

CANTON

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OBSERVER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015 • hometownlife.com



Courageous Kids group helps families cope with illness
COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

Fire chief: Body in fatal fire in mobile home was woman

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton fire officials confirmed it was a woman who died early Wednesday when fire engulfed a residence in the Wagon Wheel mobile home community, but her relatives have asked that her name not be disclosed.

"Her identity is not going to be released," Fire Chief Joshua Meier said. "We're going to respect the family's privacy and wishes at this point."

Meier couldn't say for certain if the woman had been living in the home. "But we know that she frequented the residence," he said. Fire investigators haven't yet determined the cause of the fire, but Meier said foul play isn't suspected. "We do not believe it is suspicious," he said. The woman was alone inside the home that caught fire about 4 a.m. Wednesday in the Wagon Wheel neighborhood off Mott, between Ridge and Denton

roads. Fire investigators learned there were no working smoke detectors in the home – a grim reminder of the importance of the devices. The body was burned so badly that fire officials early on couldn't determine it was a woman, though further investigation revealed it was. In what proved a risky situation for firefighters, they entered the rear door and made it midway through the home toward the living room before



CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Fire officials are honoring the family's wishes not to identify the woman who died in this mobile home fire.

heavy fire and heat forced them out. They fought the fire from outside and then sifted through

the debris to find the body.
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The Michigan Shakespeare Festival performed "The Importance of Being Earnest" in its 2014 season.

BRINGING IN THE BARD

Shakespeare Festival makes Village Theater its second home

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Jennifer Tobin has been trying for years to build a Shakespeare festival at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton, with no success. Now she's doing the next best thing. Since people won't come to Shakespeare, she's bringing Shakespeare to them. The Michigan Shakespeare Festival, which makes its home at the Baughman Theatre in Jackson, brings the final three weeks of its 2015 season to Canton starting July 29. It's a coup that's got Tobin crowing. "What turns me on the most is it ups our game," said Tobin, who runs the Village Theater. "They're seasoned actors, blended nicely with young actors. It's like the ingredients in a good meal. These are incredible actors, directed and designed by professionals. It's exciting to bring half their season to Canton."

Sold on Canton

According to Tobin, the pairing came out of conversations between folks affiliated with the Village Theater and some people in the drama program at Eastern Michigan University.



David Blixt played Macbeth during the 2014 Michigan Shakespeare Festival, a play directed by his wife Jan. The two met doing a production of "Taming of the Shrew."

One thing led to another and officials from the Michigan Shakespeare Festival were making the trip from Jackson to

Canton for Liberty Festival. After meeting with Tobin and other Village Theater staffers, MSF folks were sold. "A lot of it was meeting (Tobin) and the people at the Village Theater," said Jan Blixt, in her sixth year as MSF's artistic director. "It's about us bringing our show to the community of Canton." For 21 years, Blixt said, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival has inspired and entertained a diverse audience, further developing an appreciation for professional performances of Shakespeare's works and other classical plays.

Best around

She called MSF the "best theater in the region and probably in Michigan" and said now Canton will benefit from that reputation. "Canton is now hosting the best of the best," Blixt said. "We're good because people are enjoying our show. Our audiences are being made 'happy' by our shows. Some of the folks, especially some of the men, are being dragged in, but once they see it, they're the first ones in line for season passes." It's not the first time MSF has moved. The theater tried going off-site back in 2007, Blixt said, but it didn't work out well and theater officials hadn't considering moving it again.

See THEATER, Page A2

Police nab suspected pizzeria burglar

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton police nabbed a 23-year-old suspect amid accusations he broke into two pizzerias in Canton and Plymouth townships before he was captured in Canton while allegedly attempting a third burglary. Spencer Jurcak Hall of Canton was arrested about 4:15 a.m. Monday after police say he tried to flee the scene of an attempted break-in at the Jet's Pizza near Cherry Hill and Canton Center. His arrest came after police say two other Jet's Pizza shops already had been broken into after 1 a.m. Monday, one near



Hall

See BURGLAR, Page A2



Boone and Tooson-Boone

Pair avoids jail for assault involving gun, chain

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton woman has been placed on probation for three years for brandishing a handgun and threatening another woman outside the McDonald's restaurant on Michigan Avenue near Lotz. Antoinette Hope Boone, 37, averted a prison term Tuesday during her sentencing in Wayne County Circuit Court after she pleaded guilty to

See ASSAULT, Page A2



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PARC efforts to purchase Central site continue

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Despite a delay in their timetable of a year or more, backers of the proposed Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex have high hopes for the project.

PARC, envisioned as a venue for athletics, concerts, classes and other cultural and community events, is planned for a refurbished and re-purposed Central Middle School, which is closing after the current school year. Space at PARC would be used by groups that now use Central facilities – youth football, soccer and other sports programs, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools community education, the Miracle League of Plymouth – as well as other groups that have shown interest, such as the Michigan Philharmonic.

Organizers have been negotiating with the Plymouth-Canton Community School District for the site, which has been appraised at about

\$4 million. A proposed purchase agreement is on the agenda for the Tuesday, Feb. 10, Board of Education meeting.

"We believe we are very close to reaching an agreement with the school board," Don Soenen, one of the chief PARC organizers, wrote in an email. "It will be purchased with private funds and operated in its present condition for the benefit of the Steelers (youth football), Cruisers (youth swimming), other current user groups and new users and tenants."

The Michigan Philharmonic, of which Soenen is a past president and board member, would move its offices into the building in July, he said. The orchestra would rehearse there and perform several smaller concerts a year in the 350-seat auditorium, he said.

In the short term – two or three years – PARC and its tenants would be able to sustain the facility, but in the long term, organizers are looking toward a joint

Plymouth-Plymouth Township public taxing authority that would raise money to remodel and rebuild the complex and run it as a recreation and arts center for both communities.

Taxing authority?

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop this historic site for the maximum benefit of the entire Plymouth community," Soenen said.

However, proponents face a roadblock in that the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted in January 2014 to not form any authority-type agreements with the city of Plymouth until Nov. 20, 2016, at the earliest. That's when a new board would take office after the 2016 township election.

Township Treasurer Ron Edwards, who made the motion last January to bar authority agreements with the city, is not budging, saying the risks to township taxpayers would be too great.

Edwards has said the



COURTESY OF DON SOENEN

An artist's rendering of the front of what is now Central Middle School, re-purposed as the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, or PARC.

city owes the township \$3.8 million in pension and retiree health care costs related to the former Plymouth Community Fire Department, which served both communities from 1995 through 2011. The issue has yet to be resolved.

"Joint ventures just don't seem to work out with the city and we run into problems," he said. "These types of centers all around Michigan are failing."

Soenen, a township resident, said PARC, if it successfully buys the

site, would approach the township board again and that city and township voters should decide. Voters would have a say on any tax proposal put forth by a joint PARC authority.

"The voters deserve to be heard on a project of this magnitude and potential impact," he said.

Organizers believe a public taxing authority, similar to the one that runs the Plymouth District Library, would be the best arrangement, Soenen said, but are open to "any arrangement that

works for all parties."

Behind schedule

Soenen said the project's time line is at least 12 months behind what was originally proposed. If the purchase of Central is successful, he said, the group would seek more community input, develop a business plan and an economic impact study and move to the design phase. Construction could start in 2017, he said, and be completed in 2018 or 2019.

Central is the former Plymouth High School and parts of the building date from the 1920s. A refurbished PARC would include a gymnasium, an auditorium, a fitness center, a swimming pool, meeting rooms, art studios and more, plus outdoor athletic fields and the Miracle League's Bilkie Family Field.

The cost of remodeling and updating the building has been estimated at \$25 million.

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THEATER

Continued from Page A1

Until now.

But it's not a traveling production, she pointed out. MSF will actually close its show in Jackson after the first two weeks and move to Canton for the final three weeks.

Dying art?

She said a prevailing opinion is that theater is "a dying art," in part because people hesitate to go because they don't know what to wear and people think theater is something that "is not for them."

"We're trying to make it as easy as possible for as many people as possible to see what we do and become part of our

family," Blixt said. "People are realizing it's a viable entertainment option. Don't worry about what you wear. We'll wear the costumes."

MSF actors will stage three plays this season: Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Henry IV* and *The Rivals*, written by Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

Blixt said the plays are chosen to try to provide a well-rounded experience to theater-goers.

Supportive actors

"We were doing 'Shakespeare's greatest hits' most of the time," Blixt said. "Now we try to do one well-known Shakespeare, one Shakespeare that makes people say, 'I didn't realize that was Shakespeare' and the



MSF

The Michigan Shakespeare Festival is bringing its cast of professional actors to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

third play to try to round out the season so there's something for everyone."

Tobin's favorite part is the fact the actors work in repertory. Actors who are stars in one show may be background actors in another.

MSF General Manager Nona Bennett said that system works because the actors care about each other.

"The actors are so incredibly supportive of each other," Bennett said. "They're there for each other. They're listening to each other on stage and it shows in the per-

formance."

Tobin said having MSF at the Village Theater will "elevate Canton."

"It will create a credibility, not only for MSF, but for the Village Theater," she said. "We have brilliant local groups, but if you're a seasoned theater-goer, you want something more professional. Now you don't have to go to Detroit or Stratford. It will bring the community actors in contact with these professionals and it will inspire them."

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ASSAULT

Continued from Page A1

assault with a dangerous weapon.

Authorities agreed to dismiss charges of felony firearm and carrying a concealed weapon.

Boone was charged after police say she threatened a 30-year-old Inkster woman when tempers flared over a man Boone and the victim had both dated.

Boone's cousin, 19-year-old Alyah Chaurice Tooson-Boone of Inkster, also has avoided a prison term after she pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

However, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said she couldn't divulge the terms of Tooson-Boone's sentencing.

Because of her age, Tooson-Boone qualified for sentencing under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act, a move that allows her to keep the incident off her record.

Early on, Canton police had said Tooson-

Boone wielded a chain and threatened the Inkster victim.

The cousins could have faced up to four years in prison, but their guilty pleas have allowed them to remain free as long as they stay out of trouble.

Boone and Tooson-Boone were charged after police say they trailed the victim in a car along Michigan Avenue and pulled into the McDonald's parking lot. The victim told authorities the assailants had swerved into her lane, threw objects at her car and yelled at her.

The victim told police she had begun dating a man formerly involved with Boone. A friend of the victim also told police she felt threatened during the incident.

The victim told police she got a baseball bat out of her car in an attempt to defend herself before the dispute was broken up as police arrived.

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BURGLAR

Continued from Page A1

Palmer and Haggerty in Canton and another on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

Canton Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor credited Hall's arrest to alert patrol officers who had begun staking out area pizzerias after the first two incidents occurred.

"That was excellent work by the road patrol," Traylor said.

Hall was arraigned by video Tuesday in 35th District Court on two counts of breaking and entering and one count of attempted breaking and entering. He was jailed on a \$50,000 cash bond as he awaits a court hearing to determine if he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Hall could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted. A not-guilty plea has been placed in his court file.

Canton police quickly initiated surveillance outside local pizzerias after an intruder smashed out glass to get inside the first two Jet's Pizza shops, where authorities say money was stolen.

"Our patrol officers started watching the other Jet's locations," Traylor said.

Officers closed in on the suspect after spotting him at the pizzeria near Cherry Hill and Canton Center.

"He was caught on

foot a short distance from the scene," Traylor said.

The rash of break-ins began shortly after 1 a.m., when a glass window was smashed out at the Jet's Pizza near Palmer and Haggerty. The second incident happened when an intruder shattered the front door of the Jet's location in Plymouth Township.

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Philharmonic concert to feature local stars

The Michigan Philharmonic presents *From Motown to Mamma Mia: The Sensational '60s & '70s*, Saturday, Feb. 14, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Due to high demand, Philharmonic officials said, two performances are scheduled – a matinee at 4 p.m. and an evening concert at 7:30 p.m., with a special pre- or post-concert Valentine's Day dinner option available at 502 Grille, next door to the theater, at 5:30 p.m.

The concert celebrates the "Age of Aquarius" with music of the Temptations, the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, the Rolling Stones and many more.

The concert will also feature the vocal talents of local stars who have made it big in the musical world: Kathryn Calzone, Lauren Norris and Taylor Walls. Calzone and Norris are graduates of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Calzone studied voice at the Interlochen Arts Academy and received her bachelor's degree in vocal performance at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Norris earned her master's degree in musical theater performance from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Walls is a junior at Madonna University majoring in music management and serves as an intern with the Michigan Philharmonic. Walls was also a recent contestant on TV's *American Idol* and sings locally in her band Athens Creek.

For tickets and information, call 734-451-2112 or go to www.michiganphil.org.



Calzone



Norris



Walls

Library giving free books to spur reading

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Forget for a moment the latest digital devices that allow avid readers to become engrossed in their favorite e-books.

Canton Public Library patrons who relish holding a book, turning its pages, reading every word and then passing it on to a friend now have an ally.

The library is embarking on a plan to spend \$2,000 to buy multiple copies of books and give them – free of charge – to patrons who agree to distribute them in the Canton community.

It's an effort, the Canton Book Project, intended to encourage reading.

"The plan is to distribute the books to reach non-readers, especially," said Laurie Golden, the library's community relations department head. "We want to really reach out to people who don't regularly read – or maybe they stopped reading because they had kids or got busy at work."

Patrons can go to www.cantonpl.org and apply for the Canton Book Project before March 7. The library plans to pick the most convincing applicants, buy several copies of their favorite book and hand them out during a distribution night April 16, which coincides with National Library Week.

Patrons receiving the books have to agree to dis-

tribute them by April 30, ideally not only to friends, but also to others. Recipients, in turn, may keep the book or pass it on.

Beth Shaum, a middle school English teacher and Canton resident, said she is considering applying to receive books to encourage her students to read more.

"I was really excited when I first heard about it," she said. "As a middle school teacher, I know it's hard sometimes to get kids excited about reading. I think this is a step in the right direction."

Shaum, who estimated she reads 100 or more books a year, is among those who believe the Canton Book Project could inspire others to read.

"I'm always reading a book or listening to an audio book," she said.

The all-ages Canton Book Project project falls under the library's mission, Connecting Your Community, and is possible because of a \$2,000 grant from the Pitney Bowes Corp.

The project is modeled after an effort, now defunct in the United States, called World Book Night.

"We hope that people who are not actively engaged in reading books will receive the book and enjoy it and that it will spark an interest to keep reading," Golden said, adding later, "We're very excited about it."

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ON CAMPUS

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has announced its dean's list for the fall semester of the 2014-15 academic year. Those named included the following area students:

» Canton – **James Christian Maciag**, College of Arts and Sciences, junior, mathematics major; and **Lindsay Marie Spaulding**, College of Arts and Sciences, senior, psychology major.

» Plymouth – **Erin Nicole Lyddon**, College of Education and Human Sciences, freshman, nutrition and health sciences major; and

Monica Rose Mackie, College of Education and Human Sciences, junior, pre-Spanish education major.

Bowling Green

Bowling Green State University has announced the undergraduate students who have been named to the fall semester dean's list for achieving grade-point averages of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Canton students named to the list include **Lauren Beauregard**, College of Arts and Sciences; **Nicole Braxton**, College of Business Admin; **Michael Flory**, College of Business Admin; **Amanda Glass**, College of

Arts and Sciences; **Steven Manser**, College of Business Admin; **Victoria Massey**, Health and Human Services; **Brianne Miller**, Health and Human Services.

Plymouth students named to the list include **Kevin Delapaz**, Education & Human Development; **Jake Genrich**, College of Business Admin; **Mariah Lax**, Health and Human Services; **Corydon Martin**, Col of Tech Arch & Appl Engr; and **Rachel Winters**, College of Business Admin.

» **Darrell White II** of Plymouth graduated from Bowling Green cum laude with his bachelor of arts degree.

Mercy College

Tetyana Landon, a sophomore nursing student from Canton, made the dean's list and **Rachel Lewkut**, a junior in nursing pre-licensure from Canton, made the honor's list when Mercy (Ohio) College announced its fall semester honors.

To be named on the dean's list, a student must achieve a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher and be enrolled for 12 or more credit hours.

To be named on the honor's list, a student must achieve a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher and be enrolled for 6-11 credit hours.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PARENTING TIPS

Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 5, 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: Tonda Elementary School, 46501 Warren, Canton

Details: In "Top 10 Essential Parenting Strategies for Success," Dr. Pam McCaskill, owner/director of McCaskill Family Services, will present the "best of the best" parenting tips for managing behavior, improving self-esteem, and motivation. Free child care is available (call 734-416-2937).

Contact: To register, go to <http://communityeducation.pccs.k12.mi.us/>

COLBECK HOURS

Dates/Times/Locations: Monday, Feb. 2, 6-7 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth; Friday, Feb. 6, 4-5 p.m., Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road

Details: State Sen. Patrick Colbeck and District Manager Penny Crider will hold office hours in Plymouth and Wayne. Colbeck will be available to answer questions and respond to

concerns any residents of his district may have. This is an opportunity for local residents to meet with Colbeck to address issues related to state government. No appointment is necessary.

Contact: For more information or to contact Colbeck, go to www.senator-patrickcolbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

PAGAN HOURS

Dates/Times: Fourth Monday of the month, 7 p.m.; fourth Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.

Locations: Monday, Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road, Canton; Saturday, Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road, Belleville

Details: State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, announces the schedule for her monthly coffee hours. Pagan invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents. Pagan encourages interested residents to sign up for her e-newsletter, which

See CALENDAR, Page A5

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School district officials put transition plan in motion

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Now that Plymouth-Canton's boundary steering committee has settled on elementary and middle school boundary issues and the Board of Education has approved them, district officials are moving into the next phase – transition.

According to district officials, efforts are underway to

“successfully and smoothly transition students, families, staff and materials” as the district changes boundaries for the 2015-16 school year.

The School Transition Advisory Committee, made up of stakeholders from across the district, including 60 students, parents, staff, building administrators and BOE office staff, met Wednesday.

The STAC will meet five more times “to ensure a

smooth transition, gather feedback, advise and communicate plans and events,” officials said.

Middle school placement letters were scheduled to be sent home Friday and elementary letters are scheduled to go home Monday with report cards.

Several open houses are also scheduled in an effort to welcome new families to their buildings.

Elementary open houses take place 6-7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at all elementaries for incoming kindergartners and transitioning families.

Middle school open houses are scheduled 7-8 p.m. Monday, March 2, at Discovery, East, Pioneer and West middle schools. An open house for the new, as-yet-unnamed middle school, being built at Cherry Hill and Canton Center, takes place 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, March

3, at Discovery.

Incoming sixth-graders can attend a curriculum night at the middle schools April 30, while the curriculum night for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is set for 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Feb. 5.

For more information, ask questions at the “Let’s Talk” button on the district’s website or call 734-416-2755.

Annual Farrand Elementary science expo wows audience

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The projects varied, but the results were all the same: A successful annual science expo at Farrand Elementary School.

Students putting together projects as wide-ranging as cultivating brine shrimp and extracting DNA made the 2015 expo, held at Farrand last week, a good one.

“The projects were ambitious and thought-provoking,” event chair Julie Tafelski said. “Many commented on the higher-level thinking involved with the projects.”

Staffers from the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum were there, engaging participants in 10 different hands-on stations. Members of the Key Club from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park were also on hand as volunteers to assist with these stations (one of the favorites, Tafelski said, was the Bubble Station).

Wildlife Safari was also there and shared an hour-long presentation of exotic animals.

“They were a hit with the audience as they allow hands on during their presentation,” Tafelski said. “In science, one should never stop questioning and that is what we aim to accomplish – active questioning and involvement in science on the part of the young people in the Farrand community.”



FARRAND ELEMENTARY
Student Theddie Brooks questions a Wildlife Safari expert on an armadillo.



FARRAND ELEMENTARY
Ali Lievense, mother of first-grader Benji, gets to enjoy a hands-on experience with Wildlife Safari.

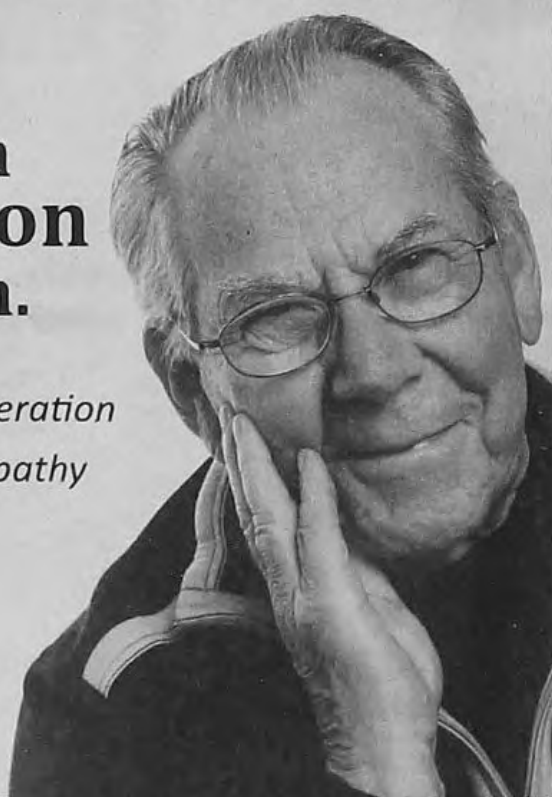


FARRAND ELEMENTARY
One of the Wildlife Safari animals: A huge reticulated python.

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page A3

will provide updates of her work at the Capitol and in the community.

Contact: To sign up, interested individuals should go to pagan.housedems.com. Residents can also contact Pagan in her Lansing office at 517-373-2575.

DROP-IN KNITTING

Date/Time: Third Tuesday of each month, 1-2 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging offers drop-in knitting and crocheting classes. If you need help finishing a project or starting a new project, then this is the place to come. Beginners are welcome. Each class has a donation of \$2. Instructor is Dori Mefford.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

U-M ALUMNI NETWORKING

Date/Time: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Location: Liberty Street Brewing Co., 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth

Details: The University Of Michigan Alumni Club of Greater Northville hosts a professional networking event for seasoned and new professionals. The featured speaker will be fellow Michigan alumni Sally Schmall, owner of the Coaching Academy. She will share simple strategies to help your message resonate with others, followed by small networking/discussion groups based on career interests. A light dinner and a drink will be provided. Cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

CRAFTERS WANTED

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 17

Location: West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

Details: Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society of women in education, will host its 31st annual craft show to help provide scholarships for Plymouth-Canton students. There are still openings for crafters who are interested in joining the event. Join DKG along with the AAUW used book sale and reserve a booth.

Contacts: For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at debortellini@comcast.net or call 734-451-1525.

COACHES NEEDED

Date/Time: Saturdays in spring and fall



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Raising awareness

National Honor Society students at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park raised \$2,500 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in a trivia night fundraiser. Students earned points in several categories. The "most spirited" team, The Incredibles, was made up of (front) Samantha McGrath and Howard Zhang and (back, from left) Carson Pakula, Hannah Badger, Nathan Ewell, Austin Carr, Michael Adzima and Luis Orozco.

Location: Bilkie Family Field, downtown Plymouth

Details: The Miracle League of Plymouth, the league providing opportunities for special-needs players to enjoy the game of baseball, needs volunteer coaches for its spring and fall seasons.

Contact: Anyone interested in donating their time or who has questions can contact Shari Bilkie via email at shari@miracleleagueplymouth.org

OLGC GALA

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Italian-American Club of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile

Details: Our Lady of Good Counsel hosts "Women of Our Lady," the church's inaugural dinner-dance gala. Couples, families and singles are welcome to the family-style dinner, which features oven-roasted chicken and potatoes, vegetables and dip, green beans almondine and beverages. Dress code is after-5 attire; doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner is at 7 p.m.

Contact: To register or for more information, email Marcella Corona at march1317@aol.com or call 248-305-7155.

CLOTHING BANK

Date/Time: Every fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship clothing bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: Canton Christian Fellowship sponsors a clothing bank every fourth Saturday. No documentation is needed. Drop-off is available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Canton Christian Fellowship is located on at Joy Road, west of Haggerty.

Contact: For more information, email info@cantoncf.org or call 734-404-2480.

STONEFLIES SEARCH

Date/Time: Feb. 14, 9 a.m.

Location: U-M Dearborn

Details: Friends of the Rouge is looking for volunteers Saturday, Feb. 14, who want to help look for stoneflies in the Rouge River. Valentine's Day was chosen this year as it is falls during the time organizers say stoneflies hatch from the river and go looking for love. Searchers meet at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around

metropolitan Detroit.

Contact: Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 30 on the FOTR website www.therouge.org or by calling 313-792-9621.

PFLAG MEETING

Date/Time: First Sunday of each month, 3-5 p.m.

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Plymouth-Canton PFLAG meets for discussion, education and sharing. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of families, friends and straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

Contact: Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

LIBRARY BAG SALES

Dates: Feb. 20-23; March 27-30

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: The Canton Public Library hosts several Bag Sales to benefit Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public

Library bookstore. Visitors can shop during the monthly sale and fill a big with books for just \$5.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

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

Location: Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman

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

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

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third Thursday through May 2015, 11 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

Details: Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Waltonwood Cherry Hill.

Contact: To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

Survivor of Human Trafficking

If you don't think human trafficking happens in your zip code, think again.

Survivor and author of "The Slave Across the Street", Theresa Flores shares her story of being a sex slave while a typical high school student in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit. Drugged, raped, and tortured at 15, she was trafficked for 2 years to men in their 20's and 30's, all unbeknownst to her family. Now this victims' advocate is speaking out on the reality of human trafficking in the U.S.



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Two W-W students show how well they can spell

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Erin Bagley and Conner Evans both went to the 35th annual Earle Chorbagan Spelling Bee with one thought in mind: to win.

And they both did. For Conner, a sixth-grader at Marshall Upper Elementary School, the win was an important step on his mission to go to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. For Erin, it was the win that she wanted the most.

"I think I'm over the moon now," she said after correctly spelling the word "collards" in the 67th round of the middle school spelling bee. "I didn't think I'd make it."

Erin, an eighth-grader at Stevenson Middle School, went word for word against Bassit Fijabi, a seventh-grader at Stevenson, for more than 35 rounds, stumbling on the spelling of "permeate." However, Bassit misspelled "sheathing." Four rounds later, Bassit misspelled "grievance" to open the door for Erin to win.

"I think I can breathe now," said her mother Catherine, who helped Erin study for the bee. "Some of the words I had to go to Google Translate so I'd know how to pronounce it."

For Erin, winning the spelling bee was vindication for placing second last year.

"I just wanted to win this bee," she said. "I came so close last year. I got beat by an eighth-

grader."

Traveling plaques

Her victory returns the traveling plaque to Stevenson Middle School. It had been in the possession of Franklin Middle School for two years.

Conner won the upper elementary championship in the 21st round by correctly spelling "skirmish" and a second word, "phonics." He also returned the district plaque to Marshall Upper Elementary.

"I did a lot of studying the last several days. I studied the hard ones," Connor said.

While adults admitted they would have been out of the competition with the word "gambol," Conner easily spelled it. It was the word "ritziness" he found the hardest.

"I knew 'gambol' because it was in the later words," he said. "I knew it within the order of the words I studied. 'Ritziness' I'd never heard used in a sentence."

Conner came to the competition with a good luck charm in his pocket – the medal his grandfather Steve Dely won in *The Detroit News* spelling bee in 1938 when he was 13 years old.

"I knew this would bring me luck," he said. "Now my goal is to win the Detroit spelling bee."

'Nervous wreck'

Parents John and Susan Evans were there to watch. John "was a nervous wreck," according to Susan, who describes Conner as "a confident kid."



SUE MASON
Conner Evans shows off the medal his grandfather Steve Dely won in the 1938 Detroit Spelling Bee.

"He's so confident, he just thinks he's going to win," she said. "He thinks he can do anything."

Susan Evans helped Conner study, but admitted there were words she couldn't pronounce. He had to do that.

"And I'm here trying to help him," she said.

Erin and Conner now advance to *The Detroit News* spelling bee March 13 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. The winner will advance to the national spelling bee May 24-29.

"Congratulations to all of the students; you're all champions," said Earle Chorbagan, a former Adams principal who helped start the district spelling bee 35 years ago. "When you continue to do your best at home and at school, you'll always be a champion."

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SUE MASON
Conner Evans shows off the spelling bee traveling plaque that is returning to Marshall Upper Elementary. Joining him are his parents John and Susan Evans (at left), Earle Chorbagan and school board members Carol Middel and Thomas Buckalew (at right).



SUE MASON
Erin Bagley poses with her parents Dennis and Catherine Bagley, Earle Chorbagan and school board members Carol Middel and Thomas Buckalew after winning the middle school bee.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:15

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Tigers help department celebrate 125 years

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The Northville City Fire Department celebrated its 125th anniversary on Jan. 23 with some special guests – the 2015 Detroit Tigers Winter Caravan, including team players, coaches and executives, along with Northville community members.

A highlight of the event was the competition between players Alex Avila and Joe Nathan to see who could suit up in firefighter gear the fastest. During a question-and-answer session, Nathan said he had two dreams as a boy: first to be a baseball player and, if that didn't work out, then to be a firefighter.

"I have the utmost respect for them and what they do," Nathan said.

The gear weighs around 70 pounds and all firefighters are expected to put it on in less than a minute, according to NCFD Chief Steve Ott. At 58 seconds, catcher Avila just edged out pitcher Nathan, who also broke the one-minute mark.

"We're glad they could be here to mark this anniversary with us. This is a lot of fun," Ott said while everyone collected inside the fire station in downtown Northville.

Toward the end of the event, the players gathered inside city council chambers and answered questions from an audience while gifts were raffled off. The consensus among the players was that, although the division has improved, the Tigers have another talented team and they're looking forward to the season starting in April.

Fire department anniversary

Established in 1890, the NCFD remains a department where service to community is the main mission. The all-volunteer department, which gets about 1,600 calls a year, has grown over the years and now includes coverage of the city of Plymouth.

The NCFD provides fire suppression, basic life support EMS, fire prevention and inspection services and public education for the cities of Northville and Plymouth, operating out of three stations. The department is staffed by a full-time chief and 55 part-time and paid on-call firefighters and EMS responders.

Between the two cities, the department serves an area of 4.5 square miles and a residential population of 15,000.

Mayor Chris Johnson



Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus shakes hands Jan. 23 with Northville Fire Chief Steve Ott as the Tigers Winter Caravan made a pit stop at the Northville Fire Department.



Northville Mayor Chris Johnson (right) talks with Detroit Tigers players Wynton Bernard (left) and Blaine Hardy.



Joe Nathan poses by a Northville Fire Department truck in some borrowed gear during the Jan. 23 visit to the city.

said the community is blessed to have such a fire department. "This fire department is really special," Johnson said. "Because it's volunteer, it shows a

dedication that it's more than just a job. I'm proud of this department."

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
517-294-4215
Twitter: @lhuhman



Northville firefighter Jon Ponte (left) helps get Tigers catcher Alex Avila into his turn-out gear during a Jan. 23 visit to the department's station on West Main Street. The firefighters didn't make Avila go on a run with them, but instead put him in a competition with pitcher Joe Nathan to see who could don the gear quicker.



Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander laughs as he takes a photo of catcher Alex Avila dressed up in firefighters gear while being interviewed.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
LEGAL NOTICE**

**Public Test of the M-100 Optic Scan Voting System
For the Local Special Election
Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

A public accuracy test of the M-100 Optic Scan Voting System will take place at 3:30 p.m. on February 10, 2015, at the Charter Township of Plymouth Clerk's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, for the February 24, 2015 Local Special Election (Public Safety Millage Renewal). The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of law. For further information contact the Clerk's Office at (734) 354-3224.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Publish: February 1, 2015

**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 2015: February 10, March 3, March 31, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 17 and December 15. 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: February 1, 2015

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PAIN IN ONE JOINT

A patient with rheumatoid arthritis may experience a flare in a single joint such as a wrist, shoulder or knee.

The patient's doctor must make a decision on treatment. Should the patient increase his present medicine, say methotrexate, from 1/2 cc a week to 3/4 cc a week? Should the doctor continue methotrexate and start the patient on an additional medicine, say Enbrel one injection weekly? Or should the physician stay with the present 1/2 cc dose of methotrexate and inject the inflamed joint with cortisone?

In my practice, I would leave the patient's rheumatoid regimen unchanged and inject the involved joint.

My reasons are as follows. First, increasing dosage of present medication may bring on side effects that the present dose of medication, say methotrexate, avoids. Second, adding a new medication brings up the risk of further weakening the immune system so infections such as tuberculosis may develop. Third, the injection of steroid to a specific site such as the wrist, shoulder or knee does not expose the body to the dangers of steroid. Furthermore, relief from an injection is often long lived, permitting the patient to remain on an otherwise successful and well tolerated therapy.

Moreover, if the injection does not give relief, the failure becomes apparent within one or two days of the procedure. The doctor then has good reason to increase present medication or add a new one.

The good effect of an injection holds for single joint pain in conditions such as osteoarthritis, gout and psoriatic arthritis. In each instance, a timely injection assists a timely recovery and allows a conservative course of therapy.

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Living trust offers flexibility, certainty in estate planning

Q: Dear Rick: I am divorced with two children from my previous marriage. I have a significant other and we've been together for about five years. She also has two children. We have no children together. We each have wills that basically leave everything to each other and upon our deaths each of our wills say that the money should be divided equally among our four children. I am about 15 years older than my significant other and I recently had a conversation with a friend who told me that if I died first, she could eventually decide to change her will and cut my children out. I don't think she would do this, but her children are somewhat manipulative and I am concerned. Can she change her will? What can I do to protect my children?

A: Your friend is correct. Your significant other could change her will and leave everything to her children. If you survive her, you can change your will and cut out her children. You can protect your significant other during her lifetime and assure yourself that whatever money is left over would go to your children with a living trust.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

greater flexibility on what you can do with your money. In addition, since you would be the settlor, (the individual who establishes the trust - a person who settles property on trust law for the benefit of beneficiaries). You are the only one who could make changes. Therefore, upon your death, the trust would be irrevocable and your successor trustee would be bound to follow the terms of your trust. Typically, a living trust for a husband and wife names both as co-trustees. Upon the death of either, the other would be sole trustee. This would make sure that the surviving spouse is always in control of their money. However, in this situation you can consider not having your significant other as a trustee or have a co-trustee arrangement. Naming co-trustees is a good check and balance. If you are going to have a significant other be a successor trustee, it does make sense to have at least one other trustee. It is important to decide how your affairs are handled after your

death, but also what happens if you become incapacitated.. That is why a durable power of attorney and a medical durable power of attorney are important. Considering your situation, it may be appropriate to have someone other than your significant other be named in the power of attorney. This could prevent potential family issues down the road. My advice is that you and your significant other sit down with an estate planning attorney. Ask whether the attorney can represent both of you or if one of you should seek a different attorney. If there is a conflict of interest, all good estate planning attorneys are going to recommend that you each have your own attorney draft your estate documents. The majority of Americans do not live in Ozzie and Harriett families. Our laws are geared to those families. For those who live in a non-traditional household, it is important to have the right estate planning documents. Good luck. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



MAUREEN DONAHUE
Addy Donahue (from left), father Michael Donahue, mother Maureen Donahue and brother Troy Donahue are planning to be at Super Bowl XLIX Sunday night in Phoenix after Addy was provided the opportunity through the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Wish granted: Local girl headed to Super Bowl with Make-A-Wish

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Addy Donahue doesn't know if the New England Patriots deflated the footballs before their playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts two weeks ago. But she'll have the chance to see quarterback Tom Brady throw them in person when they play in Super Bowl XLIX. Donahue, a 16-year-old junior at Dearborn Divine Child High School who has bone cancer, is expected to be in attendance at football's biggest game this weekend in Phoenix between the Patriots and Seattle Seahawks along with her family as a part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

After being diagnosed in 2013, Donahue was approached by the foundation, which asked her for ideas of a wish. Coming from a sports-loving family, her first idea was heading to the Super Bowl. After putting in the request last year, she found out a few months later it had been granted. "I was just very excited," she said.


Donahue has been active in sports for many years, playing both soccer and basketball. She played basketball for Divine Child until her disease resulted in one of her legs being amputated. Despite the loss, Donahue still stays active with the team as much as she can. Several of her classmates have already requested stories from the game when she and her family get back to Michigan next week. "They're all just excited I'm going and to get back and tell them how it was," she said. Donahue, along with her mother, father and brother, planned on leaving Thursday and spend time in Phoenix before



MAUREEN DONAHUE
Addy Donahue, 16, of Livonia is headed to the Super Bowl in Arizona after the Make-A-Wish Foundation was able to grant her wish. Donahue was diagnosed with bone cancer in 2013.

the game doing other activities, including a tour of University of Phoenix Stadium. They'll stay in Arizona until early next week. Donahue's mother, Maureen Donahue, said it'll be a great experience for the family that has a love of sports in their veins. "Our kids have always played sports. Our son loves football," she said. "That's what we do on Sundays. Watch football and make chili." She said the wish, granted to 10 youngsters across the country by the foundation, will be a nice reprieve from the thoughts of doctors and treatment for a few days. "We feel blessed that they're doing this for us," Maureen Donahue said. "It's just one of those things that make her feel that people are behind her and supporting her." Addy Donahue said while she wishes it was the Detroit Lions playing this weekend, she's pulling for the Patriots to win the game. But heading out for a long weekend with her family will make the experience of watching the game that much better. "I think it's going to make the experience a lot better being with my family," she said.

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Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PLANNING COMMISSION
PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT 010

PROPOSED ACTION: AMEND THE TEXT OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 99 BY AMENDING ARTICLE XXVII, NONCONFORMITIES, AND ARTICLE XXVIII, SPECIAL PROVISIONS

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, February 18, 2015

TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Plymouth, on its own motion, proposes to amend the text of Zoning Ordinance No. 99 by adding Section 27.1, Nonconforming Lots or Parcels of Record in the R-1 District, to Article XXVII Nonconformities, and amending the language of Sections 28.3.2 and 28.4.3 in Article XXVIII, Special Provisions, as follows:

1. ARTICLE XXVII, NONCONFORMITIES, IS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED BY ADDING SECTION 27.1

SEC 27.1 NONCONFORMING LOTS OR PARCELS OF RECORD IN THE R-1 DISTRICT

It is recognized that within the R-1 District, there are recorded lots or parcels of record, which lawfully existed at the time of adoption of this Ordinance, which do not meet the minimum requirements for width or area. The purpose of this Section is to allow such lots or parcels of record to be utilized, as long as reasonable living standards can be provided.

The following regulations shall apply to nonconforming lots or parcels of record within the R-1 District:

- Development of Nonconforming Lots of Parcels of Record within the R-1 District**
A single-family dwelling and customary accessory structures may be erected on any single lot or parcel of record in the R-1 District that was in existence at the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Section. This provision shall apply even if the lot or parcel does not meet the minimum area or width requirements of the R-1 District, provided that any principal or accessory structure constructed on the lot or parcel complies with all other yard, floor area, height, and access requirements of the R-1 District.
- Review and Approval Procedure**
An application for the construction of a single-family residence on a nonconforming lot or parcel of record in the R-1 District shall be submitted to the Chief Building Official for review and approval, prior to the issuance of a building permit. In reviewing the application, the Chief Building Official shall determine that all other requirements not involving area or width have been met. In addition, the Chief Building Official shall determine whether any additional information and/or approvals must be obtained to ensure compliance with this Section, and to preserve the general public health, safety, and welfare.
- Variation to Yard Requirements**
If the nonconforming lot or parcel in the R-1 District requires a variation of the yard requirements in order to erect a structure, then such structure shall be permitted only if a variance is granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

2. ARTICLE XXVII, NONCONFORMITIES, IS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED BY REVISING THE NUMBERING OF EXISTING SECTION 27.1 TO 27.2, AND RENUMBERING THE SUBSEQUENT SECTIONS ACCORDINGLY.

3. ARTICLE XXVIII, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, IS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO PARAGRAPH 2 OF SECTION 28.3, RESIDENTIAL DESIGN STANDARDS, AS SHOWN IN BOLD AND UNDERLINED:

- 2. Dimensional Standards**
Such dwelling units shall comply with the minimum standards listed in Article 20 for the zoning district in which it is located, including minimum lot area, minimum lot width, minimum floor area, required setbacks, and maximum building height, **except as provided in Section 27.1 for nonconforming lots or parcels of record in the R-1 District.**

4. ARTICLE XXVIII, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, IS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF SECTION 28.4, DWELLING LOCATIONS, AS SHOWN IN BOLD AND UNDERLINED:

- 3. Lot Width**
Every single family dwelling shall be located on a lot, parcel or tract of land having a width of not less than sixty (60) feet at the front or rear building line, whichever is less, **except as provided in Section 27.1 for nonconforming lots or parcels of record in the R-1 District.**

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that persons interested are requested to be present. Pertinent information relative to the proposed text amendments may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 5. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth Township, MI 48170. At the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the text changes as proposed, or as amended.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: February 1, 2015

LC-000028978 3x7.5

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to federal guidelines, the Charter Township of Plymouth decided on January 13, 2015 to submit the following projects for funding from the 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:

LOCATION	2015 PROJECTS	ESTIMATED ALLOCATION
201 South Main	SENIOR SERVICES	\$ 7,000
3850 2nd, Wayne, MI	TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM	\$ 7,000
1160 Sheridan	ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT TOWNSHIP PARK	\$ 68,252
46640 Ann Arbor Tr.	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 9,139
9955 N. Haggerty Rd		
	TOTAL	\$ 91,391

Published: February 1, 2015

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Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

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RFP-USF FORM 470/FY2015— The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will accept bids for services and equipment for FY2015 of the Universal Services Fund (USF) E-rate Program. Specifications are available from the following web site: <http://triple-r.us/erate/RFP-PCCSFY15.pdf>, click on USF FY2015 - RFP. You may also obtain a copy of the RFP at the E.J. McClendon Center, 454 S. Harvey St., Plymouth, MI 48170. All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Elson Liu at elson.liu@pccsk12.com. RFP's will be received in the Technology Department until 2 PM on February 11, 2015. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education reserves the right to reject or decline all bids.

Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Law

It is the policy of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, height, weight, disability, religion or marital status in any of its programs, activities or employment.

Published: January 25, 2015 and February 1, 2015

LC-000028984 3x7.5

Comedy Night in Garden City benefits Blum's Landing

A northern Michigan retreat for military personnel will be on the receiving end of proceeds from a comedy night planned for Sunday, Feb. 22, in Garden City.

The Blum's Landing Comedy Night will be held at Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City. The doors will open at 4 p.m. and the two-hour comedy show will start at 5 p.m.

The headliner will be Bryan McCree (www.bryannmccree.com). A nationally known comedian, he's been seen on Mad TV, Comedy Central and most recently *Comic's Unleashed* with Byron Allen. In 2006, McCree earned honors as a best of NBC's *Stand Up for Diversity* finals.

He has shared the stage with the likes of Sinbad, George Wallace and the Isley Brothers. He has a natural charm on stage and his infectious giggle often incites laughter among the masses. His natural acting talent shows through in his act as he plays his funniest character - himself.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood, west of Merriman; Garden City DDA Office on Ford, east of Middlebelt; Albert's on the Alley; and Fleming Financial Services, 29217 Ford Road, Suite 119, Garden City.

For more information, contact Fleming at 734-604-0227 or at john@flemingfinancialsvcs.com.

Located on Orchard Lake near Rogers City, Blum's Landing was built by former Canton residents Terry and Jan Blumberg as a place for War on Terror military personnel and their families to relax, recoup and re-energize from the stress of their current rehab and duties.

The Blumbergs built the bed and breakfast in honor of their son Trevor, who was killed in Iraq in 2003. They used the money from his death benefit to purchase 12 acres of land and build the retreat, where veterans, service members and their families can escape, rest and relax for free.

More information about Blum's Landing can be found at www.blumslanding.org.



BLUM'S LANDING
Former Canton residents Jan and Terry Blumberg built Blum's Landing as a retreat for military personnel and their families to rest and relax.

Local director, 18, wraps up work on his fourth feature film

He's just 18, but Luke Jaden has already finished production on his fourth film, titled *King Ripple*.

Produced by Troika (*Not Well*) and Mother and Midwife Pictures (*Papou*), the script is written by author Josh Malerman, who has achieved recent critical acclaim from his latest HarperCollins published novel *Bird Box*.

King Ripple stars Keith Stanfield (*Selma*, *Short Term 12*), Torrey Wigfield (*Lost River*), Allie DeBerry (*Cawdor*), Jaden and film newcomer Callaghan Belle. The story follows four teenagers as they travel through a desolate, urban wasteland brought forth by the very being they wish to find: *King Ripple* himself.

This is Jaden's first time both as a director and actor on one of his projects.

"As a director, you have to be behind the camera, paying attention



"King Ripple" features actors (from left) Torrey Wigfield, Callaghan Belle, Luke Jaden and Allie DeBerry.

to every little detail from a bird's eye view. But I couldn't do that on this project," he said. "I had to get into character, look at the acting notes and rehearse lines. On this one, I decided to take a step back."

While acting, Jaden depended much on the experience of his producers, Novi resident Michael Angelo Zervos (*Papou*) and Phil Wurtzel (*Cawdor*), both directors of feature films themselves, to help behind the camera on *Ripple*.

"I had to trust the DP and the producers," Jaden said. "They believed in me when I was behind the camera, but I had to believe in them when I was in front of it."

"Luke took a risk directing a film in which he was also expected to perform," Zervos said of

his director. "The conditions of production were trying already with near freezing temperatures and all location shooting. Taking on this additional challenge could have broken a less driven individual, but Luke has never lacked the perseverance to succeed."

Jaden's previous films include *Madmen and Martyrs* (which premiered at the African

American Museum in Detroit), *Not Well* (in post-production) and *Neverlands* (in post-production).

Ripple is currently in post-production, with completion expected by the middle of 2015. For

more information on the film, go to <http://MotherandMidwife.com> or on Facebook at King Ripple The Movie.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chiefs grind out victory, 37-33

Canton's defense helps turn game around

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For a while Friday, it just didn't seem like Canton's night. Exhibit A was a 6-2 deficit for the host Chiefs against Westland John Glenn after the first quarter of a KLAA South Division varsity girls basketball match-up.

Exhibit B, with just over three minutes left in the first half and the Rockets up 8-3, took place when Chiefs senior Alanna Brown took the front end of a one-on-one free-throw chance. The ball hung on the front lip of the rim for a second or two before finally dropping through the cylinder.

John Glenn maintained a lead until Canton sophomore Brianna Finn drained back-to-back treys — one from the right wing, the other from the left wing — to put the Chiefs up 15-13 at halftime.

From there, it was a back-and-forth, defensive battle in which the Chiefs ultimately prevailed, 37-33. Canton outscored the visitors 16-8 in the fourth, sparked by several important steals.

"That's the test of a good team, being in a tough situation in crunch time and having to make plays," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "We're a young group, we only got the two seniors, so I was happy to see that some of our younger kids stepped up and kind of owned the

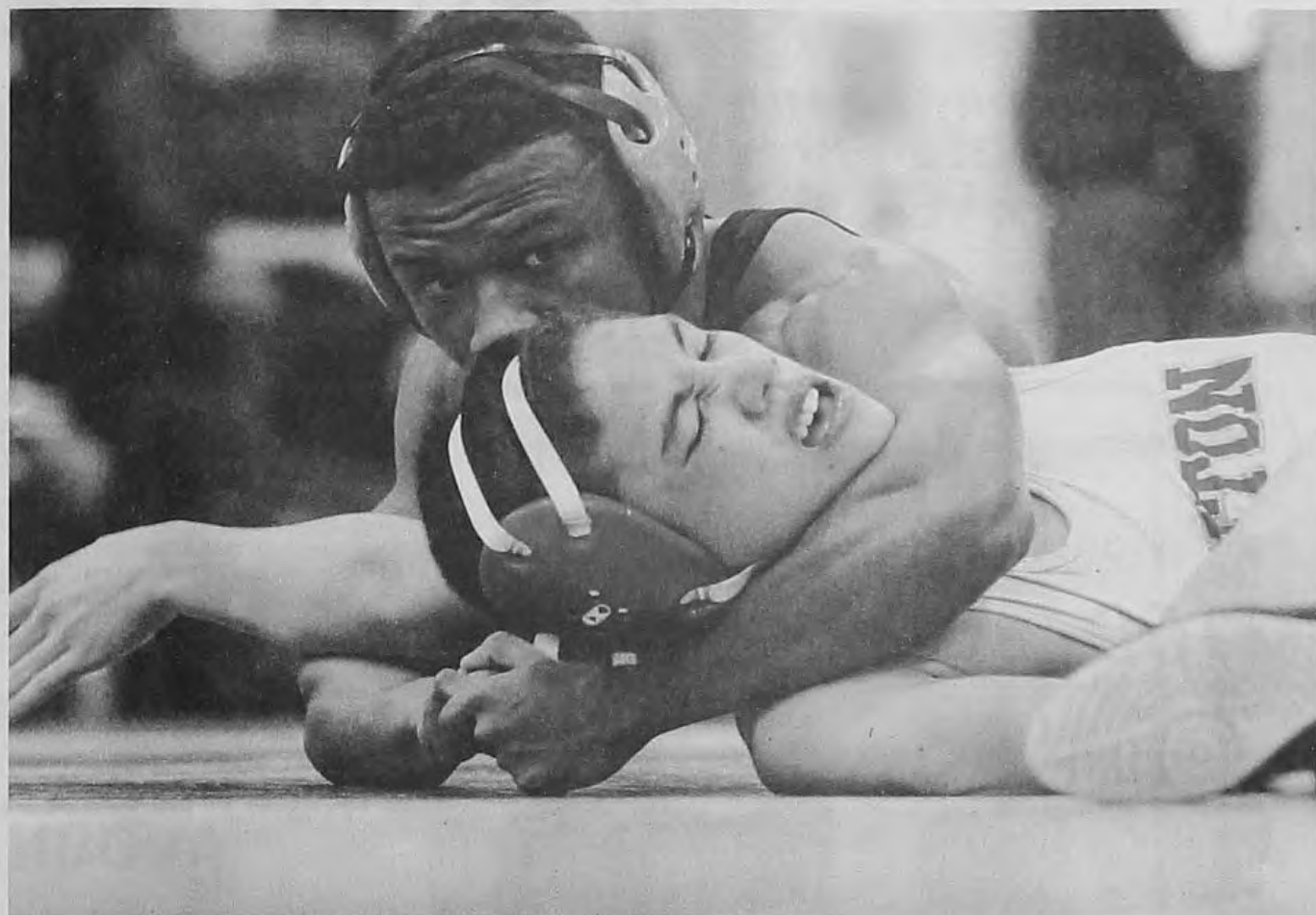
See CHIEFS, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Pulling up to take a jumper over Westland John Glenn defenders is Canton's Erin Hult.

KLAA SOUTH WRESTLING QUAD



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN, MD

Plymouth 119-pounder Brandon Harris gets the upper hand on Canton's Ben Samoy Wednesday night.

SPLIT DECISION

Plymouth grapplers drop tough dual to Franklin, but bounce back to post big victory over Canton

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth's varsity boys wrestling team couldn't overtake Livonia Franklin in the opener of Wednesday's KLAA South quad as the host-Wildcats lost 35-33.

But that disappointment didn't carry over into Plymouth's second dual of the night, against campus rival Canton. The Wildcats took care of business against the young Chiefs, 52-15 to improve to 17-10 overall and 3-2 in the division.

"Canton's team's struggling this year," said Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey, about whether his team might have been looking past the Patriots in order to concentrate on Canton. "Maybe somewhere in the back of their minds. But we knew coming in that as a team we needed to wrestle well against Franklin and Canton would take care of itself. We didn't wrestle well against Franklin. "It was nice we didn't let that (loss) stick with us. We won the winnable



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN, MD
Getting ready to start the second period of their heavyweight bout are Plymouth's Michael Jordan and Canton's Adam Armesto.

matches against Canton, which was nice and the guys wrestled well in it." Canton head coach Cory Mancuso didn't let his team's relative inexperience excuse how his team fared. The Chiefs (1-6, 1-4 according to the

KLAA website) also were defeated 48-23 by Livonia Churchill in one of the other duals.

"We didn't wrestle at our best,"

See WRESTLING, Page B3

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Salem edges Northville on last-second free throw

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The last player Northville might want to see in the KLAA playoffs or Class A district tournament is Kenny Topolovec.

The 6-foot-6 junior from Salem beat the Mustangs with a free throw with only three seconds left Jan. 9 to give the Rocks a 47-46 win.

And it was Topolovec again Friday night as he came up with a key block in the waning seconds and alertly called a timeout with just 2.1 seconds to

play while scrambling on the floor for a loose ball to help preserve a 62-60 KLAA Central Division victory over the host Mustangs.

The win keeps Salem, now 9-3 overall and 5-1 in the division, one game behind KLAA Central leader Novi.

Northville (7-5, 2-4) certainly had its chances in the final minute down a point, 61-60, but the Mustangs missed two put-backs and couldn't convert the go-ahead shot after David Morrissey came up with a steal at mid-court with 30 seconds remaining.

Northville junior guard Justin Zimbo then drove the lane in the waning seconds, but was stuffed by Topolovec, who gained possession and dribbled into the front court, only to momentarily lose control.

Quick thinking

Diving on the floor with the ball heading out of bounds, Topolovec came up with the ball and called timeout with 2.1 seconds remaining to keep the ball in Salem's possession.

"I was just trying to take



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville's Justin James splits Salem defenders Kenny Topolovec (left) and Jakob Lenders (right) during Friday's KLAA Central Division clash.

See SALEM, Page B3

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CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

situation."

One of those who did just that was Finn, who tallied 10 points.

"It took a while for me to get in the groove," Finn said. "But I feel like the way my team set me up was amazing and hitting those last two threes, I think the momentum changed in our favor. It was a good thing."

Leading the Chiefs (7-5, 5-1) was sophomore Erin Hult with 13 points and five rebounds. Adding eight points, all in the fourth quarter, was junior Breanna Donehue.

For John Glenn (5-7, 3-3), Sierra Moseley led the way with 10 points, while Nadia Reed contributed seven.

The Rockets bounced back from Finn's torrid shooting display to actually carry a 25-21 lead into the fourth quarter.

Donehue made a jumper from the top of the



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Brianna Finn looks to pass the ball Friday night while John Glenn's Sierra Moseley closes in.

key to cut that deficit to a deuce before freshman Sharon Woodard — up from the junior varsity — connected on a bank-shot trey from well beyond the 3-point arc to give John Glenn a 28-23 edge.

Getting it right back with a clutch triple was Canton junior guard Natalie Winters as the Chiefs

continued to gut it out.

Strong defense and toughness in the paint helped Canton go on an 8-1 run to take a 34-31 edge with 2:35 left.

Another field goal by Donehue tied the game at 30-30 and Hult put the Chiefs in front to stay when she muscled in for an offensive rebound and put-back.

After Alexis Gardner's basket made it a 34-33 Canton lead with 1:40 to play, the Chiefs gave the ball up in the Rockets' zone.

But instead of relinquishing the lead, Finn dove to the floor to win a 50-50 ball.

A layup by Donehue and off-the-mark triple try by the Rockets helped secure the victory for Canton, still a game behind Plymouth in the KLAA South.

"We're a defensive team," Palmer said. "We held them to 33 ... we try to grind games down and whittle away."

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PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

LaVallee's hot second half lifts Plymouth to victory

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When at first the shots don't fall, keep shooting.

For the host Plymouth Wildcats — especially senior Courtney LaVallee — that was the key Friday night to a 46-26 KLAA South Division varsity girls basketball victory over Livonia Churchill.

Plymouth remained on top of the tough KLAA South Division with a one-game lead over Canton, also a winner Friday night.

The Wildcats improved to 10-2 overall and 6-0 in the division, while Churchill's mark dipped to 7-5, 3-3.

"The story of this game was Courtney LaVallee taking over

offensively and putting the team on her back," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said about the senior point guard. "She gained confidence as the night went on and got really hot in the second half.

"Court has improved tremendously and has worked so hard on her game and it showed again tonight."

Did it ever. LaVallee finished with a game-high 17 points and connected on a half-court shot at the end of the third quarter to help Plymouth open up a commanding 33-18 advantage over the Chargers.

Plymouth's offense cooked on a low burner in the first half.

The Wildcats were up just 9-7 after the opening quarter and upped that edge to 18-13 at

the halftime break.

Brandon reminded his players at halftime not to get flustered dealing with the zone.

"Churchill is a very good defensive team and their zone gave us some problems early," Brandon said. "But I really like the way we stayed composed and committed to a half-court offense, sharing the ball and moving the ball.

"Our point guards, especially (senior) Paige Slominski, did a really nice job staying calm and making good decisions."

LaVallee wasn't the only Plymouth player to start finding the mark in the second half, spearheading a 28-13 scoring edge during that span.

Contributing 13 points was senior wing Kendall Rose, who

also pulled down 10 rebounds for her first career double-double.

Another big factor in the victory, Brandon added, was free-throw proficiency (14-of-17).

"Free throws have been something we have really struggled with this season," he said. "But we addressed it this week in practice and are obviously getting better there."

Rocks add to lead

Friday night at Salem, the KLAA Central Division-leading Rocks came out of the blocks to the tune of a 10-1 lead and never looked back in a 47-33 win over Northville.

Salem (8-4 overall, 6-0 in the division) went up by two games

over South Lyon East. Northville fell to 8-4, 3-3.

"We came out hot," Salem head coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "I've been all over them about consistency and coming out better, because we haven't been playing good first halves."

Salem padded its comfortable 14-4 lead after one quarter to 25-13 at halftime, behind strong all-around play by senior forward Shara Long (17 points, nine rebounds).

"Shara played great," Klemmer said. "She didn't rush her shots, she let the game come to her."

Contributing 11 points was senior forward Maranda Armstead, while Hayley Rogers scored seven.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

Mancuso said. "These guys (Wildcats) came out and outphysicalized us. We rolled over for them.

"We got to do better, we didn't compete to the best of our abilities today."

Tough division

Guernsey pretty much knew his team did not have a chance to catch division leader Westland John Glenn (22-3, 4-0 entering Wednesday) no matter how it fared against Franklin and Canton.

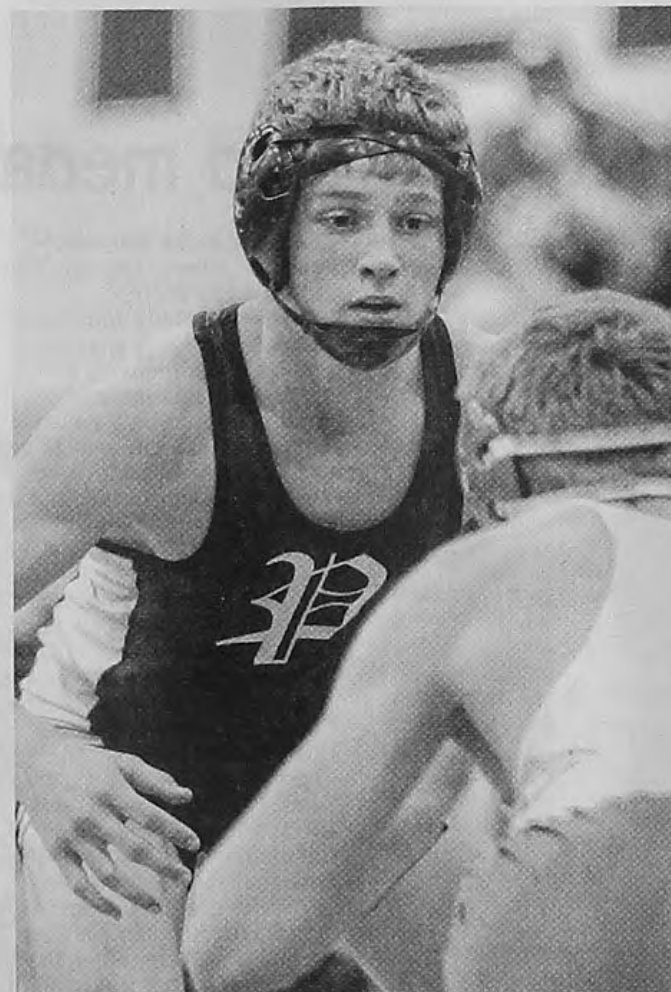
"We're going to finish third," Guernsey said. "We have a tough division. Churchill's a solid team, Franklin's obviously very good, John Glenn's good. Our division is probably one of the deeper divisions in the KLAA.

"And, we'll be fine. Next week (at the KLAA team championship quads) finishing third will be nice for us. We'll get more favorable matchups. We didn't want to wrestle Hartland again. We already wrestled them enough."

One of the more-intriguing matchups in the Plymouth-Canton dual was the heavyweight bout between the Wildcats' Michael Jordan and Canton's Adam Armesto. Jordan won 8-1, but the matchup wasn't quite that lopsided.

Jordan literally had the upper hand in the first period, taking a 3-1 lead. But in the second, Armesto showed his toughness by keeping Jordan on the mat for the first minute or so.

However, Jordan displayed his incredible strength and power by exploding out of Armesto's



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN, MD

Staring each other down during their 135-pound match-up Wednesday are Plymouth's Dylan Dwyer and Canton's Jeremy VanBerkel. Dwyer won both bouts Wednesday to improve to 34-0 on the season.

hold, then picking up the Canton senior and slamming him down.

It was a classic football-like tackle, not surprising given both played on their respective grid teams in the fall.

"He (Armesto) went 0-2, he went up against two really good heavyweights, just better than him," Mancuso

said. "They've been wrestling longer."

In the loss to Churchill, Armesto was pinned by Jacob Mercieca.

Guernsey said it was good to see Jordan continue the strong, steady wrestling he's brought to the mat all season.

"I figured that was about the match I was expecting," Guernsey noted. "Mike's

good. And he's wrestling much smarter, he's a much more complete heavyweight than he's been before."

Double winners

Jordan was one of six Plymouth wrestlers to go 2-0 for the day.

Those performers included Brandon Harris (119), Spencer Schiftar (130), Dylan Dwyer (135), Ethan Shulaw (160), Hussein Youssef (189) and Jordan. As of Jan. 20, Harris, Dwyer and Youssef were state-ranked by MichiganGrappler.com.

Canton victories were secured by state-ranked Ty Jasman (145), 152-pound Grant Trotman (both via pins) and Nick Durocher, who battled Plymouth's Jake Noll at 171 and prevailed by a 3-1 decision.

"Jasman looked good (140), did what he was supposed to do," Mancuso said. "We had a couple other good wins here, but we got to be better."

For the Wildcats, Dwyer's two wins upped the junior's season's record to 34-0.

"Dylan's really good, he's established himself as one of the best kids in the state," Guernsey said. "He's going to be a dark horse to place really high at the podium. Well, I don't know if he's going to be a dark horse, he's ranked third in the state right now, so he's probably not going to surprise a lot of people any more."

"But he just keeps wrestling, and we're wrestling him against tough kids. The kid he wrestled tonight from Franklin (Nick Robertson) was a state qualifier last year and he pinned him. He beats kids."

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PREP WRESTLING

Salem's McCabe, Haslitt shine

The Salem varsity wrestling team went 1-1 at Northville Wednesday, pushing their record to 14-6 and 4-1 in the KLAA South Division. After the Rocks beat Northville 50-21, they fell 50-14 to Brighton at the quad meet.

Caleb McCabe and Bruce Haslitt were the lone Rocks to finish 2-0.

"We wrestled better than the score showed vs Brighton," Salem co-coach Jeremy Henderson said. "Brighton is currently the No. 1-ranked team in Division 1. Our kids went out there and gave it their best and came out with some hard-fought wins."

About McCabe, who defeated a top-ranked opponent, "Caleb has been very close to beating several top kids in the state this year but has fell barely short in a lot of them. It was nice to see him finish one finally. Hopefully he continues as I believe he can compete with a lot of the top kids in his weight class."

The Rocks, now second in the KLAA Central, will compete in a crossover dual Feb. 4 against host Livonia Franklin.

WILLIAMSTON INVITE: Salem only sent seven wrestlers to the historically tough Williamston Invitational, yet they placed five out of the seven and took 10th out of 28 teams.

Mitchell Gross (215) and Roy Foster (189) each placed third while heavyweight Tyler Moore finished fifth. Each taking sixths in their respective weight divisions were Cam Shaughnessy (119) and Charlie Woody (130).

"Charlie Woody wrestled phenomenal on Saturday," co-coach Jeremy Henderson noted. "That was the best I've seen him wrestle in his career. He really showed what he is capable of."

"Williamston is a very tough tournament with top teams all over the state coming out to compete. With a limited squad due to injuries, it was really nice to see the guys come through and place 10th."

PREP GYMNASTICS

Canton keeps rolling along

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Injuries and illnesses have not subsided yet for Canton's girls gymnastics team.

But neither have the victories, as the defending state champion Chiefs Thursday defeated Howell and Brighton by close margins to improve to 11-0 overall and 9-0 in the KLAA.

Canton also has reeled off an incredible 54 consecutive dual-meet victories.

The Chiefs topped the tri-meet field with a score of 143.975 points, followed by Howell (141.4) and Brighton (141.025).

"We were a little bit sick and a little bit injured," Canton head coach John Cunningham noted. "But we came through as a team. I was surprised and pleased and the girls should be proud."

Leading the way was Allison Kunz, in what Cunningham described as a "super performance."

Kunz won three categories, namely uneven parallel bars (9.6), balance beam (9.6) and the all-around (37.875).

Cunningham added that team depth also continued to play a key role in the team's ongoing success.

Jana Hildritch tied for second on vault with a 9.0, while Stephanie Cox chipped in with a 8.95.

On beam, Hailey Hodgson came in third with a 9.3 while Rachel Socha scored a 8.7.

Both Hildritch and Katie Dickson registered scores of 8.95 on bars while Cox (9.0, fourth) and Dickson (8.875, sixth) each had strong performances on floor.

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SALEM

Continued from Page B1

the ball up the floor quick, keep control of it and wait for my teammates to come up there and help me out," said Topolovec, who finished with team-high 13 rebounds to go along with 11 points. "I was just looking to secure the ball and waste some time.

"I tried to get on the floor as quick as I could and call time so they wouldn't get it. Hustle is everything. Hustle wins games."

After a timeout, Salem then inbounded the ball to Jon Swift, who was immediately fouled with 1.5 seconds left. The senior guard made his first foul shot to give the Rocks a 62-60 lead and was instructed to miss the second.

Swift missed, but Northville 6-7 senior center Ryan Roberts grabbed it an immediately and called a timeout. But ironically, no time went off the clock.

After the officials huddled, the clock was reset to 1.3 seconds. Northville tried to throw a long pass from the Salem baseline, but the ball sailed out of bounds and the Rocks regained possession and ultimately secured the win.

"That was about 5.8 seconds it seemed like to me," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "It was a long period of time. We just decided with that amount of time we were going to try and miss the shot so they wouldn't have a real good play to run inbound."

"The clock didn't run down as much as we wanted, but it ended up in our favor. We put our big kid (Topolovec) on the ball when he was



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Calin Crawford (left) and Jakob Lenders (right) try to stop Northville's David Morrissey.

inbounding to make it tough for him to throw around and saw it happen. He had to get the ball around his hands and threw it out of bounds, so that helped."

Balanced attack

Senior forward Jakob Lenders led Salem's balanced scoring attack with 14 points, while Calin Crawford and Topolovec added 11 each.

"It's an excellent win to start the second round," Brodie said. "That's a quality team (Northville) out there and they're firing the ball from the perimeter. I don't know how many threes they made, but it was tough to dodge that when teams are hitting like that outside."

Northville shot 21-of-50 from the floor (42 percent),

but connected on 11 triples.

Morrissey led Northville with 13 points, while junior forward Justin Gibbons came off the bench to score all 12 of his points in the first half to give the Mustangs a 33-32 advantage.

The biggest lead the Mustangs enjoyed was eight, 44-36, with 3:36 left on a triple by Zimbo. But Salem fought back to go ahead 48-47 after three quarters.

Allante Wheeler came up with a big offensive tip and Topolovec added another key offensive put-back with 2:13 remaining to give Salem a 61-57 edge.

"They're an extremely talented offensive rebounding team," Northville coach Todd Sander said of the Rocks. "That was really big

when we played them a couple of weeks ago and I thought we did a much better job of that tonight until late in the game. When they really needed a hoop, they found a way to the glass and were able to tip one in."

Roberts (nine points), however, answered with an old-fashioned three-point play to cut the deficit to 61-60 with only 2:01 to go.

But those were the last points Northville would score.

Coming up big

"He's a really good player," Sander said of Topolovec. "He had a number of big plays tonight, whether it was a put-back or a post-up."

Brodie noted that the conclusion was no surprise.

"It's always a battle when we play Northville," he said. "They're well-coached and they do a good job on the floor and our kids just held their composure at the end and we ended up coming away with the victory."

"Real good offensive rebounding. Kenny Topolovec was instrumental on the glass for us tonight. He made some nice blocks and had his hands full with the big guy (Roberts) inside. But we also got good offensive rebounding from our off-players, too. Give those guys credit, too. They played hard."

JOHN GLENN 68, CANTON 58: The visiting Chiefs suffered their first loss in the KLAA South Division this season against the second-place Rocks.

Canton dropped to 10-2 overall and 5-1 in the division, while Westland John Glenn improved to 5-7, 4-2.

CHURCHILL 47, PLYMOUTH 40: Friday night at Livonia Churchill, the Wildcats could not get their offense untracked and dropped this KLAA South Division contest.

Randall Atkins did have a good scoring night for Plymouth (8-4, 3-3) with 18 points. Brent Davis added nine.

Jon Hovermale scored 14 for Churchill (8-4, 4-2).

HOCKEY ROUNDUP

Northville icers crush Rocks; Whalers win

Mustangs remain in hunt for Central Division lead

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Northville made life miserable for Salem goaltenders Dillon Phillips and Nathan Blank while keeping its KLAA Central Division title hopes alive with a resounding 8-2 win Wednesday night over the host Rocks at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

State-ranked Northville (No. 7 in Division), chasing Brighton for the divisional lead, improved to 13-2-2 overall and 7-2-1 in the Central.

"We've been talking all year about getting bodies to the net," Northville coach Clint Robert said. "The guys for whatever reason bought in

Saturday against South Lyon (Unified) – six of our seven goals were bodies in front of the net. And the guys did it again today, just crashing the net. Rather than trying to be pretty, we're trying to be ugly."

It was an ugly first period for the 10th-ranked Rocks (8-6-3, 4-3-3), who found themselves down 4-0.

"We weren't ready to play tonight," Salem coach Ryan Ossennmacher said. "I don't think there was a part of our game you could consider was good tonight, from our end to their zone. When you come out flat ... Northville is a very good team and their record is what it is because they're a good team. And when you're not ready to play this is what can happen."

Alec Melucci led Northville's offensive attack with a

pair of goals, while Jack Meacham added three assists.

Brendan Hicks (power play), Alec Morgan, P.J. Schnepf and Riley Brass chipped in with a goal and assist each, while Kyle Abraham (short-handed) and Jack Sargent also tallied goals. Other assists went to Kyle Dann, Sam Bradley and Nick Strom.

"When you're moving your feet and going to the net it promotes moving your feet all over the ice," Robert said. "Three of the first four were goals were from crashing the net. It just promotes hard work. And they see that the nice thing about it is that it works. Being cute wasn't working and now we're putting the puck in the net."

Salem, which trailed 6-2 after two periods, got a pair of goals from Zach Newsome.

Assists went to Nate West and Zach Goleniak.

"We had five seniors in the lineup and they had 14, and it showed," Ossennmacher said. "We're an effort level team. We have to put forth an effort to be successful. We're not going out on the ice and out-skill people. That's not our game. So with our effort level, if we don't match the other, we're going to be in trouble. For the most part we've been O.K. We know that's weakness of ours all year. It just wasn't as bad as it was tonight. I really don't know what that's attributed to."

Northville goaltender Chance Bouton made a total of 18 saves, while Phillips, the Salem starter, and Blank, who came on in reserve, faced a total of 34 shots.

"Northville is a big oppo-

nent, a league game Wednesday night at your own rink, so I'm not really sure where that comes from," Ossennmacher said. "If we have any more of those you'll see these types of scores."

WHALERS 3, BELLEVILLE 0: Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 41 shots for his fourth shutout of the season and Mathew Campagna, Sonny Milano and Francesco Vilardi scored the goals as the Plymouth Whalers beat the Belleville Bulls, 3-0, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night before 2,663 at Compuware Arena.

The game was the first half of a Military Appreciation weekend doubleheader. Plymouth (16-27-21, 35 points) won the battle of special teams, killing off a five-minute major penalty to Ryan Moore while scoring a shorthanded goal in the process. Later on, the Whalers killed off a four-minute double minor to Sean Callaghan.

Campagna scored the only goal of the first period, wiring a shot from the right circle by Belleville goaltender Charlie Graham for his 16th of the year at 16:39. Milano gave Plymouth a 2-0 lead, working on a two-on-one break with Will Bitten and scoring at 9:18 of the second period for his 13th of the year. Vilardi scored a shorthanded goal (his fourth of the season) at 17:14 of the second period.

NOVI CC 4, TRENTON 3: JoJo Mancinelli's unassisted goal at 4:41 of overtime gave top-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central (12-3-1, 7-1-1 North Division) a Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League crossover win Wednesday over the host Trojans.

FIGURE SKATING

Novi's Chock teams with Bates for gold medal

Area skaters are U.S. Senior Dance champs

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Those long training days at the Novi Ice Arena paid off handsomely Saturday for Madison Chock and Evan Bates at the 2015 U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex.

The pair, who finished eighth representing the U.S. at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, earned their first Senior Dance national title.

Leading by just 0.11 points heading into the free dance over the brother-sister team of Alex and Maia Shibutani, Chock and Bates wooed the Greensboro crowd skating to Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and scored a personal best 111.11 points to finish with 185.06.

The Shibutani siblings, who train at Canton's Arctic Edge, finished runner-up with 181.31. And to make it an all-Michigan podium finish, Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue of the Detroit Skating Club of Bloomfield Hills finished third.

"Tonight felt so great," the 22-year-old Chock said in a press conference afterward. "The crowd was amazing and we could really feel the energy in the rink and I think we used that really well. This was one of our best performances of the season, I would say. So it's really exciting to have done that at the U.S. Championships and we're just excited to go forward and on from here."

Olympic gold medalists Charlie White and Meryl Davis, the six-time U.S. champs who trained at Arctic Edge, are taking the year off from competition.

"It's been a great week for



Novi's Madison Chock and partner Evan Bates won the Senior Dance title at the 2015 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

us," said the 25-year-old Bates, an Ann Arbor native who graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in organizational studies. "Filling those shoes is such a daunting task that we don't put that upon ourselves. We saw Meryl and Charlie this week, actually had a chance to have dinner with Charlie and he said right to us, 'You don't have to fulfill anything, you don't have to take over for us or anything like that.'"

The new national champions first teamed up in 2011. The 5-foot-2 Chock, who was born in Redondo Beach, Calif., skated five years with Greg Zuerlein, while the 6-2 Bates was paired with two different partners, earning two U.S. silver and one bronze medal.

Chock and Bates earned two U.S. Championship runner-up finishes in 2013 and 2014. They also took silver at the 2014 Nebelhorn Trophy, an ISU Challenger Series event, and then

competed at the 2014 Skate America, where they won their first Grand Prix title.

"We are Maddy and Evan," Bates said. "We've won one national championship and we're thankful for it and ecstatic about it. That's no legacy. That's just one national championship. I think it's a great start. We're ecstatic about it. Like I said, we're not thinking about a big chunk, an era like ice dancing has been in the past. In ice dancing today, it's whoever skates best that day can win based on so many factors, levels ... we're just happy to have one."

Next up on the schedule for Chock and Bates is the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, Feb. 9-15, in Seoul, Korea, followed by the ISU World Figure Skating Championships, March 23-29, in Shanghai.

"We've definitely come a long way from when we first started skating together," Chock said. "That was a tough year (2011). We just kind of threw everything together. It was such a whirlwind, I don't even remember. But we've definitely learned a lot and grown together, which I think is very important. Even though we may have not had as many years together as most teams might, I think we've still known each other so long and we have great coaches and we're both really hard workers and we make it work. It's good for us and we're happy."

Igor Shpilband, who coaches the skaters in Novi, knew from the start they would succeed.

"They both have such drive and desire to skate and such passion," he told icenetwork.com. "They are both fighters. They went out and fought and won the national title and it is not easy."

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Schoolcraft men soaring up the national rankings

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team is firing on all cylinders as February arrives on the Michigan Community College Athletic Association calendar.

The Ocelots improved to No. 6 in the National Junior College Athletic Association following victories Monday over Delta College (78-75) and Wednesday over St. Clair County Community College (87-52).

Schoolcraft now is 18-3 overall and 7-1 in the MCCA, entering Saturday's home contest against Macomb Community College.

At Delta, Ja'Christian Biles scored 28 points while Lito Booth and Javon Thomas chipped in with 15 and 11 points, respectively. Schoolcraft led 37-33 at halftime and held off Delta's late charge.

Biles also was strong on the boards, with 10 rebounds — nine at the defensive end.

Everybody got in on the fun two nights later, with the game already a rout at the intermission (43-25).

Five Ocelots reached double digits, including Canton alum Davon Taylor, who tallied 11 points and nine rebounds in 19 minutes of play. Taylor shared team rebounding honors with James Pruitt, who scored 12.

Leading the way for Schoolcraft was Booth, who scored 13 points. Adding 12 was Thomas while Biles registered 10.

Schoolcraft out-rebounded St. Clair County (9-11, 2-6) by a 52-35 margin, and shot the ball at a 47.7-percent clip (31-65).

LADY OCELOTS LOSE 2: Meanwhile, it wasn't as positive of a week for Schoolcraft's women cagers.

The Lady Ocelots lost 67-66 at Delta on Monday and then dropped a 63-57 decision Wednesday to visiting St. Clair County.

Schoolcraft's record dropped to 13-7 overall and 5-3 in the MCCA while St. Clair County improved to 15-4, 6-2.

Top scorers for Schoolcraft on Wednesday were T'era Nesbitt (19 points) and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland (12 points). Grabbing 12 rebounds and tallying eight points was Rikki Sherdt.

Monday's loss was a bitter one, with the winning free throw made with 0.6 seconds to play.

Scoring 16 points each for the Lady Ocelots were Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm), Jessica Parry and Nesbitt.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Dierker big off bench as Madonna men win

Chris Dierker made the most of his 25 minutes off the bench Wednesday night posting a double-double as Madonna University rallied in the second half to beat host Marygrove College, 82-75, in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball game.

The 6-foot-6 red shirt freshman forward from Salem High finished with career-best 20 points and 12 rebounds as the Crusaders improved to 10-13 overall and 6-9 in the WHAC.

Dierker, who connected on 10-of-13 free throws, helped Madonna rally from a 44-41 halftime deficit with 13 second-half points.

Senior guard Shaun Duncan and sophomore point-guard Khalil Malone added 15 and 12 points, respectively, while enior center Donald Owens came off the bench to score nine points and grab eight rebounds for the Crusaders.

MU out-rebounded Marygrove, 59-43, and shot 23-of-63 from the field (41.3 percent). The Crusaders were 27-of-38 from the foul line (71.1 percent).

Diaunte Taylor paced the Mustangs (3-20, 1-14) with a game-high 30 points and added 12 rebounds.

Darryl Dixon and Tyler Styles contributed 18 and 14, respectively, as Marygrove

shot only 31.4 percent from the floor (22-of-70) and 61.1 percent from the foul line (22-of-36).

The Crusaders return to WHAC action beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday at home to face WHAC leader Davenport University (20-3, 14-1), which is ranked No. 5 in the latest NAIA Division II poll.

MADONNA 90, MARY-GROVE 56: All 12 players scored and Madonna University (14-7, 13-2) shot 53 percent the field en route to an easy WHAC women's basketball victory Wednesday over host Marygrove (4-19, 2-13).

Junior guard Michele Hayes paced the Crusaders' scoring attack with 17 points. The Oakland University transfer from Inkster also dished out six assists.

Lindsey Hernden and Justice Dean (Garden City) added 11 and 10 points for the Crusaders, who shot 29-of-55 from the floor to go along with 26-of-40 free throws (65 percent).

Kacy Robinson also grabbed a team-high nine rebounds for MU, which led 47-27 at halftime.

Kierra Jordan (Westland John Glenn) and Raeha Weaver each scored 12 points for the Mustangs.

MU returns to action Saturday against Davenport.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS	
NORTHVILLE 133	
WALLED LAKE WESTERN 50	
Jan. 29 at W.L. Western	
200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (Arther Greenlee, Roman Grossi, Ancheng Da, Shane Boran), 1:50.31; Northville (John Montresso, Nikolai Arton, Cameron Heaven, Mike Scaratino), 1:52.06.	
200 freestyle relay: 1. Taiyo Ichikawa (N), 1:57.56; Jack Breuch (N), 2:00.19; Nicholas Mouaikel (N), 2:01.81.	
200 individual medley: 1. Da (N), 2:14.13; 2. Grossi (N), 2:14.14; 3. Kikumori (N), 2:17.24.	
50 freestyle: 1. Scaratino (N), 24.66; 2. Boran (N), 24.91; Nikolai Arton (N), 25.64.	
1-meter diving: 1. Christain Field (N), 177.50 points; 3. Rys (N), 143.50.	
100 butterfly: 1. Christopher Stefan (WLW), 59.08; 3. Da (N), 1:01.48; 4. Haotian Jiang (N), 1:03.59; 5. Cameron Heaven (N), 1:04.24.	
100 freestyle: 1. Orion Shi (N), 55.14; 2. Boran (N), 55.86; 4. 56.45.	
500 freestyle: 1. Mouaikel (N), 5:25.56; 2. Connor Lepish (N), 5:27.03; 3. Ryan Smelt (N), 5:34.3.	
200 freestyle: 1. Northville (Grossi, Kikumori, David Handy, Maxwell Schulz), 1:42.42.	
100 backstroke: 1. Greenlee (N), 1:00.57; 3. Montresso (N), 1:02.0; 4. Matt Lee (N), 1:04.97.	
100 breaststroke: 1. Jiang (N), 1:07.11; 2. Kikumori (N), 1:07.83; 3. Cameron Heaven (N), 1:10.39.	
400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Breuch, Ichikawa, Shi, Montresso), 3:44.93; 2. Northville (Ryan Smelt, Lepish, Mouaikel), 3:40.0.	
Dual meet records: Northville, 7-1 overall; Western, 1-4 overall.	
NOVI 131, SALEM 55	
Jan. 29 at Novi	
200-yard medley relay: 1. Novi (Gordy Williams, Narayan Manivannan, Patrick Shi, Siddharda Kareddy), 1:45.67; Salem (Arthur Casey, Charles Liu, Brendan Wellman, Brian Kuang), 1:45.81; 3. Novi (Joey Berman, Andrew Kilponen, Maxwell Williams, Bradley Huang), 1:48.29.	
200 freestyle: 1. Ryan Katulski (Novi), 1:50.57; 2. Phillip Billiu (Novi), 1:54.29; 3. Collin Urbacewski (Salem), 1:54.45; 4. Berman (Novi), 1:58.37; 5. Justin Lee (Novi), 1:58.92.	
200 individual medley: 1. Brian Son (Novi), 2:10.22; 2. Joel Kotyk (Novi), 2:13.03; 3. Toraki Maehata (Novi), 2:14.31; 4. Phillip Collingwood (Salem), 2:15.03; 5. Kilponen (Novi), 2:15.57.	
50 freestyle: 1. Liu (Salem), 23.77; 2. James Popyk (Novi), 23.78; 3. M. Williams (Novi), 23.88; 4. Alexander Yuan (Novi), 23.9; 5. Shi (Novi), 23.97.	
1-meter diving: 1. James Ciolli (Novi), 228.00 points; 2. Nathan Pellerito (Novi), 215.05; 3. Trey Richman (Novi), 166.60; 4. Brendan Sibel (Salem), 128.10; 5. John Vary (Salem), 126.40.	
100 butterfly: 1. Wellman (Salem), 57.51; 2. Maehata (Novi), 58.22; 3. Son (Novi), 58.27; 4. Billiu (Novi), 58.35; 5. Gregory Payne (Salem), 1:03.88.	
100 freestyle: 1. Kareddy (Novi), 50.38; 2.	
Popyk (Novi), 51.58; 3. Shi (Novi), 51.85; 4. Urbacewski (Salem), 52.0; 5. M. Williams (Novi), 53.59.	
500 freestyle: 1. Katulski (Novi), 5:05.89; 2. Liu (Salem), 5:08.49; 3. Collingwood (Salem), 5:17.82; 4. G. Williams (Novi), 5:20.49; 5. Justin Lee (Novi), 5:24.05.	
200 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Kareddy, Billiu, Huang, Katulski), 1:33.14; 2. Novi (Maehata, Yuan, M. Williams, Popyk), 1:34.69; 3. Salem (Fleming, Kuang, Urbacewski, Collingwood), 1:34.96.	
100 backstroke: 1. (tie) Berman (Novi) and Wellman (Salem), 56.77 each; 3. Patrick Casey (Salem), 58.05; 4. Kareddy (Novi), 59.47; 5. Kotyk (Novi), 1:01.79.	
100 breaststroke: 1. Yuan (Novi), 1:06.44; 2. G. Williams (Novi), 1:08.93; 3. Maxwell Weng (Novi), 1:11.88; 4. Albert Tan (Novi), 1:12.71; 5. Nicholas Landon (Salem), 1:13.59.	
400 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Maehata, Shi, Popyk, Katulski), 3:25.13; 2. Salem (Fleming, Urbacewski, Collingwood, Liu), 3:31.72; 3. Novi (Billiu, Yuan, Kilponen, Berman), 3:35.98.	
Dual meet records: Novi, 5-2 overall, 1-1 KLAA Central Division; Salem, 0-2 KLAA Central.	
BIRMINGHAM BROTHER RICE 119	
DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL 64	
Jan. 29 at Livonia Rec. Center	
200-yard medley relay: 1. Rice (Mark Blinstraub, Drew Grady, Bobby Powrie, Gust Kouvaris), 1:35.6; 2. Catholic Central (Jack Walsh, Daniel Long, Matt Loniewski, Grayson Arnold), 1:38.22.	
200 freestyle: 1. Blinstraub (Rice), 1:44.25; 3. Ethan Bezzina (CC), 1:52.64; 5. Tommy Wiaduck (CC), 1:55.53.	
200 individual medley: 1. J. Walsh (CC), 1:53.07; 5. Jonathan Lee (CC), 2:02.34.	
50 freestyle: 1. Kouvaris (Rice), 21.54; 3. Arnold (CC), 22.22.	
1-meter diving: 1. Robert Vance (CC), 196.05 points; 2. Brendan Connelly (CC), 171.35; 3. Connor McClimont (CC), 120.70.	
100 butterfly: 1. Rudy Aguilar (Rice), 53.45; 4. Christopher Vela (CC), 56.12; 5. Andrew Connor (CC), 1:02.17.	
100 freestyle: 1. Blinstraub (Rice), 47.08; 3. Arnold (CC), 49.4; 4. Matt Loniewski (CC), 50.13.	
500 freestyle: 1. Kouvaris (Rice), 4:50.79; 3. Bezzina (CC), 5:01.7; 4. Dan Vela (CC), 5:07.17.	
200 freestyle relay: 1. Rice (Grady, Aguilar, Jack Kennedy, Powrie), 1:28.12; 3. Catholic Central (C. Vela, Matthew Krakowiak, Wiaduck, Bezzina), 1:39.55.	
100 backstroke: 1. J. Walsh (CC), 51.95; 5. Chris Barron (CC), 56.86.	
100 breaststroke: 1. Grady (Rice), 1:00.51; 2. Loniewski (CC), 1:01.43; 3. Long (CC), 1:01.44; 4. Lee (CC), 1:02.53.	
400 freestyle relay: 1. Rice (Blinstraub, Aguilar, Kennedy, Kouvaris), 3:10.27; 3. Catholic Central (Arnold, Loniewski, Bezzina, J. Walsh), 3:23.92.	
CC's dual meet record: 4-3 overall, 0-1 Catholic League.	

Courageous Kids helps families cope with illness through fun events

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Evan Westphal underwent 3 ½-years of tests and treatments while battling leukemia. Between the needle pokes, medicines, exams and procedures, Evan, 11, of Livonia, kept a positive outlook, in part with the help of a nonprofit organization called Courageous Kids.

"When you're in treatment, there's not a whole lot for these kids to look forward to," said Janice Westphal, Evan's mother. "What Courageous Kids does is plan outings. They make it happen ... movies, a Detroit Tiger game ... and it's not just the kid who's in treatment, but the whole family that has something to look forward to. The biggest thing is getting to do something normal with a group of people who are going through similar things you are."

"It got us through some tough times, having something to look forward to other than a medical treatment. It was something fun and just to do something fun, to take your mind off 'cancer cancer cancer,' It was nice to have an escape."

Westphal and her family remain involved in Courageous Kids, even though Evan will mark his first year free of chemotherapy and cancer in March. Westphal will speak at the organization's first annual Valentine's Day dinner dance, Feb. 14, at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth Township. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and will include a sit-down dinner, champagne, silent auction, and dancing. Tickets are \$100, available by calling 517-545-7305.

Helping kids cope

Terri Hocking, a former child life specialist, founded the organization in 2010 after working with young hospitalized patients.

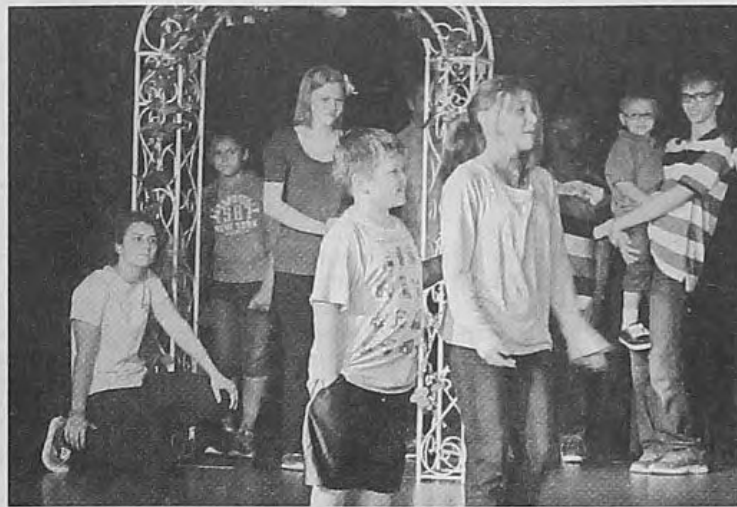
"I had realized while working in the hospital setting, that we help them cope in the hospital. Once they leave, they are in the world trying to manage with their illnesses. I thought it would be nice to help them cope outside the hospital," said Hocking, who is married and lives in Hartland, north of Brighton.

The group's mission is to "inspire hope by helping kids cope with cancer and other threatening medical conditions." The fun events provide kids and families "positive anticipation, distraction, family bonding and emotional support."

Ninety-five youngsters are involved in the group this year,



A youngster and her father watch a Detroit Tigers game, arranged by Courageous Kids.



Youngsters with Courageous Kids try their hand at acting during a theater workshop at Genitti's in Northville.

"It got us through some tough times, having something to look forward to other than a medical treatment. It was something fun and just to do something fun, to take your mind off 'cancer cancer cancer,' It was nice to have an escape."

JANICE WESTPHAL
mom to Evan

15 more than last year. Hocking said the organization serves 435 family members.

She relies on hospital pediatric medical staff and child life specialists to decide who qualifies for Courageous Kids and to refer them. A family that hasn't been referred can apply through the organization's website, but must give Courageous Kids permission to contact their doctor.

Family time

Outings have included Plymouth Whalers hockey games, Detroit Pistons basketball, Detroit Tigers baseball, the Robot Garage in Birmingham, The Henry Ford, a visit to an apple orchard, a ride on the Island Queen at Kensington Metropark, movies and more.

"It's a little bit of everything," Families come from as far away as Toledo, Ohio, and Holland to attend some of the monthly and twice-monthly gatherings, although the focus is on southeast Michigan.

"I'm constantly getting



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A Courageous Kids outing includes a visit to WDIV and a chat with Andrew Humphrey, meteorologist.

thank-you notes from parents who say it has made a difference. When we went to the Pistons, one mom told me her little boy had not stopped talking about it all day."

Hocking encourages families to remain active in the organization and serve as an inspiration to others, even after their child is no longer ill. Westphal enjoys "giving back" in that way.

"I always remember this. At our first outing there was another little boy who had leukemia, too," Westphal said. "For us to look at that other family — they were further along than we were — it shows a little light at the end of the tunnel."

Visit Courageous Kids' website at courageouskidsmi.org.



Three members of Courageous Kids are chosen as honorary team captains at a Detroit Pistons basketball game.

Trinity in the Woods concert benefits Neighborhood House

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Trinity in the Woods is a small church with a big musical mission.

"Our church is a teeny church at the back of the woods. You'd never know it's even there," said Rachael Rose, music minister for the Farmington Hills congregation. "There is a meditation path in spring, summer and fall that is beautiful to walk. It's a beautiful place of respite. In alignment with our identity, I said, OK, we'll have music in the woods. It's a way for us to engage the community. I think churches and musicians have to be creative on how we can help our communities and engage our communities. I dream big and don't tell people we can't do it. We've done so much and we've got a couple of things coming down the road."

The church's annual fundraiser for Farmington-Farmington Hills Neighborhood House kicks off a new year of concerts, and switches out jazz music for a musical revue this year. Motor City Cabaret, a 10-person musical troupe from Wayne State University, will perform at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at the church, 26880 LaMuera, Farmington Hills. Admission is by free will offering.

Neighborhood House assists residents in need with food, furnishings, clothing and fi-



Taylor Morrow and Luke Rose perform in Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. The troupe will perform Feb. 8 at Trinity in the Woods, in Farmington Hills.

nancial aid. It also refers clients to other social service agencies, counseling programs and local churches. Trinity in the Woods raised \$4,000 for Neighborhood House through its annual concert last year.

Musical theater

"Historically it has been a jazz concert," said Rose, who also serves as the accompanist for Motor City Cabaret, a year-long musical theater class that includes performances in high schools, churches and other venues. Wayne State University students audition for the class, which is in its second year.

"They are a musical revue

group — super-talented kids. This year they are doing a Bob Fosse revue. It's really cool. You get to know a lot about Bob Fosse and what he was like as a person. We have a couple of people singing amazing solos from shows he choreographed."

Rose's choirs at Trinity in the Woods, an Episcopal congregation, don't require auditions. Her Trinity Choir sings at Sunday services and Trinity & Friends Choir welcomes nonmembers, all ages and faiths to sing several concerts outside of the worship service each year.

"It's not about church, it's about unity," she said, describ-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Motor City Cabaret performs a revue celebrating the life of choreographer Bob Fosse. The Wayne State University troupe will perform at a fundraiser for Farmington-Farmington Hills Neighborhood House at Trinity in the Woods.

ing the Trinity & Friends Choir. "Anyone is allowed to come. My youngest (singer) last year was 3 and my oldest was in the 80s. Last year, our first concert had 50 singers and 18 in the orchestra. We came together and have grown from there. Now people invite their friends to come."

Trinity & Friends will team with the Detroit Actors Theatre Company (DATC) for a "Call to Peace" concert, 8 p.m. March 19-21, at the church. Eric Swanson, co-founder of DATC, will guest conduct and the two performing groups will form a choir of 40-60 singers accompanied by a 20-piece

orchestra. Tickets are \$10.

"I look at everything through the eyes of music," Rose said. "I intend to ask local artists in. It will start in April and my hope it will continue monthly, year-round."

The First Fridays event will include displays by artists and performances by singers, dancers, actors, and poets.

Look for the first "Farmington Follies at Trinity in the Woods" in June, featuring Trinity & Friends Choir.

For tickets and information about the church, visit trinityinthewoods.org.

Teach children to be kind, to treat others equally

I consider myself lucky. Lucky, because I have a beautiful, happy daughter who is healthy. And I don't believe that all illnesses, diseases or disorders are purely genetic. I think sometimes it's just luck of the draw.

I consider myself lucky also to know other children who don't share the same healthy traits as my little Gracie does. These children help me to become a better mother. They remind me that we cannot judge one another by the way that we look, or by the ailments that do or do not present themselves in our lives. These children are the children that I hope my daughter grows up to be like; confident, strong, and remarkable.

I have friends who go through daily struggles dealing with health con-



Sarah Davies
THEN THERE WERE TWO

cerns that their children have. But they do not complain. They keep smiles on their faces, and they keep their Facebook posts positive and heartwarming. They probably don't know that I cry when I read what they post sometimes, and that I spend moments every night teaching my 3-month-old to pray for their children. But these things are important to me, and to my family. It is important to be grateful for all the things you have, even when they seem small and simple. We are very thankful for all that we have, and even more so for knowing others with different

obstacles, who help us to learn that we are not all the same on the outside, but that inside we are not at all different.

I wish I could do more to bring peace to the parents of children who have challenges that they face every day, different from those challenges that we experience in my family. I wish that my prayers would be enough to heal those who are hurting, or save those who are left with a struggle that I may never truly understand. I constantly wonder what I can do to make a difference in the lives of these people. But sometimes I am left empty-handed, without a cure and without the power to change the outcome of many of these situations. I am not a super hero, and I am not a God. I am simply a mother who feels for

other parents and children in the world who are facing trials that are difficult.

Making a difference

I can do some things, though. I can teach my daughter to treat everyone the same. I can teach her to love all people, all races, all differently-abled, all challenged. I can teach her that we are all God's children, and that no matter what circumstances life brings to us, we must be kind to one another and treat people the way we would like to be treated. And I can donate to organizations and attend events. I can send cards, and write letters, and be positive. And I can run.

I am a very slow runner. Before pregnancy, it took me a very long time to run a very short distance. I have been told

that I run like Phoebe from *Friends*. If you haven't seen the episode that I am referring to, I urge you to look it up on YouTube; it's absolutely worth the laugh. I certainly have not lost all of my "baby weight" and my stretch marks are not the least bit appealing. But I am going to take my hilarious, slow-running self, stretch marks and all, to race in this year's Cupid's Undie Run, in my underwear, in downtown Detroit. The event is held on Valentine's Day, and the money raised will help to find a cure for neurofibromatosis, which is a condition that can cause tumors, particularly in the brain.

I invite you to participate, too. You can sign up to run with me, or you can donate to my fund-raising page by visiting mycupids.org/sarah-

davies. Every dollar counts. We may not have all the answers to all of life's problems, but we can help to make a difference. Look for me if you're downtown on Valentine's Day. I'll be the one in my undies, with a pink tutu and huge stretch marks covering my stomach. I think of them as my battle wounds. And we should all play a part in helping those with a bigger battle overcome it. We can be the change we wish to see in the world, one simple race at a time.

Sarah Davies of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of being a new mother. Cupid's Undie Run, a one-mile fun run, will begin at 2 p.m. Feb. 14, at The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at noon, followed by an awards ceremony at 1 p.m.

Popular Soup Swap raises funds for Salvation Army in Plymouth

Soup Swap is back. Members of the Village Potters Guild have created soup bowls that Swap participants will decorate over the next month and then will take

home in March. The third annual event will benefit the Salvation Army.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., Belleville Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club of Colonial

Plymouth have teamed up to offer the popular community art project. The Over the Grill Gang Chefs' Club along with the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Culinary

Team will make and serve soup for the "Swap" on March 7, when participants take home their bowls.

The art portion of the event will begin Feb. 5 at

the Plymouth Salvation Army Church, 9451 S. Main, in Plymouth. Participants will use colored clays to paint their favorite design on a bowl that they have chosen from a

large selection of shapes and sizes. Members of the guild will glaze and fire the bowls for the Soup Swap.

See SOUP, Page B7

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ENGAGEMENT

Morbeck-Persondek

Alvin Persondek and Stephanie Morbeck announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jeffrey and Judith Morbeck of Hayden Lake, Idaho, is a graduate of Gonzaga Preparatory High School, University of Portland, and Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine. She'll graduate in June from her OB/GYN residency in Chicago, Ill.

Her fiancé, son of Timothy and Linda Persondek of Garden City, is a Garden City High School graduate and will graduate in May from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Ill. He works as the network administrator for Potbelly Sandwich Works at its national headquarters in Chicago, Ill.

An August 2015 wedding is planned. The couple will relocate to Yakima, Wash., after the wedding.



Alvin Persondek and Stephanie Morbeck

SUBMITTED

ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Gunnar and Betty (Dipaola) Bjarnesen of Livonia marked their 60th wedding anniversary Jan. 22. They married in 1955 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Detroit.

The couple lives in the house that Gunnar's father built in 1941. They have two sons and three daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

Gunnar, an area resident for 80 years, was employed by Mercy Center in Farmington Hills. He retired 40 years ago. Today, he actively trades stocks, enjoys yard work, and loves tutoring his grandchildren who attend college.

Betty, an area resident for 60 years, formerly worked at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor and currently is employed by Keller Wil-



Gunnar and Betty Bjarnesen of Livonia

SUBMITTED

liams Realty. She also is a home health care worker and is involved in Good-fellows.

The Bjarnesens are active at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia, where Betty is a council member.

They celebrated their milestone anniversary Saturday, Jan. 31, with family and friends at a dinner at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
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ANNIVERSARY



Joe and Pamela Nimmo of Livonia

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Pamela and Joe Nimmo on their wedding day in 1965.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Joe M. and Pamela K. (Barriuso) Nimmo of Livonia will mark their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 20. The couple married in 1965 at Fundamental Baptist Church of Detroit.

Joe retired from Real Estate One Livonia in 2012. Pamela retired from Dual Temp Mechanical in 2011.

Pamela works three days a week in the kitchen at Plymouth Christian Academy. Joe enjoys playing guitar and banjo. Both like to walk at the mall and are active at Bethel Baptist Temple of

Livonia.

They have three children, Dawn (Dan) Hirsch, Jeff (Dawn) Nimmo, and Jenny (Matt) Middleton. Their nine grandchildren are Brian Nimmo, Caleb (Naomi) Middleton, Katlyn Nimmo, Josh Middleton, Garrett Nimmo, Kevin Nimmo, Isaac Middleton, Abby Nimmo, and Carly Nimmo.

They plan a cruise in Florida and a trip to the Dominican Republic this year. The travel is an anniversary gift from their children.



SUBMITTED

Handmade, decorated bowls await pickup at the annual Soup Swap in Plymouth last year. The art portion of the event begins Feb. 5 and the Swap will be held March 7 this year.

SOUP

Continued from Page B6

Art sessions include 4:30-6 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 5; 10-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 7; 4:30-6 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 12; 10-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 14; and Saturday, Feb. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 3:30-5 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. Feb. 16.

Cost is \$15 per person, or \$15 for the first two members of a family and \$10 for each additional family member. Individuals may decorate more

than one bowl, at the cost of \$10 per additional bowl. The limit is four bowls per person.

The Salvation Army food pantry will benefit from the Swap with all proceeds going to the church. In addition to the money raised from the sale of soup bowls, participants are asked to bring a canned food item to help restock the shelves at the pantry when they come to pick up their bowl and dine on soup.

"I've gotten so many calls from past participants asking when the Soup Swap will be held again," said Leslie Gree-

neisen, a member of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., and the Village Potters Guild. "This is wonderful project for the community, for the Salvation Army and for our local service clubs. We're excited to bring it back and see this much support."

To register for the Soup Swap Bowl Painting sessions at the Plymouth Salvation Army Church or for more information, call Sandy Kollinger at 734-453-5464. No reservations are required to attend the Soup Swap, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 7.

ALLEN, JOHN ARCHER

Born Apr. 3, 1948 - Jan. 26, 2015, of cancer. Survived by daughters Helen and Claire. Beloved son of Helen and John. Brother to Michele, Celeste, Louis, Thomas, and Robert. John balanced his work as owner of the construction firm, Monal with his love for languages and devotion to family.



BUHL, CATHERINE MARGARET (NEE YOST)

Age 95 of Livonia. January 27, 2015. Loving wife of the late Albert. Dear mother of Joann Buhl, Marlene (Gerald) Serwatka and Albert (Kimberly) Buhl. Grandmother of Mark (Carrie) Serwatka, Michele (Joe) Beahon, Megan (Dan) Royal and Jessica and Lauren Buhl. Great grandmother of Dylan, Jamie, Emily and Joey. Sister of Edward Yost and the late Frances Hall. Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015, 10:30 AM with an instate of 10:00 AM at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 3:00 to 8:00 PM with a 7:00 PM Scripture Service and on Sunday from 1:00 to 6:00 PM at the Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Five Mile, Livonia. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements care of the Potere-Modetz Funeral Home, Rochester (248) 651-8137. Online guestbook www.modetzfuneralhomes.com.



LOOSLE, MARY

Age 72 of Livonia. Cherished wife of David. Loving mother of Reed (Kerrie), Kimberly (David) Boehm, Anne (Brian) Kinross, Kristen (Darren) Shirley, Ryan (Doreen) and Nathan (Rebecca). Proud grandma of 25 and great-grandma of one. Dearest sister of six. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, 36100 Five Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan) Monday 3-9 p.m. Funeral Tuesday at The Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 31450 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Gathering 10 a.m. with service at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints Humanitarian Aid. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

FREDWOOD
Rice Chapel Funeral Home

MCBRIDE, ETHEL PAMELA "PAM"

Age 93, passed away January 14, 2015. She was the most devoted and loving mother of six, and grandmother and great grandmother. She is survived by her daughter's Maureen Dishart, Beth McBride, Pat Gubacz, and Sue Moore. Predeceased by son Thomas. She lived in Port Richey, Florida but is now at peace back in Michigan with her family. There will be a Private family memorial service.



www.pixleyfuneral.com

SMYKOWSKI, ELIZABETH E.

Age 91, January 24, 2015. Beloved mother of Janet (James) Janicki and James (Pat) Smykowski. Dear grandmother of Jason J. (Ann) Janicki. Elizabeth enjoyed dancing and playing Pinochle. A Memorial Mass will be held. Please share a memory at www.rgrharris.com.

UMPHREY, MARY EVELYN

A retired Farmington Public Schools teacher and former Farmington Hills resident, Mary Evelyn Humphrey, 96, died January 27 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, after a short illness. She taught classes to early elementary students from 1956 to 1979, the majority of that time at the old Ten Mile School. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl, and is survived by her children, both graduates of Farmington High School, Dr. Don Humphrey of Dallas, Texas, and Jan Sutherland Weston of Colorado Springs.

May the memory
of your loved
one...

...bring you peace.

Safety key: Beware the dangers of drowsy driving

Adequate sleep is essential for your mental health.

Typically, one spends one-third of one's life sleeping. It is very important to be aware of sleep hygiene and sleep disorders due to their connection with "drowsy driving."

There are various forms of sleep problems that include insomnia, sleep apnea, narcolepsy, night terrors and others. Drowsy driving can be caused by any of these. Of course, medication effects or side effects, work shift changes, jet lag, and the like, also can contribute to the problem of hazardous driving while drowsy.

Recently, information from AAA Motor Club of Michigan referred to its study of highway safety with emphasis on asking motorists to "wake up."

The AAA report told how a lot of research reveals an alarming number of snoozy drivers. For example, it said that 28 percent of drivers reported being so tired that they had difficulty keeping their eyes opened while driving in a given 30-day period.

The survey reported that one out of three motorists ages 19-24 reported driving dangerously drowsy the prior 30 days. Drowsy driving is dangerous because it slows reaction time, impairs vision, and causes lapses in judgment. This is similar to driving drunk. Furthermore, many drivers underestimate the problem of driving while extremely tired and they overestimate their ability to deal with it, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. It added that we know



Len McCulloch



that people can't reliably predict when they are going to fall asleep, and a very fatigued driver may fall asleep for several seconds without even realizing it.

Quick fix

Interestingly, in China there is a practice along the highways at pull-off convenience stores, rest areas, and truck stop diners in which hot peppers are routinely given out free of charge to drivers. Hot peppers seem to temporarily stimulate focusing and increase attention. But, a bigger problem is that many drivers become chronic drowsy drivers and believe that this is an acceptable state of affairs because they have been experiencing it for a long time. It's as if they believe they are good at driving drowsy.

The first line of approach to most problems is awareness. Be aware that drowsy driving is extremely prevalent, obviously dangerous, and often mistakenly perceived as just the way one has come to experience driving. As awareness of the problem increases, the chances for intervention become possible.

Diagnosing the cause

For starters, a clinical assessment by a primary care physician can easily be done to try to determine if your drowsy driving is due to medication effect, a work routine, changes in work shifts or characteristics of one of the several sleep disorders. These can be diagnosed and treated.

The warning signs of drowsy driving can include yawning repeatedly, feeling as though your head is heavy, wandering thoughts, inability to recall the last few minutes traveled, and hearing the rumble strips when your car has veered off lane and is headed for the cement highway barrier. I could add that another big warning sign is hearing yourself shriek "wake up" when you reach that point just after wakefulness ends and just before sleep begins.

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. His 200 Our Mental Health columns, written over 15 years, are archived at www.farmlib.org. McCulloch can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22.

Go Red for Women events raise awareness of heart disease, good health

Show your support for women's heart health by wearing red on Feb. 6.

On National Wear Red Day, the first Friday in February, small businesses, national corporations, news broadcasters, schools, community organizations, and individuals unite to raise awareness of heart disease.

In addition to wearing red, this year metro Detroit women can hear Laila Ali, world-class athlete, wellness expert and television host, speak at the annual Go Red luncheon. It will run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, and will feature educational workshops and a heart-healthy lunch at noon.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women and one in three women die of heart disease and stroke.

"You don't need to have heart disease to support Go Red," said Janice Cosby Bridges, chief marketing officer for Ascension Health Michigan and co-chair of the Go Red for Women campaign in Detroit. "This is a women-focused initiative where we support each other of all ages and backgrounds for a common cause. I want to see more women engaged in this movement by way of health screenings, regular checkups, eating healthy and exercising."

According to the American Heart Association, women are more powerful than they think because they have the power to stop the killing disease. As luncheon keynote speaker, Ali will help empower attendees to discover their inner strength and take charge of their health.

"After years of training, I've realized healthy habits are

formed when you fuel your body with the right ingredients," Ali said. "As a mother, wife and athlete, I've devoted my life to connecting individuals with resources to help them lead healthier lives. Women tend to be the nucleus in family circles, often ignoring their own heart health."

"Go Red For Women is important because it encourages women to make their health a priority."

In addition to Ali's presentation, attendees may attend sessions such as "If You Don't Have Your Health, What Good Is Your Wealth?" and "Maintaining a Better U." The luncheon also will include a silent auction.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$250 each and VIP Afterglow tickets can be purchased at the luncheon. For more information, visit www.DetroitGoRedForWomen.org or contact Amy Hobley at 248-936-5831 or amy.hobley@heart.org.

A sampling of other Go Red events:

» Feb. 13 Imagine Royal Oak will roll out the red carpet for a cocktail reception and pre-screening event of *Fifty Shades of Grey* to benefit the American Heart Association. This exclusive event will start at 7:15 p.m. with a reception and Q&A with health experts.

» From 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 19, the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn will offer a free Go Red Zumba event featuring speakers, a heart-pounding workout and giveaways.

» A gala for the American Heart Association is set for 7 p.m., Feb. 21 at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton. It features comedian Mark Armstrong. Tickets are \$125 and can be purchased via eventbrite.com. Or call 313-701-5634 for more details.

Visit GoRedForWomen.org.

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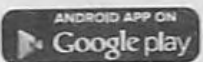
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Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on February 19th, 2015, 1:00 PM at 40671 Joy Road Canton, MI. 48187 County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on property stored at 40671 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit A01 Cothery, Household Goods: Unit B04 Mathews, Household Goods: Unit B07 Broadnax, Household Goods: Unit B28 Brown, Household Goods: Unit B36 Davis, Household Goods: Unit C110 Hodo, Household Goods: Unit C214 Adamowicz, Household Goods: Unit C217 Rice, Household Goods: Unit C228 Lackey, Household Goods: Unit D14 Mullen, Household Goods: Unit D17 Bentley, Household Goods: Unit E24 Deshields, Household Goods: Unit E27 Niemann, Household Goods: Unit E29 Ray, Household Goods: Unit E30 Williams, Household Goods: Unit E34 Mcquade, Household Goods: Unit E44 Edwards, Household Goods: Unit F11 Bentley, Household Goods: Unit F13 Destefanis, Household Goods: Unit F21 Johnson, Household Goods: Unit F28 Smar, Household Goods: Unit G13 Taylor, Household Goods: Unit G20 Broadnax, Household Goods: Unit G28 Smar, Household Goods: Unit G32 Yharbrough, Household Goods: Unit H21 McKnight, Household Goods: Unit H23 Wojciechowski, Household Goods: Unit H27 Small, Household Goods: Unit I 29 Glover, Household Goods: Unit I40 Broadnax, Household Goods: Unit I46 Johnson, Household Goods: Unit J13 Berger, Household Goods: Unit J14 Dingman, Household Goods: Unit J32 Mikitaroff, Household Goods: Unit K03 Hills, Household Goods: Unit K04 Phillippeau, Household Goods: Unit K06 Clark, Household Goods: Unit K41 Mccarty, Household Goods.

Publish: February 1, 2015
Publish: February 8, 2015

LO-699229636 3X4

By-Law Nos. 0164.1: Regular Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (except there will be no meeting on the second Tuesday in February, April, July, November and December) at 7:00 p.m. at the following location (except as agreed herein) unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the members:

E. J. McClendon Educational Center
454 South Harvey Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

By-Law No. 0164.2 Special Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Special meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, and place of such special meetings, or by a majority vote of the Board.

Service of the notice shall be by:

1. Delivering the notices to the members personally at least twenty-four (24) hours before such meeting is to take place, or
2. Leaving the notice at the member's residence with a person of the household at least twenty-four (24) hours before such meeting is to take place, or
3. Depositing the notice in a government mail receptacle enclosed in a sealed envelope plainly addressed to such member at his/her last known address at least seventy-two (72) hours before such meeting is to take place.

Services as above described may be made by a member of the Board or any employee of the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE of each special meeting and of each rescheduled regular or special meeting shall be given by posting a copy of the NOTICE on the message board by the front entrance to the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time of the meeting.

Publish: February 1, 2015

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By Robert Half

One of the best ways to get a foot in the door with a potential employer is to be recommended by someone who already works there. That may be true, but a referral is no guarantee of an interview, let alone a job offer. In fact, a poorly handled referral can leave you worse off than if you were just another unknown job candidate. Here's how to ask for a referral the right way.

Before you ask

"It never hurts to ask" is normally a sound principle for job seekers, but it doesn't apply to referrals. Requesting a recommendation from the wrong person, at the wrong time or in the wrong way can do more harm than good. Since most people find it difficult to turn down a request for help, it's your responsibility to make sure that your potential referrer is well-equipped to recommend you and that he is the right person to do so.

The most common problem?

Unfamiliarity. "Michelle-er, Melissa is a close friend and trusted colleague" doesn't exactly make for a ringing endorsement. Before you ask someone for a referral, consider whether you know the person well enough and vice-versa. After all, the two of you are effectively agreeing to tie your professional reputations together. While you don't need to have worked alongside your advocate for years, 15 minutes of conversation at last night's Meetup isn't a sufficient personal

history for a convincing recommendation.

Keep in mind that your contact may have her own reasons for agreeing to refer you that don't necessarily align with your goals. She may be taking advantage of a referral bonus offered by the company or may just have trouble saying no. Be sure your chosen referrer can describe with confidence your qualifications and job fit.

If a hiring manager senses a referral is a shot in the dark, not

a genuine endorsement, he might be predisposed against you. And if your referrer is known for making indiscriminate recommendations, your resume might not even get a look.

Your pre-interview

Whether your potential referrer is an old friend or a more recent contact, don't take the referral for granted. Frame your request with a brief explanation of why you think you'd be a good fit for the company, and send along your resume.

If the person seems reluctant to vouch for you, take that as a no. And keep in mind that a polite refusal will be better for your career in the long run than an insincere yes, which usually leads to a half-hearted referral.

Once someone has agreed to refer you, it's your job to provide her with a substantial sense of how you might contribute to the company. Ask to buy your contact lunch to talk about your skills and

experience as well as the culture of the firm and your working style. Approach it as you would a casual interview.

Soon after your meeting, send a thank-you note. By expressing your appreciation before you know the outcome of the referral, you demonstrate sincere effort for the person's time and gratitude on your behalf. Make sure she understands that you know the referral is no guarantee of an offer, or even an interview.

Once you're in

If you do get invited for an interview, don't assume that your referrer has provided extensive information about you. Instead, follow the interviewer's lead. If she asks about your history with the person, be honest. Don't exaggerate your relationship with the referrer or lean too hard on it. Now's the time to rely on your own skills and experience, not your connections.

A thoughtfully planned request

for a referral can be one of your smartest career moves. But some of the strongest endorsements are the ones you don't ask for. That doesn't mean you should passively wait for one to come along. What it does mean is that you should focus on building up professional relationships, not just converting them into opportunities. So get out there and network in person, keep in touch with old colleagues, and let your friends know you're interested in a new position.

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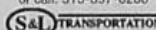
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General

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Send resume to powers@diginitasinc.com or via fax to (248) 919-4026. Resumes may also be mailed to: P.O. Box 3460 Farmington Hills, MI 48333.

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Full-Time, Wixom town home community. Must have 2 yrs. multi-family exp in HVAC, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, snow plow truck driving skills, w/clear driving record, drug test, background check. Benefits for the employee. EOE. Email intro letter, resume & wage request: jobopen0308@aol.com

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Exp d. Knowledge of court rules, docketing, e-filing & working in a team environment. Detail oriented, self-motivated with exc. organization & problem solving skills. Strong written/verbal communication skills a must. Email resume: HUMANRESOURCE@trottlaw.com

SECRETARY, PT

34 hrs for outpatient clinic in Livonia. (M, W, R: 2:30-8:30p; T: 12:00-8:30p; Alt. Fri. Sat. 8:30-5p). Behavioral health or medical exp. desired. Strong customer relations, computer skills. RESUME: jgreene@popmail.net or fax to: (734) 522-0280

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

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Email resume to: lironiamarket@yahoo.com

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Car Report

Lexus, Nissan Strategies for Big Game Sunday Reveal Their Priorities



By Dale Buss

Lexus: The message of its ad is very straight and to the point: We should have had a compact

Many auto manufacturers are staying out of Big Game advertising on Sunday, but several are jumping into it wholeheartedly. Each has a solid rationale. Here we examine two of them.

"What drove us to be in the [Big Game] is a fortunate confluence of timing," Brian Bolain, Lexus corporate marketing manager, told me. "We're launching the all-new NX turbo and hybrid, in a segment we haven't been in before. It's very important to the industry and it's the hottest segment in the industry. The timing of the [game] coincided almost precisely with the launch time for the vehicle, so it's a big opportunity to make a statement."

The statement comes in the form

a "drummer" "plays" plumbing as instruments.

The new spot for NX doesn't exactly follow up on the recent tack by Lexus toward racier, or at least edgier, TV advertisements than the brand had been fielding since its inception. But it's definitely got the same kind of energy.

"In years past, Lexus has been a rational brand, and typical advertising for Lexus would have been proof of product benefit and quality and something like that," Bolain agreed. "But it is clear for us to engage the buyer it's ultimately about the experience they get from owning the product. So [in the NX spot] you'll see a lot about what the product adds to your life, and the emotional pull this product offers to you."

Nissan: One of the things Fred Diaz learned as head of the Ram brand for Fiat Chrysler was the potential value of Big Game advertising. So it's actually little surprise that, barely a year since he became sales chief and CMO for Nissan in the United States, Diaz has put his new employer in a Big Game commercial for the first time in 18 years.

Based in part on his experiences with Ram, it's little surprise that Nissan will tell what Diaz called "a brand story" during its Big Game slot rather than a commercial that focuses on products.

"I wanted to somehow or another



Nissan's Big Game theme is "fatherhood."

build a brand spot that resonated and connected with America, and that was the direction I gave the marketing team and the agency: find a spot, find a story — find something that connects us and makes us far more relevant with the American public today, that shows we truly understand them," Diaz told me.

Diaz acknowledge that he was influenced by the great success that Fiat Chrysler has had over the last several years with its authentic, heavily brand-oriented TV commercials during the Big Game. For Diaz, the most relevant ad by his old employer came out two years ago during Big Game XLVII, which he oversaw as head of the Ram brand about a year before leaving. The commercial for Ram, "Farmer," featured an actual recording of broadcasting legend Paul Harvey delivering a paean to the American farmer, with plenty of shots of farms, ranches, farmers — and Ram trucks.

Diaz explained that the U.S. sales momentum generated by Nissan in the last couple of years — sales were a record of nearly 1.4 million last year, up more than 11 percent from 2013 — still left the brand below par in both awareness and "relevance" among American consumers.

"Not that we're irrelevant; we're clearly a force to be reckoned with," Diaz told me. "But we are ready to take things to the next level."

Diaz hopes the Big Game ad does that. The brand committed to buying time during this year's Big Game shortly after he came aboard Nissan a year ago, Diaz said. Soon his marketing team was hashing around "concept after concept — and finally 'yes'" to the fatherhood theme. All three finalist concepts, he said, passed one of his biggest litmus tests: "You've got to make people laugh or cry."



The all-new Lexus NX is the star of a Big Game ad.

crossover in the market before now, but the one we've got, the all-new Lexus NX, is a helluva vehicle.

For the Toyota-owned luxury brand, this opportunity is all about showing off its first entry in the hottest segment in the luxury business, one where some of its competitors still don't have a dog in the hunt.

of an ad, "Make Some Noise," that is set to air during the first half. It simply shows the NX being put through its paces in a visually arresting fashion, accompanied by "music" that has various noises that the car makes embedded in its beat — sort of like that Delta faucet commercial where

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Wounded Warriors Mustang becomes 'focal point' of Bill Brown Ford

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Adorned with hundreds of signatures of support for military members and their families, a 2014 Shelby Mustang GT 500 has been the center of attention lately in the showroom of Bill Brown Ford in Livonia.

The 662-horsepower, 6.2-liter V8 powerhouse recently completed the 2014 High Five Tour, a 48-state road trip that covered 60 cities and 27,000 miles in an effort to show appreciation for military members and raise funds to build "smart homes" that service wounded warriors and their family members.

Since Jan. 7 the Mustang nicknamed "Ruby" has been parked inside Bill Brown Ford, 32222 Plymouth Road; the pit stop came about after a Bill Brown Ford employee viewed the vehicle at Ford Motor Company headquarters in Dearborn.

"He inquired about it, and after finding out that even though the 2014 High Five Tour had ended, the Wounded Warriors Family Support organization was gracious enough to allow us to display the vehicle at Bill Brown Ford until "Ruby" has to go home to Nebraska at the end of the month," Bill Brown Ford Marketing Director Andrea Calvanese said.

Staff members from all over the dealership soon came into the new vehicle showroom to see the patriotic display.

"It generated quite a few questions, which is really the goal of the vehicle's presence; a conversation starter — explaining the signatures and the focus of the or-



Donald Folsom of Livonia, a Marine who served in the Pacific from 1943-1946, stands with his salesman, Gilbert Harrison, at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia on Friday.

ganization," Calvanese said. "'Ruby' has been the focal point of our showroom since she arrived. The vehicle is like a piece of art.

"Bill Brown Ford is proud and honored to host the Wounded Warrior Mustang in our showroom."

Customers have been impressed with the car and eager to donate to the cause, Calvanese said.

"We have a designated silver pen for customers to use in order to sign the vehicle, which is a huge attraction," Calvanese said. "By signing the vehicle, it's as if they are leaving a stamp of support to our veterans. It's pretty cool.

"We want customers to feel comfortable coming into the dealership to look or even sign the vehicle. No one is required to donate, but we do hope that when customers and visitors come to see "Ruby," it elicits a

donation, big or small."

Coincidentally, just a few minutes after the vehicle was driven into the showroom, a Marine veteran stopped by with a certificate of appreciation thanking the dealership for its generous donation of time and talent at November's Downriver Detachment birthday celebration, which commemorated 239 years of Marine Corps history and tradition.

"The timing could not have been more perfect," Calvanese said. "It was an extraordinary moment for the Marine vet and Bill Brown Ford."

The Mustang's departure date has not been decided, "but we hope to have her through the remainder of January," Calvanese said.

This year, the High Five Tour is again scheduled to make stops across the nation, including Ford dealerships, community events, veterans'



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILL BROWN FORD

Visitors added hundreds of autographs to the Mustang during its 48-state tour.

organizations, military bases, and race tracks, according to the Tour's website, www.highfivetour.com.

For more information about Wounded Warriors Family Support organization, visit

www.woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org.

Bill Brown Ford is open for new and pre-owned sales from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Pre-owned

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32222 PLYMOUTH RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48150

* Early Bird Program is effective January 6, 2015 through March 31, 2015. For current Ford Credit RCL/RCO customers. Up to three (3) waived payments with a maximum of \$1,800 with a scheduled lease termination date from April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 on Edge, Escape, Explorer, Fiesta, Flex, Focus, Fusion and Taurus. Must lease or purchase with Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the Early Bird Program. Past due payments, payment extensions and deferred payments beyond the original agreement are not eligible. Excess wear/mileage are customer's responsibility. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by March 31, 2015.

** Competitive Lease Conquest is effective January 6, 2015 through March 31, 2015. Offer available to current lessees of competitive (non-Ford/Lincoln/Mercury Motor Company Car, SUV, or Light Duty Truck) vehicles with valid proof of ownership. Trade-in not required. Residency restrictions apply. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by March 31, 2015.

*** Auto Show Bonus Cash (Program 12708) offer available only on retail contracts for 2014 Focus, 2015 Fiesta, 2015 Fusion, 2015 Escape. Residency restrictions apply. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by February 2, 2015.

**** All payments and prices are for qualifying A|Z Planners. For qualifying non (not new) A|Z Planners an additional \$800 to \$1,500 down would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect of publication and are subject to change. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 03/31/15.

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February 20, 2015 for

**Early Bird
Discount**

248.926.2203
cbjordan@michigan.com