," Chavez said. "I never met a soldier. Since he is a soldier, he seems really interesting. Since he is a soldier,

he is fighting for freedom."

The students made special U.S. flags made out of Popsicle sticks to wave.

Upon Dwyer's arrival, Rausch welcomed him to



Tyler Dwyer's third-grade teacher, Judy Rausch, greets him.

second grade. With Rausch at each student's side, the students all asked Dwyer a question.

Nicholas Choi asked why Dwyer wanted to be a Marine.

"My country has given so much to me in my life, so I figured I have the responsibility to give back to my country," Dwyer said.

The students offered the Guardian Angel's prayer and were surprised to learn that Dwyer carried that same prayer in his breast pocket.

Rausch prayed that God wrap his arms around Dwyer as the class continues to follow him on his journey.

It's a great feeling to graduate from boot camp in Parris Island, S.C., where he spent three months, though he missed his family during this time, Dwyer said.

Having a chance to ask his own questions, Dwyer asked the stu-

dents how they liked second grade and, particularly, how they liked Mrs. Rausch. They gave her an 'A.'

Dwyer recalled sitting at the same types of desks when he was in the third grade. Rausch arranges the students basically from shortest to tallest.

Rausch was complimentary of Dwyer as a young child. "He was a pleasure to have," Rausch said. "He was very polite and nice and very eager to learn."

After Dwyer graduated from Cabrini High School in Allen Park, he enlisted in May 2014. "I wanted to see the world," Dwyer said.

The class plans to follow Dwyer through combat school and finally his deployment. He will go to South Carolina and then to California to become a combat engineer.

Dwyer's parents - Tom, an owner of Gra-

phinity in Farmington Hills, and Amy, a homemaker - and his brother Zachary (who are Westland residents) and some parents from Rausch's classroom also came for the special visit.

Three years ago, Rausch had a military mom, Erin Meadows, who went to Afghanistan.

"We Skyped with her in the classroom because her daughter was in my class," Rausch said. "Every Wednesday when she was in Afghanistan, we would talk to her on the computer. It was late at night in Afghanistan."

When Meadows came back from Afghanistan, she came to meet the kids. And that is how Rausch started communicating with the military.

When people found that out, they started sending Rausch photos of other soldiers which are now pinned to a classroom wall.

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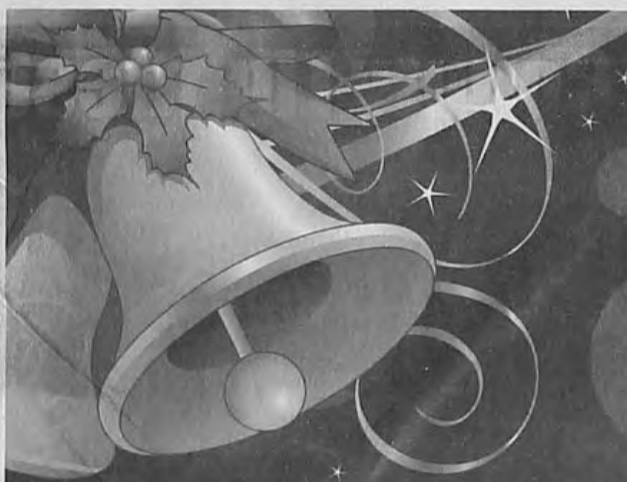
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Local artist still throwing clay – after 50 years

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Barb Gibson began working with hobby ceramics in the 1970s. While she enjoyed teaching the craft to many students, she found herself wanting to learn more, especially using other materials.

"I spent many years with hobby ceramics," the Livonia resident said. "I taught all over. It was great. But then, I wanted to really know clay."

During her 50-year career, Gibson has thrown thousands of pieces out of clay. A lifelong artist, she still sells pieces she creates.

She attended Schoolcraft College and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to earn several degrees and began teaching and creating works to sell at shows.

Along with her family,

they would get into a motor home her husband purchased for their travels and head off to various locations around Michigan and the country.

"We did about 35 shows a year for 30 years," she said. "It was wonderful. We made wonderful money and in the winter we'd go to Florida and we'd take the motor home."

Growing up next door to someone involved in using materials, Gibson said she became fascinated with it.

"I lived next door to a woman who was doing it and I just thought, 'Oh, I want to do this,'" she said. "So I went to her house when she had classes, she was right next door and I did it. I said, 'Oh, this is what I want to do.'"

While she does not do many shows these days, she still finds time to sell

at shows in Plymouth as well as the Potters Market, taking place this weekend at the pavilion in the Southfield Municipal Center complex, 26000 Evergreen, moving from Madison Heights, its home in previous years.

"We are now able to bring additional well-known Michigan potters on board, as well as new young potters we are excited about," Carol Fitzpatrick, co-manager of the market, said in a written statement. "The wider aisles will afford a much more comfortable layout. We know everyone will love the new look and feel of the Potters Market."

The annual event, which bills itself as "largest pottery sale in the country," will feature more than 140 potters showcasing their work. The final day is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Gibson said this will be her first time at the Potters Market and she is excited to see a new type of show.

"I like how they run it," she said. "A lot of unique stuff, a lot of great stuff."

"I don't do too many art shows anymore. I miss that the most."

A large, Civil War-era home that served as a hospital on Six Mile in Livonia became the perfect place for Gibson to continue her love of art.

A resident of Dearborn Heights at the time, Gibson and her family moved to Livonia several decades ago to her current home, where she would teach ceramics and pottery, as well as work on her own pottery as well.

"We finished the garage off and that's where I taught," she said. "It had a heater and a bathroom. It had everything." But with traveling, she wasn't always home to enjoy it, though Gibson said she loved traveling to cities from the East Coast to the Great Plains.

"New York and Chicago, all the big cities were great," she said. "But so were (smaller) places like Cleveland; Cleveland was wonderful."

The culture of art



One of Barb Gibson's large pieces uses at least three clay techniques: thrown, extruded and built up.

changes depending on the decade and location, Gibson said. The best time for selling her pieces? The 1980s.

"The '80s were the best. Unbelievable," she said. "It was just a great time. Art shows were flourishing and people loved going."

Today, she calls many art shows "pitiful," showing items that appear to be knockoffs made overseas.

The downturn in the economy also shifted Gibson's strategy as well: instead of focusing on items she really wanted to express herself through, she's gone to

creating items with an everyday use.

Items such as soap dishes, bowls and coffee cups fly off the shelf at shows, she said, as opposed to some of her more decorative pieces.

"For me, I had to let the art go and go to functional stuff," she said. "I've seen huge changes. And that was the main one, that people don't have money, they want to buy small stuff, they want to justify what they buy by buying functional work."

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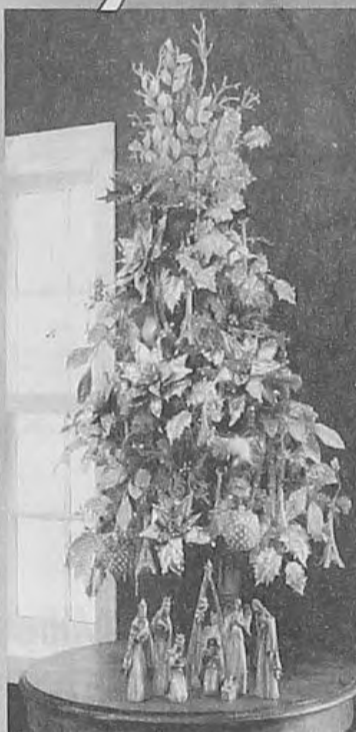
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BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 1

Rocks changing on the fly

Graduation of several starters won't slow re-tooled Salem boys cagers

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The rest of the KLAA won't need to worry about the Cole twins any longer, but the Salem Rocks still should be a royal pain to their rivals.

At least, that's what veteran head coach Bob Brodie is banking on as the 2014-15 varsity boys basketball season opens 7 p.m. Tuesday with a nonconference matchup at Ann Arbor Skyline.

"We're anxious to get started and see what we have," Brodie said. "Get a said mea-

suring stick with that first game and see what happens."

Last year's squad was pretty good, going 17-6 with a KLAA Central Division and district championship to add to the Salem trophy case.

"You don't do that with slouchy players," Brodie said. "We lost the two Cole brothers (Brady, Connor), a good forward in (Alec) Winfrey, a post player in (Michael) Hoover.

"And Alex Kenrick, he was a good player for us too off the bench. With those guys gone we got some holes to fill this year."

Power trio

The only returning starter is 6-3 senior forward Tyler Brooks, who will man the post along with 6-4 senior forwards Jake Lenders and Allante Wheeler.

"Right now we've got Tyler Brooks, who started for us last year," Brodie noted. "He's going to play inside, along with Jake Lenders, who saw a lot of action at power forward.

"And, of course, Allante Wheeler who didn't start a lot last year, but he always finished for us. He's a tough player to contend with. He can play inside or out and has good skills overall."

Brodie said Brooks, Lenders and Wheeler are "athletic, they

run the floor well, they're all 6-3, 6-4, so they have decent size and they have playing experience."

Salem's backcourt duties will largely be handled by senior guards Jake Stropes and Jon Swift. Both will be called upon either to run the offense or get open for shots, because Brodie does not designate point guard.

"Stropes and Jon Swift will handle the guard position," Brodie said. "It's to be determined how well they can run the floor for us, handle the defensive end, shoot the ball and lead the team.

"In our offense we don't have a true point guard. We



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Taking an outside jumper during a 2013-14 contest is Salem's Tyler Brooks, who returns to help lead this year's Rocks.

See ROCKS, Page B4

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 1



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior post player Deji Adebijoye (No. 5), shown from a game last season, will be a catalyst again this year.

TIPPING POINT

Could this be season Plymouth gets over the hump?

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

No matter how hard Plymouth's varsity boys basketball team tried last season, the ball wouldn't fall through the cylinder when points were needed most.

The Wildcats finished 9-11, but had a number of grueling, close losses that could have gone the other way with a trey here, a dunk there.

Now comes the 2014-15 season, the sixth at the helm for Mike Soukup. He and his players appear energized and ea-

ger to score and — hopefully — soar in the KLAA South Division.

Soukup only smiled when asked if he thought the current Plymouth squad could finally enjoy an offensive break-

See PLYMOUTH, Page B4

PREP GYMNASTICS

Chiefs win tri-meet

Defending champions open new season with impressive showing

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

John Cunningham smiled a lot last season, and with good reason — his Canton varsity girls gymnastics team won the state championship.

Early indications are he'll be in a good mood quite a bit in 2014-15, too, judging by Tuesday's tri-meet victory over Northville and Waterford.

The Chiefs led the way with 145.975 points, besting Northville (131.9) and Waterford (126.825). The event took place at Plymouth High School.

"Excellent meet for such an early start to the season," noted Cunningham, in an email to the *Observer*.

Canton took places 1-4 in the all-around, indicative of the strong showing. In first was Allison Kunz (36.75), followed by Maddie Toal (36.6), Hailey Hodgson (35.225) and Stephanie Cox (34.775).

All told, the Chiefs swept the top six places on beam and floor and took five out of six on bars and vault.

Kunz won uneven parallel bars with a 9.25 while also taking second on floor (9.3), third on balance beam (9.2) and third on vault (9.0).

Toal garnered firsts on floor (9.65) and vault (9.1) along with third on bars (8.75) and fourth on beam (9.1).

Hodgson tied for first on vault with a 9.1 and came in fourth on floor (9.075). She placed sixth both on bars (8.35) and beam (8.7).

Cox finished fourth on bars (8.75), fifth on beam (8.8) and sixth on floor (8.925).

See CHIEFS, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton senior Jocelyn Moraw, shown from last season, helped the Chiefs to victory in Tuesday's tri-meet.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Salem girls lacrosse meeting Dec. 11

A player/parent information meeting pertaining to the 2015 Salem girls lacrosse team is slated for Thursday, Dec. 11.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. on the second floor (Room W2112) at Salem High School for all those interested in trying out for the varsity or junior varsity teams.

No previous lacrosse experience is required. For further information, go to salemgirlslacrosse.com or gopccs.net.

Haeger Baseball Training Dec. 22-23

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger is hosting Haeger Baseball Training on Monday, Dec. 22, and Tuesday, Dec. 23, for youngsters ages 8-13.

The camp (\$100 for one session each day; \$150 for both sessions each day) is set for the Madonna gymnasium, located at 36600 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia.

Sessions will be 9-11 a.m. (session 1, pitching)

and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (session 2, hitting).

Lunch will be offered (pizza, Gatorade) at the daily fee of \$5.

In the pitching session, youngsters will work on mechanics, throwing programs, mentality and proper grips. In hitting sessions, work will commence on proper mechanics, stance, approach and bunting.

To register, go to www.haegerbaseballtraining.com.

MU women cagers defeat Concordia

Lindsey Hernden pumped in a game-high 21 points Wednesday night to lead the Madonna University women's basketball team to a convincing 79-58 triumph over host Concordia University.

The 5-foot-6 freshman guard from Romeo made 8-of-16 shots from the floor and dished out four assists as the Crusaders improved to 5-2 overall and 4-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

The Crusaders, who jumped out to a 37-17

halftime advantage, also got 18 points and six assists from junior guard Michele Hayes (Inkster/Southfield-Lathrup).

Justice Dean (Garden City) chipped in 12 points and eight rebounds, while junior center Erin Menard (Livonia Churchill) pulled down a team-high nine rebounds.

MU won despite shooting only 25-of-77 from the floor (32.5 percent) and 20-of-31 from the foul line (64.5 percent). The Crusaders committed 20 turnovers.

Concordia (1-9, 0-6) got 11 points from Brianna Rowe, while Mara Mulroy added eight points and eight rebounds.

The Cardinals made only 20-of-66 shots from the floor (30.3 percent) and 15-of-25 free throws (60 percent). Concordia had 23 turnovers.

Concordia downs Madonna men

Andrew Patrick scored 13 points to lift host Concordia University (5-4, 4-1) to a 50-47 WHAC men's basketball triumph over cold-shooting Madonna University (3-7, 1-4).

The Crusaders connected on only 34 percent from the floor (18-of-53) and made 8-of-12 free throws.

Whalers road trip

Fans of the Plymouth Whalers have a chance to take a road trip to Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. and Saginaw with the OHL team March 13-14, 2015.

The cost is \$140 for members of the Whalers Booster Club and \$150 for non-members. The deadline to sign up is Feb. 25 (sign up behind Section 115 at Compuware Arena on game nights).

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mercy Marlins rally in fourth to defeat Rocks

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Farmington Hills Mercy pulled off its second, three-point victory in as many games Friday, rallying in the fourth quarter to defeat visiting Salem in girls basketball, 49-46.

Senior guard Taylor Jones scored 22 of her game-high 27 points in the final period as the Marlins (2-0) overcame a 36-32 deficit after three and outscored the Rocks, 17-10.

Trailing the entire game, Mercy was behind 17-13 after one quarter and

29-19 at halftime. Jones had 21 of her team's 30 points in the second half.

"It was very similar to the game the other night (55-52 win over Waterford Mott) in that we struggled in many respects, but the kids kept battling," Mercy coach Gary Morris said.

"Toward the end of the third quarter, we got a group that did a nice job for us defensively - Jones, Sierra Wangler, Lauryn Hauncher, Katie Bryce and Claire Murray."

Wangler and Hauncher scored six points each; Jordan Johnson and Jordyn Schluter chipped in three apiece.

Salem had three players in double figures - Shara Long (14), Hayley Rogers (10) and Janyra Wilson (10). Lasha Petree nearly made it four with nine points.

"We controlled the game for 30 minutes and let it slip away with two to go," Salem head coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "It is very frustrating because we played so hard and poised throughout it all, but couldn't close it out. Mercy's defense was tough and forced us into turnovers that led them to easy scoring."

The Marlins won the game at the

free throw line, going 16-for-19. The Rocks were 11-for-26. Jones was 9-of-9 at the foul line.

"We struggled in a lot of aspects of the game, but I thought we kept battling," Morris said. "We finally hit some shots. Obviously, Taylor was the one doing that primarily, but some other kids chipped in with some buckets."

"We kinda willed this one out in a way. Credit goes to some of our younger kids in terms of fighting hard. We didn't give up. At times we could have."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Bre Donehue (No. 25) is in the middle of this scrum for the basketball Thursday against Bloomfield Hills Marian.



Canton routed in rematch, 66-25

Class A champion Marian takes it to young Chiefs in opener

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton picked up where it left off last season, losing to Bloomfield Hills Marian. Last time around, the Chiefs lost to the Mustangs in the Class A girls basketball final at Breslin Center.

A much-different Canton squad, having lost four key players to graduation, lost 66-25 to Marian in the 2014-15 season opener Thursday.

Junior guard Natalie Winters led Canton with seven points, while Erin Hult and Brianna Finn tallied five each. For Marian, Kara Holinski scored 16 points.

"They brought back their entire state championship team except for one girl, and those girls just played together really well," Kevin Palmer said, following his first game as Canton head coach. "But we had some new girls stepping up that played well today."

Marian broke out to a 26-2 lead after the first quarter, demonstrating dead-eye shooting from the perimeter. The Mustangs connected on six triples in the contest.

"They (Chiefs) did a lot of things really well, unfortunately Marian just made the plays," Palmer lamented. "We forced them to try and be an outside shooting team and they shot the heck out of the ball from threes."

"More credit to them, they were the state champs last year for a reason and they're the favorites this year for a reason."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Brianna Finn (No. 23) dribbles down the floor while Bloomfield Hills Marian players try to chase her down.

Things improved for Canton in the second quarter, with the Chiefs winning that frame 13-8 to trail 34-15 at halftime.

Unfortunately, Marian started the second half just how it started the first - in total control. The Mustangs poured in 20 while giving up just two to pad their lead to 54-17 after three stanzas.

The fourth was closer (12-8 in favor of the Mustangs).

"We're young, it's going to be a process of us improving and getting better," Palmer noted. "This was one of those games we had to experience in order to get to where we need to be as a team."

last year and he's pretty dominant right now in our practices.

"He's going to come forward pretty quick, I think. ... He's a load inside right now."

Others in the mix for low-post minutes are senior forwards Joe Miazek (6-3, 190) and Evan Klenk (6-2, 195).

"He (Miazek) saw time for us last year," Brodie added. "He's grown and gotten stronger so we're looking for minutes from him."

"And there's Evan Klenk, another senior, who came in and gave us 3-4 minute bursts every quarter for us. They're strong players, they'll help us out off the bench."

Salem's bench brigade is seven deep, which affords Brodie the luxury of resting players and going with matchups.

Rounding out that group are junior small forward Matt White and sopho-

more forward Cameron Grace.

"We got Matt White, also coming off the JV team, he will (do) power forward a little bit," Brodie said. "Cameron Grace is a sophomore, we brought him up because we think he's ready to play at this level. He's used to the game speed."

"Obviously, his time will be a little bit more limited than it would be if he were playing JV ball right now. But he accepts the challenge and we look for good things from him."

Depth crucial

Brodie expects all of his players to be ready to answer the call at any time, crucial to how well the Rocks succeed this season.

"A lot of these players got a lot of playing time last year," Brodie said. "We go pretty deep all the time off the bench. They've seen the court, they've

seen action.

"Our size is going to be OK inside. And we're going to be big at the guard positions. The question is how well are they going to jell together?"

After the opener at Skyline, the Rocks are idle until visiting Wayne Memorial on Tuesday, Dec. 16. Redford Thurston is on the slate for Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Livonia Franklin-hosted Christmas Tournament.

"Right out of the blocks it's going to be tough," Brodie emphasized. "When we get into our division (in January), we'll have crossovers with Canton, they'll be loaded. Northville's going to be tough again this year."

"We're going to learn pretty quick what this team's made of because of the competition we're playing."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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PLYMOUTH

Continued from Page B1

through.

"It remains to be seen, we haven't played any games yet," Soukup said. "In the summertime we didn't struggle to score, we got a lot of guys returning with experience."

"All five guys who started last year are returning so you'd hope we wouldn't struggle as much to score. But you never know until you light up the clock and roll it out there."

Teaming up

He'll find that out 7 p.m. Tuesday, when Plymouth visits Redford Union (where Soukup once coached).

"We were 9-11 last year, and a lot of our losses were single-digit," Soukup stressed. "We were always close, four, three. So, hopefully the added experience will help us get over the hump in a lot of those situations. A lot of these guys have been through the battles and know. That's the biggest key, experience."

Another key for the 2014-15 Wildcats will be embracing cohesiveness and maintaining a "We Greater Than Me" mentality.

"That's kind of our team slogan this year, our group is more important than our individuals," Soukup said.

Setting the tone in the locker room, on bus trips to away games and on the floor will be tri-captains Deji Adebisi (senior forward), Josh Reynolds (senior guard) and Randall Aikins (senior guard). All are returning starters.

"These are going to be the guys that will make us go," Soukup said. "More importantly from the leadership aspect, too. Deji's done a nice job of embracing that. Obviously his role on the football team probably helped with that, he was the quarterback."

"He's done a great job so far this season. He may not be our most valuable player, but he's our most important guy. He's the emotional barometer for us. The guy that gets going. And Josh and Randall assist in that."

Soukup added that Reynolds and Aikins will be on-court barometers, too.

"Josh is poised for a really good year," the coach continued. "He's put in a lot of work on his own as well as with us in the offseason, both in his own personal game and in the weight-room."

"Randall has as well. There's some smaller schools looking at them, so I'm sure that helps motivate them to play well."

Junior gems

Augmenting the tri-captains in the starting lineup will be 6-2 junior guard Brent Davis and 6-foot junior guard Chris Walls - a standout athlete and football wide-out, a favorite wide-out target for quarterback Adebisi.

"We got some of that toughness (from football) that he (Walls) brings," Soukup said. "And Brent Davis is one of the better athletes that we've had around here."

Where the Wildcats might have an edge in the KLA South Division this year is the fact the bench is eight deep. That gives Soukup more confidence to put



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth's Randall Aikins is one of several key returnees for the Wildcats.

pedal to the medal.

"We kept 13 this year and we should play all 13 guys," Soukup said. "We have very good depth, that is one of the big strengths of our team."

"We got a good mix of experience and young guys who can bring some energy and push the starters, which is something we didn't have last year."

First off the bench many times will be 6-1 junior guard Armani Tate, a JV player in 2013-14. He brings defense and toughness.

Ditto for junior guard Pete Carravallah, who played on the JV last year. "He (Carravallah) comes off the bench to provide a little bit of scoring punch, plus toughness and defense."

Another option for reserve minutes is senior wing guard Khalil Newell, a bench guy last season.

"He's another guy whose worked really hard in the off-season and I hope he's poised for a good year," Soukup added.

Vying for minutes in the post will be senior center Cameron Anstess while junior guard Frank Brown (JV last year) is described by Soukup as "a very good glue guy, coming in and providing energy."

Expected to chip in when needed are junior guard Julian LeDoux, junior guard Jeremy Abraham and junior forward Brennan Brooks.

"The way we're going to play this year, more up-tempo, a lot will depend on everybody to get minutes," Soukup said.

And soon enough, Soukup and assistant coach Ryan Ballard will find out whether the winning culture they've been pushing for finally comes to fruition.

"If our group achieves success, individual success will follow," Soukup said. "We've been trying to get our folks to buy into that and change our program culture."

Starting Tuesday, the coaches will see for themselves whether that winning attitude leads to victories on the basketball court.

STUDENTS FREE ON DEC. 16:

All current Plymouth High School students who present a valid student ID will be admitted free to the Wildcats' home opener at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, against South Lyon East.

Student tickets for the rest of the season will be just \$3; tickets are \$5 for adults.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

kind of let everybody bring the basketball and share the ball, we run that motion offense. We don't really put the heat on one player being the point guard."

Benchmarks

Available off the bench to help out Stropes and Swift will be junior guards Calin Crawford and Freddie McGee, both on last year's junior varsity squad. "They're pretty quick, Calin led the JV team in most categories."

Brodie also has some inside options, including the intriguing 6-6, 195-pound junior center Kenny Topolovec.

"Kenny's our biggest player," Brodie said. "He was dynamite at the JV level

Farmington girl dances top 'Nutcracker' role at Michigan Ballet Theatre

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Rachael Freedman will dance one of her dream roles this month with Michigan Ballet Theatre.

"I love *The Nutcracker*. It is my favorite ballet," said the North Farmington High School junior. "I've been watching the role of Clara since I joined the company when I was 7. I always wanted to do it. I didn't think it would happen."

Rachael, 16, will take on the principal role in one of two MBT casts that will perform the Tchaikovsky ballet Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14, at Oxford High School and Dec. 19-21 at Avondale High School in Auburn Hills. The Christmas-themed fantasy tells the story of Clara and her adventures with a nutcracker-turned-prince, an evil Mouse King, a Sugar Plum Fairy and the magical Land of Sweets.

Rachael, daughter of Mark and Mary Freedman of Farmington, has danced in five previous productions of *The Nutcracker* with MBT, taking "baby steps" through the years toward solo and principal roles.

"It starts with being a little girl and coming on as an angel and walking across the stage. And then in the party scene in the first act, I've been one of the friends and I've been Clara's brother," Rachael said. "I've been a Chinese dancer, and also Spanish."

"Every year it gets bigger and bigger, working your way up from little groups to solos and now a principal role."

Rachael and other MBT company members rehearsed all solos in the show when practices began. They danced while director Cornelia Sampson watched, took notes, and then created her cast.

"Rather than have formal auditions she watched and saw who fit into the roles," she said. "I'm much more excited than anything."

Rachael said that although dancing can be hard work, she always has fun whether she's in rehearsals or on stage.

"I think about how grateful I am to dance this role. It puts a smile on my face," she said. "I've always had a passion for dance."

Young dancer

She and her twin sister, Lindsey, a music student at Interlochen School of the Arts, began dance classes when they were 4 years old.

"I never wanted to stop. I remember loving it," Rachael said. "It was ballet I started

The Nutcracker

What: Rachael Freedman of Farmington portrays Clara in the Michigan Ballet Theatre production

When: 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12-14 and 19-21

Where: Dec. 12-14 performances at Oxford High School Fine Arts Center, 101 Charger Loop, Oxford, and Dec. 19-21 shows at Avondale High School Performing Arts Center, 2800 Waukegan, Auburn Hills

Details: With music by Tchaikovsky, *The Nutcracker* tells the story of Clara, who sees her toy nutcracker come to life and become a prince after she defends it from an evil Mouse King and his army of mice. The prince takes her to his kingdom, the Land of Sweets, where she is treated to a celebration of sweets from around the world and is crowned.

Tickets: \$32 for adults, \$28 for seniors and children. All tickets are sold in advance

Contact: 248-652-3117; michiganballettheatre.com

with and that is mainly my focus now."

She took ballet instruction at Cornelia's School of Dance in Keego Harbor, switching to its sister school, Rochester School of Dance, MBT's home. She danced in MBT's junior company, worked her way up to its second company and then apprenticed before becoming a full company member. This is her second year with a solo role in a full-length ballet. In the production, she also dances with a partner, the Nutcracker Prince, played by Andrew Kaczmarek, a guest artist who has performed with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. When she isn't on stage portraying Clara, she'll perform other, smaller roles in the alternate cast.

All about dance

Rachael describes MBT as a pre-professional company. Many of its graduates have found employment in professional dance theaters or have gravitated toward dance-related careers.

"It's like my second home. My dance friends are some of my best friends and my teachers are like family," she said.

Rachael takes nine ballet classes a week, dancing Monday-Thursday, and rehearsing for *The Nutcracker*, Saturday-Sunday. She also studies jazz dance and lyrical dance and is a member of the hip hop team



Rachael Freedman of Farmington rehearses "The Nutcracker" with Andrew Kaczmarek, a guest performer who has danced with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.



A previous production of "The Nutcracker" at Michigan Ballet Theatre.

at North Farmington High School.

"I'm always dancing. I find myself in the middle of a (hip

hop) practice running through *The Nutcracker*. The thing about dance is that everything is based off ballet. Ballet is the

center of every style of dance."

She'll perform a ballet solo in February at the Youth America Grand Prix dance competition in Chicago, Ill. She also hopes to fit in time for North Farmington's school musical this year.

Rachael both sings in the school choir and is a member of 6 Degrees North, a six-girl capella group. She recently auditioned for North Farmington's coffee house show scheduled for January.

Meanwhile, she hopes audience members will catch a bit of Christmas spirit when they watch MBT's production of *The Nutcracker*.

"I hope they see just how hard we've worked and how excited we are to put on this show."

Pet rescue collects food, supplies for animals, people

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Mutts and Mutts Rescue League of Redford will bring Santa Claus and pets together at two area pet supply stores for photos this month.

Santa will pose with pets from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21, at Pet Supplies Plus, 14835 Telegraph, Redford, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14 and 20-21, at Petco, 2005 W. Eight Mile, at Woodward, Detroit. Cost is \$10.

Donna Law, Mutts and Mutts founder, is running a pet food and supply drive in conjunction with the photo sittings.

"We will take any kind of dog food, canned or dry, paper towels, bleach, 13-gallon garbage cans," she said. "Cat food, too."

Law said whatever Mutts and Mutts doesn't use will be shared with other animal rescue organizations. Her group also aids a handful of financially distressed families that need help feeding their animals. She also feeds a small colony of feral cats, making sure they have hay, fresh food and water every morning before she heads to her job as a caregiver in Northville.

Law and her husband founded Mutts and Mutts in 1997 and the organization earned non-profit status in 2001. Law said



PET PROJECTS

her animal rescue takes dogs and cats that have been given up by owners or released by shelters. Volunteers foster the dogs until they are placed in permanent homes. Mutts and Mutts also maintains some of the adoptive cat housing at Petco on Eight Mile at Woodward in Detroit.

"I have cats there on a daily basis. I have two units there," she said.

Helping the homeless

Law doesn't just serve homeless animals. She has a heart for down-and-out individuals who spend their days along Eight Mile between Southfield Road and Woodward Avenue. She's asking for donations of food and blankets in addition to pet food and supplies.

"There are people up and down Eight Mile just like you

and me. They've got a story. Not everyone on a street corner does drugs and drinks," she said. "You don't always have to hand them a dollar. You can hand out a blanket or a sandwich from McDonald's. It may be the only thing they've eaten today. Some of them live in a shelter and some in abandoned homes."

She figures she helps approximately 10 individuals on a regular basis along with others stationed near the busy road that divides Detroit from Southfield and Ferndale.

"We've cooked on the holidays and given them prepackaged food. I always give them a garbage bag and I've said, if I'm giving you things, don't make a mess."

She said she recently gave pizza to one man, and a donated coat to another. She has since seen the man wearing the coat. The day she handed him the garment another driver stopped behind her, honked and then gave her an energy drink.

"Paying it forward," she explained. "If only everyone did a little, helped one person a month. It's something I've always done. Maybe it's how my mom raised me. We were raised on tough love and hardly any money. Service has always been a passion."

She's asking for donations of blankets, towels, sheets, pre-packaged foods, cans of



Spike is one of the adoptable dogs cared for by a Mutts and Mutts foster parent.

foods with easy-to-open tops, and hand wipes. Both donations for homeless pets, persons and shelter supplies can be donated to Mutts and Mutts at Pet Supplies Plus in Redford and the Petco store at Eight

Mile and Woodward.

"Please support animal shelters and rescue groups nationwide," she added.

Check out Mutts and Mutts on Facebook. Contact Law at dmuttermutts@aol.com.

Family time can be stressful time; ways to cope

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Families love each other, but they can also get on each others' nerves.

"Absolutely. It's almost like a given that's going to occur," said Janet Terry, clinical manager for the Pontiac office of Oakland Family Services.

"We see everybody all at this time of year," said Terry, who holds a M.S.W. degree from Wayne State University as well as a bachelor's degree in social work from Madonna University. "It can bring up unresolved issues in the family. There's always stress. There's going to be stress when you have interaction with other people."

Talking over differences is key, said White Lake resident Terry. Families can outline their strengths and weaknesses. Changing traditions is often helpful.

"Maybe you're the one who hosts the party all the time," she said. Someone else could host this year, prepared food could be used instead or food tasks could be delegated. "It's really about the gathering," Terry said.

Michele Potter does therapy for Heron Ridge Associates of Plymouth and is a licensed master social worker. Potter holds bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Michigan State University.

"We tend to put more pressure on ourselves because we have these unrealistic expectations," said Plymouth resident Potter, in the field since 1987. "We get angry, we get frustrated. You need to acknowledge your feelings both to yourself and the other people you may have a connection with."

In some cases, Potter said, you may need to take a breather and get away, "anything to restore an inner calm."

Unresolved grief can be an issue at the holidays, as it's readily apparent that person is no longer here. If grief hasn't been processed, Terry said, it can add to depression.



ILLUSTRATION BY RANDY MASTERS

Feeling the pressure of the holidays? You can learn ways to cope.

"Stress is just one of those symptoms," she said. Professional help may be needed if you have ongoing irritability, lack of energy or sleep disturbances. Suicidal thoughts should immediately prompt an emergency room or Common

Ground response, Terry emphasized.

"Go out and take a walk. Literally take a big breath," she said of coping skills for everyday use.

Potter said it's good to set aside family differences, recognizing others also face

stress, "even if they (family members) don't live up to your expectations. And understand that if mistakes happen it's not ruining the holiday. It's quite possibly making new memories for your family."

Good health habits such as exercise all year long should continue through the holidays, the women agree. "You don't want to abandon your healthy habits just because it's the holiday season. That just adds to your stress and your guilt," said Potter.

Terry, who has 10 years of experience, is also a certified addiction counselor. She noted some people have relapses with alcoholism or drink more than normally during the holidays.

"It's not going to be good for your body or your mental health," Terry said. She also sees abuse of marijuana and prescription drugs. "We've definitely seen an increase in prescription pills, the abuse of those."

Coping skills can range from listening to music, taking a walk or reading a book. Some people do need professional help, she said.

Potter is seeing clients worried about another rough winter. "Last winter was so horrible," she said. "They're just dreading another winter and the depression that can set in with that. It may not be the horrible winter we had last year," added Potter, who also reminded clients to enjoy fall.

Terry agreed unrealistic images of the holiday season in our heads are a problem. "We all have a picture in our mind. We need to step back and lower those expectations."

Laughter when something goes wrong, such as with food, can help, she said. "Just step back and enjoy the moment. This is not a time for rigidity in the way we think about things," Terry said.

Potter noted that sometimes "no" is the magic word. "There are so many demands on us in the season," she said. "Be willing to turn down some invitations if it's going to overwhelm you. And remember what's important, what the season is truly about. It can help you keep things in perspective."

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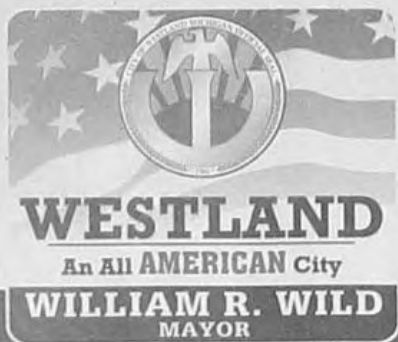
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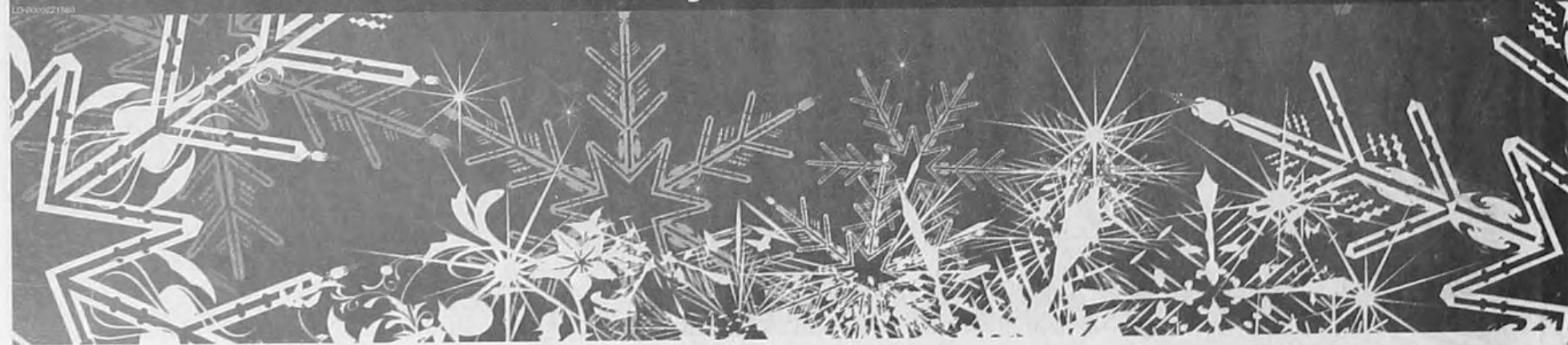
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By Aimee Hosler
Contributing Writer

What makes zoos and aquariums so special? Sure, they make great recreation spots, but that's only the beginning. According to the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, research shows that zoos and aquariums boost scientific literacy and attract groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences.

They also study, rehabilitate and care for animals with a mind for conservation and preserving and protecting endangered species. Another major public benefit of zoos and aquariums: They pack a mean economic punch. The AZA reports that the facilities it accredits generate \$16 billion in economic activity each year and support more than 142,000 jobs. For budding scientists and animal lovers, these jobs are true passion professions, each with its own unique challenges and rewards.

Human fascination with wild-life starts young and can last a lifetime, which is precisely why zoos and aquariums attract such a wide range of visitors. And behind every exotic creature and meticulously planned exhibit is a team of dedicated workers. The AZA notes that not all zoo and aquarium jobs are particularly glamorous. Some require a great deal of physical strength and the kind of dedication needed to carry workers through round-the-clock shifts, even in the crummiest weather. The payoff, of course, is that the work can also be incredibly rewarding, and from a scientific or conservation standpoint, downright important.

Here are just some of the jobs found at zoos and aquariums, along with their typical education requirements.

1. Zookeeper or aquarist

Those who want to work closely with animals might consider becoming zookeepers or aquarists. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, these professionals tend to much of an animal's daily care. They feed

6 wild jobs for



animal lovers

and monitor animals, clean and maintain habitats and may even work directly with the public answering questions or giving demonstrations. The BLS reports that most zoos and aquariums require keepers to hold at least a bachelor's degree in an area such as biology or animal science. Susan Danhauser, director of human resources at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, told the University of Florida that even when a degree is not required, it can give candidates an edge in what can be an incredibly competitive job market.

2. Animal trainer

Animal trainers in zoos and aquariums have important jobs. Yes, they train animals for public performances, but they also work with scared and even dangerous animals so that they can safely co-exist with the keepers, veterinarians and other professionals who care for them. The BLS notes that though some animal

trainers are not required to earn college degrees, requirements vary. Marine mammal trainers, for instance, usually possess at least a bachelor's degree in marine biology, animal science or a related field.

3. Zoologist

The AZA lists scientific research as one of the primary benefits of both zoos and aquariums, and this is precisely where zoologists come in. According to the BLS, zoologists study animals, their behaviors and their habitats -- as well as the impact humans have on them. Many specialize in one particular kind of animal. Cetologists, for instance, study marine mammals, while herpetologists specialize in amphibians and reptiles. Entry-level zoologists must have at least a bachelor's degree in zoology or a related field, though they will likely need a master's to advance. Some even hold a Ph.D.

4. Veterinarian

Veterinarians in zoos and aquariums provide the same services as they do for the public, but the animals tend to be more exotic. They examine animals for overall wellness and diagnose and treat those who are sick or injured. The BLS reports that all states require veterinarians to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and become licensed to practice. Licensing requirements vary, but invariably require candidates to pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination.

5. Veterinary technician

Veterinary technicians help veterinarians diagnose and treat animals. Along with examining and treating "patients," they often perform medical tests -- but only under the direction of a licensed veterinarian. The BLS reports that vet techs typically need at least a two-year associate degree, though many positions require a

bachelor's. Like vets, vet techs must be licensed to practice.

6. Curator

Zoo and aquarium curators are perfect examples of professionals who play a vital role in their organizations, but rarely, if ever, work directly with animals. Curators plan, acquire and direct exhibits and may at times oversee or conduct research or educational activities. The AZA reports that while general curators oversee an institution's entire animal collection, animal curators manage a specific portion of its collection, say, mammals, birds or reptiles. The BLS notes that most curators earn at least a master's degree in a discipline relevant to the field, though some employers prefer candidates with doctoral degrees.

Aimee Hosler writes for OnlineDegrees.com. This article was originally published on OnlineDegrees.com.

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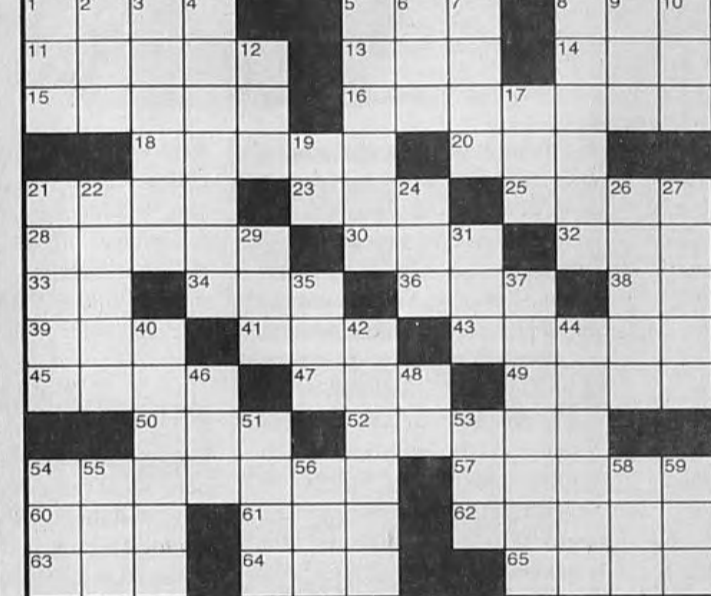
Challenging fun for ALL ages Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS and DOWN clues for the crossword puzzle, including 'Mexicali locale', 'Legal org.', 'Tampa Bay pro', etc.

Answer to Previous Puzzle: CANE, BAS, CPAS, OLEO, ESP, RANI, OMEN, NAUTICAL, ARSON, ROB, LYING, SOL, SLED, NESTEGG, LUIS, MUD, ELLE, ELEANOR, MALE, DUN, AHEAD, UTA, USAGE, BURROWED, WAIF, ORES, KOI, EZRA, BELA, SET, DEED

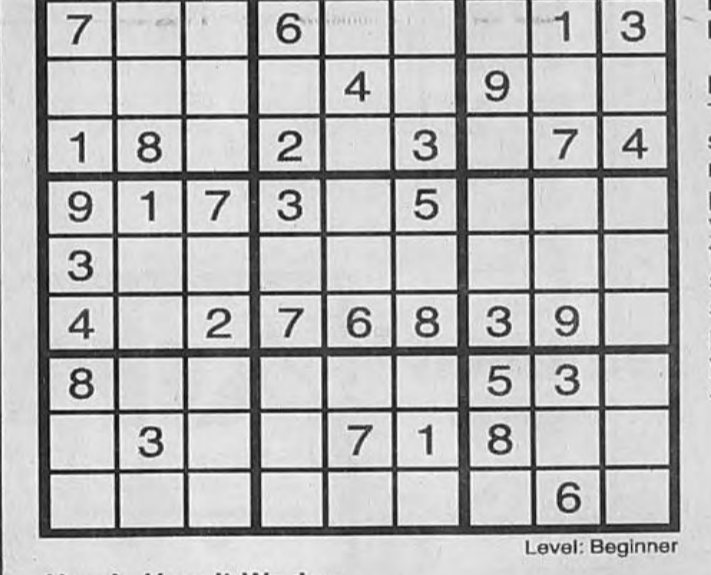
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5 Jessica in "Murder, She Wrote", 6 Profile, for short, 7 White vestments, 8 Panama port, 9 Half of "deux", 10 Dancer - Charisse, 12 Oahu wreath, 17 Show - 19 Attend, 21 Disgrace, 22 Sophia - of films, 24 Brownie, 26 Buffett's town, 27 Popular disinfectant, 29 Spiral molecule, 31 Bronze component, 35 Play about Capote, 37 Fuel supplier (2 wds.), 40 Stay stuck, 42 Tweets, 44 Small plane, 46 Incite Rover, 48 Ave. crosser, 51 Footnote abbr. (2 wds.), 53 Recede, 54 Weep loudly, 55 Ante up, 56 Ivy Leaguer, 58 Capitol VIP, 59 Explorer - Helen Johnson

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.

NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

Word search grid and list of words including: ADVANCEMENT, FAMILY, ANNUAL, FISCAL, FRIENDS, HOLIDAY, BIRTHDAY, JANUARY, CALENDAR, KISS, CELEBRATION, LATEST, CHAMPAGNE, NEW, CHEERS, PARTIES, CONFETTI, PHYSICAL, CONTEMPORARY, PREMIER, COUNTDOWN, RESOLUTION, CROWD, REVELRY, CURRENT, SINGING, DATE, TAXES, DECEMBER, VACATION, DECORATIONS, YEAR

Sudoku and Word Search answer grids with the words found in the word search.

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