LOOK FOR MONEY-SAVING COUPONS INSIDE TODAY'S NEWSPAPER



LaJoy to seek Ford Road fix in Washington

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Still waging a years-long battle to fix Ford Road traffic woes, Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy intends to press the issue this week as he joins a southeast Michigan delegation headed to Washington, D.C.

In his role as vice chair for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, LaJoy and other SEMCOG leaders plan to meet with U.S. lawmakers amid hopes of convincing them to loosen up

federal dollars for local projects. LaJoy said

transportation



dollars, specifically to address Ford Road traffic congestion, tops his list as he and the SEMCOG delegation head to the nation's capital for the National Conference of Regions, which delves into issues such as transportation, water quality, housing, workforce innovation and federal budgeting, among others.

Carmine Palombo, SEM-COG deputy director, has attended past conferences, though he's sitting this one out. He said the Feb. 8-10 gathering, sponsored by the National Association of Regional Councils, can prove beneficial as U.S. leaders map out funding priorities for regions.

Lobbying efforts

"It's an opportunity to meet with U.S. senators and representatives from southeast Michigan and others, as well, and talk to them one-on-one about issues local governments are most concerned about in southeast Michigan – and how they, in their positions in Washington, can potentially be of assistance," Palombo said. LaJoy, a former state representative who chairs a legislative committee for SEMCOG, said he hopes to convince lawmakers that traffic-clogged Ford Road in Canton – home to many of Michigan's most accident-prone intersections – desperately needs money for a fix

The Michigan Department of Transportation has indicated the long-term goal is to trans-

See LAJOY, Page A2



Pat Williams, Canton Township trustee, draws a winning ticket during a previous chamber auction.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton chamber trots out Kentucky Derby party

Motel razed, two new hotels coming

> By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

A company's plans to build two new four-story hotels on Canton's east side are gaining momentum as an industry official said construction could begin within a month.

begin within a month. A&M Hospitality intends to invest nearly \$20 million to build the hotels northeast of the bustling Ford-Haggerty intersection, near the I-275 interchange.

"We want to get these hotels built," said Mike Abdulnoor, A&M Hospitality regional manager. "The Canton area supports it and needs it. Everybody is happy about it and wants to see it."

Construction is expected to begin as early as March after a wrecking crew in recent days made room for the new hotels by demolishing the old America's Best Value Inn & Suites, a 107-room, six-building complex of one-story motels that police say had deteriorated and drawn crime.

A&M Hospitality is hopeful the new hotels, with a combined 178 rooms, can open for business a year after construc-

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Canton is pulling its horses to the starting gate early for this year's Kentucky Derby, placing bets on a strong finish in a local run for the roses.

Never mind Churchill Downs in Louisville, though. This race's payout comes right here in Michigan.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce has chosen a Derby theme for its 28th annual dinner and auction, the biggest fundraiser of the year to support Canton's thriving business community. "It really just continues to help us fulfill our mission to serve the businesss community and provide our businesses with cutting-edge programs they need to network and grow their businesses," chamber President Thomas Paden said. This year's event, "Kentucky Derby:

This year's event, "Kentucky Derby: A Night at the Races," has a starting gate time of 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Tickets cost \$75 per person and include an open bar, a strolling dinner, entertainment and an opportunity to become involved in live

See CHAMBER, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Thomas Paden, Canton chamber president, has announced details of this year's chamber fundraising auction.

INDEN

business a year after construction begins, providing lodging for business travelers, retail shoppers and groups staying in Canton for regional events such as the Canton Cup soccer tournament.

Abdulnoor said the new hotels expect to draw customers for several key reasons:

» Numerous large companies along the Haggerty Road corridor need lodging for business representatives.

» Out-of-town shoppers going to the nearby IKEA store and other retail destinations can make a day – and night – of

See MOTEL, Page A2

Plymouth Township siblings describe escaping knife attack

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

A brother and sister from

Plymouth Township described Thursday escaping their older sister one night last October after she threatened the girl with a knife – at the same time telling her that she loved her – then "sliced" the boy's neck. The siblings' testimony – and a text-message conversation that included instructions for using the knife to kill – convinced a judge to send Roksana G. Sikorski, 15, to trial on seven felony charges, including attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Her alleged accomplice, Michael A. Rivera, 23, was sent to trial on identical charges.

"They knew what was going

on," Judge Mike Gerou in 35th District Court said after reviewing a transcript of the texts. "Forethought was going into this."

Sikroski, who is being charged as an adult, and Rivera, a Detroit resident, are being held without bond and are scheduled to be arraigned Friday, Feb. 12, in Wayne County Circuit Court. The boy, 13, testified via a video link that he was awakened early Oct. 17 when he saw Sikorski looking through the dresser drawers in his room.

Gerou had issued an order that the media not use photos or the names of the minor witnesses.

"She sliced my neck," said the boy, a child advocate sitting next to him. He described how he had fled to an adjoining bathroom, saying Sikorski first cut him as he was at the bathroom door.

"She cut me one time and when I tried to shut the door, she cut me twice," he said. He was able to shut the door on Sikorski's head, he said.

See ATTACK, Page A2



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fatal," the judge said.

Rivera to Sikorski, he

added, included a dia-

to" and instructions to

make sure the victims

Sikorski, Gerou said, messaged Rivera that

she couldn't do it and

parents.

the killings.

734-678-8432

items.

lems.

734-972-0919

needed help and there

was also discussion about

who would kill Sikorski's

Police say Rivera was outside the Sikorski

house during the attack,

but there was no testimo-

ny about that Thursday.

tends that Sikorski and

run away together after

charged with one count

of assault with intent to

murder, four counts of

felonious assault and one

count of using a comput-

mjachman@hometownlife.com

demolished America's

Best motel, rather than

simply disposing of the

America's Best had a

higher crime rate than

cidents ranging from gun

Abdulnoor has said A&M

build more upscale lodg-

ing to reduce such prob-

nearby hotels for in-

possession to fights.

Hospitality intends to

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Canton police had said

conspiracy to commit

murder, one count of

er to commit a crime.

Twitter: @mattjachman

Both defendants are

Rivera had planned to

The prosecution con-

stopped breathing.

The messages from

gram of a neck, the direc-tion to cut it "like a toma-

CHAMBER

Continued from Page A1

auctions and raffles. For tickets or more information, call the chamber at 734-453-4040

Canton's party comes two weeks before the actual Kentucky Derby, but every 30 minutes throughout the evening it will feature video footage of past horse races displayed on a big screen as attendees cheer for their picks to cross the finish line first

Cash prizes will be awarded for win, place and show as the races unfold.

Paden said live auction items include jewelry, condominium time shares and sporting event tickets, among numerous other prizes. The chamber also is raffling off a pair of airline tickets to anywhere in the continental

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United States. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and may be bought now from the chamber, which has offices at 45525 Hanford, west of Canton Center.

Pade 1 declined to say how much money the chamber hopes to raise during the dinner and auction.

'Our chamber depends on its resources to subsidize important programming, services and educational development," he said. "Funds raised from the auction are crucial in maintaining our mission to stimulate positive business growth in the Canton community.

Paden also commended local businesses who donate prizes for the auction.

This year's auction is sponsored by Jack Demmer Ford, Inc., and Oakwood Healthcare Systems.

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ATTACK

Continued from Page A1

'I just screamed'

The boy described the knife as a "very sharp" fish knife normally kept in a drawer wrapped in paper towels. Under cross-examination by Wright Blake, Rivera's attorney, the boy testified that Sikorski looked like "somebody different" during the attack.

"I just screamed," he said. The boy underwent surgery that night and is recovering.

The boy also testified that he had met Rivera eight days earlier at the Plymouth District Library, when he saw him there with Sikorski. Rivera challenged him to fight, he said, and he was able to take Rivera down twice before Rivera brandished a knife and he backed off.

Blake, who later said that was the first time his client had heard of a fight at the library, questioned the boy about

MOTEL

Continued from Page A1

their visit.

» The hotels will be centrally located to Detroit, Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport. "It's a great location,"

Abdulnoor said. Canton Township Su-pervisor Phil LaJoy said he believes the new ho-

tels will be good for Canton "They're going to be

very nice hotels," he said.

LAJOY

Continued from Page A1

form Ford Road into a boulevard through most of eastern Canton. Shorter-term projects this year include paving Lotz

whether anyone intervened; he replied that no one did.

The girl, 11, testified that she shared a bedroom with Sikorski, with the bathroom between their room and their brother's room and doors to it from each bedroom. She said she woke up

Oct. 17 when she felt a knife on her throat. 'My sister had a knife

and it was on my throat," the girl said. "She said, 'I love you' and she kissed me and then she left.'

That's when Sikorski attacked her brother, the girl said.

The girl said she ran into the bathroom to help her screaming brother, who had been cut three or four times on the neck. She hit Sikroski on the back, she said.

"She dropped the knife and my brother got up," she said. They fled downstairs, alerting their parents, she said.

In the confusion, the girl said, she saw Sikorski sitting on the bed in a first-floor guest bed-room. She "looked really weird," she said.

"We have a very vibrant community and we have

After Canton officials

easing traffic bottlenecks at major intersections.

"The bigger problem still needs to be ad-dressed," LaJoy said. Snubbed six times for

a federal TIGER (Trans-

Rivera and Sikorski were arrested at Rivera's home in Detroit hours after the attack.

Text exchange

The third witness. Plymouth Township Officer Brian Rupard, a detective, described seeing a text-message exchange on a phone belonging to Laurene Sikorski, Roksana's mother, who showed it to him on the morning after the attack. Questioned about it later, Rupard said, both Rivera and Roksana Sikorksi admitted they had exchanged the messages.

The texts were sent using an app called Kik, Rupard said, and he knew Rivera's user name from a previous case. The texts were sent between 12:09 a.m. and 12:33 a.m. Oct. 17, Rupard said.

Gerou made his ruling after reading the transcript of the messages, agreeing with the prosecution's contention that they showed a conspiracy between Sikorski and Rivera.

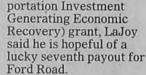
"The cut to the neck clearly could've been

Abdulnoor described the latter as a "new generation" Fairfield Inn. The new hotels will

complement two others already on the site, Comfort Suites and an existing Fairfield Inn, which will become Baymont Suites, Abdulnoor said.

The existing hotels already have a combined 183 rooms

Meanwhile, Abdulnoor said company officials donated eight truckloads of furniture and home furnishings to The Salvation Army from the now-



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a thriving business community. This is a great add to the community."

of them targeted for extended-stay patrons such as business executives. The other, Fairfield Inn & Suites, will offer 91 rooms for short-

approved a site plan for the project last year, Victor Saroki, an architect, said one of the hotels, Towne Place Suites, will have 87 rooms, many

Road, between Ford and Cherry Hill, and improving turn lanes near the Ford/I-275 interchange. Still, Canton and

MDOT need more than

\$20 million to give seri-

ous consideration to the

which officials say could

boulevard concept,

ease traffic by preventing left turn lanes and

self-managed public school academy.

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Honor society students raise MDA awareness

A group of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park National Honor Society students recently hosted a Trivia Night fundraiser to raise money and awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The Trivia Night took place in the Plymouth High School cafeteria.

"The cause is something close to our hearts," Canton NHS President Annie McDougall said. "I volun-teered at an MDA summer camp two years ago and told my friends how meaningful it was."

The money raised from the Trivia Night will be donated to MDA at its annual Detroit Muscle Walk, a fundraiser to help kids with muscular dystrophy to attend a week long summer camp.

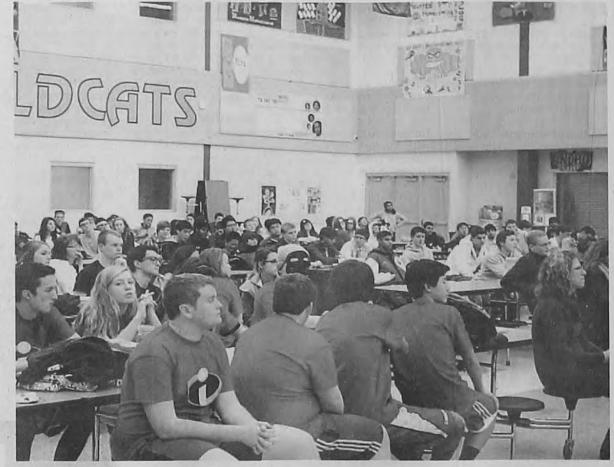
Teams of P-CEP students, family, friends and members of the community competed in a series of

trivia contests over the course of the evening. National Junior Honors Society volunteers from East Middle School helped the event run smoothly.

All teams were served pizza and cash prizes were awarded to the winning teams

Tammie Groth, a teacher at East with muscular dystrophy, was honored during the evening. The Trivia Night raised \$2,835 to donate to MDA from the 170 people that were in attendance.

"Seeing how camp was able to put a smile on the faces of the kids with muscular dystrophy who at-tended, we decided to cre-ate a fundraiser benefiting MDA so they can continue to send the kids to summer camp and give them the best week of their lives,' McDougall said.



Honor Society students recently hosted Trivia Night.

Salem to host fundraising dinner

The culinary arts program at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools is hosting a Valentines Day fundraising dinner Thursday at Salem High School. Diners will get a four-course meal prepared by the P-CEP culinary team

that includes appetizers, an artichoke-tomato-leek ragout, shellfish, chicken dishes with a potato parsnip gratin and glazed vegetables and dessert. Alterna-tives are available and participants should inform the staff of any food allergies at time of ticket purchase.

There will be two seating times for the event, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Rock Cafe at Salem, 48181 Joy Road.

Tickets, at \$35 each, can only be purchased in advance and are available by calling 734-667-2755 or by visiting the Old World Olive Co, 467 Forest, in downtown Plymouth.

Start-up charter high school adds 10th grade

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

New School High, a teacher-run charter high school academy set to open in Plymouth Township in September, is reserving slots for up to 25 10th-grad-ers for its first year.

School leader Cynthia Burnstein said Friday that the school received approval from its board and from its chartering organization, Central Michigan University, for adding a 10th grade. School officials were

planning to start New School with ninth-graders only, adding a grade in each of the next three years, but Burnstein said its individualized curriculum will be

flexible enough to accommodate 10th-graders, plus the demand in the community for 10th-grade spots was strong.

"There really has been a lot of interest for students who will be going into the 10th grade next year," she said.

The idea of beginning the school with freshmen only, Burnstein said, was to make it easier to build the type of school culture the founders plan, but the school can also benefit from the leadership abilities sophomores might have

School enrollment for the first year will be limited to 125, with up to 25 of them sophomore transfer students, the rest freshmen.

Burnstein said that, when all four grades are filled, the plan is to have a maximum enrollment of 400. New School, Burnstein

said, is built around the latest research in educating high school students. There will be individual lesson plans, an emphasis on pro-ject-based learning over memorization, health and wellness education for all four years and later start times, among other depar-tures from traditional high schools. There is no tuition, entrance examination or grade prerequisites.

Burnstein is a retired Salem High School English teacher and co-founded the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's Spectra program, a school-within-aschool that reduced the failure rates in ninth- and 10-grade core classes.

New School will be leas-ing the education wing of the Risen Christ Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth Township, as its first home.

A school open house is planned for 2:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, and 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23; visitors can tour the school and meet staff members. Use the

McLumpha Road entrance. For more information on the school, go to newschoolhigh.org.

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Canton has lengthy list of goals to improve the township

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Buoyed by a spirit of optimism, Canton officials have embarked on a far-reaching list of goals to steer the community long after the Great Recession has become just a bitter memory.

"We're now in a position of strength," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "We're on solid ground and should be in that position for years to come, I think.

The latest financial projections indicate Canton ended last year with a \$7.4 million general fund balance, Finance Director Wendy Trumbull said, but those numbers could potentially improve as an outside auditing firm, Plante

Moran, conducts an independent analysis.

LaJoy, his administration and the township board have carved a path forward by developing a long-range blueprint that includes poring over the budget on a quarterly basis to sustain the health of a government that provides services for over 90,000 residents with 338 full-time employees and 225 parttimers and seasonal workers.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said Canton for the last few years had been in survival mode.

"We're now in a position where we can move beyond simply surviving to address some of the things that need to be addressed," she said. "We're working hard

in Canton to make it a desirable place to live and do business. We need to continue to do that.'

To that end, here's a mere sampling of a vast number of Canton's latest goals, unveiled Tuesday during a township board session:

Strengthen efficiency

» Move to have all Canton departments accredited by outside agencies by 2016 - a first for any Michigan community. Canton Public Safety and Leisure Services already are accredited, leaving just the fire and municipal services departments.

Officials say the process could make Canton an even more desirable place for residents and

businesses.

» Develop future development objectives by conducting a joint session between the township board and planning commission.

» Implement new security policies to protect Canton's computers and networks from ma-

licious attacks. » Return to pre-recession employee staffing

Maintain fiscal stability

levels.

savings

» Align revenues with cost of service and update fees.

» Develop long-range funding solutions for township goals.

» Become involved in any potential changes to regional water-sewer services. » Seek opportunities to refinance debt for cost

Develop the workforce

» Cross-train employees in certain areas to provide more efficiency. » Restore and fill the fire marshal position.

» Deliver customer service training for all

front-line employees. » Implement diversity and cultural training.

Provide top-notch service

» Evaluate a community-wide automated collection for recycla-

bles » Complete the first year of a residential

inspection program. » Complete a study to

potentially partner with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for water storage at a Canton-based DWSD facility, rather than building a new facility.

Promote the community

» Promote Canton to Realtors and brokers. » Expand partnerships

with community groups. » Update Canton Community Television as needed.

Educate/inform residents

» Use a Municipal Services Department YouTube channel to produce and air videos for residents.

» Conduct community forums on police practices.

» Educate residents about leisure opportunities

» Roll out new mobile apps to connect Canton and its residents.

» Continue using social media to communicate with residents.

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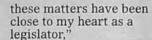
Western Wayne County lawmakers on PAC leadership team

Two newly elected lawmakers from western Wayne County -- one who represents Redford and one who represents Canton - have been elected to serve as officers of the MI Women Win PAC, which is dedicated to supporting progressive women candidates seeking seats in the state Legislature.

Rep. Leslie Love, D-Detroit, whose district includes Redford, has been elected as vicechair; Rep. Kristy Pagan, whose district includes Canton, has been elected as secretary for 2015-16.

State Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright, D-Muskegon, has been elected to serve as chairwoman. Rep. Vanessa Guerra, D-Saginaw, is treasurer.

"I have been concerned with issues such as pay equity and assuring access to women's health all my life, and



Hovey-Wright said. "That is why MI Women Win was formed -



Pagan so that we could

recruit, mentor and support other women who want to serve our state and fight for full equality for women.'

Hovey-Wright founded the Progressive Women's Caucus in 2011, the year she joined the Michigan House of Representatives.

PWC members formed MI Women Win in order to encourage progressive women to seek office, so that the Legislature would hear more women's voices calling for policies that will improve the lives of Michigan women and families.

'MI Women Win was instrumental in identifying, encouraging and supporting progressive women candidates seeking seats in the Michigan House of Representatives in 2014 and I look forward to continuing that mission in the next campaign," Love said.

The women candidates that MI Women Win endorse understand the importance of issues such as equal pay and access to health care," Pagan said.

These issues underline a woman's ability to care for and support her family. When a woman earns a fair paycheck and can get the medical care she needs, she helps her family build financial security - something all Michigan families need.'

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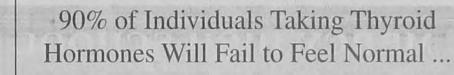
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OPTIMIST MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton Details: The Canton Optimist Club holds an organizing meeting in Arts Room 2. All planning to be discussed and prospective members as well as interested persons should attend. This will be an actual Optimist Club-type meeting for this new club, including discussions for potential service projects and more. Contact: For additional information, contact Don Brose at 248-736-8833 or broseelectric@msn.com or Linda Brooks at 313-570-6046 or lybb_1999@yahoo.com

'DOWNTON ABBEY' TEA

Date/Time: Sunday, March 2, 2-4 p.m. Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Details: The Plymouth Historical

Museum hosts a "Downton Abbey Tea." The highlight of the afternoon, aside from the scrumptious tea delicacies, will be the fashion show of styles based on the popular *Downton Abbey* TV series. The fashion show will be presented by reenacting members of the Plymouth Living History Troupe of the Plymouth Historical Museum. Tickets are \$25 for members of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum and \$30 for non-members, before March 20; after that date add \$5 to the price. Contact: For more information,

call 734-455-8940.

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

Date/Time/Location: 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 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.senatorpatrickcolbeck.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 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 debcortellini@comcast.net or call 734-451-1525.

COACHES NEEDED

Date/Time: Saturdays in spring and fall 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, Ply-

mouth

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 Wal-

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

Do you qualify for additional Veterans Benefits?

IF YOU ARE A VETERAN OR A WIDOW(ER) OF A VETERAN, you may be able to obtain taxfree income from the Veteran's Administration (VA) to help pay for the cost of home health care, assisted living care, and nursing home care. The benefit is called "Improved Pension" and is not connected to servicerelated benefits. In addition to Improved Pension benefits, a person who is housebound and in need of assistance with daily living activities, may be eligible to receive additional benefits called "Housebound Benefits" or "Aid & Attendance" benefits. Housebound

 The Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active service, with at least one day of service during a wartime period. (Service need not have been in a war zone.)

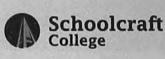
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Housebound:	\$ 1,310	\$15,725		
Aid & Attendance:	\$1,788	\$21,466		
Married Veteran				
Improved Pension:	\$1,404	\$16,851		
Housebound:	\$1,642	\$19,710		
Aid & Attendance:	\$2,120	\$25,448		
Surviving Spouse				
Improved Pension:	\$719	\$8,630		
Housebound:	\$879	\$10,548		
Aid & Attendance:	\$1,149	\$13,794		

benefits are supplements to the Improved Pension benefit and also are not connected to servicerelated benefits.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR IMPROVED PENSION, HOUSEBOUND AND AID & ATTENDANCE BENEFITS

The following five criteria must be met before a Veteran or widow(er) can receive benefits from the VA: dishonorably discharged.

- 3. The claimant must have limited income and assets. This is the number one criteria most claimants are misinformed of -"limited" income and assets are influenced by many factors. If you believe a claimant cannot qualify based upon income and assets, you are likely incorrect. Often the VA will tell claimants they do not qualify, but they do not disclose the possibility the claimant may become qualified. The VA certainly will not educate a claimant on how to become qualified.
- 4. The claimant must have a permanent and total disability, which was caused without willful misconduct of the claimant. (The VA considers anyone 65 years of age and older disabled.)
- 5. The Veteran or widow(er) must submit a signed application to the VA.

ACCREDITATION BY THE VA

As of June 23, 2008, the VA requires those assisting claimants to be accredited by the VA BEFORE they can legally provide assistance to a claimant. In order to protect a claimant who is going through the VA process, make sure you are seeking assistance from a VA Accredited Agent. Nicole Wipp of Family & Aging Law Center, PLLC, is a VA Accredited Attorney.





On display in the Detroit Institute of Art's African American Collection, is Quilting Time by Romare Bearden.

DIA offers free bus ride from Canton Wayne County Day

The Detroit Institute of Arts is providing free bus transportation to and from the mu-seum Saturday, Feb. 28, for Wayne County residents as part of its "County Days," which provides this service four times per year for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Visitors can browse the collection, see the DIA's "guest of honor," Rembrandt's Self Portrait with Shaded Eyes, on loan from the Leiden Collection, New York, and make their own work of art in the DIA Studio.

Three free exhibitions are on view: Ordinary People by Extraor-dinary Artists: Works on Paper by Degas, Renoir and Friends; Photographs from the Detroit Walk-in Portrait Studio by Corine Vermeulen and Make a Joyful Noise: Renaissance Art and Music at Florence Cathedral. Parking is available

at each departure location. Round-trip transportation and admission are free, but reserva-tions are required. To reserve a spot, call 313-833-4005 or go to tickets.dia.org.

The western Wayne County locations and

schedule are:

» Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St. The Van Gogh Bus leaves the community center at 9:30 a.m. and leaves from the DIA at 2 p.m.

» Canton Public Library (park on west side of library), 1200 S. Canton Center Road. The Monet Bus leaves the library at 9:30 a.m. and leaves the DIA at 2 p.m.

» Handy Park, 26650 Capitol St., Redford. The Picasso Bus leaves the park at10 a.m. and leaves the DIA at 2:30 p.m.

The DIA is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission (excludes ticketed exhibitions) is free for Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county residents and DIA members. For all others, admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors ages 62 and older and \$4 for ages 6-17. For membership information, call 313-833-7971.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is at 5200 Woodward, Ave., Detroit. For more information, call 313-833-7900 or go to www.dia.org.

Colbeck: Not sure sports official assault bill is the right answer

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

A proposed bill in-troduced in the Michigan Senate that would charge those who assault sports referees and coaches with a

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Sen. Pat-

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Colbeck

swer. Colbeck, a Republican who represents Wayne, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, Northville Township and Livonia, said the bill, introduced last month, may add additional protections that he believes the state government should not add. "It's dangerous to go

off and take that ap-proach," he said. "I think our laws are made for the equal benefit for everyone."

The bill, Senate Bill 32, was introduced by Sen. Morris Hood, D-Detroit, in January and was placed in the judiciary committee, one Colbeck sits on in Lansing. If approved, it would make the assault or battering of a sports official, such as a referee or coach, a felony punishable by up to three years of imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Currently, assaulting a referee or other individual follows standard assault laws, which is a misdemeanor.

The bill comes after a referee, Westland resident John Bieniewicz, was allegedly assaulted last summer at Livonia's Mies Park by an adult soccer player in a match Bieniewicz was officiating. He later died from his injuries. The suspect in his death, 36-year-old



Westland resident John **Bieniewicz was assaulted last** summer at Livonia's Mies Park by an adult soccer player in a match Bieniewicz was officiating. He later died from his injuries. The suspect in his death, 36-year-old **Dearborn resident Bassel** Saad, is set to go to trial on second-degree murder charges Feb. 23.

Dearborn resident Bassel Saad, is set to go to trial on second-degree murder charges Feb. 23.

Colbeck, who recently began representing Livonia in the Senate after redistricting, said he doesn't believe a special class of protections should be added to certain professions and not others.

He said while his heart goes out to the family of those affected by crimes like this, he said penalties should be consistent.

"If you assault somebody, you should be associated with the penalties of assault," he said.

Ken Shingledecker, director of operations for the Livonia City Soccer Club, said he has not heard much about the bill since it was proposed, but having the discussion over the issue is something that's important in this day and age.

"I would say any steps that people feel need to be taken to protect officials and coaches are good steps," he said. "It's obviously an important topic that needs to be talked about.'

Colbeck said the way to correct issues surrounding the treatment of sports officials and others should be something that should be done without having to be legislated.

"People need to start pulling out the idea that we should be loving our neighbors as ourselves. We're not doing that anymore," he said. "You have to solve it with a change of heart.'

The bill currently remains in committee.



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OFFER EXPIRES

LEGO, library add up to fun for local kids

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Burke Pongracz, 6, and sister Isabella, 9, are big LEGO fans.

"It's really fun, because there are no rules," said Isabella, a fourthgrader at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth, where her brother is a first-grader. "You can just make whatever you want.'

Agreed Burke, "I like to create stuff." Mom Blythe Pongracz of Canton had brought their children to the Plymouth District Library for the monthly LEGO Club, which meets 4-5:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the library, 223 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth.

"Bins and bins full of LEGO," Blythe Pongracz said of their Canton home. They're also big fans of The LEGO Movie.

"We own it, actually," Isabella said, adding her family just watched it. "It's awesome. It's one of the best movies on Earth.'

Their parents like it when Burke and Isabella play with LEGOs. "It's amazing what they create. He can build really intricate models," Blythe Pongracz said. Isabella learned how to write their names in LEGO blocks, which are in their rooms.

And then they can play together, too, which is nice," she added, agreeing the creativity of LE-GOs is a plus.

Burke and Isabella

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Siblings Sophie Gladd, 4, and Jack Gladd, 6, (foreground) of Plymouth work with friends who are also siblings to each other, Burke Pongracz, 6, and Isabella Pongracz, 9, of Canton.

"It's really fun, because there are no rules. You can just make whatever you want."

ISABELLA PONGRACZ Our Lady of Good Counsel School fourth-grader

were eager for the LEGO Club to get started Thursday, Feb. 5. They were soon joined by their friends Sophie and Jack Gladd of Plymouth. Sophie, 4, is a preschooler at Academic Gardens while Jack, 6, is a first-grader at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The LEGO Club has met about a year and a half, said Carol Champagne, PDL department head for youth services. "We usually get between 15 and 20 kids over the

half," she said. She hasn't found the movie release a big factor in drawing families to the LEGO Club, noting the ongoing popularity of the plastic building blocks. The library has how-to books for LEGO builders

course of the hour and a

as well as stories about characters like Bob the Builder related to LEGO. Champagne noted the children's books aren't

challenging, but are fun. "Grown-ups read things that aren't highbrow," she said. "It's a lot of work for little ones."

Library staffers are mulling expanding the Thursday activities beyond LEGO. Champagne said when she was young there were only a handful of LEGO colors. "We were more into Lincoln Logs," she said. "I remember Tinker Toys."

The LEGO Club doesn't require a sign-up ahead of time and kids don't need to stay the entire hour and a half. It doesn't meet during the summer.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



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JULIE BROWN Burke Pongracz, 6, of Canton and sister Isabella Pongracz, 9, work on LEGO creations at the Get a Quick Lan

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Wayne-Westland history teacher best in nation

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

According to her colleagues, Michele Anderson has two passions: teaching history and a love and appreciation for honoring veterans.

And it was those two passions that won the John Glenn High School teacher the 2014 National History Teacher of the Year award from HIS-TORY® and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Anderson was in New York in November to receive the award. The award recognizes her work on an oral history project and USO-style dances more than two years. The project started two years ago with students interviewing World War II veterans and now includes Korean War and Vietnam veterans.

"This would not have been possible without the community," An-derson said. "This community has made this award come to life. Without this community, we wouldn't have had the people to interview. The veterans are awesome, the kids are awesome."

Anderson was nominated for the award by John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham, who was asked to do it by state officials after she won the 2013 Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Award for Excellence in Teaching History from the Michigan Council for History Education. Michigan had never had a teacher win the national award until now.

Getting students excited

Ingham was at the award ceremony and noted Anderson's quote from the program: "Students get excited about history when somehow it becomes real to them."



Wayne-Westland school board President Thomas Buckalew hugs National History Teacher of the Year Michele Anderson. Buckalew had told John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham to "Just watch, she'll be a star one day."

"That's what Michele is all about," he said. "For years, I have watched her make history real for students. She has spent her career making history real, taking her students on field trips to being the reality of the history they're studying to their current lives and making it real for them. She gets them engaged and makes it exciting for them.'

Anderson had approached Ingham about her project three years ago, when she applied for and received a \$6,545 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council

"Without Dave Ingham, this wouldn't have happened," Anderson said. "At a time when it's getting harder to fit extra activities into the instructional program, I went to him asked, actually I told him, 'Don't tell me how I can't do this and tell me how you can support me in doing this and in filling out a threeinch application.

Also in New York was Wayne-Westland school board President Thomas Buckalew, who taught with Anderson at John Glenn. The chair of the social studies department, he had approached Ingham about appointing Anderson as a co-chair as he transitioned to retirement.

"She was a fairly new and younger teacher. There were many more experienced teachers, but Tom told me, 'Just watch, she'll be a star one day' and Tom was right," Ingham said. "He was the first one that put that thought in my head.

Anderson is the chair of the social studies department and still is called by the nickname Little Buck, which she earned working with Buckalew.

"Before the presentation of the award, historian Dr. Earl Lewis, the president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, talked about that ah-ha moment when lessons and textbook words come off the page and become the fabric of the students," Buckalew said. "If anything, that is what Mrs. Anderson's oral history project does. It brings history alive to her students.'

Thanks for support

Anderson thanked her husband Greg and her three children for their support in allowing her to pursue her passion. It has taken her to the World War II Museum in New Orleans and to Germany to learn about its school system. With the help of the Detroit Historical Society, she created a lesson plan to teach about students about Westland's Norwayne community and the part it played in Detroit becoming the Arsenal of Democracy. The lesson plan can be found on the Detroit Historical Museum's website.

Anderson continues to make history real for her students. She recently received a grant from Target that will be used for a field trip to Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, which was the mustering-in point for the Vietnam veterans. The Detroit Historical Society is putting together a mock muster for students to experience, she said.

Enthusiasm for her project has gone beyond her students, who by early January had interviewed 41 veterans. She did a survey of the high school and found that students have had heard about the project and planned to attend

this year's USO-style dance because "it's so much fun."

'One student went to the dance for the extra credit and enjoyed it,' Anderson said. "She kept a Korean War veteran on the floor, dancing. It changed her. She's back this year, doing the interviews. The word is getting out."

Help also has come

See TEACHER, Page A12

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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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8

Pagan among women's caucus supporting paid sick leave

State Rep. Kristy Pagan, among the Progressive Women's Caucus in Lansing, has joined an effort to require paid sick leave for many workers in Michigan.

Pagan, D-Canton, has co-sponsored legislation along with Rep. Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids, and Rep. Gretchen Driskell, D-Saline, that would allow workers to take earned paid time off to recover from illnesses or care for a sick family member.

The bills would require employers to allow workers to accrue one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours they work.



According to a 2011 study by the Institute for Wom-

en's Policy

Research,

more than

Pagan

a million Michigan workers about 46 percent of private sector workers cannot take sick leave when they are ill, the PWC said in a press release.

HB 4167, introduced by Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, and a parallel Senate bill introduced by Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, would: » Require employers to set aside one hour of

Distoric A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE Traditional Anglican Worship Since 1842 12:10 and 7:30 pm The Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes THURSDAYS IN LENT, with recitals following the 12:10 Holy Communion Services Sunday, March 5, 12, 19, 26 THURSDAYS IN LENT, with recitals following the 12:10 Holy Communion Services Sunday, March 8, 2015 8:30am - The Holy Communion 11:00am - The Holy Communion with the BLESSING OF THE FLEET SERVICE REGULAR SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. • Thursdays at 12:10, p.m. Join us at Theology on Tap. Wednesday's 6-8pm, Grand Trunk Pub 170 E. Jefferson at the Tunnel • Free Secured Parking in the Ford Underground Garage for church services. (313) 259-2206 • www.marinerschurchofdetroit.org



paid sick leave for every 30 hours an employee works, regardless of whether an employee is

part time or full time. » Stipulate when a worker could use this earned time off, including during their own illness, the illness of a close family member or recovery after a violent crime.

» Protect all Michigan families, including LGBT families, grandparents raising children, domestic partners raising children and single parent families.

"These common-sense proposals will let sick people take the time they need to recover from an illness and give parents the ability to care for a sick child without losing income," Pagan said in a statement. "Customers, co-workers and employers will also benefit, because encouraging sick workers to stay home will limit the spread of diseases such as the flu or norovirus in workplaces and among the general public."

the general public." "Many people can't afford to take unpaid time off even when they have communicable diseases like the flu," Brinks said. "When a sick employee has to report to work, no one wins. Productivity suffers, it takes longer to recuperate and the health of co-workers and customers is endangered. People shouldn't have to choose between their health and their job."

Companies that fall under the Family Medical Leave Act are only required to offer unpaid sick leave to their workers. According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, Connecticut was the first state in the nation to pass a paid sick leave law.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tewana Sullivan is greeted by her attorney, John McWilliams, as she enters court.

Suspect bound over in slow cooker death case

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

When Livonia police officer Michael Lewallen arrived outside the apartment Cheryl Livy was in at the McNamara Towers last October, he remembers seeing Tewana Sullivan in the hallway with blood on her hands and clothing.

After handcuffing her and moving her down the hallway, he said he remembers hearing her apologize.

"The defendant said, 'I'm sorry I did it, I'm sorry I did it, I'm sorry, I'm sorry," he said. "She was sobbing. She was crying."

Sullivan, 50, of Detroit went Thursday before 16th District Judge Sean Kavanagh at the Livonia courthouse for a preliminary examination on a charge of first-degree murder in the death of Livy, a Livonia resident.

Kavanagh bound her over on the charge, which carries a maximum of life in prison.

Sitting next to her attorney in the courthouse, Sullivan wept as Kavanagh recapped testimony heard during the preliminary exam before binding her over. She was remanded without bond to the Wayne County Jail, where she has been held since being arrested in October. Sullivan is accused of

using a slow cooker to kill Livy in her apartment in the senior living complex. The two had known each other for several years, according to neighbors who lived in the building.

Livy died several days after the assault at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, where she was taken after the incident occurred.

Police officer Tom Blauvelt said when he arrived to the apartment, he found Livy face down on the floor, barely breathing.

"Immediately I saw a female lying by the door," he said. "The Crock-Pot was busted over her head and a cord around her neck."

Dr. Ljubisa Dragovic, the Oakland County chief medical examiner, said his report shows Livy died from blunt force trauma sustained to the head, as well as complications from the assault. He said Livy developed pneumonia following the incident after damage from the brain impacted her respiratory functions.

That development led to her death a few days later, he said.

Dragovic said there were some fractures to the bones in Livy's face, but her skull sustained no fracturing. However, he said there was still damage to the brain.

"You don't need to fracture the skull to injure the brain," he said. "There were injuries to the brain, the surface of the brain and brain covering."

Dragovic performed the autopsy on Livy's body since she was pronounced dead in Oakland County.

The case was originally delayed after the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office requested a competency exam be performed on Sullivan. That report came back last month, allowing the court to move forward with the exam.

Sullivan is set for arraignment at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in downtown Detroit.

dveselenak@ hometownlife.com 734-678-6728





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LOCAL NEWS

United Way grants help families survive

Lorraine Zaksek tells the story of a family excited about celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas at a table in their home this year instead of on a bed in a hotel room.

Zaksek credits a grant from Plymouth Community United Way for making this possible. The family was homeless before acceptance into Journey to Housing, a program of the St. John Neumann Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.

'If someone is homeless, we can put them in a hotel until we can find other accommodations,' said Zaksek, second vice president and outgoing president of St. John Neumann Conference. "We provide food, assistance with transportation. We're helping families maintain transportation to keep their jobs and gain their independence.'

Plymouth Community United Way recently announced a total of \$469,039 in allocations, grants and designations to organizations that provided basic needs, education and human services in Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne County in 2014.

St. Vincent de Paul societies at St. John Neumann and Resurrection churches in Canton received money to help individuals and families

with utility shutoffs, eviction notices, food and clothing. In May, St. John Neumann's Journey to Housing placed its first family as part of the program which helps the homeless become financially stable over a period of 18 months to two years. Weekly in-home case management offers assistance in developing budgets and formulating goals for each family.

"In the last several weeks, we've had four homeless individuals come to our office in search of help," said Marie Morrow, Plymouth United Way presi-dent. "Journey to Hous-ing helps families regain stability.'

Today, Journey to Housing is preparing to place its fourth homeless family in a house thanks to PCUW and donations from St. John Neumann parishioners.

The first three are doing well, still in their homes and we're leading them to financial independence. PCUW makes it possible to support this special work," Zaksek said. "There's definitely an increase in homeless people in western Wayne County because of the difficult financial times we've experienced. They've lost jobs. We're seeing people living in cars, couch surfing where they're sent from

one family member to another."

In an effort to address these issues, grants were awarded to organizations committed to creating lasting change. Among the re-cipients were Plymouth-**Canton Community** Schools (after-school tutoring program, Stu-dent Voice Leadership Group to teach skills and promote philanthropy through a hands-on service project, and GED study and test materials to enable adults to graduate). Growth Works provided substance abuse/dependency rehabilitation for youth and adults.

Plymouth Community United Way raises funds year round to support programs for youth, senior citizens, devel-opmentally disabled adults and low-income and homeless individuals and families. To donate online, go to www.plymouthunitedway.org or mail a check to the office at 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170. For more information, call 734-453-6879.

"We are able to provide basic needs and other much needed human services because of community support," Morrow said. "We would not be able to continue our outreach without the help of the community."

Livonia Public Schools **Opens the Prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program** to Out-of-District Students in Wayne County

Fifteen seats are open to students entering 9th grade in fall 2015 Eight seats are open to students entering 10th grade in fall 2015 Eight seats are open to students entering 11th grade in fall 2015

Limited Registration Window: March 2 - March 31, 2015

Livonia Public Schools is opening its International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) to Limited Schools of Choice students from Wayne County for the 2015-16 school year. This program is a two-year college preparatory plan of study that takes place during a student's junior and senior year of high school. Students entering the IB Program are encouraged to attend Franklin High School starting in the ninth grade. IBDP students are required to take IB exams in order to earn the highly acclaimed and internationally recognized IB diploma.

Registration will be open from March 2 - 31, 2015 at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday All candidates MUST meet the IBDP selection criteria.

For complete information on the IBDP program and application process, visit the Franklin High School website at http://www.livoniapublicschools.org/Franklin.cfm

District asking for help naming new school

neer, Discovery) or a compass direction (East,

West, Central). The new

school will replace Cen-

educational institution at

Suggested philosophi-cal names for the new school include Liberty,

Freedom, Voyager, Ren-

Odyssey, Legacy, Cross-roads, Endeavor and

Mascot names sug-

gested by staffers include

Central's current mascot,

Chargers, along with Huskies, Vikings, Phoe-nix, Knights, Stallions,

icks and Spartans.

Patriots, Falcons, Maver-

Parents and other

stakeholders are being

Justin Cialella said. "We

are committed to doing

both and think it's impor-

tant to be involved in our

local communities in many different ways."

At the end of the

month, total donations

will be calculated, in-

cluding a match from Victory Lane, and pre-

go to www.victorylane

goesred.org/Michigan.

sented to the AHA.

aissance, Centennial,

the end of the 2014-15

school year.

Millennium.

What's in a name? Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are hoping to find out

After nearly two years of referring to the middle school being built at Cherry Hill and Canton Center as "the new middle school," district officials have begun the process of selecting the school's name.

After surveying P-CCS staff and compiling a list of suggested names and mascots for the new school, scheduled to open in September, the district is now reaching out to parents and stakeholders in the community. District policy dictates

the names of the district's middle schools reflect either a philosophy (Pio-

Victory Lane collecting cash for AHA

Keeping a car running smoothly is a bit like keeping a heart running both have to have proper maintenance.

Canton-based Victory Lane Quick Oil Change is collecting money for the American Heart Association during February. Just as it is important

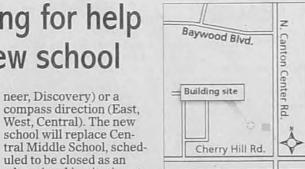
to take care of your heart, you need to take care of the heart of your vehicle," CEO/President

Notice of Public Sale of Liened Property

For more information,

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 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 H24 McKnight, Household Goods: Unit H26 Condex Unit H26 Condex Unit H26 Condex Unit H26 Condex Unit H27 Smarl Household Goods: Unit H28 Nojciechowski, H08 Nojciec Unit H27 Small, Household Goods: Unit I 29 Glover, Household Goods: Unit I40 Broadnax, Household Goods: Unit 146 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 Phlippeau, Household Goods: Unit K06 Clark, Household Goods: Unit K41 Mccarty, Household Goods.

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



The new middle school being built by Plymouth-Canton Schools will be located just west of Canton Center Rd. on Cherry Hill Rd., behind Rose's restaurant.

asked to vote for one of the suggested names or propose one of their own. School names receiving the greatest number of votes will be presented to the Board of Education at its Tuesday, Feb. 10, meeting. The board will make the final decision on the school name, hopefully by the end of March.



LO-0000229030 3X4

Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170 ATTN: "21st Century Classroom Project - Phase 2"

or contact Ms	s. Sunshine Weber at sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org.
PLYMO	OUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
	SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
consisting of: • Partial Asp • Roof Replac • Media Cent • Partial Ext • Electrical V	ymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 5C, halt Pavement Replacement Projects sements Projects ter Upgrade Projects erior Door Replacement Projects Vork for the Canton High School Science Lab Remodel & Salem High ce Studio Remodel Projects

will be received at the office of Mr. Patrick Briggs, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

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

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

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

102: Asphalt / Site Concrete	103: Selective Demolition
109: Roofing / Sheetmetal	114: Aluminum Entrances / Glass & Glazing
117: Acoustical Treatment	118: Carpeting
120: Painting	142: HVAC .
143: Electrical	

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

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Monday, February 9, 2015 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of ½ size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Monday, February 9, 2015, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

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

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 1:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

END OF SECTION 00 11 13 - 1

Publish: February 8, 12, 2015

	Late bids/proposals will be returned unopened. Plymouth Canton Community Schools will not consider or accept a bid/proposal received after the deadline stated herein.		
4	PCCS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals and waive any informality or irregularities in any qualifications should the School District consider this right to be in its best interest.		
	Public Opening of RFP's.		
Public '	Location of the public opening shall be:		
Opening & Reading of Pricing	Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170	Feb. 17, 2015 1:00 PM EST	
PCCS RFP Review	Review of Proposals by PCCS Bid Evaluation Team.	Feb. 17, 2015	
Post-Bid Review Conferences	Interview shortlisted candidates. Date(s) and time(s) are subject to change. Shortlisted candidates will be advised of their post-bid review conference either by phone or email. The decision to interview candidates is at the sole discretion of the Owner.	Feb. 18 - 19, 2015 (times to be determined)	
Award Date (on or after)	Intent to Award Contract shall be conducted on or after this date.	Mar. 24, 2015	
Published: February	5 and 8, 2015	LO-0000230033 3x4	

ADVERTISEMENT

Request for Proposals

Plymouth Canton Community Schools

"21st Century Classroom Project - Phase 2"

Sealed responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be accepted for the 21st Century Classroom Project at the Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center located at 454 S. Harvey St, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

D:22 only with the Pre-Rid Process as prescribed held

Bid	On or after the aforementioned date, an Invitation-to-Bid will be available to interested Vendors. Request for Proposals (RFP) drawings and documentation, which describes the project in detail, will be available by contacting Russ Gill russ.gill@stantec.com at Stantec Architecture (formerly NUW Composition of the stantec of the stanted stantecture)		
Publication	SHW Group) email only. Site visitation shall be scheduled on February 4, 2015 at 3:00pm at West Middle School, located at 44401 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170	Feb. 2, 2015	
	A second visitation will be scheduled on February 5, 2015 at 3:00pm EST (if required).		
-	A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held at the following location:		
	Plymouth Canton Community Schools	Feb. 4, 2015 1:30 PM EST	
Pre-Bid	E.J. McClendon Educational Center		
Meeting	454 S. Harvey St.		
	Plymouth, Michigan 48170		
	Attendees shall meet in the PCCS "Board Room" at the appointed date and time.		
Bidder's Questions	Deadline for all questions pertaining to this RFP shall be issued in writing (email) and directed to the Bid Administrator: russ.gill@stantec.com.	Feb. 11, 2015 by 12:00 Noon EST	
Answers to Bidder's	Responses to questions will be issued on an addendum and submitted through NewForma to the interested Vendors.	Feb. 12, 2015 by 3:00 PM	
Questions	Deadline for delivery of bids.	EST	
Proposals Due	Proposals shall be delivered as stated above to the following address:	Feb. 17, 2015 by 1:00 PM EST	

LOCAL NEWS

TEACHER

Continued from Page A9

from the members of the social studies department who have put in countless hours" and "have always been there," as well as the school staff and music teacher Scott Cramer who, with his students, provides the entertainment for the dances. This year's Vietnam USO dance will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in the high school cafeteria

"Six hundred people were at the first dance and last year, there were 700," Anderson said. "This year I told them we may need a bigger venue for the Vietnam veterans. The Korean and World War II veterans who attended want to come back.'

state and national Teacher of the Year awards, Anderson also has received the Michigan Historical Commission's John B. Swainson Award for her efforts to preserve the memory of Michigan's defense workers and World War II veterans. She also has been VFW District 4 Teacher of the Year and, last year, she and Cramer received the Voya Financial Unsung Hero Award.

In addition to the

Ingham admits that the national award "is the most distinguished award I've had the privilege to be associated with.

And he said of Anderson, "I couldn't be prouder of her."

smason@hometownlife.com 734-674-2332

Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860

EXERCISING JUDGEMENT

Common sense says that if a person starts jogging and a knee begins to hurt, stop jogging. This admonition may be sound advice if one is young and otherwise healthy. This advice may not be in a person's best interest who is old and not in good condition.

If one is older, and for this discussion, older would mean over age 50, it is best to find out why the knee hurts, correct the problem and return to jogging. The best medicine a person can take is regular exercise; nothing substitutes for it. Fulfilling this requirement becomes imperative in a Michigan winter.

Now the days provide little sun and no warmth; the incentive each morning is to stay home as long as possible. The elderly, people over age 70, often have the opportunity to remain home all day. Physicians will tell their patients don't take that option

Staying home leads to hardly moving: Going from living room to kitchen to bathroom back to living room to watch television, then later to the front door to pick up the newspaper at the doorstep, is not exercise. To bones, joints and muscles such movement is hardly more than hibernation. The body needs activity, the brain requires stimulation, and the heart wants contact with others. To accomplish these ends requires movement.

In turn, movement depends on the elderly person exercising judgment. Each person has his or her set of circumstances: is with a partner or lives alone, has macular degeneration or remains able to drive, has recurrent heart failure or is in general good health. Individuals must pick their way so that despite their liabilities or with the assets they possess, they find a way to satisfy the needs of body, brain and heart

Online videos explain water bills

You're probably not alone if you are confused about how your water bill is generated.

Now there are online videos that help explain that process to customers

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's Technical Advisory Committee Water Rates Work Group created a Billing

Process Improvement Subcommittee to identify best practices for presenting information on suburban retail water bills.

Subcommittee members developed a set of videos to help suburban retail customers throughout the service area better understand their water bills and the costs associated with providing this service.

The latest video explains how using less water does not lower the fixed costs to supply it. Other video topics include the real cost for a gallon of municipal water, how to reduce your water bill and why rates keep going up.

The videos can be viewed on the DWSD Outreach Operation Clean Water YouTube Channel.

Cut! State rep wants film fund ended

By Kathleen Gray and Julie Hinds Michigan.com

LANSING - A Republican state representative wants to bring the curtains down on incentives given to the film industry to produce movies in Michigan.

The incentives were extended last year to last until the end of 2021, but state Rep. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway, wants to see them ended when the state's new fiscal year begins Oct. 1. "I want to see if we

can't use that money better somewhere else," he said. "I don't see where the money we're putting into film incentives is creating a sustainable industry.

He has introduced a bill that would end the incentives this year. And with a new, more conservative Legislature installed in the state Capitol, the legislation could gain some traction.

And the biggest cheerleader for the incentives former Senate Majority Leader Randy Rich-ardville, R-Monroe, who increased the incentives from the \$25 million a year proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder to \$50 mil-lion — won't be around to save the incentives in 2015 because of term limits

"It's surprising that people who are relatively



JOHN FROELICH | MICHIGAN.COM A Detroit scene during filming of "Batman v. Superman Dawn of Justice."

new come in and look at a \$50-billion budget, and they want to concentrate on one-tenth of 1 percent," Richardville said. "But there's a bigger picture that people are missing.

In fiscal year 2014, 27 projects were approved for nearly \$64 million in film incentives on a projected \$245 million in in-state spending. They were expected to generate almost 2,200 hires with a full-time equivalent of roughly 1,300 jobs

The largest project to film here last year was

Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice, the big-budget movie starring Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill. It's shot in and around Detroit and East Lansing and used Pontiac's Michigan Motion Picture Studios as a filming site and home

base. Batman v. Superman was given the OK for \$35 million in incentives on an anticipated \$131 million in Michigan spending. This year, six movies, two television shows and seven digital media projects are expected to be made in

Michigan, according to the Michigan Film Office.

The passage in late 2014 of Richardville's bill to keep the incentives alive through 2021 was considered a positive signal to Warner Bros. which has a slate of DC superhero movies planned through the rest of the decade. Michigan is among the leading contenders for location work.

Batman v. Superman director Zack Snyder told WXYZ-TV before leaving town that "it's my hope to come back."

In addition, the state has invested pension money into the burgeoning film industry in the state and to bail on it now would be fiscally irresponsible, Richardville said. The state of Michigan Retirement Systems, which manages the pension funds of state employees, teachers, police officers and judges, guaranteed \$18 million in tax-exempt bonds that helped finance the building of the Pontiac studio. "Sometimes they for-

get to look that during the program, the state has invested pension funds in a motion picture studio," he said. "So we're on the hook for it."

Lauwers said he would love to see a robust film industry in the state, "I just don't want to have to buy it.'









Kensington ice harvesting program offers hands-on look at local history

By Laura Colvin Staff Writer

Fans of Disney's Frozen recently had a firsthand experience of the movie's opening scene when Kensington Farm Center presented its annual Ice Harvesting program.

Those who have never seen the wildly-popular animated film were welcome, too, of course, as Farm Center staff talked to visitors about ice harvesting: why were blocks of ice once cut from a frozen body of water the Huron River, in this case - and how?

The event also offered participants a chance do some ice harvesting of their own

Some 100 people turned out last week for a look in the past.

"Ice harvesting used to be big business here locally," said Kensington Farm Center Interpreter Chris Williams, who headed up the weekend events. "We had a commercial ice house just a few miles from (the Farm Center) and another in downtown Brighton."

Before introduction of refrigerators and freezers, he added, the ice harvesting business was listed as one of the "top 10 money makers" in the U.S., but became obsolete by about 1950.

Still, once every year, in late January or early February, Williams lays a grid of 2- by 2-foot squares on the frozen river to show visitors how it was done, using



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Chris Williams talks to the crowd about the history of ice harvesting.

5-foot-long ice saws, ice tongs and pike poles to demonstrate cutting the ice, popping out the blocks, ferrying each to the edge of the water and out of the water.

After the demonstration, visitors were invited to try for themselves.

"Those 2-by-2 blocks weight about 200 pounds apiece," Williams said, noting, ideally, ice was harvested once it was frozen to a thickness of about 12 inches. "Sometimes we've got 3- and 4-year-olds who want to try, so we'll cut it down to smaller sizes for the kids."

Williams, who boasts his own set of ice harvesting tools, collected over the years at antique shops, estimates he's been demonstrating ice harvesting at the Farm Center for about 18 years now.



PHOTOGRAPHER Four-year-old Ethan Anderson of Brighton gets some help from his dad, Pete Anderson, as he pushes a large block of ice with a pike during an ice harvesting demonstration at Kensington Metropark's Farm Center.

"I get a lot of personal enjoyment out of it," he said

lcolvin@hometownlife.com

HAL GOULD I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER White Lake residents Sean Montaglione, 10, and Gabriel Puckett, 11, try their hand at ice harvesting.



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300-plus same-sex marriages recognized by state

By Tresa Baldas Michigan.com

In 1993, Lisa Bashert's partner proposed to her by phone, popping the question while she was at work.

More than two decades later, Bashert would learn her nuptials were valid — this time by text.

At 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, Bashert received this text message from her partner of 26 years: "Snyder just recognized our marriage."

The text from Beth Bashert was referring to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who announced Wednesday that Michigan will recognize more than 300 same-sex marriages that were performed during a brief window of opportunity last year.

Lisa Bashert, 57, and Beth Bashert, 54, of Ypsilanti were among those couples as they officially tied the knot in a ceremony that included a rabbi, chuppah, 80 guests and a cake with roses. They had had a commitment ceremony years before, but this was the real deal: a wedding, in their home state and it was legal.

"I don't know what to do. I'm just speechless," Lisa Bashert said, noting the gay-marriage issue has been a decisive one in Michigan. "It's just been so up and down, up and down ... and after so many ups and downs it's hard to have an emotional reaction. It's hard to really let it into my heart."

It's also not the end of the real struggle: to legalize gay marriage for everyone, "not just the 300 of us who happened to have the opportunity on that day last year," Bashert said, adding she is relieved that Snyder

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acted as he did.

In a boost to the escalating gay-marriage movement - it's legal now in 36 states - Snyder said he will not appeal U.S. District Judge Mark Goldsmith's ruling last month that Michigan must recognize 300 samesex marriages that were performed last March. The marriages were performed after another federal judge - U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman — overturned Michigan's voter-approved same-sex marriage ban on constitutional grounds.

That decision got overturned on appeal and is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, which will ultimately decide the gay-marriage issue. The state of Michigan had long argued that it would not recognize the 300 same-sex marriages that were performed last

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KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL | MICHIGAN.COM Beth and Lisa Bashert of Ypsilanti embrace before getting married at the Washtenaw County Clerk's Office in Ann Arbor on March 22.

March pending appeals. But Goldsmith said the state had to because, he held, the marriages are valid.

"The judge has determined that same-sex couples were legally married on that day, and we will follow the law and extend state marriage benefits to those couples," Snyder said.

State Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland, one of the co-authors of the 2004 constitutional amendment that banned gay marriage in Michigan, said he was disappointed with Snyder's decision.

"I think it's a sad commentary on the state of the modern judiciary when something that is the subject of law is illegal one day, then for 12 hours it's supposedly legal, then it's illegal again," Glenn said. "I think that kind of confusion breeds disrespect for the law."

Glenn said he believes Michigan voters, not judges, should be allowed to decide if same-sex marriage is a good idea or not. He said he supports the will of the 2.7 million voters who decided in 2004 that marriage in Michigan should be defined only as a union between one woman and one man.

"My duty is to the state Constitution and to the people of Michigan, regardless of what one federal judge says," Glenn said, adding: "I'm disappointed with the decision that the governor made."

Snyder's decision stems from a lawsuit that was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan last year on behalf of eight same-sex couples who wed immediately after the state ban on gay marriage was overturned. Their marriages were in limbo as the state had refused to recognize them, until now.

"We're thankful that the state finally has made the wise choice to acknowledge the vows that these couples made and to recognize the love that these families share," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. "We're elated that, with the recognition of their marriages, these couples no longer have to live under a dark cloud of confusion and uncertainty."

State Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, who is one of two publicly gay men in the Legislature this year, echoed that sentiment, noting he was a witness at the wedding of two friends who were among the 300 same-sex couples married last March.

"Their long-term commitment to one another is no different than any other marriage recognized by the state," said Moss, who both commended Snyder for recognizing the 300 marriages and criticized him for supporting the gaymarriage ban to begin with.

So did Oakland Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, who has long been a vocal opponent of Michigan's ban on samesex marriage, which was approved by Michigan voters in 2004.

"While I'm thrilled that Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette are respecting the decision that the marriages performed on March 22 last year must be recognized, I wish they would have done the same with Judge Friedman's decision on same-sex marriage," Brown said, adding the state is "continuing to waste taxpayer dollars to discriminate against those who were not fortunate enough to get married during that small window.'

As for the same-sex marriages that have been validated, Brown said: "It's a shame that it took nearly a year. ... The important thing is to not give up the fight."

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum applauded Snyder for his decision, stating: "Love has won today. ... This is a critical step forward in our fight to secure the freedom to marry for all Michiganders."



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SECTION B (CP)

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SPORTS

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

P-CEP athletes sign the dotted line

Nearly 40 from Park sign to play college sports By Tim Smith

Staff Writer

Nearly 40 student-athletes from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are primed to continue their respective sport in college, following Wednesday's National Signing Day events.

Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools each hosted hour-

ATIONA

long signing events Wednesday afternoon, running the gamut from Big Ten football to Divi-

MORE TO COME

There will be additional coverage of National Signing Day in the Thursday, Feb. 12, and Sunday, Feb. 15, issues of the Observer. Also check www.hometownlife.com for more

Canton football players Adam Armesto and Colin Caflisch will go to Columbia and Michigan State universities, respectively. Another D-I athlete is Louisiana State University-bound volleyball player Olivia Beyer, a four-year standout at Plymouth.

Salem's Kylie Knight will play women's soccer at Ohio State University. She does not play for the Rocks, however, instead performing for the Elite Clubs National League's Michigan Hawks U18 team.

Not all who donned college hats, sweatshirts and T-shirts will be attending major universities, but that didn't dim their enthusiasm - or that of

coaches, teammates, family members and friends who attended the signing events.

Following are those who the three Park high schools listed as college signees, as of Wednesday

CANTON:

Football: Armesto (Columbia University), Caflisch (MSU)

Volleyball: Kayla Buford (Rutgers), Chloe Homco (Olivet Nazarene), Courtney Kurkie

See SIGN, Page B4

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

sion III cheerleading.



Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler (center) is proud of the fact two of his players will be playing NCAA football: Columbia-bound Adam Armesto (left) and future Michigan State player Colin Caflisch.

Big-time schools nab Canton football players

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

When Adam Armesto and Colin Caflisch were on the football field for the Canton Chiefs, they turned heads with their athletic ability and work ethic. Both are standout students, too, which did not escape the

FOOTBALL DUO

ADAM ARMESTO: The 6-6, 240-pound Armesto will play tight end at Columbia. He carries a 3.8 grade-point average and will pursue a degree in business. His parents are Carlos and Irene Armesto.

COLIN CAFLISCH: At 6-4 and 280 pounds, Caflisch is slated to be backup long snapper and offensive lineman at Michigan State. He carries a 3.2 grade-point average and will pursue a career in computer science. His parents are Todd and Debbie Caflisch.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

She's eager to earn her stripes

Plymouth's Beyer primed to become LSU Tiger

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Nobody has worked harder at athletic pursuits and done so with as wide a smile as Plymouth's Olivia Beyer.

And the reward is something to beam about for the talented volleyball middle blocker.

Beyer took part Wednes-day in National Signing Day ceremonies, thrilled to finally make official her long-standing commitment to play Division I volleyball in the front row at Louisiana State University.

"It was kind of an easy choice because I knew once I visited LSU, that that's where I wanted to go," Beyer said. "It took a lot of hard work practicing with Plymouth and with my club team (Rochester-based Legacy).

She said LSU volleyball coaches Fran Flory and Jill Lytle Wilson were "the favorite coaches that I met," making her decision even easier to make.

They had great things to say, great things that I need to improve on and I just was very impressed with their coaching staff," Beyer said



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO Louisiana State-bound Olivia Beyer powers home a shot for Plymouth during a 2014 game.

attention of Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler, talking about the two young men during Wednesday's National Signing Day program. "It's not an easy thing to go

on to the next level and play football," Baechler said. "That's whether in the Ivy League, Division II or even Division III and certainly in the Big Ten. It

doesn't happen every year. It's pretty special.

"And the better your grades, the more doors are open for you."

Armesto, who played tight end for the 2014 Chiefs before a quad injury sidelined him, will play for Columbia University, an Ivy League school in New

York City.

Besides football talent, he carries a 3.8 grade-point average

The Ivy League isn't classified as Division I, but rather as a NCAA Football Championship Subdivision.

See CANTON, Page B3

"And I also really liked the volleyball team and the cam-pus. It just felt like home. "I knew right away I

couldn't see myself going anywhere else. I just thought it was a really cool atmosphere and really cool campus.

People person

Just as thrilled about the full-ride, four-year volleyball scholarship was her dad, Jonathan Beyer. (Not able to make the signing event was her mom Carissa.) 'It's obviously really ex-

See BEYER, Page B4



MICHIGAN HAWKS

Salem senior Kylie Knight drives the ball during a recent Michigan Hawks U18 game. Knight will play college soccer at Ohio State University.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY Ohio State is right for Knight

Transition to Big Ten soccer doesn't phase Michigan Hawks player

By Tim Smith Staff Write

Kylie Knight already knows all about the rigors of highlevel club soccer.

Because she does, the Salem High School senior is confident she'll have no problem adjusting to life as a Division I women's soccer player for Ohio State University.

"As far as club to Ohio State, I think it should be pretty similar," Knight said shortly after it was her turn to pose for National Signing Day photographs in Salem's main office. "It's a high level, good competition. I think it should be a new challenge, but pretty similar.

Knight is a standout centerback for the Livonia-based Michigan Hawks U18 women's team that competes in the Elite Clubs National League.

The Plymouth resident also played in Salem's program

during ninth and 10th grades. Her ongoing career with the Hawks really kicked her skills and work ethic up a notch, Knight explained

"My coach (Doug Lande-

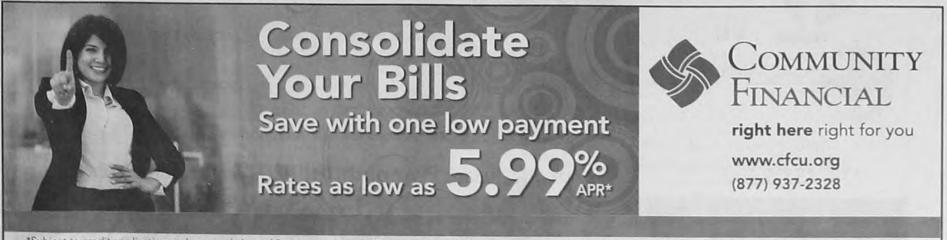
feld) has helped me a lot," she said. "He puts a lot of emphasis on fitness, focus, determination, commitment - everything you need to be successful in college.

"It's a high level. I'm used to traveling. I think it'll prepare me well.

Not blue about OSU

Salem's royal blue colors served as a backdrop for Wednesday's signings (seven student-athletes took part), but Knight didn't mind strolling in wearing an Ohio State sweatshirt complete with block red letters.

See KNIGHT, Page B5



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'Cats win on buzzer beater

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

It was shades of Mike Nadratowski's winning basket four years earlier, in the same gym.

Plymouth senior Randall Aikins took a feed at the top of the lane and hit a runner as the horn sounded Friday, giving the Wildcats a 57-55 varsity boys basketball victory over the host Canton Chiefs.

"It means a whole lot," Aikins said in the still-noisy Canton gymnasium. "Me, Deji (Adebiyi), Josh (Reynolds), basically the whole team's been waiting on this moment since as long as I can remember."

The win was Plymouth's first over Canton since the 2010-11 season.

Aikins — who led the Wildcats with 19 points — had just tied the game at 55-55 with under a minute to go, canning a trey from the right corner.

He got the ball again with about 20 seconds left, looking to make the play that would give his team its first win over Canton in his three-year varsity career.

After his initial attempt to win the game missed the mark, Plymouth teammate Deji Adebiyi scrambled to get the loose rebound. Adebiyi then passed the ball to Aikins at the top of the key.

key. "I thank my guys down low for tipping it out to Deji and he made a great pass to me, he saw me open," Aikins said. "I knew I had to execute off it. I couldn't let my team down."

Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup called it a "gritty, gutty win, one that quite frankly we needed."

As for the way Aikins stepped up, Soukup not-



ed that "what a good two-minute span for that young man, I'm real proud of him."

According to Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy, whose team is 10-3 overall and 5-2 in the division (tied with Livonia Churchill), it was a night of extreme runs by both teams.

"We had a bad run in the second quarter, we weathered that storm," Reddy said. "We had Logan (Ryan) out and Greg (Williams) out with foul trouble.

"The subs did a nice job of weathering the storm," Reddy said. "Then in the third quarter, we were up six (36-30) and then Plymouth went on a 13-0 run, but again, credit our guys for fighting back again."

Leading the Chiefs (10-3, 5-2) with 19 points was junior Obi Okoli who scored his team's first six points. Contributing 14 each were Ryan and Williams.

In addition to Aikins, the Wildcats' offense was fueled by the longrange shooting of Reynolds (15 points on five triples). Junior Brent VASILNEK The gamewinning shot leaves Randall Aikins' fingertips, giving Plymouth a 57-55 KLAA victory over Canton.

MICHAEL

Davis chipped in with nine.

Plymouth (9-4 overall, 4-3 in the KLAA South) trailed 15-10 after the first quarter, but roared back thanks to some hot shooting from behind the arc in the second to go up 27-26 at halftime.

The Chiefs then surged ahead in the third, taking a 36-30 lead with five minutes left following a jumper by Ryan.

Just like that, however, the Wildcats went on a tear to lead 48-40 entering the fourth. Aikins led the way with six points during that span.

Once again, Canton bounced back and finally regained he lead at 50-49 on Williams' reverse layup with 3:25 remaining.

It looked like Canton would hang on, still up 55-52 following a basket by Jalen Cochran with 1:20 to go.

That's not what happened, of course, with Aikins giving his team and fans the kind of ending they hadn't seen in quite a while.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Late magic sparks Plymouth

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

There were stretches of Friday's varsity girls basketball game between Plymouth and Canton that weren't pretty.

For example, the visiting Wildcats did not record a field goal until the second quarter. They were down 31-30 with a minute to play and the KLAA South Division lead on the line.

Then came a timely steal by Plymouth senior Paige Slominski and the ball got into the hands of senior Kendall Wing who calmly knocked down a trey with 11 seconds to go to put the Wildcats up, 33-31.

That turned out to be the final score, enabling the Wildcats to improve to 11-2 overall and 7-0 in the division. Canton, meanwhile, dropped to 7-6, 5-2.

"We just kept our composure," Plymouth senior Patti Begoske said. "We can always count on Kendall Rose and all our big shooters to finish for us."

Rose (eight points) had only recorded two points until connecting on a triple from the left corner with 1:05 left in the game to tie things up at 30-30.

Canton regained the lead at 31-30 when sophomore Erin Hult (a gamehigh 11 points) split a pair of free throws with under

a minute left. Then came the key sequence that led to the winning basket by Rose

winning basket by Rose. The Chiefs picked off a Plymouth pass in the Canton end of the floor, but then Slominski got the ball right back.

"We felt like over 32 minutes, our press was going to make plays when we needed them most," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "Kendall made a couple unbelievable shots, but I think the power of this team is the way we trust our



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Erin Hult (front) and Plymouth's Nadia Lengel (right) wait for the basketball to come down during Friday night's contest.

system and the way we trust each other. That was on display again."

Although Canton players were disappointed with the heartbreaking loss, they showed head coach Kevin Palmer they weren't about to throw in the towel on the rest of the season.

"I'm happy with the way that the girls responded after the game," Palmer said. "We kind of talked, they're disappointed, they're frustrated with the outcome. But they're not going to let that game define our season."

Canton still has an outside chance to catch Plymouth; both teams play three games this week (including a makeup game from Tuesday's snow day).

Beyond that, the teams can meet again in the KLAA conference tournament and district. There wasn't much

offense early on, with the first quarter ending 6-6. It



Canton then went up 26-20 after three, closing out the quarter strong on jumpers by Hult and junior Natalie Winters (six points).

The Chiefs maintained an edge for most of the final quarter, only relinquishing it late thanks to the hot shooting of Rose and Plymouth's pressure defense.

"This was a huge game for us," Brandon said. "I give Canton a lot of credit, they gave us everything we could handle for 32 minutes."

Also helping the Plymouth cause were senior Courtney LaVallee (10 points, five rebounds) and Begoske (four points, six boards).

Canton junior Madison Archibald also scored six points.

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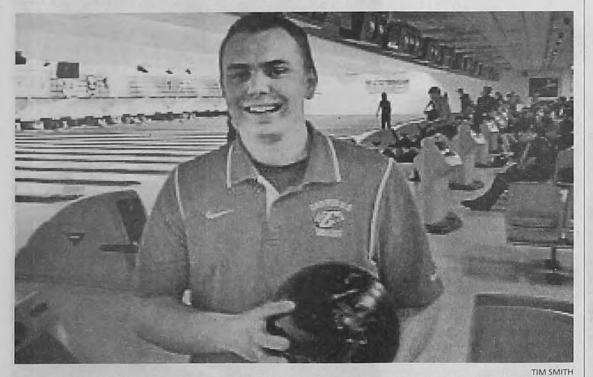
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CRISCENTI SIGNS WITH SIENA HEIGHTS



An injury forced Josh Criscenti to give up basketball for bowling. He has thrived enough in his new sport with the Canton Chiefs that he earned a college scholarship with Siena Heights.

HITTING THE POCKET

Former cager overcomes injury, hits stride as bowler for Chiefs

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Nailing a 7-10 split to help your high school team win a Baker game ranks right up there with basketball slams, as far as Canton senior Josh Criscenti is concerned.

OK, a lot of casual sports fans wouldn't agree with him. But Criscenti loves to bowl as much as shoot hoops, and he competed in both sports during his prep years.

It took a devastating knee injury as a freshman for Criscenti to get from point A (bas-ketball) to point B (bowling). And soon, he will make a beeline for point C — when he bowls next year at Siena Heights College. Criscenti last week signed his national letter of intent to go

to Siena Heights, where he will bring the kind of competitive fire he always brought back during his basketball-playing

days. "I love any competitive atmosphere no matter what sport it is," said Criscenti, averaging over 200 in his second season with the varsity Chiefs. "Bowling's great, especially when we get into this high school season and get into match play.

"When it comes down to a couple balls, it doesn't get any better than that. It's being able to throw a ball under pressure. It's great."

Something new



Josh Criscenti recently signed to bowl at Siena Heights University. In the front row, Josh (middle) is flanked by parents Dave and Pam Criscenti. In the back row (from left) are Canton bowling coach Karl Brubaker, sister Ashley Criscenti and Siena Heights coach Charles Cain.

bowling trainer over a two-year

span. "The hardest thing with the people I coach is getting them to understand the game, getting them to understand the game, getting them to understand what good bowling's supposed to look like," Kapke said. "But as far as his own work, his own research, watching bowling, watching videos, watching the PBA on

"He's just such a hard worker and made my job easy, real-

Still a fan

Perhaps ironically, Kapke now is in his first season as varsity bowling coach at Plymouth.

"I still root for him," Kapke admitted. "It's tough, they're bowling against Plymouth right now but I still root for him, I still watch him out of the corner of my eye.

Criscenti didn't begin his new sport until a month before

"Before sophomore year. "Before sophomore year I had no idea how to bowl," Cris-centi explained. "He started me completely from scratch before I ever picked up a bowling ball and he developed my game to this, he's been a huge help."

The student obviously learned from the teacher.

His passion

With Canton's varsity boys bowling team, Criscenti racked up an impressive 258 score and he threw a 300 game over the summer in the Teen Trio Scholarship League. In the latter, he registered the highest average score (219).

According to Dave Criscenti, as crushing a blow as his son's knee injury was at the time, things have worked out almost magically.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

College pitch to their liking

Plymouth baseball players look forward to playing at next level

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Plymouth senior first baseman Seth Hubbard wore a big smile and a nifty Concordia University baseball cap following Wednesday's National Signing Day festivities

Hubbard then laughed when jokingly asked if the Cardinals cap still fit his head, considering it might be getting bigger thanks to signing to play college baseball.

"I just got it today, it feels real good," said Hubbard, tugging on the bill of his cap. 'It fits good. ... I do have a big head.'

Also chuckling nearby were Plymouth varsity baseball coach Jason Crain, and Wildcats catcher-third baseman Andrew Jossey, who signed to play at Saginaw Valley State University. Jossey also will be a Cardinal, as both Concordia and SVSU use that nickname.

"I think it's exciting," said Crain, about the signings 'And it's a commitment that us as a coaching staff has made as a team, to find anyone that would want to play at the next level and help them get there."

At Division II Saginaw Valley, Jossey will become future teammates (in the 2016 season) with former Wildcats catcher (and hockey goalie) Rich Guglielmi, a 2012 Plymouth grad.

"It will be nice to have somebody from Plymouth," said Jossey, who batted .335 in 2014. "I mean, I can remember when I used to go to the camps. He was the catcher and he worked with me a lot. He helped me a lot. I'm sure

he put in a good word." Jossey, however, confirmed that he'll have to put his hock-ey career on hold. He currently is playing for Plymouth's juggernaut varsity boys hockey team, but after this season, he'll hang up the skates for a while.

"Unfortunately, yes it does," Jossey said. "All I can look forward to are the alumni games.'

The opportunity to play at SVSU is something Jossey (whose parents are Pat and Jackie Jossey) is understand-ably enthusiastic about.

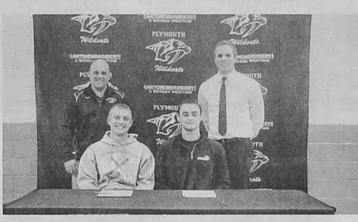
"I'm really excited for it," he said. "I'm excited about the scholarship and excited to play there.

Hubbard, another .300-plus hitter, said it was an easy choice to pick Concordia (an Ann Arbor school in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics).

"It's a super nice campus and it's a smaller school, which I like," said Hubbard, whose parents are David and Michelle Hubbard. "And the coaches have been great through the whole thing, so that's why I wanted to go there.

Both seniors, owners of grade point averages in the 3.2 vicinity, will pursue business degrees.

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PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS

Plymouth seniors Seth Hubbard (seated, left) and Andrew Jossey (seated, right) take part in National Signing Day ceremonies. They will play college baseball at Concordia and Saginaw Valley State, respectively. Standing (from left) are Wildcats baseball coach Jason Crain and school athletic director Kyle Meteyer.

Not so much was the dislocated knee that he suffered in 2011-12 playing freshman basketball at Canton. It rudely closed one door — but unbeknownst to Criscenti - would lead to another one opening.

"I've loved basketball all my life, and then freshman year I got my injury, I dislocated my knee," said Criscenti, whose parents are Dave and Pam Criscenti of Canton. "And I just wanted to compete. So I joined a sport that had less contact to

"Tve been working hard and Siena Heights has a great (bowling) program. I was very lucky to have them recognize me and I'm excited to go there."

His college chance wouldn't have been possible without Scott Kapke, a longtime family friend who was Josh's personal "It's tough, but he's a great kid and Dave has been one of my best good friends for 30 years so I root for him like heck."

Kapke said he could tell from the start of their training sessions that Criscenti had the competitive drive to want to take on a new sport, and excel.

"I could tell pretty early on what my vision was for what I thought his style would be," Kapke continued. "I knew he wasn't going to be somebody who (used) the whole lane like a lot of kids.

His strength is repeating shots. He's just a machine. He doesn't throw the biggest hook in the world, but he understands it's about knocking the pins down, not about hooking the whole lane. He's a great spare shooter, and he just gets it. He understands it."

Blazer signees

"That was a serious injury,' the elder Criscenti said. "He fought through it and he found a love in bowling. And through Scott and the Canton program good things came out of it.

"He's made a lot of friends, a lot of teammates, it's been a wonderful experience. We're very proud that he's going to be going to Siena Heights.

Not only does Josh Criscenti enjoy racking up high scores for the Chiefs, he can't get enough of the bowling environment.

"You always hope your kid finds something he loves to do with a passion," Dave Criscenti stressed. "And he found it and he's now currently working at a bowling alley (Vision Lanes in Westland).

"He's in a bowling alley practicing every day. It's just amaz-ing what it does."

CANTON

Continued from Page B1

Regardless, Columbia is a major program and prestigious university - drawing big-time praise from Baechler.

They loved him, they came over here a lot," Baechler said. "And, obviously, what a student, too, to even have an Ivy League school looking at you, let alone wanting him to come

play football. "What an opportunity for both of them, but for Adam, to go to Columbia and if he does what we think he'll do as far as school goes, what a bright future."

Paying his dues

Headed for the Big Ten and D-I play is Caflisch, a long snapper and lineman who has a roster spot at Michigan State University.

By the letter of the law, only Armesto signed his national letter of intent, however.

That's because Caflisch is joining the Spartans as a pre-ferred walk-on, meaning he does not have an athletic scholarship in hand.

"Preferred walk-on (means) I'm on the team," Caflisch said. "I get accepted into the school, I get all the treatment a scholarship player would get,

"So I got to pay for the first year or two and then I got to earn that (starting) spot.

Baechler doesn't think Caflisch - no slouch academically with a 3.2 GPA - will have any trouble finding his mark with MSU.

"He's the best long snapper we've ever had," Baechler said. "I wish I could take credit for it. He already came to us already knowing how to long snap and got nothing but better

"He can zing it back there. He had an offer at Grand Valley to play tackle or guard, too, but what an opportunity to go to Michigan State.'

As a freshman, Caflisch will back up the senior incumbent, while helping out on the offensive line.

If all goes according to his plan, he'll be a starter in 2016, maybe even getting a football scholarship after all.

Like Armesto, the 2014 season was shortened by injury for Caflisch. He tore an ankle ligament in the second game and missed the rest of the year.

"I'm really grateful to get an opportunity of this caliber and size, especially since I didn't play (most of) my senior season because of the ankle injury," Caflisch said. "But I'm just really grateful to get this amazing offer."

On the radar

For both players, missing chunks of their senior season didn't cost them because they attended numerous summer football camps and combines.

What really got me the offer was going to their camps over the summer," Caflisch said. "And just winning their hearts there and proving to them that I can play." Armesto said he attended 15

summer camps.

'And to get known," he said, "I went to a lot of different colleges and then kind of narrowed down my decision."

It didn't take Armesto long to know the campus on Upper Manhattan would fit him perfectly

"I'm really excited, it's a great place to be," Armesto said. "I visited the campus a couple times and there's no other place I'd rather be going to college.

'It's a great opportunity. I had an injury this season, they looked through that injury and I'm just excited to play there."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



VIC FOURNIER Five Livonia Ladywood High student-athletes recently signed college letters-of-intent including (from left): Adriana Roman, soccer (Central Michigan University); Sam Riga, soccer (Grand Valley State); Morgan Larkin, softball (University of Michigan-Dearborn); Andrea Kwasniewicz, soccer, (Northwood University); and Kate Morris, soccer, (North Carolina). Roman runs track for Ladywood, while Riga, a Plymouth resident, was a Division 2 first-team all-state selection for the Blazers' soccer team, which reached the 2014 state semifinals. Larkin was an outfielder for Ladywood's Division 2 state runner-up softball team, while Kwasniewicz returns to the Blazers' soccer team after missing her junior year due to injury. Morris, a four-star recruit for the Tar Heels, has been in the Olympic Development Program and plays club soccer for the Michigan Hawks.

LOCAL SPORTS

Wheeler signs with Delta

Salem senior looking forward to college basketball career

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

It's true that Allante Wheeler will be playing men's basketball in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association next season.

But that's just fine with the 6-4, 175-pound Wheeler, a Salem senior forward who signed with Delta College, a two-year school located southwest of Bay City.

"I thought Delta was a great fit for me," Wheeler said after having his photo taken on National Signing Day at Salem. "I love the coaches, the playing style, the campus and everything.

"I feel like they'll help me take my basketball talents to where I want them to be."

Longtime Salem varsity boys basketball coach Bob Brodie also gave high marks to the MCCAA and is confident Wheeler will become an important player at Delta, where he is expected to play the small forward spot.

"He's been a great player for us, very versatile," Brodie said. "He plays inside and out



SALEM ATHLETICS Looking to launch an outside jumper earlier this season is Salem's Allante Wheeler.

for us and he's going to be a great fit for Delta. I'm glad he got that opportunity." Brodie added that Wheeler wanted to keep playing and that "any choice that's a good fit for him will be a good fit for the team. It's good quality ball, people don't think it's good quality ball. But if you get out there and watch it, they're tough basketball players."

Wheeler, averaging around 10 points a game for the Rocks, also considered going to Albion or Adrian colleges, "but Delta just stood out the most." He said he talked to Salem

He said he talked to Salem alum Chris Dierker, who plays men's basketball at Madonna University (as does another Salem grad, Tyler Stewart) about the move from high school to college.

"Chris said it's a different level of basketball," Wheeler said. "But he said it's fun."

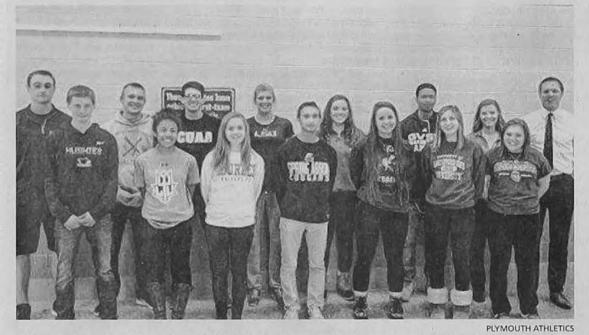
Of course, Wheeler, whose parents are Tracee and Kareem Wheeler, has immediate business to attend to at Salem

The Rocks are playing for a division crown and — hopefully — more than that during the state tourney.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



SALEM ATHLETICS Salem senior Allante Wheeler is happy about signing to play college basketball at Delta.

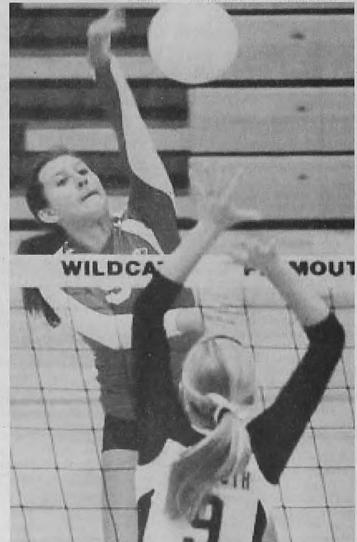


An impressive group of Plymouth High School student-athletes poses for a photo after National Signing Day festivities. At far right is Plymouth athletic director Kyle Meteyer.



Continued from Page B1

(Michigan Tech). **Women's soccer:** Kelsey Cheaney (Siena Heights), Chloe Donlin (Northwood), Cristen Pedersen





Olivia Beyer takes part in a signing ceremony Wednesday. She will play Division I volleyball at Louisiana State University. Seated next to her is her dad, Jonathan Beyer. Standing is Plymouth High School athletic director Kyle Meteyer.

BEYER

Continued from Page B1

"I actually have no idea (whether starting right away)," Olivia Beyer said. "Whether I'm a starter or not, I'm just excited to be part of such a great team."

(Aquinas).

Men's soccer: Jack Zemanski (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis).

Women's golf: Alyce Krumm (Northern Michigan).

Men's golf: Donnie Trosper (University of Central Florida).

Bowling: Josh Criscenti (Siena Heights), Aaron Madsen (Concordia).

Cheer: Jasmyne Testani (Davenport).

PLYMOUTH:

Football: Kalen Dunham (Grand Valley State), Deji Adebiyi (Ohio Wesleyan).

Baseball: Andrew Jossey (Saginaw Valley State), Seth Hubbard (Concordia).

Softball: Mikayela Marciniak (Oakland), Brittney Miller (Oakland).

Women's lacrosse: Michelle Burke (Lake Erie College).

Volleyball: Olivia Beyer (Louisiana State).

Women's soccer: Alyssa Swanson (Lourdes), Hope Sheffield (Lawrence Technical), Erin Winters (McNeese State).

Men's soccer: Jason Liguori (Spring Arbor).

Women's golf: Sydney Murphy (Ferris State).

Men's track/soccer: Nathan Harris (Concordia).

Women's cross country/track: Hailey Foster (Lake Superior).

Men's cross country/track: Matthew Pahl (Michigan Tech).

Cheer: Brittany Colvard (Eastern Michigan).

SALEM:

Football: Uday Singh (Hillsdale). Women's soccer: Kylie Knight

(Ohio State), Kaitlin Pelech (Western Illinois).

Men's basketball: Allante Wheeler (Delta).

Women's softball: Lara Piekacz (Albion).

Men's lacrosse: Mack Baker (Aquinas).

Women's cross country: Lauren Arquette (Kalamazoo).

Return to www.hometownlife.com and the Observer later this week for more articles about P-CEP college signees.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Canton's Courtney Kurkie (left) signed to play college volleyball at Michigan Tech.



Plymouth senior golfer Sydney Murphy (center) signs to go to Ferris State. She is flanked by mom Ruth and older sister Kelsey. citing," he said. "She's been gifted as an athlete, but she's also worked really, really hard and so it's paid off.

"She gets to be part of a team of people, some great coaches and just gets to have alongside a great educational experience a great athletic experience as well."

The lanky middle blocker — younger sister of 2011 Plymouth grad and University of Michigan football player Brennen Beyer added that she doesn't yet know whether she'll get to start as a freshman for the Tigers. part of such a great team." Beyer, teammates at Plymouth with older sister Emilee, hasn't yet decided on a career path, her dad noted.

But he's not worried about that.

"She's a people person," Jonathan Beyer said. "She knows she wants to be involved working with people, but that could go a variety of different directions.

"She's looking forward to exploring the different options."

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PREP WRESTLING

Rocks split KLAA crossover quad

The Salem varsity wrestling team split a pair of crossover duals pitting KLAA second-place teams against each other on Wednesday at Livonia Franklin.

After falling 45-25 to the Patriots, the Rocks rebounded to defeat White Lake Lakeland, 45-32.

With the result, Salem finished eighth in the field of 24 association teams.

Bruce Haslitt (140 pounds), Seth Dunn (145) and Caleb McCabe (152) all went 2-0 on the night.

"It was tough getting prepared for the duals tonight with the weather problems this week," Salem cocoach Jeremy Henderson noted. "You could really tell who sat on their butt and who got some workouts even when the schools were closed.

"We also had a ton of injuries and illnesses tonight but the kids who wrestled toughed it out and were able to dig out a win with a hobbled squad."



LISA BUSHAW Salem's Caleb McCabe (top) gains control over a Lakeland opponent at 152 during Wednesday's KLAA quad.

Roy Foster also had a good match at 189 against a top-ranked Franklin opponent.

"Roy lost to the kid 8-3 at the beginning of the year," Henderson said. "He lost tonight 4-3 and really had the kid on the ropes. Roy has really been improving all year and it shows; if he turns another corner he is going to be very dangerous in the next coming weeks."

hometownlife.com

LOCAL SPORTS

BOYS SWIMMING

Mustangs swimmers get job done vs. Salem

Northville stays perfect in KLAA Central with win

By Brad Emons Staff Writer

Northville's Rich Bennetts sounded anything but the winning coach following Thursday's 101-77 dual meet boys swim victory at home against Salem.

The Mustangs, who captured the meet's first nine events before Salem took the final three, improved to 8-1 overall and 3-0 in the KLAA's Central Division with the vic-

"We swam well to start the meet and then it all fell apart after the 500 freestyle," Ben-netts said. "We need to be able to finish if we are to have any chance to win this thing (Kensingston Conference meet on Feb. 28).'

All was not lost, however, as Northville's Matthew Schafer earned an MHSAA Division 1 state qualifying time in the 500 freestyle with a first-place



Salem's Charles Liu, shown from earlier this season, was part of the victorious 400-free relay team against Northville.

clocking of 4:54.72.

"I'm very excited for him," Bennetts said. "We did have some positives, but to end with such a thud like we did kind of takes away from what we did in the beginning. We will work on that a lot this upcoming week and see if we can improve next time."

Senior Fred Schulz, freshman Kirk Maibach and junior James Xue each figured in three firsts for Northville.

Schulz swept the 50 and 100 freestyles with times of 23.89 and 51.76, respectively, while Maibach added wins in the 200 freestyle (1:51.42) and 100 butterfly (55.94).

The two also teamed up with Nirek Sharma for a victory in the 200 freestyle relay (1:32.86).

Xue also captured the 200 individual medley (2:02.48) and teamed up with Larry Zhao, Chris Geng and Mark Kaminski for a first in the 200 medley relay (1:43.85).

The Mustangs' Christian Field also posted the top score in the 1-meter diving event (203.40 points).

Meanwhile, Salem's Brendan Wellman broke Northville's win streak with a victory in the 100 backstroke (57.24).

The Rocks' Nicholas Landon got credit for a win in the 100 breaststroke (1:14.59) for the Rocks, while the foursome of Wellman, Collin Urbacsewski, Charles Liu and Phillip Colling-wood got credit for a first in the 400 freestyle relay (3:38,97).

DUAL MEET SUMMARY NORTHVILLE 101, SALEM 77 Feb. 5 at Northville 200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (Larry Zhao, Chris Geng, James Xue, Mark Kaminski),

DIDERY

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1:43.85; 2. Salem (Patrick Casey, Charles Liu, Brendar Wellman, Noah Fleming), 1:47,47; 3. Northville (Fred Schutz, Yash Bajaj, Troy Stacer, Nirek Sharma), 1:49.33.

1:49:33. 200 freestyle: 1. Kirk Maibach (N), 1:51.42; 2. Matthew Schafer (N), 1:53.26; 3. Trevor DeGroot (N), 1:54.03; 4. Taiyo Ichikawa (N), 1:57.82; 5. Collin Urbacsevski (S), 2:02:35.

Urbacsewski (5), 2:02-35. **200 individual medley:** 1. Xue (N), 2:02.48; 2, Geng (N), 2:11.08; 3. Bajaj (N), 2:11.75; 4. Liu (5), 2:11.8; 5. Phillip Collingwood (5), 2:13.76. **50 freestyle:** 1. Schulz (N), 23.89; 2. Kaminski (N), 24.36; 3. Fleming (5), 24.51; 4. Sharma (N), 24.76; 5. Mike Scarantino (N), 25:14. 1. mester dividenti (Chircitae Field (N), 202.40.

1. mice Scaranuno (N), 23,14. 1-meter diving: 1. Christian Field (N), 203,40 points; 2. Michael Falzon (S), 190.00; 3. Jon Vary (S), 170.00; 4. Thomas Rys (N), 144,50; 5. Brendan Sibel (S), 144,30;

100 butterfly: 1. Maibach (N), 55.94; 2. Xue (N)

5:37.67

5:37.67. 200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Maibach, Xue, Schulz, Sharma), 1:32.86; 2. Salem (Fleming, Casey, Urbacsewski, Collingwood), 1:38.77; 3. Northville (John Duan, Geng, Bajaj, Shane Boran), 1:38.89 1:38.88

Bassa, 1:38.88.
100 backstroke: 1. Wellman (5), 57.24; 2. Zhao (N), 58.96; 3. Casey (5), 1:00.63; 4. Arthur Greenlee (N), 1:01.19; 5. DeGroot (N), 1:01.91.
100 breaststroke: 1. Geng (N), 1:02.53; 2.
Roman Grossi (N), 1:05.99; 3. Nikolai Arton (N), 1:06.44; 4. Bajaj (N), 1:07.36; 5. Sho Kikumori (N), 1:08.29.

1:08.72. **400 freestyle relay:** 1. Northville (Maibach, Kaminski, Zhao, DeGroot), 3:31.53; 2. Northville (Ichikawa, Stacer, Duan, Schafer), 3:36.4; 3. Salem (Urbacsewski, Liu, Wellman, Collingwood), 3:38.97. **Dual meet records:** Northville, 8-1 overall, 3-0 KLAA Central Division; Salem, 0-3 KLAA Central.

TONEMBROIDERY

CREEN PRINTING

PREP HOCKEY Stevenson bombards Canton, 6-1

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Canton scored first in Wednesday night's KLAA cross-divisional hockey game at Eddie Edgar, but host Livonia Stevenson had the last laugh.

Chief Connor Wherrett steered a Hunter Schlampp pass into the net 4:30 into the contest to put the team that had won just two of its first 17 games ahead, 1-0.

But the lamp-lighter proved to be a wake-up call for the Spartans, who tallied six unanswered net-finders in a 6-1 rout that saw Stevenson outshoot Canton, 59-11.

The victory improved Stevenson's record to 12-5-3 while the Chiefs slipped to 2-14-2.

'I think our energy was up tonight and we had a lot of sustained pressure, which is something we've been working on,' said Stevenson head

High Velocity camps

The High Velocity

coach David Mitchell. "We were able to control the game for the most part, so I give our guys a lot of pressure. It was a solid team effort."

Although he came out on the short end of a one-sided duel with Stevenson's Andrew Rozenbaum (10 saves), Canton goalie Nick Borg played like an expertly-programmed cyborg for much of the night as he defused 53 Spartan shots, including all 14 that he saw in the final 17 minutes.

Rozenbaum is one half of a stellar two-goalie platoon system for the Spartans, who have also been bolstered by strong play from Cullen Barber.

"Both of our goalies have been doing a great job of playing well when they get the opportunity," said Mitchell. "Andrew did a great job of keeping everything in front of him and helping us control the tempo.'

Junior Ben Kowalske was a point machine for the winners, knotting the game at 1-all with just 32 seconds left in the first period with a power-play goal assisted by Alex Allen. Kowalske also assisted on the Spartans final three goals, all of which came during the final 5:48 of the second stanza.

The ultimate gamewinning goal was deposited into the net three minutes into the second period by Stevenson's Alex DeFlorio, who was assisted by Randy Maples.

Nate Sudek then provided the hosts with some breathing room when he scored at the 10:54 mark.

The Spartans' backbreaking goal - at least as far as the Chiefs were concerned - was a shorthanded gem by Adam Olson that made it 4-1 with 5:48 to go in the second off an assist by Kowalske.

KNIGHT

Continued from Page B1

"I always wanted Big Ten and I just fell in love with the campus," said Knight, who carries a 4.1 grade-point average. "As soon as I stepped on campus, everything just felt right. I got a good vibe.

"Everyone kind of said, 'You'll get on campus and you'll get a feeling and then you'll know it's where you're sup-posed to end up.' That's what I got."

Ohio State won out in the recruiting game over the Buckeyes' archenemy University of Michigan. Louisville also recruited her.

Also helping her celebrate the beginning of her future were her mom, Susan Knight, and younger sister Alyssa (a freshman at Salem who also plays for the Hawks, but on the U15 Black team)

Yet Knight couldn't forget about the past on such an important day in her life.

Her dad, Chris Knight, died in 2013 after a two-year battle with cancer.

It's a good bet his spirit was hovering around Salem High School on National Signing Day, too.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

SALEM ATHLETICS National Signing Day was a happy one for Salem's Kylie

Knight, who is headed to Ohio State.

Not only was he a Canton High School grad and successful Plymouth Realtor, he also made

sure to watch Kylie and Alyssa play their soccer matches while growing up.

used before and after the following specialty camps:

Salem Baseball

Clinic March 28

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Sports Complex will host several Midwinter Break Camps Feb. 16-20 while **Plymouth-Canton Schools** are off. The camps include All-Sports Camp, Miki's Pro Soccer Camp, **Triple Threat Basketball** Camp, and Bricks 4 Kidz Minecraft Camp.

Those interested in participating are urged to pre-register by calling 734-487-7678 or going to www.hvsports.com.

Following is a brief glimpse at each offering:

» All-Sports Camp is offered to 5-13-year-olds and kids are run through sports stations by HVS coaches every 30-40 minutes. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but before care is offered starting at 7:30 a.m. and after care until 6 p.m. The cost is \$5/hour and parents can drop off and pick up around their schedule. During before and after care, kids can watch a movie, play board or card games, or play with handheld electronics brought from home in a proper case and clearly labeled. All-Sports Camp can also be

» Miki's Pro Soccer Camp-ages 5-17 9 a.m. to noon, \$135/week or

\$30/day Kids learn and improve skill development while working on speed and agility, ball control, shooting, and passing.

» Triple Threat Training Basketball Camp-ages 5-14 9 a.m. to noon, \$135/week or \$30 day

Troy Coleman and his certified Triple Threat Training staff train kids on the fundamentals of basketball including shooting, one on one and team drills, offensive and defensive drills.

» Bricks 4 Kidz Minecraft Lego Camp—ag-es 6-11 1-4 p.m., \$135/ week (no daily option)

Experience the world of Minecraft with LEGO Bricks in this exciting new camp. Kids will start by crafting their shelters and some of the mobs, critters, and tools using LEGO bricks. Campers will face new challenges each day building models and crafting key elements from the popular Minecraft game.

Salem Dugout Club is holding a baseball clinic for youngsters ages 7-15 on Saturday, March 28, in the Salem High School gymnasium. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with cost at \$30 per participant.

The day will be divided into two sessions, with kids ages 7-10 going from 9 a.m. to noon and those ages 11-15 participating from 1-4 p.m.

Salem varsity baseball coach John Wright, assistant coaches and varsity players will be instructing youngsters about pitching, hitting, fielding and baserunning.

For more info, send e-mail to salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com.

Delapaz new Cats softball coach

Lauren Delapaz was named new Plymouth High School varsity softball coach, succeeding Bev McManus.

Delapaz currently is an assistant coach for Canton's varsity girls basketball team and has served as an assistant coach for the Chiefs' varsity softball team.

MOTOR CITY OPEN Rodriguez wins squash crown in five-set thriller

By Marty Budner Staff Writer

Miguel Angel Rodriguez captured the biggest title of his 10-year professional career by winning the Motor City Open championship last month at the Birmingham Athletic Club.

The 29-year-old Colom-bian rallied for a thrilling five-set victory over South African Stephen Coppinger before a large and enthusiastic crowd at the BAC courts. The final score was 9-11, 11-7, 8-11,

11-7, 11-3. "This is a dream come true," Rodriguez said. "This is one of my favorite international tournaments, not only for the prizes, but for the squash committee here. They always take care of us very well. "I'm really happy," he

added. "This is one of my best months in my entire

career, making the semifinals of the (Tournament of Champions in New York in the previous tournament) and winning this tournament is something I will never forget.'

Coppinger, the word's 18th-ranked player, opened the title match with a two-point victory in a very close first set when neither player had more than a two-point lead. Rodriguez tied the match at one apiece by winning the final four points of the second set after it was tied 7-7.

Coppinger again took an advantage by winning the third set. With the score knotted at 8-8, Coppinger captured the last three points. The fourth set was tied at 5-5 when

Rodriguez won six of the final eight points to force a fifth and deciding set.

Rodriguez, who defeated eighth-seeded Mathieu Castagnet in a five-set semifinal, dominated the critical fifth set. Coppinger won the first point, but Rodriguez took the next seven and easily cruised to his first MCO victory in his fourth try.

Rodriguez and Coppinger each won three matches on consecutive days to get to the championship final. In those three matches, Rodriguez played 14 sets and Coppinger 15.

Rodriguez won the \$11,000 first-place prize and the Rolex watch donated by Greenstone's Fine Jewelry.





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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold a special meeting February 10 at 7 p.m. in the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact Carol Souchock at 734-453-0750, ext. 218.

5

SPECIAL MEETING

Publish: February 8, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE **Regular Meeting**

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting February 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

> Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street; Plymouth, MI 734-453-0750 x 217

Publish: February 8, 2015

NEW SENIOR THEATER TROUPE TAKING DONATIONS ONLINE FOR NEW SHOW

COMMUNITY LIFE

The new senior theater troupe, Better Than Ever Productions, hopes to collect \$1,000 in online contributions by Feb. 16 to fund its upcoming production in Westland.

B6 (CP)

SUNDAY.

FEBRUARY 8, 2015

"It's a big number for our group," said Jeanne Pruett, troupe president, who designed an online Kickstarter fundraising campaign. "If you don't collect it all, you get nothing. It's a big risk.

"T'm keeping fingers crossed. Every day something trickles in. We had one donation from Australia."

On Friday, Feb. 6, with just 10 days to go, the troupe had collected \$471 and still needed \$529. Kickstarter requires participants to meet their goal in order to collect any of its donations.

Pruett, 58, a Canton resident, hopes that visitors to the Kickstarter page also check out the group's video showing its members in previous stage productions.

"I wanted people to see how good this group is. When they see the video and see people dancing around the stage, they know this is a group that is not just hobbling along," she said. "This group is active. I think people dismiss others when they get past a certain age. This group proves people can do more."

"We get good audiences. I refer to us as the premier senior acting troupe in Michigan."

New name, new start

Audience members may recognize the 23-member group from performances at the Village Theater in Canton. Nearly all of the actors were members of the Still Got It Players, an arm of Spotlight Theatre in Canton. They worked together for five years with their director, Debbie Lannen. Last summer, after she retired and moved to Florida, most of the actors decided to start their own troupe.

They'll present *The Geezer Game*, written by Herb McCollom, Jr., an 83-year-old playwright from Pennsylvania, 1 p.m. March 19 and 26, 7 p.m., March 20-21 and 27-28 and 2 p.m. March 22 and 29 at Inspire Theatre, 5767 Executive Drive, Westland.

When the troupe first staged the play — as Still Got in *The Geezer Game*, and has been involved in community theater as both an actor and director for years.

Ray Fraser and Rich Pientak act out a scene in "The Geezer Game."

"I think the senior group by far is the most giving and caring group I've ever worked with. None of us is worried about the stardom we're about to achieve some day," he said, with a laugh.

"Inspire has been wonderful enough to allow us to come in. If this show is successful and the two groups meld nicely, maybe we'll do more together," he said. "At the same time, we're looking for other options. If someone has a space they'd allow a fledgling group to use, we'd be very open to that."

To find the group's Kickstarter campaign, go to Kickstarter.com and type in Better Than Ever Productions presents *The Geezer Game* in the search box.

To buy tickets to the show, go to inspiretheatre.com or call



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer the new senior theater the, Better Than Ever Proons, hears to collect



OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

staged the play — as Still Got It Players in Canton — McColnew troupe gets a "firm start." He's cast as "lovable" but poorly-dressed retired electrician

lom "brought his entire family

to Michigan to see the play,"

"He absolutely fell in love with us," she said.

When McCollom's play was

selected for the Midtown Inter-

Honored in New York

national Theatre Festival in

he requested the same cast.

New York, N.Y., last summer,

"We had a blast. It didn't

win, but it was nominated for best outstanding ensemble

production, up against other professional groups. It was an

In addition to presenting full-length plays at theaters,

to seniors at senior centers.

member of the Still Got It

Players in Canton, hopes the

Pruett hopes Better Than Ever

Productions also will reach out

assisted living homes and oth-

Jack Galazka, also a former

Pruett said.

honor."

er locations.

734-751-7057.

Ray Fraser, Terry Viviani, Gary Turnquist and Jack Galazka in "The Geezer Game."





Brooklyn Eve Bonga

BROOKLYN EVE BONGA

Brooklyn Eve Bonga was born Dec. 24, 2014 at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn.

Proud parents are Jessica Geiser and Christopher Bonga of Livonia.

Share your best wedding photo with O&E readers

What's your best wedding photo?

Was it shot while you exchanged vows barefoot on the beach?

Did it show off your designer attire, with an entourage of bridesmaids and ushers in tow?

Maybe it captured the sweet romance of a kiss at the altar. Or the tradition of cutting the wedding cake together.

Whatever the setting, attire or activity, the Observer & *Eccentric* wants to share your best wedding photo from 2014 and January 2015 with readers in its upcoming special section on weddings.

Tell us the names of the bride and groom, along with the date and place of the marriage. Send your best photo in a large format — as a jpg email attachment to sdargay@hometownlife.com. The deadline is 5 p.m. Feb. 16.

Speed Queen bucks the trend with five-year washer warranty

f I were going to write a stage play today, I would title it "Copacetic" and have a few hundred members of the audience as the main characters. I'd be sitting in a small office with a computer and the walls decorated with a 1948 NHL calendar showing the many greats of that period, a Red Wing Alumni Jersey, a large picture of Lefty Wilson, the longtime trainer of our past Red Wing hockey team, and numerous framed photographs of former greats in the NHL.

Homeowners would walk through a door and lie down on a leather couch and tell me about the failures of appliance products in their homes. Without a doubt, "Copacetic" would become the longestrunning play in history because people want to learn what is good or bad in the world of major appliances and they certainly don't want to waste their money on junk.

In the past week alone I have received a few hundred emails from readers of this column and their horror stories about a washing machine that is working in their laundry rooms. It is just flabbergasting to an old appliance repair man hearing the words, "stinks," "repeated repairs," "not enough water," "junk," "help," "dirty," "very lengthy cycles," "expensive," "lack of quality," and so many more negative comments to express a consumer's true feelings. Now, take this circle of newspaper readers and multiple it a few thousand times and can you image what owners of



clothes washers are going through.

Machine warranties

My God, it's just a washing machine, not a ship to the moon. Someone has to build a new washing machine one of these days that they might call a "Copacetic" or has it recently been done? The Speed Queen Company has just announced that its top load washer with electronic control has a full five-year warranty. That means that parts and labor are covered. This is a very big issue with me and most consumers. All the manufacturers used to have five years of coverage on many parts, which was limited, meaning you end up paying the labor. Three years ago all manufacturers dropped that standard and went to just one year of coverage, leaving homeowners high and dry after one year. I complained back then that this was all done at basically the same time by all the companies. That is called collusion and it's against the law. Ask Ford Motors about that fact. To see Speed Queen re-verse this with its five-year full warranty must mean that it has a lot of confidence in its product. But then again, it is an American product and the company can be proud of the quality we have always been

known for. Way to go, Speed Queen, we might even include you in the stage play.

I don't want any of you to think that I don't appreciate all of your communications and please don't stop. What would I write about if you didn't write me? Now to another subject I'm hearing about. It's called the Smart Meter and boy has it become a controversial subject across America. A recent headline in my hometown paper of Tim-mins, Ontario, is "Thousands of smart meters are ordered removed in Ontario." My computer is jammed with people reaching out to me for help on many issues with these meters. If all goes according to plan I will already have done an interview with an expert from DTE on my radio show by the time you read this column. I have much to learn on this subject and will reserve judgment until I get smarter on the subject. I still make the claim that I can't see our utilities installing an appliance on our homes that is going to cause health issues. I am also wondering if a bill proposed in Lansing to hold the turbine companies immune from lawsuits in the future should a turbine cause a medical problem for property owners. Well, more to come. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

ANNIVERSARY



SUBMITTED

Former Wayne residents Joe and Christine (Pedersen) Kadlec on their wedding day in 1965.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Joe and Christine (Pedersen) Kadlec will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Feb. 13. They were married in 1965 at First Presbyterian Church in Wayne.

The former Wayne residents reside on Lake Columbia in Brooklyn. They will celebrate their milestone event with a special dinner with fam-ily and friends.

life.com. **Gardeners** of Northville & Novi

Send material for the

Garden & Nature Calen-

dar to Sharon Dargay,

sdargay@hometown-

Sue Grubba will talk about using low voltage lighting, plants, and other materials to ensure your landscape is illuminated with dramatic effects. Social mixer is at 6:30 p.m., speaker at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, at Novi High School, 24062 Taft, at 10 Mile, Novi. The group meets in the Media Forum Room 198C. Park in the staff parking lot and enter through door 43. Visitors welcome. Nonmembers pay a \$5 donation. gardenersnorthville-novi.org

Butterflies

Brenda Dziedzic, author and co-founder of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA), will present "A Look Into the Lives of Monarch Butterflies,' exploring the Monarch's life cycle and challenges they face, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann arbor Trail, Westland. Parking on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for nonmembers. 734-223-5510; sembabutterfly.org

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Holliday Nature Preserve

Take a guided walk noon, Saturday, Feb. 21, and learn to identify trees along the way. The walk is free and starts at the Nankin Mill parking lot on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County offers a series of Tuesday night classes, that meet 7-8 p.m. at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Cost is \$10 each.

» Feb 10: Gary Eichen, plant health care/ bio-turf lawn manager for Mike's Tree Sur-geons in Troy, will identify which trees are best to plant in metro Detroit. He'll talk about soil biology and why soil is important in choosing the right tree.

» Feb. 17: Joe Barson, owner of Barson's Greenhouse in Garden City, will talk about the basics of water gardens, different kinds of waterfalls and water garden construction.

» Feb. 24: Kevin Collins, garden center manager at Ray Hunter Flower & Garden Center in Southgate, will talk about hydrangeas.



SUBMITTED Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association meets Feb. 18 in Westland

To register, email mgwwcorg@gmailcom

Educational conference

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gar-dening and All That Jazz Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Early bird tickets are \$70, \$80 after March 14. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. It

will include a garden market, presentations by Will Allen, CEO of Grow-ing Power; Matthew Benson, photographer, writer and organic farmer; and Kerry Ann Mendez, who teaches lowmaintenance perennial gardening. Entertain-ment by Kerry Price and The Dave Bennett Quartet. Pay online or download a form for mailing. Visit mgsoc.org. No registration at the door.

English Gardens

» Learn about landscape design at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at a

free presentation.

» The store's 13th annual Orchid Festival will include a free presentation on the introduction to growing orchids. along with a repotting demonstration, 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. At 1 p.m., get free, advanced orchid tips. The Make It & Take It workshop at 2:30 p.m. costs \$49.99 and will include everything needed to make an orchid garden. Sign up for the workshop at englishgardens.com.

» Learn about fresh flower arranging, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Free

» Create a fresh flower arrangement to take home, 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Fee is \$29.99. Sign up at englishgardens.com.

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

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OSBORN,



BLEICHNER SALLY ANN (LICHT) Age 80, mother of Robert ((the

late Pam), (Beja)), Terry (Susan), Patrick, Timothy (Lynne) and Mary Beth Davies. Wife of the late Robert Mlinarich and Donald Bleichner. Passed peacefully on February She is survived by 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. A resident of Redford for 50 years, but resided in California for the past 30, where private services will be held.





MURCH, PHYLLIS MARIE (WEEKS)

Of Jackson, Michigan passed away at the age of 83, at home in hospice, after a number of years treating ovarian cancer. Phyllis was born in Battle Creek, MI to Vivienne (McInally) Weeks and Charles Weeks. Phyllis graduat-ed from Dearborn High School 1949, served two years in the US Navy as a dental technician, and graduated from the University of Detroit as a dental hygienist. She worked more than 30 years in that profession, includ-ing 13 years with the State of Michigan Department of Corrections. After retiring in 1991, she and her husband traveled to nearly every state in the US and to a few countries in Europe, and they spent 12 winters in Mesa, AZ. Phyllis was particularly proud of her entire family, her service in the navy, her 50 years as a member of the League of Women Voters and the three times she hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. She is sur-vived by her husband of 60 years, Donald H. Murch; her sister Marilyn Trapp of Pittsburgh, PA; her three children Kimber-ley (David) Huffman of Cortland, NY, Douglas (Claudia) Murch of Marshall, MI, and Eric (Michelle) Murch of Ypsilanti, MI; and seven grandchildren. Phyllis often states that the mu-tual love, affection and respect she felt and received from her children and grandchildren – Adrienne and Caitlin Huffman and Corrinne, Emily Stuart, Olivia and Nathaniel Murch, was one of the great pleasures of life. Phyllis selected to be cremated, and there will be no funeral services. However, memorial gatherings have been planned for the spring in Jackson, MI and later in the Boston, MA area.

ELEANOR ESTHER Age 99, died January 30, 2015 at her residence at Sunrise Senior Living, Carmel, Indiana. Eleanor was born in Goshen, Indiana on October 17, 1915, to Elwood E. and Ruth (Lehman) Landis, and spent most of her adult life in Birmingham, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard J. Osborn, and son, Richard L. Osborn. She is survived by children, Victoria (Bill) Matishen of Somerdale, Joan (Rick) Henkle of Carmel, Indiana, and Mark (Thang) Osborn of Palo Alto, California and her seven grandchildren, Andrew (Vera) Matishen of Highland, UT, Rachel (Eric) Flickenger of Williamstown, NJ, David Matishen of Somerdale, NJ, Jeffrey (Sarah) Henkle of Zionsville, IN, Ben Henkle of NJ, Jeffrey (Salar), Zionsville, IN, Ben Henkle of Boston, MA, Greg Henkle of Chicago, IL, and Alison (Tom) Grant of Canterbury Kent, UK. Eleanor was also great grand mother to ten greatgrandchildren. Eleanor was a beloved, longtime friend to an extraordinary number of people including extended family mem-bers and in-laws. She was an avid golfer into her late eighties, and was active in the events of Oakland Hills Country Club of Bloomfield, Michigan. She enjoyed traveling, sewing, knitting, bridge, and taking family vacations with her children and grandchildren. She was well known as one who seldom complained and never had an unkind word to say about anyone A memorial service was held in St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel, on Saturday, January 31st. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to a charity of your choice. Leppert Mortu-ary - Smith Carmel Chapel, has been entrusted with memorial arrangements.



SNYDER, VICE ADMIRAL EDWIN K., USN (Ret.)

Age 92, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on 8 Janu-ary 2015. A true patriot and ad-mired leader, he embodied the best of the Greatest Generation. He will be deeply missed as a loving and devoted husband and father, and remembered fondly as a respected naval officer and friend. Born in Birmingham, Michigan, on 12 February 1922 he was the son of Edwin Stahl Snyder and Helen Claire Knowlson. He attended Baldwin High School where he was an outstanding athlete student. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with the wartime accelerated Class of 1944 on 9 June 1943. Upon completion of submarine training, he joined the crew of the USS Hake, making six war patrols in the Pacific campaign. Admiral Snyder's submarine career included tours on four submarines, culminating as commanding officer of the USS Irex. In February 1968, he became the commanding officer of the heavy cruiser Newport News (CA-148) in ceremonies held at the DMZ in Vietnam. Shore duty assignments included graduate education at Stanford University and the Navy War College, staff of the Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and the Office of Legislative Affairs in the Pentagon. Upon his selection to Flag rank in 1969, Admition to Flag rank in 1969, Admi-ral Snyder assumed command of the Amphibious Training Com-mand, followed by command of Amphibious Group Four and Amphibious Group Two in Little Creek, Virginia. In September 1971, Admiral Snyder became the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs as the Navy's representa-tive in all matters pertaining to tive in all matters pertaining to Congress. On 31 August 1974, Admiral Snyder received his third star and assumed command of the U.S. Taiwan Defense Command with headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of Chi-Following his retirement from the Navy, Admiral Snyder provided key congressional sup-port services for nearly ten years to the Navy through his company Snyder, Ball and Kriser. Admiral Snyder was an outstanding athlete, keen competitor, avid golfer and a long-time member of the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. A dedicated Washington Redskins Football fan, he was a 30 year season ticket holder. His great sense of humor and engaging personality drew peo-ple around him wherever he went. Admiral Snyder was predeceased by his devoted wife of 48 years, the former Nancy McCarty of Birmingham, MI, in 1994. He later was married to Nancy Isaman for ten years. He is survived by sons, Stephen Snyder (Mary), Ed Snyder (BJ) and Charles Snyder (Connie); daughter, Kathy Snyder, sister,

Ann Snyder Aikens (Bob); seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Admiral Snyder

will be inurned with his wife,

Nancy McCarty at the Naval Academy Columbarium with full military honors on 23 April



STEPHENSON. SHEILA KATHLEEN

Of West Bloomfield, died peacefully on January 16, 2015 at the age of 70. Sheila is survived by brothers, Mark G. Stephenson II of Grosse Pointe Woods and Neil H. Stephenson of Monroe. Her parents, father Philip G. Stephenson, her mother Blodwyn I. Stephenson, and her sister Faye M. Steuck, precede her in death. Sheila was born on August 4, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from The Juilliard School in 1969 with a degree in Piano Perform-ance. In 1982 She received her Master of Arts degree from Oakland University. Sheila was an accomplished musician and performed locally both as a duo-pianist with her mother Blodwyn, and as a soloist. She also was active as a church pianist and organist. Sheila was a very well respected piano teacher and taught piano her graduation from The Juilliard School until her passing. Sheila was a dedicated individual who lived her life surrounded by her passion for music. She was passionate about the environment and donated much to various animal support organizations. She was an active and dedicated member of the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in West Bloomfield and regularly accompanied the choir during their Sunday service. A memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, February 8 at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 4800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Sheila's life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Michigan Humane Society.



VAN BOVEN, CAROLYN DANT SNYDER

November 26th, 2014. Carolyn lived a vibrant 81 years. Her genuineness, deep faith and thoughtful ability to communicate well with people touched many lives in so many ways. Carolyn was born in Detroit, Michigan on June 24th, 1933 to M.E. "Shorty" Snyder and Vivian Dant Snyder. She attend-ed Adams Elementary, the Kingswood School in Birmingham and graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. There she met the love of John Van Boven, Jr. After Peter had a stroke, as a result of a sporting accident, she cared faithfully and lovingly for him for 20 years. They were married 3 weeks short of 50 years when Peter passed. She lived all of her adult life in Ann Arbor, Michigan and North Palm Beach, Florida. She was a faith-ful follower of Jesus, an optimist and philanthropist. Carolyn was generous with her time and energy and resources. She enjoyed spending time laughing and living life to the fullest measure. Her accomplishments include, but are not limited to: membership of Kappa Kappa Gamma in college and served on the alumni board of the Beta Delta Chapter for many years. She served as President of the Thrift Shop in Ann Arbor, was a G Chapter member of PEO. Carolyn sat many years on the board of the Lost Tree Chapel in North Palm Beach, serving a term as president. She was on several organizing committees for numerous fund raising causes. Carolyn was an astute businesswoman, world traveler, and had a deep love for the ocean. She will be missed by many, but she leaves us all with her inspiring attitude of grateful-ness to God in every circumstance. Peter and Carolyn had three children. She was predeceased by Charles, and survived by Andrea Van Boven Madden of South Hamilton, MA and James of Chicago IL. Carolyn was a loving and proud grandmother to her two grandgrandmother to her two grand-children Kathryn of New York, NY and Alex Madden of Columbus, GA. A celebration of Carolyn S Van Boven's life will be held Saturday, February 21st at 2pm, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor. The family requests wearing vibrant colors to celewearing vibrant colors to cele-brate her life and resurrection. Cards may be sent to 11270 Turtle Beach Rd #3, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. Instead of flowers, gifts may be sent to Lost Tree Chapel, 11149 Turtle Tree Chapel, 11149 Turtle Beach, North Palm Beach, FL 33408 or First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104.

ELMS. EDWIN "FRANK"

long time resident of Bloomfield Hills, passed away Sunday, February 1, 2015, at the age of 93. This beloved husband, father, 93. This beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather will be sorely missed by family. Born on March 31 1921, in Liverpool, England, Frank served in the Royal Cana-dian Air Force in WWII, and moved to the US in 1950 to start his own husiness. Ho is comined his own business. He is survived his own business. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean Elms, his three children, John, Glenn, and Lynn, and sister Dorothy McLennan. Frank will always be remembered for his devotion to family, love of knowledge, and sense of humor. For service information please For service information please contact Deanne Elms at (248) 941-5415

LANSING, ELAINE M. Age 81, of Livonia, died February 4, 2015. Arrangements by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home 248-474-4131





SHAW, PAMELA

46, February 4, 2015, of Westland, Michigan. Beloved daughter of Glenn (Patty) Shaw and the late Kathryn Shaw. One of a kind sister to Doug (Lori) Shaw, Lynette (Tony) Hobyak, Carl (Kris) Johnson, Steve Carl (Kris) Johnson, Steve (Sheila) Johnson, Holly (Frank) Cozza, Joelle (Steve) Boros. A fun and dearly loved aunt to Ryan, Trevor, Connor, Haley, Tyler, Christian, Josh, Justin, Bode, Brogan and Bridger. Pam successfully started her own commany. Advanced Property successfully started the own company Advanced Property Management. She enjoyed fish-ing, cooking, singing karaoke. When she was younger she took ice skating lessons, played soft-bell end of the started softball and used her musical talent to master the violin. She loved anything purple and had a special love for her cats. Funeral Services were held Saturday at Uht Funeral Home, Westland. Donations may be made to the





May you find comfort in family and friends

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HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth-based foundation funds brain injury initiative at U-M

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

The University of Michigan Health System will open a new emergency center treatment area on Feb. 16 that will be equipped to offer the most advanced care to patients with a traumatic brain injury in the first crucial hours of their crisis.

"That is what I'm most excited about," said Brenda J. Massey of Plymouth, whose family foundation recently donated a significant gift to U-M Health System for traumatic brain injury research, technological innovation, and patient and family support. U-M Health System recognized the family's generosity by naming the new emergency treatment center in their honor. The Joyce and Don Massey Family Foundation Emergency Critical Care Center, or EC3, will be among the first of its kind in the United States.

"They now know there is a 'golden hour,' and if you can get to a person who is injured quickly and give them the most appropriate treatment, that's the best outcome," Massey said. "Instead of going to the ER and getting stabilized, you're already in a critical care area and there is no time lost in treating the patient."

Massey said the new ER area would have appealed to her father, Don, who was devoted to his



Joyce and Don Massey

wife, Joyce, a "quiet woman" who was the "music and joy" in the Massey family. Joyce sustained a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 1983 and died 10 years later. Don, who owned a network of car dealerships, including a flagship location in Plymouth, until they were sold in 2002, died in 2011.

"The purpose of the Foundation is to look for ways to improve treatment of closed head injury. It was my dad's mission to give generously to head injury (programs and research) so other people would have a better outcome than we had."

"It's really a part of their love story. They were two fortunate peo-



Kyle Gunnerson, M.D., (right) the director of the EC3 at U-M Hospital, talks with a team of nurses and residents as they prepare for patients at the new EC3.

includes:

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ple who met the 'right

one' and remained in love

all through lives togeth-

er," Massey said, adding

that the work of the

Foundation was "ex-

her father.

tremely important" to

She said the Founda-

tion began working with

U-M Health System ap-

design a plan, the Joyce

Massey TBI Program,

that will accelerate im-

brain injury treatment.

the finest hospital in

surrounding states as

well. We've had a very

good relationship with

According to U-M

Health System, the Joyce

University Hospital.'

Massey TBI Program

provements in traumatic

'I believe U of M is

Michigan and probably in

proximately a year ago to

» A Massey EC3 Clinical Research Program, which will create the clinical infrastructure to evaluate and implement new diagnostic tools, monitoring techniques, and therapeutic strate-gies for ultra-early treatment of TBI and other critical illness and injury. It includes a database that will allow researchers to analyze data on all critically ill and injured patients treated in the Massey EC3. This program will be headed by Kyle Gunnerson, M.D., the emergency critical care physician and associate professor of emergency medicine who oversees the EC3.

» A Massey TBI Technology Innovation fund, which will accelerate innovative research to produce the next generation of technologies to revolutionize the care of

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TBI, helping to restore victims to their pre-injury status. Teams of U-M physicians, scientists and engineers will compete to receive technology development awards to fund work on devices, diagnostics, therapeutics and digital health. This program will be overseen by Kevin Ward, M.D., a professor of emergency medicine who directs the Michigan Center for Integrative Research in Critical Care.

» A Massey TBI Translational Research Program, which will seek to improve TBI patients' long-term outcomes by developing and testing new diagnostic tools, more sensitive monitoring techniques, and better early treatments that can be used in the first few hours of TBI treatment. This program will be headed by Hasan Alam, M.D., an acutecare surgeon who heads the Section of General Surgery in the U-M Department of Surgery.

» A Massey TBI Patient & Family Support Fund, which will assist patients treated in the EC3 and their families, giving need-based support to those who lack resources during a patient's hospitalization for such costs as travel, lodging and meals, as well as adapting their homes and buying special equipment not cov-ered by insurance for post-TBI living. The U-M departments of Social Work and Emergency Medicine will oversee this fund.

» An annual Massey TBI Summit, featuring a Massey Lecture and the latest findings from U-M teams and leading experts from across the country working on cutting-edge TBI research. The inaugural summit will be held Sept. 25 in Ann Arbor.

"With this generous gift, the Massey family and foundation have expressed great confidence in the ability of our researchers to change TBI care," said James O. Woolliscroft, M.D., the U-M Medical School dean, in a press release. "Their remarkable vision will enable our care teams to explore creative ideas that ultimately will lead to more effective treatments for TBI patients."

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Atchinson Ford has received the President's Award from Ford Motor Company, which is Ford's highest honor for customer satisfaction.





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JOBS



By Robert Half

One of the most effective tools in your job search is the informational interview. These meetings provide you with an opportunity to build your network of professional contacts, learn more about career paths that interest you and, ultimately, enhance your employment prospects.

Although they're not meant to elicit job offers, these discussions offer exposure to people who are in a hiring position or can recommend you to colleagues. As a result, it's critical to approach informational interviews the right way. Here are some tips to remember:

Reach out appropriately

Email or call the person you hope to interview with a concise explanation of who you are, why you're contacting him and what you hope to gain from the meeting. Be clear that you are seeking information only, not a job and ask for 30 minutes of time at most

Because it's often hard to get the attention of someone you've never met, a referral from a mutual friend can help in setting up an informational interview.

Come with clear goals

Unlike a job interview, where a hiring manager would lead the discussion, you are the one





How informational interviews CANhelp your career

responsible for setting up this meeting and driving the conversation. So, make sure you know what you want to gain from the discussion. Are you considering a switch to a management track and interested in what steps a person working in that role took in her career? Do you want to transition to a new information technology

specialty and garner inside tips for working in that area?

If you start the meeting with no objective, your contact will be inclined to cut the discussion short, so be sure to have targeted questions ready. For instance, if you are seeking advice on becoming a consultant, you might ask how the person got his start consulting or about the biggest challenges he has faced as a project professional.

Do your homework

Make sure you are knowledgeable about your contact before you meet. You should have at least a general understanding of the person's professional history and background on her employer. This will allow you to ask relevant questions and solicit appropriate assistance.

It's also likely you'll be asked about your own background and career interests, so be ready to talk about your goals and accomplishments.

Remember to listen

Have a sincere interest in what your contact has to say. The person is likely to offer more advice and more in-depth advice if he or she knows you are invested in the conversation. Even if his suggestions aren't what you wanted or expected to hear, respect the guidance given to you.

Taking notes can help demonstrate your interest and help refresh your memory of the conversation later.

Don't ask for a job

While your ultimate objective may be to find a new job, you should never ask for one at an informational interview. The goal of the meeting is to build your knowledge about a particular topic. The person may feel deceived if you don't follow through with the intent of the discussion.

Even if you don't ask for work directly, you could be considered for an available opening or receive a referral to a manager who

is hiring if you make the right impression.

Show your gratitude

If you have ever helped a colleague or sent someone a thoughtful gift only to receive no word of thanks, you know how discouraging it can be. The last thing you want to do is make a contact feel unappreciated, so be sure to send a thank-you note within a day or two of the meeting.

Informational interviews are a useful career strategy. Just be sure to prepare carefully, listen and follow through to create a lasting, positive impression with those you meet.

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SEEKING: Multi-Media Sales Representative michiggon



The Observer & Eccentric, part of michigan.com, a Gannett Company, is seeking a Multi-Media Sales Representative for our Milford/Highland/ White Lake territory who will be responsible for developing relationships and consulting with clients while providing an opportunity to contribute to the long-term success of a high growth and progressive company. Our ideal candidate will be an innovative, result driven, high energy, creative sales representative with the ability to think strategically and to assist clients by developing strategic, multi-media advertising campaigns.

Must be able to manage multiple priorities, requests, programs and be dedicated to exceptional customer service. Develop new business and grow market share by using a variety of customer centric sales programs and audience solutions. Make solid marketing presentations that sell the value, provide customer centric audience solutions and close the sale.

If you are seeking a position that will allow you to be a strategic seller working with a multi-platform, market leading team in a culture that thrives on creating and executing big ideas that provide solutions to benefit the prosperity of customers, then we encourage you to apply today to join our team!

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in marketing, advertising or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- 3+ years of related experience is required.
- A strong understanding of digital media platforms to include search engine marketing, social media, online display, mobile & other digital solutions.
- Documented record of success in a goal-oriented, highly accountable environment.
- Ability to conduct a needs assessment, identify marketing and advertising solutions for clients, develop proposals and experience in delivering sales presentations
- Technical proficiency in Microsoft Office especially PowerPoint and Excel.
- Experience with CRM technology, Salesforce.com preferred

This opportunity offers competitive compensation and benefits package including 401(k), health, dental, three weeks paid vacation, and more. If you meet the above criteria, we encourage you to apply for this position at: http://bit.ly/1vmiEhu. EOE



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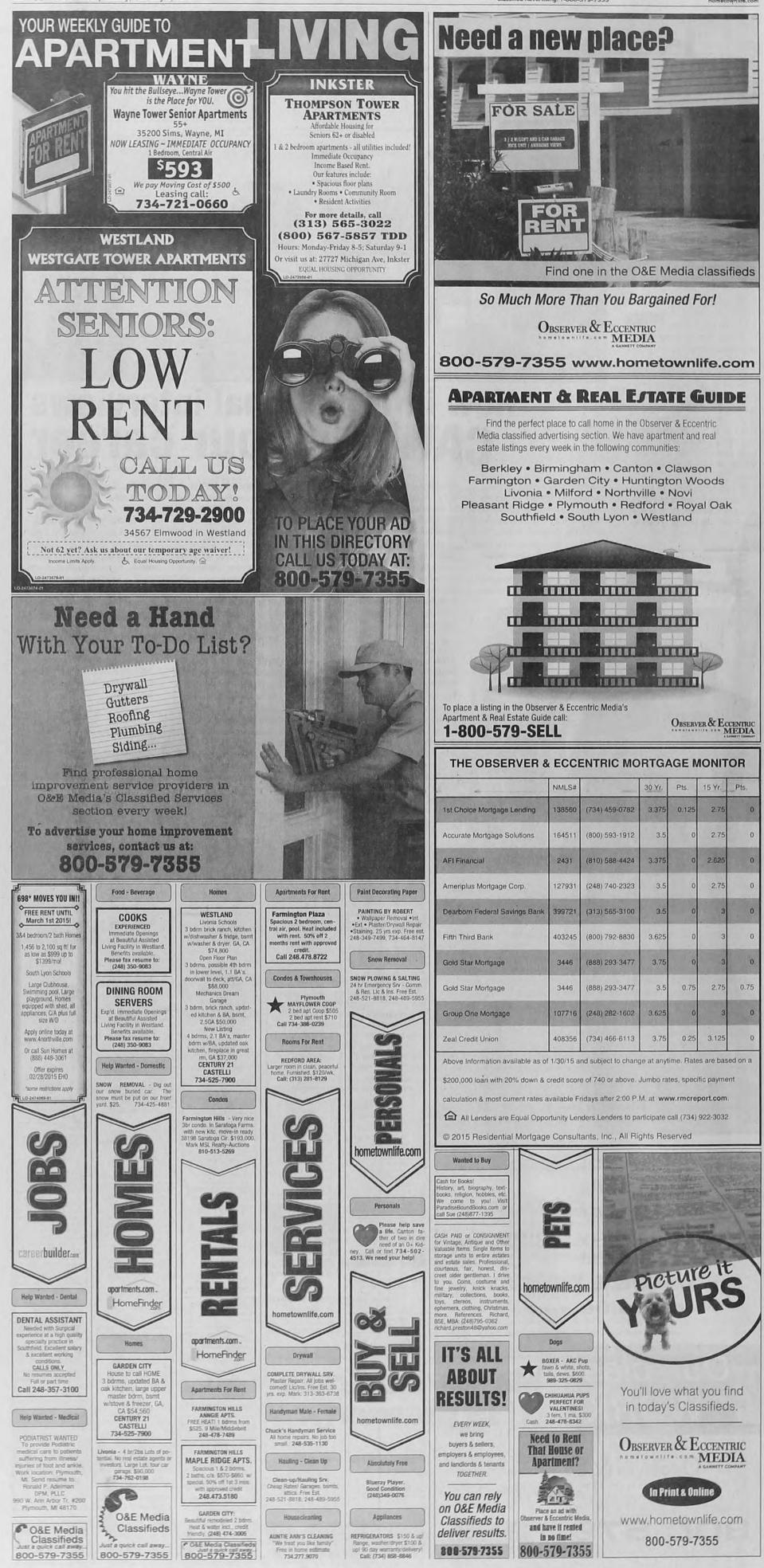
O&E Media's Jobs Section In Print & Online

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Car Report

Jeep Comes Up Big in Role As Key Brand, At Home and Abroad.



Jeep just keeps on proving its mettle in its role as the key brand for Fiat Chrysler, both at

At home, Jeep led all other Fiat most other brands in the entire U.S. auto

performance out of

the box in January, with domestic sales rising by

home and abroad.

Chrysler brands - and industry - with its

envisioned when they introduced it last year.

And now on the heels of all that success comes the new Jeep Renegade, the small crossover that is being built in Italy in the same plant with the new Fiat 500X. Renegade surely will boost Jeep further as it addresses the key, fast-growing compact-SUV segment in the U.S. market - and abroad.

also chose Jeep to make its annual

Speaking of abroad, Fiat Chrysler "statement" advertisement during the

Jeep hopes the all-new Renegade takes brand sales to a whole new level.

23 percent, to more than 51,000 units. That was about two-thirds more sales last month than the company's next-best-performing brand, Ram, whose sales rose by 21 percent.

Jeep posted its 16th consecutive month of yearover-year sales gains as Cherokee, Wrangler, Patriot and Compass each logged their best-ever sales for the month. The all-new Cherokee keeps looking like the huge hit Fiat Chrysler product planners

Big Game this year. The company actually ran three ads during the contest on NBC. Two of them already had appeared online and were making their TV debut: Fiat used humor in the tale of a peripatetic "blue pill" that highlighted the robust appeal of the relatively large Fiat 500X; and a spot for Dodge featured centenarians

raucously celebrating a century of life and the 100th anniversary of the brand.

The only all-new creative showed up in a spot for Jeep that effectively communicated the brand's rising global ambitions - but also invited potential controversy. The 90-second advertisement operated on three different levels.

"Beautiful Lands" certainly presented the new Renegade. One of the last messages in the ad is the printed line, "America's smallest, lightest SUV.'

The 90-second ad also served up an environmental message and ended with the tag lines, "The World Is a Gift. Play Responsibly." Then, in a reference for which no further explanation is provided: "Water Is Life. Help Provide It." Jeep explains its involvement in water.org in a news release.

And unfolding as it did against the strains of the Woody Guthrie-penned anthem, "This Land Is Your Land," the Jeep ad also invited a potential raising of eyebrows in at least a couple of different ways.

For one thing, the ad, playing out over the first few stanzas of the song written by Guthrie in 1940, segued from a travelogue of beautiful scenes from across the United States into a global pastiche that included vistas of the Great Wall of China and the Christ statue overlooking Rio de Janeiro.

So, which land was made for you



The dependable Wrangler is still selling well.

and me? Apparently the world. Jeep is the main brand engine for Fiat Chrysler's ambitions to become a truly global car company. Did American viewers appreciate the ad's reminder that the iconic star-spangled marque, whose original vehicles were fabled for their service in the U.S. military during World War II, now belongs to the entire globe? It'll be interesting to see.

After the ad ran during the Super Bowl, Fiat Chrysler released a statement in which it said that "Beautiful Lands" takes "a unique and surprising twist upon the iconic piece of music, 'This Land is Your Land,' written as a crowning tribute to America's homeland, and expands its interpretation into a global celebration of all lands across the world."

"The catalyst that takes viewers on an unexpected musical and visual odyssey, [the ad] creates a connection to show the Jeep brand's evolution. As

performed by recording artist Marc Scibilia, the song and the 'Beautiful Lands' video share a message of freedom and reverence, and also introduces 'This Land Is Your Land' to a new generation of fans, inviting a fresh and new appreciation for the song."

But actually, another reason the ad's creative might be perceived as provocative is because of the barbed origins of "This Land Is Your Land." Though it's become an American classic, the song is understood to have been a sort of commentary by Guthrie, from the left - and in particular, a response to Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," sang by Kate Smith, which was ubiquitous at that time. Shared politics are certainly a reason that Guthrie's folk-singing son, Arlo Guthrie, and Pete Seeger are said to have performed the song more often than anyone else.



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