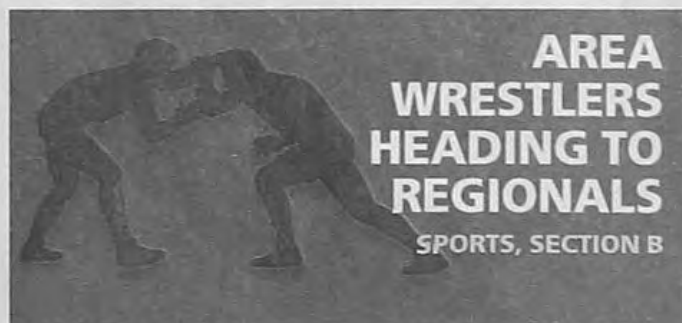


CANTON OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015 • hometownlife.com K1



**AREA
WRESTLERS
HEADING TO
REGIONALS**
SPORTS, SECTION B

Canton man facing trial for pizzeria burglaries

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Barring a plea deal, a Canton man is facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges he broke into two pizzerias in Canton and Plymouth townships before police say he was captured in Canton attempting a third incident.

Spencer Jurcak Hall, 23, was ordered to stand trial Friday after he waived his preliminary hearing in 35th District Court. He could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted as charged.

Hall, charged after a series of incidents involving Jet's Pizza shops, has been released on bond and a not-guilty plea has been placed in his court file.

Hall's troubles began after police say he was arrested about 4:15 a.m. Jan. 26 near the Jet's shop near Cherry Hill and Canton Center, where a suspect was captured fleeing the scene of an attempted burglary.

The arrest came after authorities say two other Jet's locations had been broken into after 1 a.m. the same day, in-



Hall



RIVA SAYEGH-MCCULLEN | HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM

Canton brothers Gabriel (left) and Ethan Fritz have sold one of their LEGOs projects to the Henry Ford Health System.

Sold! Canton brothers sell LEGOs art to health facility

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton siblings Ethan and Gabriel Fritz have celebrated a new building block for their business as Brick Brothers, a dynamic duo creating meticulous artwork from LEGOs.

They sold a Henry Ford Health System sign for \$500. The brothers used an estimated 2,000 LEGOs to make

the blue-and-white logo that now adorns a waiting room wall of the Henry Ford Medical Center-Canton on Haggerty, north of Ford Road.

"It's really cool, because people can stop in there and maybe they'll want to buy some of our stuff," Gabriel, 12, said.

Ethan, 14, called the Henry Ford piece "one of our biggest projects." The young entre-

preneurs estimate they spent 20 hours or more creating the sign, which measures about 5-by-2½ feet.

Sporting ties and their blue Brick Brothers shirts, Ethan and Gabriel gathered with their father, Shane Fritz, and Henry Ford employees Friday inside the medical center waiting room for a formal ceremony to unveil the artwork.

"It's in a very prominent location, next to the check-in desk," said Pat Lecznar, Henry Ford senior marketing specialist. "It looks really good."

The boys hatched the idea for the sign on their own, even though their uncle, Dr. Joseph Crow, works for the Henry Ford Health System, includ-

See LEGOS, Page A2

See BURGLARIES, Page A2

Robotics team set for new challenge

By Brad Kadrach
Correspondent

With the six-week build season behind them and a three-district competition season that starts next week, Plymouth-Canton's FIRST Team 862 robotics team is hoping for another trip to the world championships.

Before they get there (it's April 22-25 in St. Louis), though, the 123 members of FIRST 862 have to overcome a build season complicated by snow days to get ready for the Feb. 27 competition at Howell.

"Once again, snow days and school closings have interrupted our schedule, so we almost have a completed robot," FIRST 862 academic adviser Jay Obsniuk said. "This year we are also building a practice robot, so the programming and drive team will be able to work on getting better and then transfer that to the competition robot when we take it out of the bag."

Lightning Robotics recently released the 2015 robotics game, a competition called Recycle Rush played by two alliances of three robots each. Robots score points by stacking totes on scoring platforms,



Fabrication team member Vivian Clements mills parts during the build season for Flash.

capping those stacks with recycling containers and properly disposing of pool noodles, representing litter.

In keeping with the recycling theme of the game, Obsniuk pointed out, all game pieces used are reusable or recyclable by teams in their home locations or by FIRST at the end of the season.

The biggest challenge for the 123-member team (Obsniuk said it's the largest team Plymouth-Canton has ever

had) will be figuring out the "best way to play the game." Obsniuk pointed out that, in past years, teams competed head-to-head with the other alliance, making defense a viable part of the team plan.

This year, each team has a chance to earn "coopertition" points by coordinating with the other alliance in the match. Since the top eight teams are chosen by points only, helping

See ROBOTICS, Page A2



The annual scholarship program is one of the programs the Canton Community Foundation funds every year.

Foundation to celebrate 25 years with gala

By Brad Kadrach
Correspondent

For 25 years, the Canton Community Foundation has been handing out grants, scholarships and monetary support to a variety of causes, events and groups in the local community.

For the next six months or so, the foundation will be acknowledging the silver anniversary of all the success, publishing stories on its website acknowledging the many

ways foundation programs have helped.

And Saturday, March 7, the foundation will celebrate the whole thing with the Project Give Gala, a fundraising event designed not just to look back, but also to look forward. The event runs 6:30-11:30 p.m. at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

"This is a celebration and looking back at the past 25 years," said Beth Meade, the

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LEGOS

Continued from Page A1

ing the Canton facility. Then, they worked on their sales pitch.

"We just picked Henry Ford, because we knew a doctor there," Ethan said.

They had to make the sign twice. The first time, they used blue LEGOs for the words Henry Ford Health System and created a white backdrop – the reverse of how the health care system does it.

"They wanted us to change the colors around," Ethan said.

One of the most difficult parts of the project involved recreating the Henry Ford sign's cursive writing, but they did it.

"The cursive writing was definitely the hardest part," Ethan said.

Said Gabriel: "We learned a lot of patience."

The brothers have created hundreds of LEGOs projects, including soccer balls, jewelry, picture frames, toy cars, chess and checker sets, tissue holders and Christmas ornaments, among other items. Their biggest project – using about 10,000 LEGOs – involves a Detroit Tigers logo with an orange tiger pouncing through a blue, Old English 'D' on display at Signarama, a business near Ford and Lilley roads.

Signarama also had displayed the Henry Ford piece before it was sold.

Although they have started making money, it could be a while before they recoup the \$10,000 their father estimates has been spent on LEGOs. Their business is growing, though, and they even had a LEGOs portrait commissioned for a couple getting married.

As for the \$500 they



A group gathers for the unveiling of the new Henry Ford Health System sign.

SHANE FRITZ

earned from Henry Ford Health System, the boys aren't going on a spend-

ing spree.

"We're putting it in the bank," Gabriel said.

"We're putting it into the company to pay off our LEGOs."

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Build supervisor Emmanuel Uwoma reviews CAD drawings with fabrication students.

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ROBOTICS

Continued from Page A1

another alliance score points could be inviting in your conqueror, as well.

"You could have 100 points and the alliance that is sharing the field with you could have 99 points," Obsniuk said. "Both be high scores and you would both advance."

Last year's team had a "very good year," Obsniuk said, winning one district and earning runner-up status in two others. FIRST 862 lost to the eventual champion at the state meet and qualified for the elimination round at the world competition. The team eventually made the top 20 in a 400-team field.

Obsniuk thinks this

year's team may "struggle a little." The final robot – this year named Flash – is a little overweight, so the team has to figure out what can be shed without compromising the ability to collect and stack the totes.

"We need to be able to do a lot of things well this year in order to succeed in the game," Obsniuk said.

However, FIRST 862 has never judged success or failure by what happens on the field. It's what the students accomplish in the process that matters.

"Our team's success is not based on wins, but what the students learn and how we prepare them for the future," Obsniuk said. "The students, as always, have a great desire to learn and be



Lead electrical mentor Matt Barton of Bosch with a "bagged" Flash. After the stop-build day, which was Tuesday, the robots must be bagged and not touched until the week of each team's scheduled competitions.

able to apply that learning to the robot, so I think we should do well."

GALA

Continued from Page A1

CCF's marketing and events manager. "But it's really looking toward the future and where we plan to go in the next 25 years."

Over the years, the CCF has supported a variety of programs and groups, including (but not limited to) the Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park, the Miracle League of Plymouth, First Step, the Plymouth-Canton Clothing Bank, Kelly's Kidz and the Cady-Boyer Barn.

The gala is scheduled for the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, tying it together with the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities,

which is renovating a Henry Ford-built factory in Canton's Cherry Hill Village.

The partnership, which will get a portion of the proceeds from the March 7 gala, is hoping to turn the factory into an arts complex.

"We're very excited about the (factory) project," said Jill Engel, executive director of the partnership. "It's very generous of the Canton Community Foundation and we are grateful for their support."

The foundation has a variety of sponsorships available for purchase, ranging from a \$1,200 table to a \$10,000 present-partner level. More information on those is available on the foundation's website (www.cantonfoundation.org).

The gala will feature a performance from the Michigan Philharmonic, along with a meal prepared by the Henry Ford's chefs. The meal will include Michigan-made wines, beers and desserts.

"The Henry Ford factory, the Henry Ford Museum, the Canton Partnership for the Arts ... all of those are local attractions," Meade said. "It was important for us to keep everything for the evening as Michigan made as possible."

Tickets for the gala are \$175 per person or \$1,200 for a table of eight. To get tickets, go to the foundation's website at www.cantonfoundation.org or contact Meade at 734-495-1200 or by email at bmeade@cantonfoundation.org.

BURGLARIES

Continued from Page A1

cluding a pizzeria near Palmer and Haggerty in Canton and another on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

Hall was arrested after Canton police be-

gan surveillance efforts outside local pizzerias after the first two incidents occurred, Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor has said.

Traylor has called it "excellent work by the road patrol."

During the first two incidents, police have said the intruder

smashed out a glass door and a window to gain entry and steal money. The third incident proved the charm for police, who nabbed the suspect on foot a short distance from the scene.

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SANP committee sponsors party-planning event

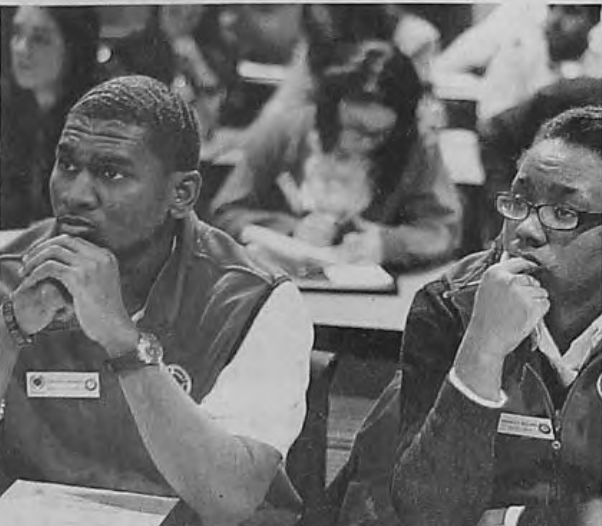
Organizers of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Senior All-Night Party are again offering an event designed not only to help them, but to help others planning graduations. "Project Graduation" takes place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in the cafeteria at Salem High School. Organizers say the event is focused specifically on planning for graduation parties, but anyone planning other sorts of parties will also find the help they need. "Vendors will be on hand to help plan any party," project spokesperson Andrea Starling said. Vendors will be on

hand, displaying their goods and handing out free samples. Vendors include companies such as tent, table and chair rentals; bakeries; caterers; photographers; bounce houses; invitation companies; photo booth companies; and party suppliers. Starling said direct sale vendors will also be

on hand to "provide great gift ideas, as well." Sponsored by the PCEP Senior All-Night Party committee, the event also serves as a major fundraiser for the all-night party. Admission is free. Salem High School is located at 46181 Joy Road in Canton.



SENIOR ALL-NIGHT PARTY COMMITTEE
The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Senior All-Night Party committee presents "Project Graduation" Feb. 28 at Salem High School.



COMCAST
Steven Brown and Monique Zellars of City Year Detroit get career advice Friday at Comcast.



COMCAST
City Year Detroit participants, who mentor at-risk students, took time out to brush up on their job-search skills Friday at Comcast's regional headquarters in Plymouth Township.

City Year members get career tips

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Young people who are spending this school year mentoring at-risk students in the Detroit area took time out to refocus on their own career paths Friday at Comcast's regional headquarters in Plymouth Township. Friday was Comcast's annual career day for City Year Detroit participants, who spent the better part of the event talking to executives and human resources professionals from the communications giant about resume writing, job interview preparation, networking, building a personal brand and other

skills that will help them in future job searches. About 60 City Year workers met with members of the Comcast team, both in group and one-on-one settings. "Comcast is committed to investing in the communities we serve and supporting community programs like the City Year career day are investments in Michigan's future," Jason Gumbs, vice president of sales and marketing at Comcast, said in a prepared statement. "We were able to give these young adults the tools they need to pursue a career right here in the state, so that they are highly prepared, polished

and stand out among other candidates." Comcast is a national City Year partner, while Gumbs is a City Year Detroit board member. City Year, founded in 1988, places college-age people, many of them college students or recent graduates, in cities around the country to partner with middle schools and high schools to mentor students who are at risk of dropping out. City Year members spend four days a week in their partner schools during the academic year; one day a week, they work at hands-on service projects, such as park cleanups, or take



COMCAST
Nichelle Stephens of City Year Detroit (left) gets tips from Cindy Pool, a human resources manager at Comcast, during Friday's career day for City Year mentors at Comcast's regional headquarters in Plymouth Township.

time for professional development, such as at Comcast's career day. City Year works in 25

locations around the country and has had a presence in the Detroit area since 1999.

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Father's trial set on child abuse charges

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

She was only eight weeks old when she arrived at a hospital after police say she was physically abused. Her young bones had been fractured – three ribs, the femur in her right leg.

Her alleged assailant was a 33-year-old man who authorities say should have been her protector – her father, Vincent Joel French II.



French

Barring a plea deal, French, 33, will have his day in court May 11, when his jury trial has been set in Wayne County Circuit Court. If convicted of two counts of second-degree child abuse, he could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison.

French, jailed after his

arrest in October with a \$500,000 cash bond, has pleaded not guilty to the felony charges.

However, he already has disposed of misdemeanor charges in 35th District Court. A clerk said French received the maximum 93 days in jail, plus \$125 in fines, after he pleaded guilty to domestic violence. An additional count of fourth-degree child abuse was dismissed.

The misdemeanor charges

arose from an incident involving French's 7-year-old stepdaughter. None of the charges involve his 9-year-old stepson, Canton police Lt. Chad Baugh has said.

French's felony case is pending in Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin's courtroom. He was charged after his baby daughter was taken to a hospital for injuries that police say already had begun to heal.

Canton police Lt. Chad

Baugh said the incident happened at The Crossings, an apartment complex on Canton's far north side, near I-275 and Joy Road.

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

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Semi-trailer stolen

A white semi-trailer with a Maine license plate was reported stolen Friday from a lot on Eckles, north of Plymouth Road.

The theft occurred Jan. 26 or Jan. 27, according to the complainant, but it wasn't reported right away, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. The trailer was worth more than \$14,000.

Up on blocks

The wheels and tires were stolen from a Lincoln MKS late Friday or early Saturday while the car was parked on Greenview Place, in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and I-275.

The Lincoln had been left sitting on two landscaping blocks, a police report said, and appeared to have been damaged. Lugnuts and a wrench that apparently had been used to removed them were found nearby.

The incident occurred between 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday.

Vandalism or weather?

Police were called to the Comerica Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road in the township Saturday afternoon when a customer using the automatic teller

machine there reported a broken picture window.

The window, about 3 feet by 6 feet, had been broken, police said, but there was nothing indicating something had been thrown at. The event may have been due to the extreme cold and wind, a police report said.

A bank employee also responded to the scene and found nothing amiss inside the branch, police said.

Plate swiped

The license plate was stolen from a Ford Focus recently as the car sat in the driveway of a home on Turtlehead Court, in the area of Canton Center Road and Ann Arbor Road, a police report said.

The theft was reported Saturday.

Credit card fraud

A township resident reported Friday that his credit card had been used to make a fraudulent Netflix purchase Dec. 29. The man still had possession of the card, but the number had been stolen.

Police asked the man to examine his bills for any other fraudulent purchases; the credit card was canceled.

– By Matt Jachman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Canton woman calls stabbing an accident

Canton police found a woman standing in her kitchen with a knife sticking out of the right side of her abdomen after receiving a call for help about 6 p.m. Friday.

The 44-year-old woman told police she accidentally injured herself after emptying her dishwasher, a police report said. She said she had placed items, including the knife, on the counter top and accidentally stabbed herself when she learned forward, the report said.

The incident happened in the 300 block of Willard, near Sheldon and Cherry Hill.

Police asked the woman if she had intentionally stabbed herself and she denied it, indicating she wouldn't injure herself because she has children. The woman was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti for treatment.

Retail fraud

A 25-year-old woman accused of concealing stolen clothing in her sweatpants and urinating on the merchandise was arrested by Canton police at the Walmart on Ford Road, east of Lotz.

A police report said the woman also had stuffed merchandise inside her purse during an incident that unfolded shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday.

Store employees began watching the woman after she

placed numerous items such as skirts, pants and T-shirts in a store cart before going into a restroom and apparently concealing it.

Police arrived at the Walmart store and found the suspect sitting on a bench in the office area, with her sweatpants pulled down around her shins and merchandise all around her. Police noticed the strong odor of intoxicants and urine.

A police report indicated the suspect began cursing. She was taken into custody for retail fraud and, at the police station, it was learned she had a blood-alcohol content of 0.22, nearly three times the legal limit.

Harassing calls, texts

A 27-year-old Canton woman notified police after she said she began receiving harassing phone calls and texts from her ex-boyfriend's sister, a police report said.

The incidents happened Sunday and Monday. The woman told police she had recently broken up with her boyfriend and had removed all her belongings from his residence, where she had been living.

She said the ex-boyfriend's sister began contacting her and trying to obtain her new address. She conceded she owed money to the sister.

The woman said she intended to mail what she owed to the sister by certified mail, but she told police the sister wanted to

meet in person to get the money.

Police contacted the sister and advised her not to repeatedly call and text for the money.

Lurking man

Police made an arrest after responding to reports of a suspicious man walking near residents' windows outside Crystal Creek, an assisted living center on Lilley, south of Joy.

Police received the call about 10 p.m. Friday. Officers arrived and trailed footprints from Crystal Creek to a nearby greenhouse, where they found an 18-year-old Novi man.

Police took him into custody after learning he had warrants for his arrest out of Canton for possession of marijuana and failing to appear in court.

Hit and run

A 20-year-old New Boston woman told Canton police she was driving east on Ford Road, near Lilley, when another motorist in a blue Chevrolet Impala struck the driver's side of her vehicle, a police report said.

The incident happened about 1 p.m. Friday.

The victim told police the other car stopped and a male suspect got out, picked up his bumper, which had fallen off his car, spoke to her and then drove off. She wasn't able to get a license plate number from the suspect's vehicle.

– By Darrell Clem



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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



A traditional fashion show will be part of Chinese New Year event at The Village Theater in Canton.

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.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Date: Saturday, March 7, 7 p.m.
Location: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Celebrating a tradition that is thousands of years old, the Canton Commission for Culture Arts and Heritage Multicultural Committee will host the 2015 Chinese New Year Celebration. Joining the festivities are a Peking Opera performance by Fang Shubo, the Canton Philharmonic Choir, the March Wind Choir and the Michigan Chinese Choir. Audience members will also enjoy beautiful duets by Yangtze Melody Group and the Spring Group and the energetic sounds of the Desert Island Band. This special celebration will also include a Chinese fashion show, tai chi and a traditional Chinese instrumental performance by the Shangarila band.

Contact: For more information, go to www.CantonVillageTheater.org or call 734/394-5300.

'DOWNTON ABBEY' TEA

Date/Time: Sunday, March 29, 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.

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 achristen@cchnet.net.

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third Thursday through May 2015, 11 a.m.
Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty
Details: Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Waltonwood Cherry Hill.

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

PAGAN HOURS

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

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 debccortellini@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

CLOTHING BANK

Date/Time: Fourth Saturday of each month, 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.

PFLAG MEETING

Date/Time: First Sunday of each month, 3-5 p.m.
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Plymouth-Canton PFLAG meets for discussion, education and sharing. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of families, friends and straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

Contact: Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE OF HEARING
ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:
Hearings are by appointment only, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm to arrange for an appointment.

MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW:

Tuesday, March 3, 2015	9 am – Noon	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2015	2 pm – 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment
	6 pm – 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 11, 2015	9 am – Noon	Hearings by Appointment
	2 pm – 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment
Thursday, March 12, 2015	9 am – Noon	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 14, 2015	9 am – 11 am	First Come – First Served

Other Hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.
All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board of Review. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received by mail or delivered in person to the Assessing Office by the close of business on Friday, March 27, 2015 at 4:30 pm.
The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.
Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.



Tricia Lafata walks her dogs in Heritage Park.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

B-R-R-R: CANTON RESIDENTS, WORKERS BRAVE BRUTAL FEBRUARY

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Bundled up as the mercury hovered in the teens, Canton resident Tricia Lafata walked her three shih tzus – Rambo, Adrian and Champ – along a shoveled pathway in snow-covered Heritage Park.

"They just cleared it, so I'm happy I can walk here," she said Tuesday morning, arriving from her condominium.

The shih tzus trio, dressed in matching red-and-black dog coats, shivered just a bit during their brief outing, yet they occasionally wagged their tails as they walked in an otherwise deserted park. They appeared to cope better than their owner with the bitter cold.

"I'm not coping with it," Lafata said. "I hate it, hate it, hate it. It's too cold."

Across town, Solé Construction Co. worker Gaspere Campo was among a small crew working outside to begin preparing land for the second phase of The Corners at Cherry Hill Village on Canton's west side.

"It's not fun," Campo said, but the cold weather didn't stop him from doing his job.

Arctic temperatures have made the construction equipment sluggish to start in the morning.

"It's hard on the guys. It's hard on the equipment," Campo said.

Fortunately, one of the excavating rigs the workers used Tuesday was heated. Looking ahead to spring, Campo said a new season will bring its share of challenges.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sue Goodchild wears a fairly light jacket, no matter how cold the weather.

"In the spring, you get the mud," he said.

Over at the Canton Historical Museum, on Canton Center south of Cherry Hill, Canton Historical Society volunteers Sue Goodchild and Ronni Curtis didn't let the wintry blast keep them from opening the one-room schoolhouse to visitors.

Curtis said she has found a way to cope with the weather, except when she has to go outside.

"I stay in the house," she said.

Goodchild shrugged off the chills, saying she's warm by nature.

"I like this weather," she said. "My husband is always asking me if I turned the furnace down. The older I get, the warmer I get."

As of Tuesday afternoon, Canton Township officials had few reported problems because of the weather. Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said one water main



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jacob Kubinski and Ryan Exell, both members of Salem High School's cross country team, don't let frigid temperatures get in the way of training as they run through Plymouth's Old Village.

break had occurred on Canton Center, between Palmer and Geddes.

The children's section of the Canton Public Library had to close to patrons Monday after a

sprinkler head burst, flooding the area. Employees retrieved books and other items for patrons.

By Tuesday, the section with books and ma-

terials had reopened, said Laurie Golden, the library's community relations department head, but the computer section remained closed off.

"All of our programs are continuing as usual," Golden said.

dclem@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

Canton officials issue advice for staying safe in the cold

Canton fire officials are warning residents to use caution during extremely cold weather and to stay indoors, if possible.

Meanwhile, Canton is providing a warming station during business hours at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Visitors should check in at the front desk.

Summit hours are 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 7

a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Local officials warn residents to wear protective gear if they must venture outdoors, saying the colder the temperatures, the more quickly heat leaves the body.

Also, residents are reminded that indoor heating sources should be used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Poorly operating or damaged heating units can release odorless carbon monoxide gas, therefore use of

carbon monoxide detectors is highly recommended.

"During times of extreme cold, the fire department experiences an increase in both accidental fires and medical emergencies," Fire Chief Josh Meier said. "Working a little additional caution into your daily routine can prevent an emergency from occurring."

For example, he said, if using a space heater, don't leave it unattended.

He also underscored the need to check on elderly and at-risk family, friends and neighbors.

Pets should be watched closely and kept indoors, as animals can suffer from hypothermia, frostbite and other cold weather injuries just the same as humans.

Canton's Fire Prevention Unit is available to answer questions on alternate heating sources and carbon monoxide, or CO, detectors. Call 734-394-5456.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With a firm grip by frigid weather in the region, Canton officials have issued warnings to residents.

Knit, purl: Lessons offer fun and learning for all

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dori Mefford of Plymouth Township heard from people who'd grown up knitting, "Oh, I forgot how to cast on." She's now giving lessons 1-2 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Friendship Station Senior Center on Schoolcraft in Plymouth Township.

"This is basically very much in the beginning stages," Mefford said of the lessons. "They have fun when they come here." She finds those who learned to knit or crochet as children often have the skills come back to them.

"I always have yarn and stuff with me," said Mefford, who can provide attendees with straight needles. "I have enough to start them out. I have taught them as young as 7."

She recalled teaching a grade school girl the slip knot. "She went home and showed her mother how to do it," said Mefford, who also teaches through Plymouth-Canton Community Education. She's patient in her teaching and explains things in varied ways to get her message across.

Faye Lindsay of Plymouth, on a recent Tuesday, said, "About four months. Dori just taught me" of her crocheting. "Dori is very patient."

Next to her was Sharon Lomske of Plymouth, showing a part of a sleeping mat for the homeless made from plastic bags.

"It's nice and soft," Lomske said, with the instructor pointing out its utility for people who must sleep outdoors on the ground.

"I'm learning to knit, but I do crochet," Lomske added.

Linda Robertson of Plymouth Township said, "I'm just a very beginner. I saw the ad in the Ob-



Instructor Dori Mefford (left) of Plymouth Township works with Cheryl Zepp of Plymouth Township on a project.

server, so I don't know what I'm going to do. I see there are a lot of options."

Cheryl Zepp of Plymouth Township, also hard at work, said, "My husband found this for me. He's our social director."

Zepp learned some basic skills from a neighbor at age 9 and grew up doing macrame and crocheting afghans and vests. "It's a creative thing you can do," Zepp said, noting newer equipment helps with things like projects not unraveling.

Debra Tucker of Westland said, "Right now, I'm working on a hat with a scarf attached to it."

Tucker also made some fingerless gloves.

"They're just decorative," she said. "Mostly they're just an accessory." Tucker had done knitting as a teen and is

now on a project with five needles and a complex pattern. She'll do some crocheting so it will lay better.

Her sister, Janis Cross of Plymouth, joined her at the Friendship Station. Cross did more macrame growing up and the recent Tuesday found her working on a mat to practice. Her goal is to make tote bags, she said, showing one made by someone else from Meijer bags.

"This is what I want to do," Cross said.

"I've done macrame, I've done embroidery," Mefford said. She's been knitting more than 25 years "and still learning. That's one of the good things."

She attends seminars to learn. "And have fun doing it," said Mefford, who's had male students. "Men are good at it. And they learn fast."

The knitters work on

different projects, with Mefford wishing to avoid competition, as some have more time and advance more rapidly. She can help if they're unsure about a project's complexity.

"If somebody has to struggle too hard, they sometimes give up. I don't want them to give up," she said.

Those who wish to attend the Tuesday monthly lessons are asked to first call Bobbie Pummill at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

Participants at the Friendship Station pay \$2 a session. Mefford said they usually start with a scarf. Some use cloth yarn for usable items that are not too difficult, such as dish cloths or potholders.

"I have enjoyed teaching knitting," Mefford said.

jbrown@hometownlife.com



Sharon Lomske of Plymouth shows part of a sleeping mat for the homeless. It's made from plastic bags to be waterproof.



Sharon Lomske of Plymouth is learning to knit and does crochet.



Debra Tucker of Westland said, "Right now, I'm working on a hat with a scarf attached to it."



Janis Cross of Plymouth works on a mat for practice. Her goal is to make tote bags.



Faye Lindsay of Plymouth shows a knit hat.

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per person/per
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Read between the headlines of comings, goings

The trending retail news is the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by Radio Shack. The 94-year-old retailer of electronic devices – from computers and cellphone accessories to batteries and solar panels – is a staple of strip centers and shopping malls across the country and it surprised retail analysts by keeping the lights on amid incessant competition from more relevant merchants, plus the growth of Internet selling.

Investment firm Standard General is expected to acquire up to 2,400 of Radio Shack's 4,000 stores and will work with Sprint to open in-store shops for the wireless giant. The remaining stores are expected to go dark.

Red ink, brought about by changing consumer tastes and shopping habits, is plaguing other retailers as well,



Ed Nakfoor
GUEST COLUMNIST

including better women's apparel brand Cache, which operates 218 boutiques across the country and last week also filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Macy's, JC Penney and other merchants, including familiar names and newer entrants to the retail scene – C. Wonder and Kate Spade Saturday – recently announced store closures, corporate restructuring and a cessation of operations.

Let the hand-wringing for retail begin.

Not so fast

This is hardly a period of hand-wringing. In fact, it's a time of opportunity for retail. Quite literally, as one door

closes, another opens. And behind that door will be a new concept or another location for a brand savvy enough to capture the spirit of the times.

Retail, like all business, evolves. And retailers of all sizes are opening stores and pleasing Wall Street. Target plans to add 15 stores this year, including its new TargetExpress and CityTarget formats.

In the days leading up to Radio Shack's announcement, there were rumblings Amazon may take over some leases as the e-commerce giant looks to open storefronts (mini warehouses, of sorts) to sell electronics, among other products, and where customers could exchange items or pick up an online order. Amazon operated several seasonal stores during the recent holiday season,

blurring the line between online and traditional retail operations.

L Brands, parent company of Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works, reported last week an increase in comparable stores sales for January and the fourth quarter. The January figure, 7 percent, was greater than the 1.9 percent predicted by analysts. And popular retailer H&M also announced plans to open hundreds of stores across the globe, many of which will be in the United States.

Locally, "open for business" signs are easy to spot as national specialty merchants, such as furniture store West Elm and jeweler Alex and Ani, opened downtown in the fourth quarter, while the high-end consignment shop Closet NV opened its second location on East Maple several months ago.

Having confidence

This is happening at a time when consumers are more relaxed about opening their wallets. As reported late last month in Women's Wear Daily, the Consumer Confidence Index rose to 102.9 from 93.1 in December, the highest since August 2007.

For business operators like Samantha Kelman, then, this is good news as she and her mother, Karen Kelman, are opening later this week Cycle & Row, their boutique fitness studio offering group rowing and indoor cycling classes. Kelman, a native Detroiter, was living in New York City for four years where she worked in corporate marketing. Always athletically and entrepreneurially minded, and wanting to open a business with her mother, Samantha and her fian-

cé relocated to Birmingham last August. She said they're excited to be a part of such an energetic community, especially one with such a collaborative and assured attitude.

When we spoke, she also remarked – as did I – on the crowded restaurants and busy stores around town, signs that such dour phrases as "tough economy" or "wary consumers" will, I hope, be mothballed.

Samantha is certain Cycle & Row will offer her clients a workout they can't live without. And business in metro Detroit is that much stronger with such confident entrepreneurs and, more importantly, the patrons to support them.

Ed Nakfoor is a Birmingham-based retail and public relations consultant. Contact him at edwardnakfoor@gmail.com.

TranquiliTea to host benefit Feb. 28 for veterans group

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

An event Saturday, Feb. 28, at TranquiliTea will benefit Stiggy's Dogs, a Howell-based charity which pairs veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder with rescue dogs.

"It makes a great partnership," TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon said. "It helps the veterans recover from those emotional problems they come back with."

Dogs also gain a companion, she added. The nonprofit's website notes veterans receive the dogs at no charge.

The tasting will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at TranquiliTea, on Ann Arbor Trail between Harvey and Main, in downtown Plymouth. American tea products will be featured, including a blueberry caffeine-free tea.

Ten percent of sales that day will support Stiggy's Dogs. A representative of Novi-based company Grandma Johns' Kitchen will serve cookies. Cannon is working on getting a restaurant partnership with a Plymouth eatery lined up for that day.

There will be giveaways, including a cof-

fee basket from downtown Plymouth's Espresso Elevado at Wing and Main. Cannon had recently done a tea basket for that business.

Stiggy's Dogs is online at stiggydogs.org. The website notes it was founded to carry on the compassion toward animals and life work of Marine Benjamin "Doc Stiggy" Castiglione, who gave his life while caring for his soldiers as a corpsman in Afghanistan in September 2009.

"We're hoping to get a good attendance," Cannon said of Feb. 28 at TranquiliTea.

Van Buren DDA taps Brown, Foster for board



Foster

Brown

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority has announced that two new members have been added to its volunteer board. Chris Brown and Helen Foster were recently sworn in by township Clerk Leon Wright.

Brown is the president and CEO of Verdeterre Contracting, which is headquartered in Van Buren Township. Verdeterre is a full-service site development company that also offers site utility installation and trenchless pipe installation. Brown's experience in infrastructure development will be a valuable asset to the DDA's realization of its master planned district, according to officials.

Foster brings extensive public service experience to the DDA board. As a 30-year veteran of public service at both the local and regional level, she will add a wealth of knowledge regarding social well-being to the board, a press release stated.

The two new board members will be working to develop continued improvements to the DDA district. Last year, the board initiated upgrades to Belleville Road, Van Buren Township's "Main Street," that

were done in an effort to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. Major road improvements, such as modern, single-arm traffic signals, benches, custom light posts with seasonal banners, sidewalks and additional enhancements, have helped to create an improved shopping, dining and entertainment district for the area.

One of the goals of the DDA is to attract global business to Van Buren Township in order to further develop the growing district. That initiative is possible due to the township's location at the epicenter of VantagePort – the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corp. VantagePort can grant real and personal property abatements to any "eligible next Michigan business." Select Tax Free Zones, labor assistance, tax increment financing and relocation assistance services are also available to companies who

establish operations in Van Buren Township.

"We're extremely excited to be taking these next steps toward even greater economic expansion," said Lisa Lothringer, assistant executive director of the Van Buren Township DDA. "We have a lot of projects planned to bring businesses in contact with Van Buren Township and everything it has to offer."

The initiative to attract more business not only anticipates the continued economic growth of the area, but also the achievement of the DDA's master-planned district community. Its vision for expanded green space, public community amenities and improved local infrastructure is possible with the help of this new initiative and VantagePort combined. "We want Van Buren Township to continue being a family- and business-friendly community. Our goal is to bring jobs to the area while continuing to keep this a wonderful place to live," said Susan Ireland, the DDA's executive director.

To learn more about the Van Buren Township DDA, connect with it on Facebook or go to vanburendda.com.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2015 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2015 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 3, 2015 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 5, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Monday, March 16, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2015 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 16, 2015.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 16, 2015 by 4:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 253.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Published: February 12, 15, 19, 2015.

LO-0000226996 3x5

Strive for balance in your life

Here's something to ponder on this chilly evening: the difference between "stability" and "balance."

Sometimes phrases like "I need stability in my life" get tossed around as if stability is a state we can achieve. When in reality, life equals change and therefore in our lives, stability simply doesn't exist. So instead of seeking stability, strive for balance.

Even amidst instability, we can achieve balance. I once heard Dr. Ed Catmull, president and co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios, talk about the vital importance of embracing change in order to achieve success.



Clarity Patton Newhouse
A SUNNY NOTE

Catmull cautioned us against resisting change or being afraid to let go of what we have, because changing and letting go are necessary elements of progress. He said, "When we grab onto what we have, that is when we fail."

Let's make the most of the changes this week brings – and have a sunny day!

P.S. "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving."

Albert Einstein

P.P.S. You can read more Sunny Notes at www.SunnyNotes.com and new readers can subscribe at www.JoinSunnyNotes.com. I appreciate your feedback and I hope Sunny Notes brighten your day.

Clarity Patton Newhouse is president of Sunny Media Group Inc., located at 39209 Six Mile, Suite 165, Livonia. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond. To reach her, call 734-855-4728 or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sunnynotes.

Gardener White looking to hire sales associates

If you always thought you could make a living selling furniture, now is your chance.

From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 26, Gardener-White Furniture is holding a recruitment drive at its Canton store at 39453 Ford Road. According to a release, the company will hire sales associates

who pass the interview on the spot.

Gardner-White is looking for candidates with an entrepreneurial spirit who are seeking successful careers in commissioned sales. New sales hires will receive a paid three-week training class on product, selling technique, and store opera-

tions.

Candidates should come equipped with a resume, identification and be prepared for two interviews and a potential job offer. Applications can be found online at www.gardner-white.com and will also be available for completion on-site at the recruitment drive.



Hey Kids,

The Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights feature will be taking a break for the season.

Scoop will continue to make special appearances in the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper and on:

facebook.com/ScoopTheNewshound.

Look for more of Scoop and fun activities this year.

P-CCS staffers, students explore diversity with training

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district is becoming more diverse day by day and educators are responding with training to address that.

"It's absolutely not a one-shot kind of training," said Julie Woodhams, P-CCS executive director of equity and specialized instruction, referencing training for teachers and administrators the week of Feb. 9 at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. "We really have not stopped since we started."

Last week's effort saw each district building send a four-person team, including an administrator, to Geneva to focus on culturally proficient instruction. The emphasis, Woodhams said, is on high achievement among students, instructional support with making learning deeper and more complex and embracing who



Plymouth-Canton Community Schools educators met the week of Feb. 9 for diversity training at Geneva Presbyterian Church. Such training is ongoing.

students are.

"These statistics show the diversity of our families," she said, adding that more than 100 languages are spoken by P-CCS students. English as a second language instruction is offered.

The district's 2013-14 report to the community showed 10.5 percent of students were Asian, Far Eastern, Indian or Pakistani. Almost 10 percent

that year were black, 72 percent white, European or Middle Eastern and 5.5 percent multi-racial.

Woodhams anticipates the diversity has grown since that report.

"We have an achievement gap in our district. We knew that this work was critical," she said.

Different facilities have been used throughout the years for such training, explained Mary

Holaly, communications coordinator for P-CCS. "Geneva Church was kind enough to let us use their space," Holaly said.

Woodhams said formal efforts at staff training in diversity began six or seven years ago with Courageous Conversations training of the Pacific Educational Group. "It provided us with tools to be able to dialogue about equity and cultural differences," said Woodhams, with the district for 16 years.

"We knew the next step for us was to get this into the classroom," she added. "We're really excited about this aspect of this work. Our student population, our community is changing, much more diverse than in the past."

She said test scores are a concern, but also the culture and climate of the buildings, welcoming, respecting and including all.

As part of the diversity training, 80 high school students met the week of Feb. 9 at Ply-

mouth Salem High School for training on diversity similar to that of educators.

The work is based on the belief that equity and social justice work must be generated at the building level and must be developed by principals, teachers and informed by students, Woodhams said. "The student voice element is critical to this work. We must provide them a space to share their experiences and inform our work."

Feb. 12-13 at Geneva Church were the first two of four days for staff, to be followed up March 25-26 by staff teams coming back to finish the series. Gary Howard, a Corwin trainer with a background in equity, social justice and civil rights, spoke to the staff at Geneva.

The ongoing training is modeled along "Train the Trainer," to encourage sharing of knowledge with colleagues, Woodhams said. "They begin to build the capac-

ity of the staff in their building to support this work."

The high school students will also reconvene in March, April and May. "The students' work is very much embedded in the arts," including music and poetry, Woodhams said. A May performance is in the works.

The school district has an Equity Leadership Team and those interested in serving should contact Woodhams at julie.woodhams@pccsk12.com.

"It certainly needs to be connected to the community as well," she said. She and colleagues are this school year including an element of assessment, with staff self-reflection on their skills.

Next school year, that will expand to student achievement data related to diversity and the training.

"We really will be spending some time on assessment as well," Woodhams said.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Opening Roth IRA for grandchild can turn into a teachable event

At a recent meeting, one of my clients asked how he can help his grandchildren. The first thing I recommended was a 529 Plan to save for their college education.

His grandchildren are ages 15 and 16. He explained that college was not an issue, because their parents are taking care of that. I then asked him if his grandchildren work. He said both had part-time jobs, so I recommended that he consider a Roth IRA for the grandchildren.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that children cannot have IRAs. To open an IRA is an issue of earned income, not age. Earned income is income from your labor. Typically, if you receive a W-2, you have earned income. Therefore, since both his grandchildren have worked, they are eligible for a Roth IRA.

I believe a Roth IRA is a great way to help grandchildren. First, the money grows tax-free.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Just think how much that money can be worth 50 years down the road. Remember, it's not timing the market, it's time in the market that will make you successful.

Another advantage of opening a Roth IRA for a grandchild is that hopefully it will teach the importance of investing money.

I told my client it's not sufficient to just open the account. He also has to take some time to educate his grandchildren. I suggested he have his grandchildren get involved in selecting the investments and teach him the importance of investing.

For those thinking about doing something for a grandchild, if that grandchild worked in 2014 it is not too late to open a Roth IRA for 2014. In fact, anyone can still open a Roth IRA for

2014. You have until April 15 to do so.

For 2014, the Roth IRA limit is \$5,500. As long as the grandchild has earned at least \$5,500, you can put the full amount away. However, if your grandchild earned less than that, then that would be the maximum contribution. In other words, if through a part-time job your grandchild earned \$3,000, the maximum Roth IRA contribution would be \$3,000.

Not all IRA custodians will open an IRA for a child, but many will. Companies like T. Rowe Price, Vanguard, TD Ameritrade and Charles Schwab all allow you to open an IRA for a minor.

Opening a Roth IRA for a grandchild is a good way to teach the importance of investing. Good luck.

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

Wayne council votes to close pool

At the end of business Sunday, the Wayne Community Center pool will be closing.

As the city grapples with a deficit in the current fiscal year and a significant shortfall in 2015-16, the council voted Tuesday to close the pool for a savings of about \$70,000. The ice arena is already closed at the community center, which operates at significant financial losses — well in excess of \$200,000 annually.

A group of community center/pool supporters spoke at the meeting, calling on council to keep the pool open. Some argued that efforts to market the community center could increase paid memberships.

"This conversation has been talked about since I was on council in

2003. We have not solved the problem," Councilwoman Susan Rowe said. "We can't keep a Band-Aid on it. We can't keep looking at it."

On June 30, 2013, the community center reported having 1,212 paid memberships, she said, while the city has a population of slightly more over 17,000. Of those members, 732 are Wayne residents and 527 are from Westland.

"All of us are paying for it. Those numbers don't validate continually putting money into keeping the pool open," Rowe said. "I'm sorry. I was elected to be fiscally responsible and do the best I can with the information in front of me."

The council had voted to close half the community center when the

fiscal year started July 1, but later agreed to hold off while options were investigated. That helped increase the city's deficit to more than \$600,000 with only four months left in the fiscal year.

With only one full-time parks and recreation employee, council members agreed that there hadn't been enough marketing for the community center.

"We voted to close down part of the recreation center to save it. We need to re-evaluate the rec center," Councilman John Rhaesa said. "I'm not sure an ice arena is the best. Kids can't afford that."

The council also approved a study session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, to discuss options regarding the community center.

Colbeck to hold office hours in Livonia

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, will hold an office hour at 11 a.m. Friday at the Civic Center Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Colbeck will be on

hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have.

No appointment is necessary.

For more information or to contact Colbeck, go to www.senatorpatrickcolbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

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OUR VIEW

Voters should approve Plymouth safety millage

Plymouth voters will decide Feb. 24 whether they want to pay an extra \$13 per month for the average household to beef up the city's public safety budget.

The ballot proposal asks approval for a public safety property tax of up to 1.5 mills for a maximum of five years. City officials say they plan on levying less than a 1 mill in the first year, but voters should consider the full 1.5 mills when they head to the polls. An estimated \$708,000 would be raised annually if the entire millage is levied.

The bulk of the money would go to the city's police and fire services, but a small portion could also be captured by the city's Downtown Development Authority and Brownfield Re-Development Authority.

Plans call for funding two police officers, buying a new firetruck and using the money to offset legacy costs for public safety.

The crux of the issue is whether residents believe

Plymouth needs more cops and are willing to pay for them. Anyone who has been downtown any Friday or Saturday night quickly realizes the city is no longer so sleepy. It comes alive each weekend as people pack restaurants and pubs looking for a good time.

Merriment isn't always the outcome when people converge on a town. A nice evening with friends can quickly be ruined by the boorish behavior of a few who have had a few too many. Right now, Plymouth offers a nice mix of beautiful neighborhoods and a vibrant downtown. Voluntarily raising taxes should never be taken lightly. In this case, however, the city has done a good job cutting costs and asking only the business community to fund additional public safety wouldn't be fair.

Property values in the neighborhoods and downtown depend on Plymouth being a place that people want to visit. Take that away and Plymouth becomes

just another bedroom community in a long list of others nearby.

Voters should support the tax increase Feb. 24 and pay close attention to how the money is spent. City officials should be prepared to set up a clear communication plan that spells out exactly where every penny of the millage is going.

Too often, voter approval is the end of the discussion as local politicians see it as a referendum to do as they wish with the proceeds. But that isn't the case at all. A yes vote Feb. 24 would represent trust in leadership. Trust that the money won't be frittered away, trust that Plymouth won't become a rowdy place and trust that officials won't be coming back for more money in the foreseeable future. If any of those things do happen, voters most assuredly won't be so generous next time.

Plymouth residents should vote **yes** Feb. 24.

GUEST COLUMN

Public needs to support public safety millage

Thirty years ago, when the city of Plymouth's sidewalks rolled up at 6 p.m., 21 full-time police officers patrolled our neighborhoods and monitored our schools and businesses with the vigilance they deserved. Today, through dedication and very hard work, only 15 full-time officers oversee the security of Plymouth.

We all realize that the texture of our community has changed over the past decade. We are blessed to live in the greatest small town in America, where busy family neighborhoods co-exist with a vibrant downtown. That vibrant downtown, supported by excellent city services, is the engine that drives our success and increases all of our property values. Just take a look around town to see how many new, valuable homes are being built on our streets. People love to live here, they love to work here and they love to eat and be entertained here. All of this growth and activity is putting a strain on our public safety system.

The main reason that we are seeking the police component of this funding mechanism is so that our police force can patrol the neighborhoods and parks as actively as it patrols the downtown commercial area.

The Plymouth City Commission has been exploring ways to ensure the continued safety of our residents and visitors to our great city. Our goal has always been to create and maintain a safe, attractive community. We are also always very careful to be as conservative as possible when it comes to spending the taxpayers' money. We have established a core principle that dictates that we look first to optimize operations

without sacrificing outstanding customer service.

A case in point is the city's snow removal services. We think anyone who drives after a major snow event would agree that the city's streets are cleared more quickly and more effectively than other nearby streets.

Our administration is lean and strong. We have held the line on expenses, while protecting the unique reputation that Plymouth has nurtured. Over the past several years, the commission and the administration have worked together to:

- » Reduce staff from 85 to 65 employees
- » Implement four consecutive budgets with salaries and wages frozen
- » Dramatically restructure all employee benefit programs
- » Create cooperative partnerships with neighboring communities
- » Increase fees and service charges, where it was reasonable
- » Renegotiate all contracts, securing reduced payments

At some point, though, things require additional support. We are now obligated to seek additional public safety funding in order to maintain the high levels of protection and security that our citizens expect. Over the past year, the commission has studied many possible ways of funding our growing public safety needs. The administration, led by Police Chief Al Cox, presented exhaustive research on the history of funding, the increased calls for service over the years and the city's current and future needs.

We held five meetings to get input from our residents and business owners. We applied for a federal grant, but were denied. We explored the possibility of assessing certain businesses – like bars and restaurants – to help fund public safety, but were told that is

illegal. The commission had the option of imposing an administrative fee to fund public safety and decided not to do so without citizen input but, rather, to authorize a public safety millage vote to enable you, the voters, to decide if you agree with our assessment that we need more funds for this important function.

Unlike virtually all of our neighboring communities, the city of Plymouth has never sought or levied a public safety millage before. Citizens in Canton Township pay 9.5 mills for public safety. Citizens in Northville Township pay 6.25 mills, citizens in Plymouth Township pay 3 mills and citizens in Livonia pay 4.2 mills, all for public safety. Two major needs drive our appeal to the voters Feb. 24. First, we see the immediate need for two additional police officers for the reasons stated above. Second, we anticipate that we will need to replace the fire department's 1979 aerial ladder truck in the next couple of years. That truck could cost as much as \$1 million and is necessary to adequately protect the community.

The millage would authorize the commission to collect "up to 1.5 mills" for the purpose of funding public safety. We actually expect to collect much less than 1.5 mills, almost certainly less than 1 mill in the first two years. For the average home in town, with a taxable value of \$106,847 and an estimated sale price of at least \$213,000, 1 mill would cost the homeowner \$106.

The city commission voted unanimously to authorize this vote and each commissioner, on the public record, encouraged the voters to support the millage. Please be sure your vote counts Feb. 24.

Colleen Pobur is a member of the Plymouth City Commission and submitted this column. All the other members of the commission – Dan Dwyer, Ed Hingelberg, Diane Bogenrider, Dan Dalton, Oliver Wolcott and Mike Wright – co-signed it.



Colleen Pobur

GUEST COLUMNIST

GUEST COLUMN

Students: Don't stress over change to SAT

The Michigan Department of Education rang in the new year with an announcement that impacts many college-bound students. After nine years of offering the ACT as part of the Michigan Merit Exam, Michigan will require public high school juniors to take the SAT as part of the MME, starting in the 2015-16 school year.

While many school administrators are wondering what this means to their school's curriculum, many more 10th-graders are wondering what this means to their college plans, since standardized test scores can play a big role in a college application. As more information becomes available about this important change, here are some key ideas for students and parents to consider:

» Michigan colleges accept both SAT and ACT scores. Parents may remember a time when most Michigan colleges required all applicants to take the ACT. Those days are long gone; all Michigan colleges that require standardized testing for their admissions process, typically, are happy to accept either the SAT or the ACT.

» Both tests are also welcome at almost all colleges in the United States. It used to be that some colleges on the East and West coasts would only accept SAT

scores, but this also isn't the case anymore. Every college in the United States that recruits nationally will take results from either test – and many no longer require any test scores at all.

» Students should take both the SAT and the ACT at least once by the end of junior year. Each test measures student knowledge differently, so it's important for students to make sure they're taking the test they are most comfortable with. The best way to do that is to take each test once and then take the test they're most comfortable with a second time. Ideally, this first round of testing should be done by the end of the junior year if applying to competitive colleges. Counselors have given this advice for years and it's still a good idea, even with the change in the MME.

» The best way to prepare for either test is by doing strong work in the classroom. Each test asks different questions, but the best way to be "test ready" is to do the reading, studying, questioning and thinking that leads to strong learning and good grades. This involves much more than just memorizing answers for a test and forgetting them once the exam is over. Good students are deep thinkers and take the time to understand the "why" behind the facts they're learning.

» Test prep resources for the SAT and ACT are readily available and often free. Students wanting to know what each test will look like can take advantage of free test prep materials available on the College

Board and ACT websites. In addition, free test preparation and sample tests can be found on the Khan Academy website, as well as the Learning Express Hub of the Michigan eLibrary. Your school counselor knows of other test prep resources; be sure to ask about them.

» Your SAT scores on the MME aren't automatically sent to any college. All scores on the MME are sent to your high school, but the only way a college will see your scores is if you ask the College Board to send them. All Michigan colleges requiring test scores will give you the choice of sending only your best scores as part of your application. A few colleges outside of Michigan ask for all of your test scores, but they almost always consider only your best scores. It is important, therefore, to give the MME your best effort, but one shouldn't worry if the scores aren't everything you would hope they would be.

It's easy to be nervous about this change in the MME and it's understandable why students want to get strong test scores. Doing strong work in classes and working closely with your school counselor are the best ways to make sure you'll be test ready and prepared to make the most out of college.

Gretchen Parks (Academy of the Sacred Heart) is a college counselor and member of the executive board of the Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling. She is this year's president of MACAC.



Gretchen Parks

GUEST COLUMNIST

LETTERS

Another no vote

No doubt about it – Michigan roads are bad! At first glance, an additional 1 percent to our sales tax seems like a fair way to include all who will benefit in various degrees.

However, a majority of our legislators passed the buck and passed the choice on to you and me. To help their deal smell a little better, the ballot proposal includes the elimination of the sales tax from gasoline sales, gives additional funds to local governments and promises \$200 more per student in the K-12 school aid fund. Why all the smoke and mirrors?

What will not be showing on our ballots? How long

will the new additional tax last? Who selects the construction companies that will do the work? Who will evaluate the quality and progress of construction?

In my opinion, to evaluate the process and progress, there should be a four-year life for the 1-percent increase. After three years, the state House and Senate should be required to vote to renew the tax for another time period and be prepared to give their reasons why. If they fail to act by a mandated deadline, the fourth year would end the tax.

The ballot proposal should maintain the present sales tax on gasoline since out-of-state drivers also make gasoline purchases. To increase revenue, the Legislature should step up and pass legislation for a state sales tax on Internet transactions, with all proceeds earmarked for road repair.

The only thing of value in the May 5 ballot proposal is the admission that K-12 schools are underfunded and it is now OK to raise taxes to increase that budget item. In his State of the State address, our governor promises an additional \$75 per student in the next state budget. The K-12 schools in Michigan have been so badly treated during the past few years that any increase "sounds" good. However, if you are a teacher in one of our public schools, this is how this additional funding could be spent per student in your classroom: If students are only in one classroom each day, each student 42 cents. If a student has five different class-

es each day, each of those classroom teachers could spend 9 cents per student and would be over budget. Hardly an increase that any teacher could say WOW about.

Jim Brenner
Redford

Big business government

Gov. Snyder recently said: "It is about recognizing that you are a human, you are a person and should be treated that way." He didn't think so four years ago? Just figured that out? When Republicans "streamline" government programs it will always mean cuts for the poor and middle class – unless they are streamlining for the benefit of the wealthy or corporations.

Get rid of dedicated career state food service workers in our prisons and "streamline" the system by hiring a for-profit company that serves maggots-infested food and hires employees that have sex with prisoners.

Watch for more slick presentations and a lot of backhanded changes that do no one, except the comfortable, much good! Government of big business, by big business, and for big business. The Republican Golden Rule – He who has the gold gets to make the rules!

Steve Lawrence
Northville Township

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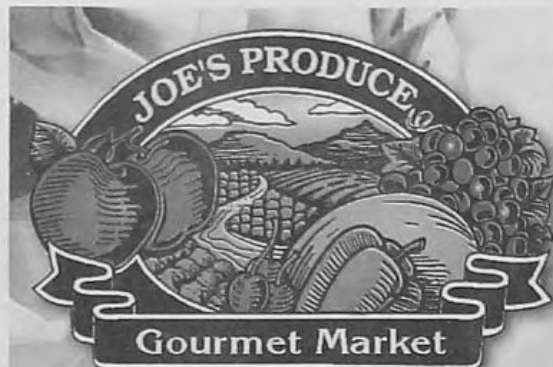
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Salem's senior girls basketball players are closing out long careers together in winning fashion. They include (front row, from left) Katie Latack, Maranda Armstead and Hayley Rogers and (standing, from left) Jamyra Wilson, Allison First and Shara Long.

SENIOR SEASON TO REMEMBER

SWEET SWAN SONG



The lone member of the "Salem Six" to play all four seasons on the varsity is wing Katie Latack (right).

Salem seniors going out on high note, winning games and having a blast

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When you watch Salem's six senior girls basketball players joke, hang out and enjoy each other's company, it's hard to fathom what they've been through together just in the past 14 months.

Last year was one of despair, dealing with the December 2013 death of their long-time coach, Fred Thomann — and then trying to get back on track with a different voice on the sidelines in Lindsay Klemmer.

"We were all really good

friends before, but we turned from friends to family," post player Maranda Armstead said. "We all knew we had each other and that's all we could really depend on."

Then the sun came up again.

Yes, Thomann's untimely and tragic death did leave a huge void in the hearts of six junior players he'd led for several years — Armstead, Allison First, Katie Latack, Shara Long, Hayley Rogers and Jamyra Wilson.

But this winter, those play-

See SALEM, Page B4

D1 INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

Rocks send quintet to regional

Salem follows team district championship with strong effort

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was quite a good week for Salem's varsity wrestling team.

After the Rocks won a Division 1 team district title Feb. 11 for the first time since 2002, several did well enough at Saturday's D1 individual district at Westland John Glenn to move on to the regional tournament.

Five Salem wrestlers all told finished in the top four in their respective weight class, the cut to earn spots at Saturday's D1 individual regional at Saline High School.

Also making the individual regional were six from Plymouth and two from Canton (Ty Jasman, second at 140; Grant Trotman, fourth at 152).

"We have put in so much work all last summer and all season, but it has been so frustrating with injuries and illness keeping our guys out a lot of the season," Salem co-coach Jeremy Henderson said. "The results really didn't show how good we actually were."

"However, (last) week they put it all together, winning team districts and getting five individuals to regionals."

Henderson said this year's contingent is the program's largest since seven Salem wrestlers moved on to the regional in 2005.

"I couldn't be more excited about where this team is going and how they have come together," he added.

Senior Caleb McCabe finished second at 152 for the team's top finisher.

Placing third were juniors Cam Shaughnessy (125) and Roy Foster (189), while sophomore Akash Rai finished fourth at 112.

Salem's fifth regional qualifier was senior Caleb McCabe, who lost by injury default to Foster in the 189-pound bout

See ROCKS, Page B3

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers' offense goes cold on frigid night

Greyhounds put dent in Plymouth's quickly fading playoff hopes

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

At least the pregame ceremony honoring Plymouth Whalers billet families was nice.

As for the Ontario Hockey League game that followed Saturday, the 1,957 fans at Compuware Arena might have been better off staying home instead of braving the brutal cold — Sault Ste. Marie had little trouble knocking off the Whalers, 5-0.

It was another lost opportunity for Plymouth, also defeated Friday night at home against Barrie.

The Whalers (18-31-2-2, 40 points) remain in 10th place in the OHL Western Conference, nine points back of Saginaw (holder of the eighth and final playoff spot).

"They're really skilled so when you have a breakdown, they're going to take advantage of it," Plymouth head coach Don Elland said about the



Greyhounds, who hold first place in the conference with a 41-11-0-2 record. "I thought we competed hard, I thought we played hard. The few mistakes we did make, they're a good team and it's going to end up in the back of your net."

Spearheading the Soo attack was forward Sergey Tolchinsky, with a goal and three as-

sists. Netting a pair of goals was center Jared McCann.

Need to finish

Whenever Plymouth put some pressure on the Greyhounds' goal, goaltender Brandon Halverson was there to keep the Whalers off the board.

He made 33 saves, including a blocker stop on a shorthanded

breakaway by Sonny Milano midway through the final period, after Plymouth was down 4-0.

"We can't feel sorry for ourselves," Elland said. "But the good thing is, we are getting chances. The bad thing is, we're not capitalizing on them."

See WHALERS, Page B3

RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Plymouth Whalers center Cullen Mercer (middle) gets out of the way of a shot Saturday night, but Sault Ste. Marie goalie Brandon Halverson is there to stop it. At left for Plymouth is Victor Crus Rydberg.

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Schoolcraft men win, yet coach spots trouble

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

On the surface, Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team is throttling all opponents — the latest example being Saturday's 85-60 victory over Henry Ford Community College.

What's not to like about a team that's ranked No. 3 in the National Junior College Athletic Association and is cruising toward a conference championship?

Or a team that broke out to an 11-0 lead against the Hawks and never trailed?

Believe it or not, Schoolcraft head coach Abe Mashhour wasn't all that impressed by his team's 12th consecutive win, which ups the Ocelots' record to 23-3 overall and 12-1 in the Michi-



Pulling up to hit a jumper Saturday is Schoolcraft's Marcus Williams (No. 5). At left for the Ocelots is forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz.

gan Community College Athletic Association.

"Unfortunately, we didn't play hard," Mashhour said after the Ocelots defeated his former team. "We didn't play like we've been playing and it's getting frustrat-

ing with some of the lack of effort.

"It's not good enough right now. Our record obviously is, in my opinion, a little misleading. We're not that good of a team right now. We need to clean up a lot of dif-

ferent areas."

With the team in prime position to go for the MCCA championship at the end of February and then move on to the NJCAA District 10 tournament, Mashhour wants to see bad habits immediately stopped.

For example, in the first half, Schoolcraft made 6-of-20 shots from behind the arc instead of possibly finding higher-percentage shots inside. For the game, the Ocelots connected on just 28.6 of their triple tries (8-of-28).

Mashhour also didn't see maximum effort for all 40 minutes.

"I told them I've had many teams that had worse records than this," Mashhour said. "But I was way more confident going into the postseason than I am with this group right now."

The victory wasn't all grim. All 11 players did record at least two points and Schoolcraft enjoyed a 53-34 edge in rebounding.

As usual, guard Ja'Christian Biles was a shooting standout with 25 points (including five treys in nine attempts). During a one-minute stretch midway through the first half, Biles and Henry Ford's Daton Aaron (24 points) each drained a pair of 3-balls.

"One day one person may be on, another day it's somebody else," Biles said. "We have a lot of talent, we do have a lot of depth."

Muscling in for plenty of second-chance putbacks and rebounds was 6-7, 250-pound freshman forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz. He tallied 15 points along with eight rebounds.

"The team moved the ball around; I got some nice looks down there," Wartley-Fritz said. "Rebounded very well, boxed out very well."

Wartley-Fritz nodded when asked about the team's troubling tendency to let up after going full-throttle.

Saturday, for example, Schoolcraft enjoyed a 20-8 lead with 12:30 left following a trey by Biles.

But the Hawks (6-16, 1-11) closed the gap to 34-28 just five minutes later. It was a 48-31 lead for the Ocelots at half-time.

Chipping in 12 points was guard Lito Booth.

Also in double figures for Henry Ford were Lloyd Harris (18) and Daavi Bradley (11).

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Brindza at NFL combine



Plymouth High School graduate Kyle Brindza, who was the Notre Dame starting punter and kicker for the past three seasons, is participating in this week's National Football League 2015 combine in Indianapolis. Brindza was a prep standout for the Wildcats. He helped lead Plymouth to the Division 1 state championship game in 2010. Also that season, he established a Michigan high school record with 19 field goals, including six of nine from 50 yards or more. The NFL combine began Tuesday and continues through Friday.

KLAA GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Long scores 24 to spark Salem win

KLAA opener sloppy affair for Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For the first half Tuesday night, Salem's varsity girls basketball team played like the KLAA Central Division champion it is.

The Rocks went into halftime of the KLAA tournament opener enjoying a lopsided lead of 26-9 over Westland John Glenn.

Yet Salem wound up hanging on by a thread down the stretch as the Rockets outscored the Rocks 29-8 over the final 10 minutes before ultimately prevailing 40-38.

"We kind of got complacent," Salem head coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "And we can't get complacent against any-

body.

"I'm a coach that preaches heart and hustle and I think we got outthustled in the second half. That disappoints me and it won't happen again."

Good thing for the Rocks (13-4) that senior post Shara Long could not be stopped. Long tallied a career-best 24 points, mostly around the rim, and grabbed 10 rebounds.

"I got a few offensive rebounds, good passes from my guards," Long said. "I had a mismatch, the girl was smaller than me, but I wouldn't have been as dominant as I was if I didn't get great passes."

Contributing nine points and a number of on-the-mark dishes to Long was senior point guard Jamyra Wilson. Junior guard Zoe Talley played well, scoring five points.

Going to work

"She had a great game; she was dominant," Klemmer said about Long. "I knew the biggest thing was to get her the ball inside, because they were under-sized."

"She's just playing really well and her strength hurt them quite a bit. Our guards did a great job getting her the ball and, without a double-team, I tell her to go to work every day. That's what she did."

Leading John Glenn (7-11) with 11 points was junior forward Kimah

Stribling, who buried a pair of treys late in the third when the Rockets went on a 10-0 run to close out the quarter.

That closed Salem's once-comfortable lead to 32-19 entering the fourth.

John Glenn closed the gap to 40-38 with three seconds left, following a pair of free throws by junior forward Nadia Reed (eight points).

Then with 1.8 seconds left, Wilson missed a pair of free throws. But Salem senior wing Hayley Rogers pulled down the key offensive rebound to enable the Rocks to run out the clock.

Big run by Salem

Salem jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first and held a 12-6 edge after the opening quarter.

A 3-ball by Stribling cut that to 12-9 early in the second, but the Rocks scored the final 14 points of the quarter.

Long registered four layups — one off a nifty dish inside from Talley — and Wilson helped the cause with a beautiful runner through the lane.

The second half opened with more of the same for Salem, as Long tallied a pair of field goals and junior guard Leah Moss chipped in a basket to open a 26-point advantage (32-9).

That's when the tables turned, beginning with Stribling's trey. Unfortunately for the Rockets, they fell into too deep of a hole to get out of.

According to Klemmer, whose team will host South Lyon East at 7 p.m. Thursday in a second-round game, some

areas need to be cleaned up before then.

"We just let them get off a bunch of open shots and layups and we weren't playing team defense the way we normally do," she said. "I wasn't happy with it. I'm glad we came away with the win, but we need to be able to step up to the next level in order to get through this tournament."

PLYMOUTH 47, NOVI 21: Kendall Rose scored 12 points Tuesday night to pace the visiting Wildcats.

Adding 11 points each for Plymouth (15-2) were Paige Slominski and Courtney LaVallee, while Cassidy Lewis tallied seven.

A big 14-4 second quarter gave Plymouth a 30-10 halftime lead en route to the triumph, which set up Thursday's second-round game against Livonia Churchill (at Plymouth).

"We were looking forward to getting a win here," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "It's been a long time since our program got a win at Novi, so it was a good victory for us."

The KLAA South Division champions took control of the quarterfinal game from the start by opening up a 16-6 first-quarter advantage while shooting 7-of-12 from the floor.

"I really liked that we were active in our press," Brandon said. "It showed me that we had energy tonight."

"My biggest concern coming into this game was that we weren't going to play with maximum effort because I knew Novi would. ... I really wanted us to match their intensity and was really glad we did."

S.L. EAST 40, CANTON 27: The visiting Chiefs could not get open shots to fall Tuesday and it cost them.

Scoring 10 points for Canton was Erin Hult, with Madison Archibald and Brianna Finn tallying six and five points, respectively.

Gabbi Bird led East with 20 points.

"We played hard, we executed, we just did not make shots tonight," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "Layups weren't falling. Open jumpers weren't falling and, in the game of basketball, you got to be able to make plays."

The Chiefs were hampered by an injury sustained recently by senior Alanna Brown, who is out for about two weeks, Palmer said.

He added that further compounding matters was the fact Brown's replacement, Bre Donehue, also got injured.

Canton will face Westland John Glenn in the tourney's second round Thursday.

Staff writer Brad Emons contributed to this report.

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Bland spices up Schoolcraft attack

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The last time Henry Ford Community College's women's basketball team faced Schoolcraft, the Lady Ocelots could not contain Hawks guard Kenyanna Austin.

Austin scored 30-plus points in that first game, but that was not the case Saturday in Livonia as Schoolcraft threw a defensive blanket over her en route to a 78-40 victory.

Conversely, Schoolcraft guard and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland had a big game, scoring 27 points and hauling down 10 rebounds to lead the Lady Ocelots (16-8 overall, 10-3 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association).

"We did everything we needed to do right today," Schoolcraft head coach Kara Kinzer said. "We rebounded the ball well, we used the shot clock, we played great defense, we played team defense."

"Last time, No. 5 on Henry Ford's team (Austin) scored 30-some



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Bringing the ball up the floor Saturday is Schoolcraft guard Ashley Bland, who led the Lady Ocelots with 27 points against Henry Ford Community College.

points on us and we held her to two points. That's big for us."

Bland, who connected on 13-of-24 field-goal opportunities, said there is a blueprint that the team needs to follow to have the kind of success

it had against the Hawks.

"You got to stay focused, take smart shots, look for the open player, go up strong," Bland said. "You got to pass with a purpose. Everything has to have a purpose to it."

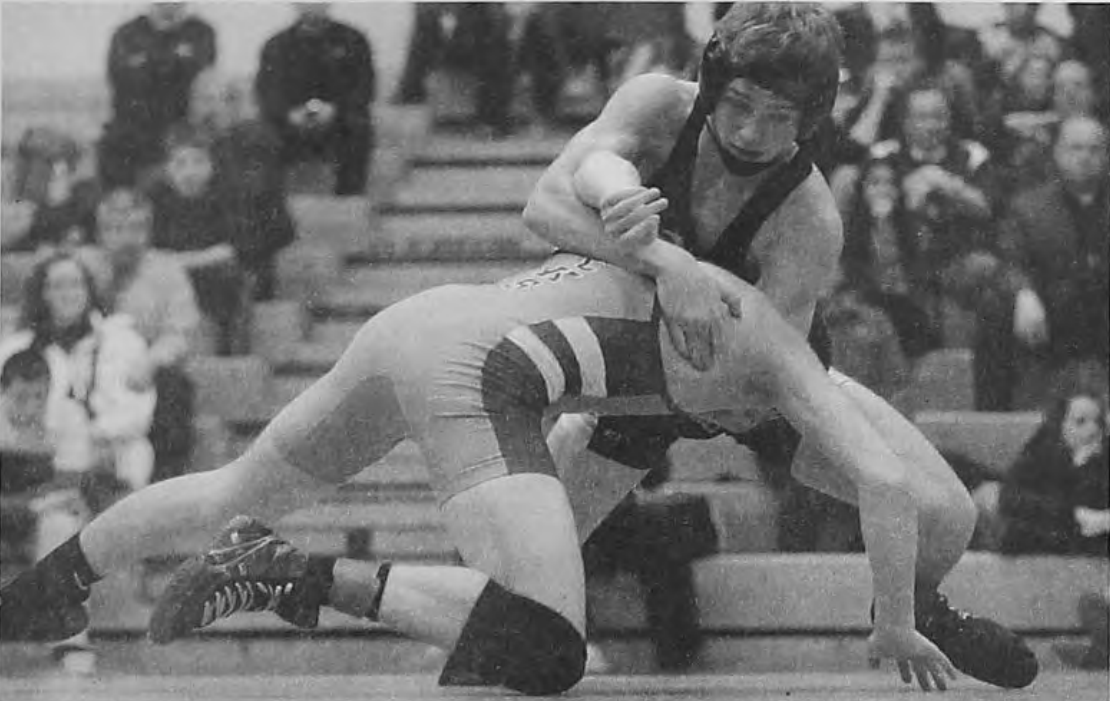
Schoolcraft rolled to a 44-21 halftime advantage and coasted from there against Henry Ford (8-14, 3-9). A huge edge in rebounding (63-35) helped the home team's cause.

In addition to Bland, the Lady Ocelots were paced by solid offensive games from Birmingham Seaholm alum Elise Tolbert (15 points, eight boards), T'era Nesbitt (12 points, nine rebounds) and Breiana Allen (10 points).

Tallying 21 points for Henry Ford was Taylor Works.

The Lady Ocelots now are in the running for third place in the MCCA Eastern Conference and Kinzer is confident the team will remain in sync right up into the NJCAA districts in early March.

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Battling in their 135-pound bout at the Division 1 team district Feb. 11 are Plymouth's Dylan Dwyer (top) and Salem's Charlie Woody. Dwyer qualified for the individual regional.

ANDREW RUBENSTEIN, MD

D1 INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

Plymouth matmen await regional challenge

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

One challenge succeeds another this time of season for high school wrestlers and such is the case for six Plymouth Wildcats.

After finishing in the top four in their respective weight class at Saturday's Division 1 individual district, that sextet now gears up for the next step — this weekend's D1 individual regional at Saline.

Saturday's regional, which begins at 9 a.m., is all that stands between Isiah Berry, Dylan Dwyer, Brandon Harris, Michael Jordan, Sterling Schiftar and Hussein Youssef and a trip to the state finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Just like districts, the top four wrestlers per weight class will move on.

"We're in a tough part of the state for wrestling," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "I think all the guys have a shot. There's not any weight that is so stacked that I don't think we have a chance to get out."

"We're just going to have wrestle well again. They're all

going to have to wrestle to their abilities or maybe a little bit above, but they all have a chance to qualify for states."

Highlights for the Wildcats at the Westland John Glenn-hosted district were championships at 119 by senior Harris and 135 by junior Dwyer.

"Dylan looked good, like he always does," Guernsey said. "I think he only spent two-and-a-half minutes all day on the mat. That was pretty impressive. Really, all the guys wrestled tough."

Harris earned a 10-9 decision over Dearborn's Hassan Makled, while Dwyer pinned Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Aidan Wagh in 47 seconds.

Placing second at 189 was senior Youssef, who lost via fall in 2:19 to CC's Nick Giese. Youssef earlier prevailed in a hard-fought semifinal against Salem's Mitchell Gross (who still qualified for the regional).

Junior Jordan came in third at heavyweight, having defeated Livonia Churchill's Jake Merciaa by an 8-3 count.

Also taking third was freshman Berry, who knocked off Livonia Franklin's Antonio

Herrera, 2-1.

"Isiah had to wrestle a kid from Franklin twice, who he'd already wrestled twice this year and had lost the last (time)," Guernsey said. "We were a little concerned about that one going in. We knew it was going to be a good match. ... He looked really good all day."

Plymouth's sixth regional qualifier was Schiftar, finishing fourth at 140.

With only two seniors among this year's group of qualifiers, Guernsey said this week should be a worthwhile learning experience for the four underclassmen.

"This is a great week for them," he noted. "When you're training for regionals, the focus in the room gets to change a little bit, it becomes a lot more about making them individually better, not having to worry so much about the team."

"So it's a great experience for the guys, because they get to get a lot better in a short amount of time."

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ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

for third.

"We double entered them at that weight class," Henderson said. "You can do that for districts."

MHSAA DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Feb. 14 at Westland John Glenn CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (top four advance to regional)

103 pounds: Michael Mars (John Glenn) dec. Stone Moscovic (Detroit CC), 6-0; 3rd: Isiah Berry (Plymouth) dec. Antonio Herrera (Franklin), 2-1.

112: Aaron Rehfeldt (Detroit CC) won by major dec. over Josh Mussen (Churchill), 14-4; 3rd: Johnny DiPonio (Franklin) won by major dec. over Akashed Rai (Salem), 8-0.

119: Brandon Harris (Plymouth) dec. Hassan Makled (Dearborn), 10-9; 3rd: Joe Lyon (Detroit CC) p. Jim Behe (Northville), 1-52.

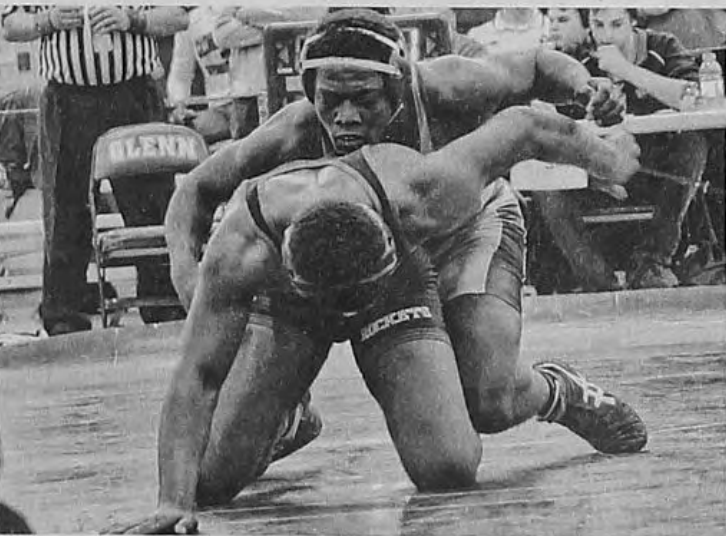
125: Chase Spanos (John Glenn) won by major dec. over Tommy Herrmann (Detroit CC), 12-2; 3rd: Cameron Shaughnessy (Salem) dec. Adam Ross (Franklin), 9-4.

130: Trevor Zdebbski (Detroit CC) dec. Abe Ajami (Dearborn Fordson), 10-4; 3rd: Nick Robertson (Franklin) dec. Payton Beneteau (John Glenn), 11-7.

135: Dylan Dwyer (Plymouth) pinned Aidan Wagh (Novi Detroit Catholic Central), 0:47; 3rd place: Evan Davis (Novi) decisioned Brad Speen (John Glenn), 9-2.

140: Nathan Atienza (Livonia Franklin) dec. Ty Jaskan (Canton), 8-2; 3rd: Youssef Danouji (Dearborn) dec. Sterling Schiftar (Plymouth), 9-2.

145: Zac Leck (Livonia Churchill) dec. Chris Koumariotis (Northville), 3-1; 3rd: Nick Joseph



Salem's Roy Foster (top) goes to work against an opponent at Saturday's Division 1 individual districts.

LISA BUSHAW

(Detroit CC) dec. John McRoberts (University of Detroit Jesuit), 6-0.

152: Connor Cox (Detroit CC) dec. Caleb McCabe (Salem), 5-4; 3rd: Chase Gardner (Churchill) p. Grant Trotman (Canton), 5-34.

160: Myles Amine (Detroit CC) p. Ahmad Elsayed (Dearborn Heights Crestwood), 1:36; 3rd: Sam Giese (Detroit CC) dec. Kassem Salameh (Crestwood), 3-0.

171: Tyler Morland (Detroit CC) won by injury default over Connor Vaughan (Livonia Stevenson); 3rd: Mitchell Rettig (Franklin) dec. Logan Beaudoin

(John Glenn), 7-1.

189: Nick Giese (Detroit CC) p. Hussein Youssef (Plymouth), 2:19; 3rd: Roy Foster (Salem) won by injury default over Mitchell Gross (Salem).

215: Baker Hadwan (Churchill) dec. Ali Beydoun (Crestwood), 9-2; 3rd: Brad Scott (Stevenson) dec. Nate Irvine (John Glenn), 5-2.

285: Ali Wahab (Crestwood) dec. Nick Jenkins (Detroit CC), 7-5; 3rd: Michael Jordan (Plymouth) dec. Jake Mercieca (Churchill), 8-3.

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic played well at the other end, but he was victimized for five goals among the 41 Soo shots directed his way.

"We just gave them too much respect at times during the game," Nedeljkovic said. "In the second period, we kind of sat back and let them do whatever they wanted to."

"They're that skilled where if you give them time and space, they'll make plays."

Nedeljkovic stoned the Greyhounds during a power play early in the first period, stopping Nick Ritchie's one-timer.

But Sault Ste. Marie opened up the scoring at 6:49, when Tolchinsky slammed home McCann's centering pass.

Before the end of the period,

Michael Bunting scored a power-play goal to make it 2-0. Tolchinsky's shot was stopped by Nedeljkovic, but the Carolina Hurricanes prospect got caught to one side of the net, leaving Bunting wide open.

McCann then doubled the advantage to 4-0, with goals at 4:55 and 11:19 of the second period (the latter on the power play).

No puck luck

In the third, the snake-bit Whalers came to life on a power-play chance, putting plenty of heat on the Soo goalie.

Blue line blasts by defensemen Gianluca Curcuruto and Mitch Jones were turned aside by Halverson.

On another play, a snap shot from the top of the left circle by defenseman Mathieu Henderson hit the left side of the goal and the Whalers tried to bank the rebound in off Halverson, who managed to keep

the puck from crossing the line.

Capping the scoring at 14:04 of the third was Gabe Guertler, who drove a shot from the right circle past Nedeljkovic. Setting up the tally was forward Jack Kopacka.

Thanking the billets

Perhaps the evening's highlight was the pregame ceremony honoring Whalers' billets — families that house players during the season.

All of the billets were introduced and walked out onto the ice, drawing heartfelt applause.

"It's always nice to show them support and appreciation," said Nedeljkovic, who doesn't live with a billet because his actual family resides in the area. "They do a lot, letting us move in with them."

"It's always nice to show them the respect and appreciation they deserve."



CANTON ATHLETICS

Canton's varsity pom squad celebrates winning the state championship Feb. 8 in East Lansing. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Tara Quigley, Gabby Watts, Madison Santori, Katie Valchine and Ayden Peters; (second row, from left) Maigan Byars, Micala Tafelski, Grace Brekke, Abby Crippes, Stacey Partain, Aleigh Gorham, Mia Tavian and head coach Jenny Kesler; and (third row, from left) assistant coach Gabby Cayao, Emma Stephens, Emily Cesario, Brenna Shaw, Sophia Mekled, Alicyn Mabry, Shelby Petersen, Morgan Filmore and Clara Mason.

ROCKING THE BRESLIN CENTER

Clean sweep for Canton pom squads

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When it comes to nailing competitive pom routines, nobody in Michigan is doing it better than Canton High School.

That's because the Chieftettes varsity and junior varsity pom squads came away with state championships in their respective division at the Mid American Pompon State Championship, held Feb. 8 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

For the Canton varsity team, guided by head coach Jenny Kesler and assistant coach Gabby Cayao, the title was the program's third overall and first since 1993.

The JV Chieftettes, led by head coach Brandee Amick and assistant coach Nikki Bataglia, won their second state championship. The JV previously won in 2009.

Both teams capped off an undefeated season.

They placed first in November at the High Kick Competition; the varsity squad also walked away from camp last summer with a "Grand Champs" title.

"The girls are very honored to be the 2015 state champs in extremely competitive divisions," Kesler wrote in an email to the *Canton Observer*.

"For teams who qualify at the regional level, moving on to

the state championship is a chance to win the crown jewel of the season.

"Teams as young as middle school compete, all the way up to the collegiate level."

Canton's varsity squad topped the field, with Saginaw Heritage second and Plymouth third.

In the JV competition, the Chieftettes were followed by runners-up Northville and third-place Plymouth.

Capturing the middle school division was Livonia, with Garden City in second place.

Members of the Canton varsity are: Grace Brekke, Maigan Byars, Emily Cesario, Abby Crippes, Morgan Filmore, Aleigh Gorham, Alicyn Mabry, Clara Mason, Sophia Mekled, Stacey Partain, Ayden Peters, Shelby Petersen, Tara Quigley, Madison Santori, Brenna Shaw, Emma Stephens, Micala Tafelski, Mia Tavian, Katie Valchine and Gabby Watts.

The Canton JV team is composed of Claire Carrier, Nikki Christensen, Jessi Dawson, Sydney Drechnowicz, Alexis Faught, Dany Guerra, Alia Jones, Grace Jurczak, Saniya Kale, Brooke MacIntyre, Arianna Mattioli, Jenna Milewski, Kendall Milo, Nicole Piontek, Payton Rasmussen, Brianna Tetlow and Mallery Woodard.

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CANTON ATHLETICS

Performing part of its championship routine at the Mid American Pompon State Championship is Canton's junior varsity pom squad.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Salem icers come up big

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With the Division 1 boys hockey state tournament just a couple of weeks away, the Salem Rocks are getting sharper at precisely the right time of the year.

Salem outplayed and out-scored Muskegon Mona Shores — a perennial state title contender — 5-2 Saturday night at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

That victory nudged the Rocks closer to the top 10. They are ranked 11th in D1 with a 9-9-3 record and are better than the record indicates due to playing a number of strong opponents in non-league match-ups.

"It was one of our better overall games in a while," Salem head coach Ryan Ossensmacher said. "We continue to work on our special teams. They will need to improve for us to find any sustained success."

To that end, Mona Shores netted both goals on the power play, while the Rocks went 0-of-5 with the extra man.

But Saturday's game was encouraging on several fronts.

Senior forward Liam Walker returned to the lineup after missing three weeks due to an injury. He sparked the Salem

attack, registering two goals and an assist.

Stellar in goal was senior Dillon Phillips, who stopped 21 shots, including "a few timely saves."

According to Ossensmacher, sophomore Joey Driscoll "was one of our better forwards. He played with tremendous energy and was rewarded with his first goal of the season."

Also scoring for Salem were forwards Evan Newel (one goal, one assist) and Zach Goleniak, while winger Noah Willer tallied two assists.

Other Salem players to get on the score sheet were forward Matt Schaumberger and defenseman Noah Saad, with one assist each.

The Rocks, who led Mona Shores 30-23 in shots, were up 2-1 after the opening period and padded that lead to 4-1 after two.

Next up for Salem is another very competitive opponent in Howell. The KLAA cross-over tilt is slated for 7:30 p.m. at PCC.

UD-JESUIT 3, PLYMOUTH 1: The Wildcats dropped a non-conference game Saturday at University of Detroit-Jesuit.

Scoring for Plymouth (13-7-1) was Ricky Covault, with assists to Andrew Jossy and Josh Smith.

FOREST HILLS 4, PLYMOUTH 1: Despite the ninth goal of the season by Josh Smith (assisted by Andrew Jossy), the Wildcats fell short in this road contest Friday against Forest Hills Central.

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SPECIAL YEAR FOR COACH, TOO

Seniors like family to Salem's Klemmer

Rocks girls basketball coach draws parallel to her own career

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Once in a while, Lindsay Klemmer remembers what it was like to play for the Salem varsity girls basketball team.

Klemmer was a standout among standouts for the Rocks — the team went 18-2 her senior year — before graduating in 2000. She then got sidetracked by an injury before enjoying a successful college career at Madonna University.

And that Salem team, coached by Fred Thomann, featured a nucleus of four players that had been together for eons. That was a similar situation to this season, with six senior friends and long-time teammates on a team that won the KLAA Central Division.

Seeing that group of players through to the finish line is why Klemmer wanted to continue coaching the Rocks following an emotional 2013-14,



Head coach Lindsay Klemmer surveys the action during a Salem varsity girls basketball game earlier this season.

when she took over the team after Thomann's December 2013 death.

"I know there was a group of four of us when I was a senior (at Salem), but it's like your own little family," Klem-

mer said. "They have each other's back. They're so different in so many ways, on the court and off the court. But they have each other's backs and they're nothing but best friends, both on the court and

off the court.

"They're a blast, they're a lot of fun and they're one of the main reasons I came back here. I wanted to make sure these seniors went out on a high note, especially after everything that we went through together last year."

This season has been a big success for seniors Maranda Armstead, Allison First, Katie Latack, Shara Long, Hayley Rogers and Jamyra Wilson. But Klemmer knows those girls are nearing the end of their Salem careers.

"I have a hard time thinking about that," Klemmer said. "I just feel ... I love these kids like they're my own. I treat them like they're my own. I've been so blessed to have them here for my first full year."

"I just want to make sure I bring out the most potential in them that they have, so that they leave here with no regrets and they say, 'Hey, I gave everything I absolutely could and I had the best experience that I could have.'"

It has been an emotional year for Klemmer, too. Not only did she lose Thomann, her high school coach and mentor, she lost her "Uncle

Buck" Craig Buchanan last summer.

Buchanan coached at Northern Michigan University and Marquette High School over the years and he was going to help Klemmer out with the Rocks when he died.

"This whole season for me has been dedicated to two of the most inspirational men in my life that I've lost," she said.

Klemmer said coaching the six seniors was the primary reason for continuing with Salem.

But now she intends to keep going, especially with some promising young players such as freshman sisters Jala and Lasha Petree on board.

"I believe that this (division crown) is the start of something great," Klemmer said. "I'm ready to bring back the tradition that Fred imbedded in me when I was here, which is the blue-collar work ethic, the hard work, the hustle, all those little things he made sure I did as a player. I'm ready to get that out of them. I'm ready to lay a foundation here and build from that."

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SALEM

Continued from Page B1

ers now are in their final season at Salem. They and their coach are motivated to help them finish what they started back in 2009-10, when they first became teammates with the AAU Western Wayne Wolfpack developmental program.

Dream season

With Thomann's memory always in their thoughts, the Rocks have enjoyed a season to cherish.

Salem captured the KLAA Central Division with a perfect 10-0 record and the team (13-4 overall) now is intent on winning the conference tournament, which began Tuesday with a win over Westland John Glenn.

From there, the Rocks look to keep rolling right on to the Breslin Center, where the Class A final four will be played in March.

"It's awesome. I know this has been our dream probably since freshman year," said Rogers, who plays wing. "And it's really great to finally see it happening. We were so excited Friday (Feb. 6) when we clinched it, we were all just jumping around, screaming."

Rogers said she still wears the royal blue wristband with Thomann's initials "FJT" that each Rocks player was given Jan. 14, 2014, the night the coaching legend was honored at Salem.

"I think he always knew we had the potential," she said. "I think he'd be really proud of us to see that we're living up to what he always thought we could be."

Although point guard Wilson laughed when she described the team as being "a big, crazy, dysfunctional family," it can get down to business, too.

"I knew that we could always do it," Wilson said. "I always wanted to have our year up there on the boards since the day I came in here and I knew one year we were going to do it."

"I was hoping for all my four

years, but I knew that wasn't realistic. But since it's my senior year and we actually did it, it feels amazing."

Giving credit

All six players — friends and teammates since middle school — give a big assist to Klemmer, a former Salem standout player who joined Thomann's coaching staff at the beginning of the 2013-14 season.

"Lindsay's great. She really pushes us and motivates us to play every game like it's our last," post player Long said. "Since we are seniors, we have to play each game like it's our last."

"You never know, a bad injury, a missed game in districts, anything can happen."

Yet they often think about Thomann.

"Obviously, losing Fred was a really big impact on our team," Long added. "And last year, it was hard to come back (after the death). But we bounced back and I think this year it really showed our potential."

Long added that Thomann "inspired me a lot to be the player I am today and I'm sure it's true for the rest of our seniors."

First, a wing player, credited both Thomann and Klemmer for helping the team go from untapped potential to one with aspirations for a lengthy post-season run.

"He really pushed us to become better players," First said. "And Lindsay just taught us to communicate more and we've all really grown as a team."

Support system

According to Latack, a guard who joined the Salem varsity in her freshman year (the others came on board as sophomores), their prep careers have been like being on a roller-coaster.

Last year was the obvious low point, but now things are on the upswing.

"It has had its ups and down," Latack said. "But I think it's made us stronger as a team, because we knew we could rely on each other."



Bringing the ball up court during a recent game is Salem senior guard Jamyra Wilson.

"And then we just helped each other through everything (Thomann's death and the aftermath). I think it brought us closer in the end."

Even when this season started with the Rocks losing the first four games, the tight-knit group didn't waver about getting it together for one glorious swan song.

"We just figured this is our last year and we wanted to just go all-out, not hold anything back," Wilson said, remembering the impact Thomann made on their work ethic and resolve, going back to their years with the Wolfpack. "(Thomann) would push us to definitely move forward and push us as hard as we can, no excuses."

Time to reboot

Yet Rogers said the team realized it wasn't that far off the mark after those early losses, all against top-notch opponents such as Plymouth (in the season opener), Farmington Hills Mercy and Dearborn Divine Child.

"After the horrible start against Plymouth, we said, 'That wasn't us, we're putting that game aside,'" Rogers said. "And we started working harder, focusing more on technical, really worked on our defense."

"And then for the next three games, we were really close, we

almost beat Mercy. We were really close to Divine Child, close to Brighton. And then after that, we're like, 'OK, this is ridiculous, we got to get going.' And then we turned the corner. Everything started clicking."

Having a chance to laugh and blow off steam didn't hurt as the Rocks turned the calendar to January. That's where the "fun" in dysfunctional took over.

"For New Year's Eve, we all got together at Katie's house and watched *High School Musical 3*, (about) a high school musical senior year," Rogers said. "We started crying, because it was after midnight, we're like, 'Oh my gosh, this is us!' It's just the small stuff like that. We're crazy, I guess."

Armstead said they get together at different players' homes for pasta parties.

"One of the things we do is play (the video game) Just Dance and we sing a lot," Armstead said. "That really just lightens the mood and makes us realize how much we actually are a family."

Charting course

Of course, it's not just about having great times away from the basketball court. The girls still knew they had to produce

in their games.

Thanks to Klemmer's encouragement, the seniors spearheaded creation of a so-called "vision board" that is taped to a wall near Klemmer's office.

It actually is a construction paper sign, with keywords (focus, consistency, family, intensity, heart), symbols and drawings that help the Rocks visualize going up the tournament mountain to Breslin.

The first step was the KLAA Central title, Salem's first in six years. Next on the agenda is the conference tourney.

Before games and at half-time, players tap the light brown sign for extra motivation — as if they needed it.

"Yeah, we've had these (goals) in our mind the whole year," Klemmer said. "But a couple weeks ago, we just decided that we wanted to put it in front of us, so that every time we came in to the locker room, prior to the game, prior to practice, every time we walked out on the court, we saw what we're reaching for."

"It's kind of a mountain we're trying to climb, but you have to knock off certain things to get to the ultimate goal."

Long said the sign definitely is making a positive difference.

"It was our coach's idea and, one day before practice, we all just worked on it," Long said. "We all contributed, we all wrote our (uniform) numbers, we wrote 'Salem Rocks.' It's a mountain we climb; each step is a new goal."

"Once we got division, now we're going up for KLAA and then districts and regionals, keep climbing up our mountain."

First concurred that while the sign gave the Rocks an extra boost, "I think we had it in us (to win the division). That just gave us the push to really see it and know what we're going for."

Sounds pretty logical for such a "crazy, dysfunctional" team.

They're crazy good, actually. Fred Thomann would approve.

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COLLEGE BOWLING

Schoolcraft women top field at invite

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia might be turning into a house of horrors for opponents of Schoolcraft College's bowling teams.

On Friday, Feb. 13, luck might have been in the mix somewhere. But it was mostly pure talent at work as the Lady Ocelots captured the women's side of the Schoolcraft College Bowling Invitational, while their male counterparts came up just short after a furious rally.

"We've been playing pretty good and we had this date circled on our calendar since the start of the year," Schoolcraft bowling head coach Pat Yelsik said. "It was our home invitational, our home turf. We wanted to perform well in front of family and friends and we felt we did that."

"We feel we have some good

momentum going into the state championship in two weeks and nationals in three weeks."

In the women's team standings, Schoolcraft tallied a 3,633 score, well ahead of Muskegon (3,560) and Kirtland/Wayne (2,804).

Schoolcraft's men's team trailed Muskegon 4,010-3,864 entering the fourth and final Baker game and the Ocelots — outscoring the Jayhawks by a 446-318 count — came within a frame or so of pulling off the comeback. Muskegon edged Schoolcraft by a 4,328-4,310 total.

"It was a real valiant effort by the guys, coming back the way they did," Yelsik said. "Real proud of them."

Team success wasn't the only plus coming out of the invite.

Sophomore Angela Rodriguez, a returning National Junior College Athletic Association All-American, won an

individual award for throwing the top game (213). She also finished with a 556-pin series, trailing only Muskegon's Candace Sutton (560).

"(Rodriguez) had the second highest series in the tournament," Yelsik said. "Right behind her was Ella Kearney (Farmington) and also Bianca Greco was in there as well; they played great yesterday."

Greco and Kearney chipped in with 478 and 446 scores, respectively.

Not to be overlooked was Westland John Glenn product Yvette Ayers. The sophomore finished third overall with a 506 series.

Canton alum Ammera Sirhan (375) and Huron Valley Lutheran grad Bethany McCormick (301) also helped the Schoolcraft cause.

On the men's side of the ledger, Livonia Clarenceville product Ricky Rutenbar "performed very well" with a sec-



SCHOOLCRAFT ATHLETICS

Schoolcraft's women's bowling team celebrates winning the Schoolcraft invitational at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia. From left are Ameera Sirhan, Bianca Greco, Ella Kearney, Bethany McCormick, Yvette Ayers and Angela Rodriguez.

ond-place finish both in high game (226) and series (595). Only Muskegon's Noah Carter fared better, with a 231 top game and 647 series.

In sixth overall was Schoolcraft's Leon Hutchcraft (576), while Josh Coffee rolled a 554 series, good for eighth.

Other Ocelots contributing were Sam Berger (12th, 533), Ben Jakes (13th, 533), Northville product Colton Ma-Wu (17th, 504) and Livonia Clarenceville alum Kaylup Rich-

ards (23rd, 472).

"Leon Hutchcraft, who has been our most consistent performer, he was one of the top performers as well," Yelsik said. "And Josh Coffee, who had struggled a little bit in the first couple tournaments, he really came on and did some nice things for us."

"Colton played good. He had a rough couple first games, then came out of nowhere and had a 216 in his third game."

Lawyers: Have real estate documents reviewed right from start, avoid headaches

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Having a lawyer review your paperwork when buying a home is smart.

"That's the key is having a lawyer review everything before you sign a purchase agreement," said Steve Bernstein, a lawyer with more than 40 years of practice based in Farmington Hills. "I don't think most people realize that."

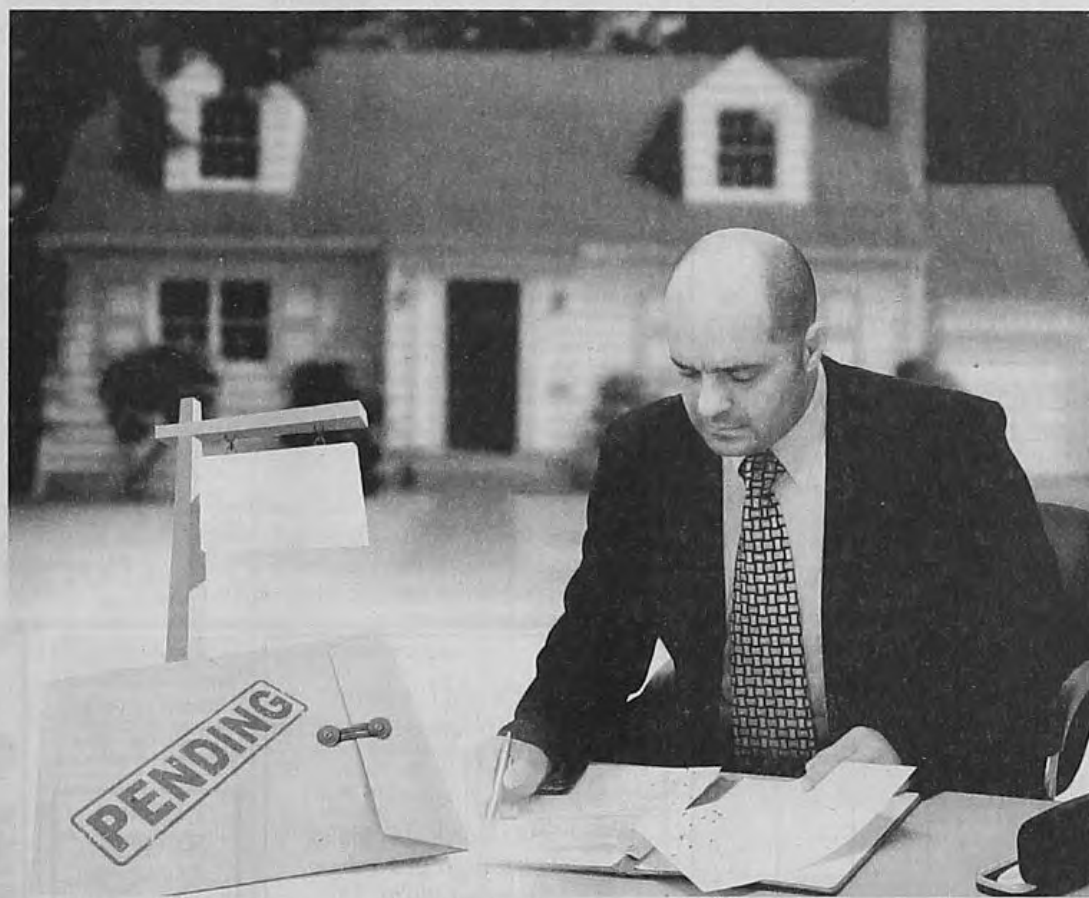
Keego Harbor resident Bernstein gets calls from people who've already signed a purchase agreement and have experienced difficulties. "That's the point when I can give them the most help," he said of clients before they sign the purchase agreement.

The purchase agreement is a binding contract, Bernstein explained, and particularly crucial for a large transaction like buying a home. He noted those buying a business for comparable money would likely hire a lawyer.

It's prudent to ask a lawyer about his or her credentials and experience, he said, and if they handle real estate transactions. "I never mind that question, as a matter of fact I welcome it," he said. "It's really just like going to the doctor. You don't want a foot doctor working on your heart."

Bernstein worked part time for a title company while still in law school. He noted problems that can arise if no lawyer has reviewed the purchase agreement, such as with the condition of the house, title issues or others.

"We could have saved the time and expense of clearing



these things up" earlier, Bernstein said. "You're spending a very significant amount of money."

Livonia-based attorney Sue Carlson, in practice 35 years, agreed that having an attorney review real estate transactions is wise.

"It's a major contract you're entering," said Canton resident Carlson. "There are ramifications for saying 'I'm backing out of this deal.'"

She noted real estate agents often fill out forms; an

attorney can provide for contingencies, which Carlson said are especially key for buyers and in some cases sellers.

"There are all kinds of possibilities," she said. "It should be reviewed." An attorney can draft an addendum as needed "and be aware of any problems that will come up before the closing."

Carlson often attends closings to represent her client. "Every time I go to the closing, there's at least one new form," she said. She too wel-

comes general questions from prospective clients on her background.

"Every case is different," said Carlson of real estate purchases. "It's a lot of money."

She said with homes selling more rapidly now an attorney can help with negotiating. She finds cold feet at the closing the big problem. "That's when everything hits the fan," she said.

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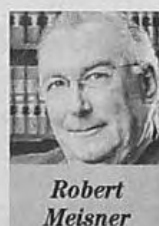
Common-area gun ban raises constitutional issues

Q: We are talking about banning guns in common areas of the condominium. Do you think that is a good idea?

A: That is a loaded question, no pun intended. Obviously, people need to be able to protect themselves on the common areas, but you also do not want vigilantes policing the common areas with guns. Then there becomes the question of the right to bear arms and how it is to be interpreted as it relates to a condominium association. There is no clear cut answer at this point in time, but it is the kind of discussion that the Board of Directors and its legal counsel should have to determine whether a specific policy is necessary or whether the existing documents in any way cover the issue.

Q: I am trying to sell my property for about \$250,000 and have a prospective purchaser, but he only wants to put \$5,000 down with various contingencies. What do you think?

A: I think that that is not a good deal for you because if the buyer defaults, the \$5,000 does not inflict sufficient financial pain on the purchaser if he really wants to opt out of the deal for no legal or reasonable reason. I would try to get at least 15 to 20 percent down in a given situation to make any purchaser think twice before they walk away from a deal irrespective of what the contingencies are.



Robert Meisner

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Mortgage seminar

"A Mortgage Experience You Can Brag About" seminar will be held 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Livonia Library, 32777 Five Mile, sponsored by Keller Williams Realtors. Pertinent information on getting back into the market after a bankruptcy, short sale or foreclosure. New programs available for first-time homebuyers. Call Sheila Roma at 248-760-6785 or Debbi McLaughlin at 248-561-0077 by Feb. 19 to reserve a spot.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvalue-erealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 22-26, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

32200 Arlington Dr \$334,000
16964 Beechwood Ave \$277,000
15811 Birwood Ave \$250,000
18105 Buckingham Ave \$215,000
32576 Robinhood Dr \$630,000
15925 W 14 Mile Rd \$145,000

BINGHAM FARMS

30765 River Crossing St \$353,000

BIRMINGHAM

853 Chapin Ave \$623,000
1158 Cole St \$248,000
1268 Davis Ave \$289,000
360 E Frank St \$363,000
1392 E Melton Rd \$362,000
621 Fairfax St \$630,000
1616 Graefield Rd \$132,000
1779 Graefield Rd \$130,000
359 Harmon St \$420,000
557 Henrietta St \$170,000
557 Henrietta St \$330,000
1709 Holland St \$174,000
1656 Humphrey Ave \$735,000
621 Larchlea Dr \$620,000
1115 N Old Woodward Ave Unit 53 \$225,000
1115 N Old Woodward Ave Unit 63 \$300,000
2534 Pembroke Rd \$262,000
1470 Pilgrim Ave \$650,000
892 Smith Ave \$652,000
559 Southfield Rd \$400,000
1058 Wakefield St \$355,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

7340 Chula Vista Ln \$1,270,000
3644 Darcy Dr \$390,000
101 Endicott Rd \$535,000
608 Rolling Rock Rd \$235,000
1829 Stonycroft Ln \$214,000
801 W Long Lake Rd # G2 \$82,000
2060 W Valley Rd \$700,000
571 Woodway Ct \$463,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

1658 Brandywine Dr \$359,000
4539 Cherokee Ln \$520,000
3422 Chickering Ln \$313,000
369 Concord Pl \$76,000
4324 Derry Rd \$220,000
437 Fox Hills Dr N \$93,000
3925 Mount Vernon Dr \$380,000
2772 Plum Brook Dr \$260,000
5876 Raven Rd \$343,000
1727 S Hill Blvd \$177,000
3303 Squirrel Rd \$473,000
915 Tartan Trl \$422,000
3070 Westman Ct \$530,000
753 Woodchester Dr \$575,000
42160 Woodward Ave \$130,000
Unit 81
2215 Tottenham Rd \$1,200,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

8484 Cascade St \$258,000
1117 Island Dr \$315,000
2035 Jason Dr \$239,000
3365 Ledgewood Ct W \$438,000
3736 Loch Bend Dr \$440,000
1664 Trace Hollow Dr \$300,000

FARMINGTON

33204 Flanders St \$177,000
34000 Glenview Dr \$150,000
22491 Hawthorne St \$103,000
22978 Mayfield Ave \$165,000
21131 Meadowlark St \$115,000
35810 Smithfield Rd \$260,000
35550 Tall Pine Rd \$210,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

28216 Bayberry Rd \$197,000
34436 Beechwood St \$212,000
31050 Berryhill St \$242,000
27875 Berrywood Ln Unit 81 \$78,000
21617 Collingham Ave \$42,000
21617 Collingham Ave \$63,000
34040 Cotswold St \$255,000
31124 Country Way \$150,000
28137 David St \$136,000
23635 E Newell Cir \$222,000
36450 Edinborough Ct \$490,000
34610 Fendt St \$113,000
21697 Flanders St \$196,000
21954 Flanders St \$140,000
30499 Fox Club Dr \$350,000
36273 Fredericksburg Rd \$254,000

23595 Glencreek Dr \$185,000
33601 Heirloom Cir \$70,000
31705 Junction St \$15,000
30251 Kimberly Ct \$289,000
22043 Malden St \$134,000
29628 Middlebelt Rd Unit 2703 \$87,000
23956 Noble Dr \$200,000
22189 River Pines Dr \$215,000
28695 Rollcrest Rd \$175,000
21793 S Brandon St \$160,000
23015 Tuck Rd \$120,000
22086 Tulane Ave \$104,000
29961 Valley Side Dr \$238,000
36049 W Lyman Rd \$160,000
24491 Westmoreland Dr \$150,000
25318 Wykeshire Rd \$232,000

FRANKLIN

26039 German Mill Rd \$548,000
32831 Haverford Rd \$281,000

HIGHLAND

1286 Glen Ct \$400,000
592 Inverness # 17 \$675,000
3753 Lido \$150,000
3965 Loch Dr \$207,000
2601 Westwind Dr \$240,000
18131 Meadowood Ave \$155,000
832 Ridgeside Dr \$205,000
1795 Ring O Kerry \$198,000
397 Stone Wood Ct \$346,000
653 Sweetbriar \$160,000
1122 Tennyson Dr \$367,000
220 Woodbine Dr \$88,000
656 Woodside Dr \$197,000

NORTHVILLE

22457 Cyprus Dr \$447,000
20921 Napier Rd \$260,000
22556 Simcheck \$285,000
43050 12 Oaks Crescent Dr # 4022 \$185,000
27614 Albert St \$329,000
41381 Belden Cir \$171,000
27667 Belgrave Pl \$306,000
41825 Borchard Dr \$200,000
22260 Brockshire St \$525,000
22284 Brockshire St \$450,000
50757 Calvert Isle Dr \$694,000

28544 Carlton Way Dr \$200,000
22643 Cranbrooke Dr \$133,000
27553 Cromwell Rd \$326,000
1405 E Lake Dr \$400,000
47790 Edinborough Ln \$450,000
23269 Ennshore \$313,000
24882 Highlands Dr \$195,000
23559 Highmeadow Dr \$304,000
25874 Island Lake Dr \$560,000
27086 Maxwell Ct \$276,000
51303 Mayfair Ter \$324,000
43455 Mclean Ct \$480,000
24850 Terra Del Mar Dr \$604,000
49626 Timber Trl \$475,000
27171 Victoria Rd \$373,000
23699 Willowbrook \$205,000
22608 Woolsey \$96,000

SOUTH LYON

1158 Cartwright Ct \$345,000
1047 Crestwood Ct \$263,000
26340 Daria Cir W \$355,000
61009 Evergreen Ct \$200,000
137 N Reese St \$135,000
61384 Saddlecreek Dr \$362,000
333 Winchester St \$162,000
343 Winchester St \$197,000

SOUTHFIELD

28511 Brentwood St \$46,000
29656 Brentwood St \$146,000
23430 Evergreen Rd \$95,000
24273 Evergreen Rd \$44,000
25175 Farmbrook Rd \$210,000
19420 Hickory Leaf St \$105,000
28500 Inkster Rd \$181,000
17160 Melrose St \$128,000
26295 Oakcrest Rd \$90,000
19638 Raleigh Cir N \$55,000
29988 Rambling Rd \$160,000
28437 Red Leaf Ln \$47,000
19315 Red Maple Ct \$203,000
29117 Southgate Dr \$95,000
20535 Westhampton Ave \$80,000

WHITE LAKE

9150 Elizabeth Lake Rd \$187,000
9543 Mandon Rd \$263,000
8839 Newport Dr \$365,000
568 Rumson Ct \$357,000
430 S Williams Lake Rd \$120,000
9197 Sandy Ridge Dr \$235,000
340 View Dr \$358,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 13-17, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

1959 Briarfield St \$173,000
45000 Brunswick Dr \$250,000
4104 Elizabeth Ave \$134,000
383 Elmington Ct \$420,000
50299 Hancock St \$475,000
42727 Lilley Pointe Dr \$92,000
43676 Lotus Dr \$196,000
51182 Sleepy Hollow Ln \$226,000
768 Sorel Dr \$202,000
1946 Wentworth Dr \$250,000

GARDEN CITY

29804 Bridge St \$75,000
540 Cardwell St \$40,000

28640 Florence St \$102,000
6548 Harrison St \$67,000
6151 Inkster Rd \$50,000
28917 Leona St \$119,000

LIVONIA

29811 Eight Mile Rd \$125,000
34625 Eight Mile Rd \$135,000
16825 Canterbury St \$200,000
33732 Cindy St \$175,000
38453 Elsie St \$148,000
18837 Fairway St \$234,000
18733 Floral St \$125,000
20317 Fremont St \$138,000
31542 Grove Dr \$146,000
31221 Hathaway St \$146,000
32711 Hees St \$153,000
29228 Jacquelyn Dr \$130,000
9750 Knolson St \$163,000
20410 Louise St \$174,000
37883 Mallory Dr \$215,000
20520 Meadowview St \$223,000

20339 Melvin St \$75,000
11284 Middlebelt Rd \$50,000
14150 Richfield St \$223,000
9906 Westmore St \$130,000

NORTHVILLE

16117 Oakwood Ct \$450,000
17871 Stonebrook Dr \$825,000
725 Auburn St \$299,000
8858 Ball St \$320,000
46133 Barrington Rd \$220,000
44691 Jodi Ct \$184,000
14590 N Haggerty Rd \$295,000
260 Parkway Dr \$166,000
45125 Riveredge Dr \$331,000
11162 Terry St \$181,000
50857 Weston Dr \$410,000
1046 York St \$234,000

REDFORD

18303 Indian \$43,000
9591 Wormer \$64,000

WAYNE

4521 Carnegie St \$6,000
37510 Knoll Dr \$126,000
33955 Avondale St \$183,000
37538 Colonial Dr \$60,000
6811 Emily Ct \$103,000
7426 Harrison St \$40,000
7426 Harrison St \$43,000
7477 Lathers St \$80,000
1425 Lillian St \$105,000
30607 Louise St \$134,000
29258 Manchester St \$29,000
7692 Rivergate Dr \$90,000
1565 S Linville Ave \$50,000
292 S Marie St \$117,000
39336 Surrey Heights Ct \$121,000
1366 Windham St \$67,000
7320 Woodview St \$43,000

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hometownlife.com A GANNETT COMPANY

800-579-7355 www.hometownlife.com

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR						
	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.625	0	2.875	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.625	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.625	0	2.875	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.625	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.5	0	3	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	0.5	2.875	0.5
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.875	0	3.25	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.75	0.25	3.125	0

Above Information available as of 2/13/15 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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698* MOVES YOU IN!!

FREE RENT UNTIL March 1st 2015!

3/4 bedroom/2 bath Homes

1,456 to 2,100 sq ft for as low as \$999 up to \$1399/mo!

South Lyon Schools

Large Clubhouse, Swimming pool, Large playground, Homes equipped with shed, all appliances, C/A plus full size W/D

Apply online today at www.4northville.com

Or call Sun Homes at (888) 448-3061

Offer expires 02/28/2015 EHO

*some restrictions apply LO-2474069-01

Move in for as low as \$699*

RENTALS starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath CHILDS LAKE ESTATES homes.

All appliances including washer & dryer.

4377 Old Plank Road Milford

248-778-4009

www.childslake.com

*WAC 15 mo lease, Community owned homes. Offer expires 2-28-15. LO-2474071-01

Move in for as low as \$699*

RENTALS starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath CHILDS LAKE ESTATES homes.

All appliances including washer & dryer.

4377 Old Plank Road Milford

248-313-6245

www.childslake.com

*WAC 15 mo lease, Community owned homes. Offer expires 2-28-15. LO-2474071-01

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

SUN HOMES

\$398 MOVES YOU IN!

Free rent until April 1st 2015

BRAND NEW HOMES IN CANTON

3 bedroom / 2 bath with all appliances including washer/dryer

Homes starting at \$899

Call us today!

(888) 272-3099

Academy/Westpoint

41021 Old Michigan Ave. • Canton

*Offer valid on select homes only. Expires 2/28/2015 EHO

www.academywestpoint.com

LO-2474487-01

SERVICES

hometownlife.com

RENTALS

apartments.com

HomeFinder.com

Apartments For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS MAPLE RIDGE APTS.

Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms, 2 baths, c/a, \$570-\$660, w/ special, 50% off 1st 3 mos. with approved credit

248.473.5180

Duplexes

Plymouth - 1ba, with off street parking with private deck. No util., no pets/ smoking, no laundry facilities.

734-377-4009

Office Retail Space

Plymouth Office Space Class A Building. Offices for rent within suite designed for attorneys or other professionals sharing space. Internet access, library services, copy center, conference room, fax and reception services available. An ideal professional environment. Office and secretarial space available. Email inquiries to plymouthofficespace@yahoo.com

Farmington Hills ANNIE APTS.

FREE HEAT! 1 bdrms from \$525, 9 Mile/Middlebelt

248-478-7489

Farmington Plaza

Spacious 2 bedroom, central air, pool. Heat included with rent. 50% off 2 months rent with approved credit.

Call **248.478.8722**

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.

Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/Ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

Paint Decorating Paper

PAINTING BY ROBERT

• Wallpaper Removal • Int. • Ext. • Plaster/Drywall Repair • Staining, 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

Hiring?

REACH MORE potential employees with an O&E Media RECRUITMENT PACKAGE!

1-800-579-7355

hometownlife.com

Construction Manager

SE Michigan Homebuilder/Developer seeking full time site superintendent. Experience, Tools & Truck Required. Email resume: oesumeh@hometownlife.com Ref Box 6009 in subject

DIRECT CARE WORKERS

Waterford, Clarkston, Milford, Northville, Lake Orion, W. Bloomfield, Beverly Hills, Livonia, Dearborn Hts., Taylor, Romulus

HOME MANAGERS

Lake Orion-Reg ASL Livonia & Northville GH Requirements include:

- U.S. MGR. DCW Training
- CPR & First Aid Certification
- Valid MI Driver's License

ENHANCE, INC.

248-915-4287

Email resume to: shetman@enhance-inc.com

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Banking

ZEAL CREDIT UNION

Hiring Exceptional MSR's (Tellers) Southgate, Livonia, Southfield & Detroit Branches. HS Diploma & 1 yr of Customer Service/Cash Handling Experience Req. Responding to members request, problems & complaints. Opening new accounts & service existing accounts: OFAC, Accrual, and Eport. Promoting and cross selling Credit Union Products and services based on member needs. Basic knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel is req with strong knowledge of Windows. For complete job requirements & to apply online www.zealcreditunion.org/aboutus/careers.html

CARPET CLEANING TECHS & ASSISTANTS

Exp. helpful. Must have good driving record & be able to pass drug test. If you have a great personality & exc work ethics come join our team. We are looking to hire at our Westland, Troy & Brighton locations. Great pay & benefits. resumegearheads1155@gmail.com or call: 734-260-1645

JOB FAIR

Howard Terms Packaging Co. Experienced **PACKAGERS AND INSPECTORS NEEDED**

Join us for our on-site Job Fair! Meet directly with Workbox Staffing representatives for immediate consideration.

9am-11am Feb. 18 - Wed. Feb. 19 - Thurs. 700 Manufacturers Dr. Westland, MI 48186

WORKBOX

734-284-2121 www.workboxstaffing.com EOE

PRODUCTION MIG WELDER 1st SHIFT

Manufacturing firm in Livonia is seeking a motivated, experienced Production Mig Welder to join our team.

This position could require overtime as necessary. We offer a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, paid holidays and vacation.

Please email cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: oesumeh@hometownlife.com Reference Box 6011

SALES ENGINEER

Tier-One Automotive Supplier located in the Western Suburbs of Detroit, with a complete support staff is seeking a Sales Engineer to work on a New Opportunities and increasing our sales with the Automotive Companies.

Our goal is to add business in additional areas not presently covered.

We offer a competitive salary, comprehensive benefit package, paid holidays and vacation.

Please email cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: oesumeh@hometownlife.com Reference Box 6010

SKILLED LABORER/ CARPENTER

General Contractor specializing in healthcare construction area looking for a skilled laborer/ carpenter with own tools and reliable transportation. Commercial experience preferred. Opportunity for advancement, 401K, medical, vacation, holidays.

Email resume to: tr@aimconstruction.com

SEEKING: Multi-Media Sales Representative

michigan.com
A GANNETT COMPANY

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

February, 20, 21 & 22, 2015

Southfield Pavilion Antiques Exposition

Friday 2 pm - 8 pm • Saturday 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday 11 am - 4 pm

Southfield Municipal Complex
26000 Evergreen Road
Michigan 48076

Jewelry, Vintage Clothing,
Furniture, Silver, Glass, Lighting,
Decorative Arts

Free Parking • Cafe Onsite • Credit Cards Accepted
Admission \$8.00 (\$2.00 off with this ad)
Admission good for all 3 days

Mitchell Displays, Inc.
bobbockius@hotmail.com
www.southfieldantiquesexpo.com
856-686-9000

LO-2475906-01

Help Wanted - General

FIREFIGHTER

City of Westland
Accepting applications for Firefighter

Applicants must be a citizen of the United States; at least 21 yrs. of age or 19 yrs. of age with U.S. military experience; have a high school diploma or GED; valid MI driver's license; valid MI EMT license; Firefighter I and II certification and be a resident of State of MI for 1 year. Also, applicants must pass the Conference of Western Wayne Firefighter Testing Program with a minimum score of 70% and physical agility test. Proof of above requirements must be submitted with application. Applicants must have an EMT-P license at time of job offer.

Applications may be picked up at:
Westland City Hall
at the City Clerk's Office located at
36300 Warren Road Westland, MI,
Monday, February 23, 2015 through Friday, March 6, 2015. No applications will be mailed to candidates. All applications must be postmarked or received in the City Clerk's Office no later than Friday, March 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Applications received after deadline will not be considered.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

JANITORIAL

Multiple part & full-time positions for commercial janitorial for Livonia, Allen Park, Plymouth, Canton & surrounding areas. Starting pay varies btwn \$8.15-\$9/hr depending on position. EOE. Interested applicants may complete an online application at: www.ussservice.com or fax resume: 248-926-9595

U.S. SERVICE, INC.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Village Apartments is currently seeking an exp'd Full-Time Maintenance Supervisor. The candidate must be exp'd in unit turns, basic plumbing & have the ability to lead others. Proficient technical skills required incl but are not limited to: carpentry, appliances, plumbing, electrical, & drywall repair. HVAC certification is req.

Qualified candidates fax resume: 989-953-4830

KMG Prestige is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SALES ENGINEER

Tier-One Automotive Supplier located in the Western Suburbs of Detroit, with a complete support staff is seeking a Sales Engineer to work on a New Opportunities and increasing our sales with the Automotive Companies.

Our goal is to add business in additional areas not presently covered.

We offer a competitive salary, comprehensive benefit package, paid holidays and vacation.

Please email cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: oesumeh@hometownlife.com Reference Box 6010

PRODUCTION MIG WELDER 1st SHIFT

Manufacturing firm in Livonia is seeking a motivated, experienced Production Mig Welder to join our team.

This position could require overtime as necessary. We offer a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, paid holidays and vacation.

Please email cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: oesumeh@hometownlife.com Reference Box 6011

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

CLERICAL Full-Time for multi-task real estate office in Roseville Park. Resume: frontdesk@remsrealestate.com

LEGAL SECRETARY

Wanted for high volume fast paced Lathrup Village law firm. Applicant must have some knowledge of workers' compensation as well as being familiar with Microsoft Word, Outlook & Needles.

Position is permanent, full time with salary & benefits.

Please respond to: bpreznov@lawfirmofbernstein.com

SECURITY RECEPTIONIST

We are currently accepting applications for full-time employment in the Farmington Hills area.

REQUIREMENTS:

- High School Diploma/GED
- On Free
- No Criminal History
- Computer Proficient, especially in Excel and Lotus
- Previous Reception Experience Required
- Strong Customer Service Skills

BENEFITS:

- Free Individual Health Ins
- Tuition Assistance
- Free Uniforms

Please call to schedule an interview at **(248) 553-9900**

Help Wanted - Dental

Dental Assistant FULL-TIME

In Livonia/Dearborn offices. Pay to commensurate with experience. Experience only need apply. Call: (313) 565-3131

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST/ MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Part & Full-Time
Fax 734-6970374
Email: bhc265@gmail.com

MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Busy Livonia practice seeks punctual, energetic, eager, quick study, dependable person to fill Medical Technician position. Part time. No exp preferred. We will train the right person. Perfect for HS Grad.

Send resume: PO Box 530309 Livonia MI 48152

OPTICAL DISPENSER

Canton/Garden City private practices. Part time. Exp'd. Call Diane: (734) 455-3190 248-921-5324

Food - Beverage

BREAKFAST COOK

Three Brothers Restaurant

Part or Full-Time. Leader in the kitchen who desires to become a manager. Plymouth. Email resume: prespa1955@gmail.com or call Chris: (734) 233-5951

BEANS & CORNED BEEF

The Southfield location has immediate openings for:

- Servers • Cooks
- Hosts • Dishwashers

Please apply in person Mon-Fri from 11am-5pm. 29508 Northwestern Hwy. Please call 248.208.1680

Position Wanted

Two Mature Women to Provide In-Home Care all shifts including weekends. Will do light housekeeping & assist with local doctor visits. Call Shirley & Nancy 734-254-0095.

Childcare & Baby-Sitting

In-Home Childcare Available. Certified Medical Assistant. CPR/First Aid Certified. Reasonable Rates. 260-827-8277

O&E Media Classifieds

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Estates Sales

LIVONIA 36225 Club
Dr. Fri-Sun 9-5pm
(S. off 8 Mile Rd., E. of Newburgh Rd.)
Women's Clothes, 12-14 XL & Household Pies at actionestate.com
586-228-9090

PLYMOUTH - 2/20 & 2/21. 10-4p. 9008 Ball St. Furn., glassware, jewelry, a few collectibles & Misc. No movers avail. Price to sell. Cash Only

West Bloomfield Estate Sale Feb. 20 & 21st 10am - 4pm 3180 Windwood Dr. Off Commerce Rd., High Volume of Household Items. Many new in boxes. Desirable Furniture and smalls. Shop here First! For Pics and Info go to estatesales.net

Wanted to Buy

Cash for Books! Nonfiction-Engineering, History, Textbooks, Medical-Visit ParadiseBoundBooks.com or call Sue (248) 877-1395

CASH PAID or CONSIGNMENT for Vintage, Antique and Other Valuable Items. Single items to storage units to entire estates and estate sales. Professional, courteous, fair, honest, discreet older gentlemen. I drive to you. Coins, costume and fine jewelry, knick knacks, military, collections, books, toys, stereos, instruments, ephemera, clothing, Christmas, more. References. Richard, BSE, MBA: (248)795-0362 richard.preston49@yahoo.com

WANT TO CLEAN OUT YOUR HOUSE?

Place an ad with Observer & Eccentric Media, and let the Classifieds DO YOUR WORK!

800-579-7355

Helping YOU reach your GOAL

Whether you want to get fit or get organized—save money doing it with an O&E Media classified ad!

Our classifieds WORKOUT!

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CONTACT US AT:
800-579-7355
www.hometownlife.com
oeads@hometownlife.com
DEADLINES:
Fri. at 4 pm for Sunday
Tues. at 3 pm for Thursday

NEWSPAPER POLICY

All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department: Observer & Eccentric Media)

615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226
866-887-2737

We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order.

Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper & only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears & reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION.

When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, only the first insertion will be credited.

Publishers Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983 3-31-72).

Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter & spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage & support an affirmative advertising & marketing program in which there are no barriers.

DISCLAIMER: All classified ads are subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from our Advertising Dept. All ads are subject to approval before publication. Observer & Eccentric Media reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time. Errors must be reported in the first day of publication. Observer & Eccentric Media shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refunds for early cancellation of order.

PETS

hometownlife.com

Dogs

BOXER - AKC pure bred & white, shots, tails, dows, \$600. Taking deposit for spring litter 889-325-0829

Found - Pets

FOUND - CAT in Westland 3 wks ago. Wildwood & Palmer Rd area, black & white male, (734) 397-8187

FOUND - CAT in Westland 3 wks ago. Wildwood & Palmer Rd area, brown Tabbi male, (734) 397-8187

O&E Media Classifieds Work Hard!

Call today! 800-579-7355

ADOPTION

ADOPTION: Happily married professional couple will share their love with newborn and provide warm, supportive, secure home. Expenses Paid. Please call Mike and Monica 347-675-8917. (MICH)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ATTN: COMPUTER WORK. WORK FROM ANYWHERE 24/7. UP TO \$1,500 PART TIME TO \$7,500/MO. FULL TIME TRAINING PROVIDED. WWW.WORKSERVICES3.COM (MICH)

FOR SALE-MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In Stock, ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N (MICH)

HELP WANTED - PROFESSIONAL

BOSE CORPORATION
AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS DIVISION HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING IN THEIR BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI FACILITY FOR AN AUDIO SYSTEMS ENGINEER (#18628BRI), WHO SPECIALIZES IN ACoustICS AND DSP. PLEASE VISIT WWW.BOSE.COM/CAREERS FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE ROLE AND APPLY DIRECTLY ON-LINE. (MICH)

HELP WANTED-TRUCK DRIVER

\$3000 SIGN ON BONUS! Class A CDL Drivers, We Offer Great Home Time, Excellent Benefits and \$65-\$75K Annual Earnings! Call Today 888-409-6033, Apply Online www.DriveJacobson.com (MICH)
\$1,000/WK GUARANTEED! Dedicated runs for Class/

A CDL in Michigan, Great Home time/pay, 2015 trucks. Full benefits, industry leading Lease program Hirschbach 888-514-6005. www.drive4hml.com (MICH)

25 DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED! BECOME A DRIVER FOR STEVENS TRANSPORT! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! NEW DRIVERS EARN \$800+ PER WEEK! PAID CDL TRAINING! STEVENS COVERS ALL COSTS! 1-888-528-8864 DRIVE4STEVEN.COM (MICH)

TRACTOR OWNER OPERATOR, MAKE \$4,000-\$5,000 WEEKLY EARNINGS. \$1,500 SIGN ON BONUS! Regional carrier 30 years experience. Trailers provided. Home on weekends. 1-866-537-6174 or recruiting@tryhours.com (MICH)
IF YOU HAVE A VEHICLE THAT

CAN TOW AT LEAST 7,000 POUNDS, you can make a living delivering RVs as a contract driver for Foremost Transport! Be your own boss and see the country. ForemostTransport.Blogspot.com or 866-764-1601 (MICH)

INSTRUCTION, SCHOOLS

AVIATION GRADS - WORK WITH JETBLUE, BOEING, NASA, OTHERS - START HERE HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR FAA CERTIFICATION. FINANCIAL AID IF QUALIFIED. CALL AVIATION INSTITUTE OF MAINTENANCE 1-877-891-2281 (MICH)

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES NEEDED! BECOME A MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! ONLINE TRAINING CAN GET YOU JOB READY! HS DIPLOMA/GED & PC/INTERNET NEEDED! 1-877-253-6495 (MICH)

WHEELS
cars.com

Airplanes

Are you looking to sell your used vehicle and would like to reach over 140,000 potential buyers and have it a nationwide website to even widen the opportunity of selling it?
Then **Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers** is the place to advertise it!

Package Includes:
•Ad in all 13 community newspapers for 2 weeks
•14 days on cars.com - with enhanced features! You can now add the photo to the ad on cars.com!
•Extra \$5 add a photo to be included in print ad.
*4 line minimum (\$2.00 for each additional line).

4 Wheel Drive

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2009 - 4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd. Heated front seats \$21,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012
FWD, leather, rear view camera, heated seats, Bluetooth. \$25,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM 2012
FWD, leather, heated seats, Nav. System. \$28,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports & Imported

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011
4WD, LTZ, leather, back-up camera, remote ignition. \$29,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

SCION TC 2009
2 dr, hatchback, power sunroof, 1 owner. \$12,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

BUICK VERANO 2014
1778 miles, rear camera, crumple zones, steering wheel cont. \$18,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

BUICK VERANO 2014
Driver info system, Bluetooth, rear view monitor in dash - lots more! \$17,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2010
CXL, 3.0, FWD, leather, heated seats, ABS. \$16,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2012
FWD, Premium 3, Leather, heated seats, power sunroof \$21,595
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

REGAL 2014
4 dr, sedan, Turbo, FWD, 19 miles, heated seats. \$23,494
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Chrysler-Plymouth

TOWN & COUNTRY 2010
4 dr, wagon Touring, 4 wheel ABS, Solar glass, 1 year FREE maintenance (limited time offer). \$11,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Ford

FORD 12' FOCUS
Red, Hatch back, 6 speed Atuo, pwr windows & locks, air, custom wheels, new tires, approx. 28 MPG (city), 37 MPG (hwy), just detailed. 48k Mi. \$12,900
248-613-0637

GMC

GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, ABS Privacy Glass. \$14,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Honda

CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/Nav. Leather, moonroof. \$17,995
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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Off-road vehicle, for short
4 Sensible
8 Mr. Moto remark (2 wds.)
12 Opposite of cheer
13 RR employee
14 Psyche
15 Loudness unit
16 Dazzled
18 Go with
20 Lauper's "Bop"
21 Reply to a ques.
22 Eurasian mountains
26 Printer's option
28 Gorbys' realm
31 Herd animal
32 Paul Anka's "Beso"
33 Buddhist sacred city
34 Dernier —
35 Malt beverage

DOWN

1 Bandleader
2 Xavier's ex
3 El Misti and Mount Erebus
4 Puts on
5 Technical sch.
6 Barracks off.

36 Kind of prof.
37 Jingle, e.g.
38 Trellis climbers
40 Dues payer, for short
41 Dripping
43 Trinket stealer
46 "Kubla Khan" penner
50 Grill, maybe
51 State firmly
52 Vanna's boss, once
53 Maiden-name indicator
54 Art colony town
55 To be, to Brutus
56 Lubber's aye

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Level: Beginner

5	4		9		1	3	8	2
	2			8	3			
		7				9		4
		8		9	2			
2	5		3					
9		3	8		6		2	
	3		7	5		1	4	6
		1	2		8	5		3
	7	5				2		

CLEAN COMPUTER WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ACCESS
ACTIVE
BACKUP
BANDWIDTH
BREACH
CACHE
CAMERA
CLEAN
CLIENT
COMPRESS
COOKIES
DASHBOARD
DATA
DESKTOP
DRIVE
EMAIL
FIREWALL
FIRMWARE

FUNCTION
HARD COPY
HISTORY
INTERFACE
LAN
MALWARE
MATRIX
MEMORY
OPERATION
OUTPUT
REMOTE
SECURITY
SOFTWARE
STORAGE
TECHNOLOGY
USER
VIDEO
ZIP

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7	9
5	7	9	8	9	2	1	6	4
9	4	1	6	9	7	2	5	8
9	2	7	9	4	8	5	1	6
6	9	8	7	1	5	4	9	2
1	5	4	2	6	9	8	9	7
4	1	6	9	2	9	7	8	5
7	9	9	5	8	4	6	2	1
2	8	5	1	7	6	9	4	9

Word Search

CLEAN COMPUTER WORD SEARCH

FEBRUARY CLOTHING COLLECTION

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, through Feb. 22
Location: Crossroads Church, at the Sacred Heart Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: The church's Winter Survival Gear Drive is accepting men's used work boots, men's new and gently-used white socks, women's new and gently-used turtleneck shirts for homeless men and women. Cash donations will be used to buy additional winter survival gear. Send donations to the church at P.O. Box 51083, Livonia, MI 48151-1083. Additional drop-off times can be arranged.

Contact: 248-890-5718; info@crossroadssnow.org

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-June 7

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This nondenominational program features Bible-based teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved. Includes videos that feature grief experts and real-life stories of grieving individuals; support group discussion; and work-based personal study and reflection. Registration fee is \$15, which includes materials

Contact: Rev. Roger Wright at 313-682-7491; griefshare.org

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25-March 25

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Grieving with Great Hope workshop is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy, presents the



SUBMITTED
Charles Jackson talks about creationism Feb. 22-24 in Livonia.

five-week series

Contact: goodmourningministry.net or St. Michael's at 734-261-1455

GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22; 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 23-25

Location: Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Charles Jackson, director of campus ministry for Creation Truth Foundation, and founder of Points of Origins Ministries, will talk about creationism. Topics include: How To Talk to Unbelievers About Creation, Sunday morning; The Truth About Dinosaurs, Sunday evening; Evolution: An Unnatural Selection, Monday; The Origin of Life, Tuesday; Can a Christian Believe in the Big Bang?, Wednesday. Free

Contact: 734-464-6722

LADIES CRAFT NIGHT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27

Location: Crossroads Church, at Sacred Heart Conference Center,

29125 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Make survival kits for the homeless. Supplies for kits will be on hand. Donations of washcloths, toothbrushes, disposable razors, small combs, sample-sized shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and bar soaps, will be accepted. \$5 paid in advance by Feb. 25, \$6 at the door

Contact: cwm@crossroadssnow.org

LENTEN SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 25

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Theme is "I Tell You The Truth." Free treats after the service

Contact: 734-968-3523, 313-532-8655

LENTEN SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 25

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne

Contact: 734-728-3315

MARCH

CHURCH MISSION

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m., March 22-25

Location: St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, located at West Chicago Road and Inkster Road, Redford

Details: Sponsored by the clustered parishes of St. Robert Bellarmine and St. John Bosco, topics include "Jesus, How Do We Come To Know You?" March 22; "Come, Follow Me," March 23; "Reconcile and Forgive," March 24; "Become A People of Purpose," March 25. Reconciliation will be offered March 24

Contact: 313-937-1500

COMIC BOOK, CARDS

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, between Plymouth Road and West Chicago Road, Redford

Details: More than 34 tables of comic books action figures, books and more. Tony Baratonio, local actor and inventor, will be on hand. Admission is \$2; free for age 10 and under. Admission fee will be donated to the Methodist Children's Home in Livonia

Contact: 313-937-3170

MISSIONARY OUTREACH CLINIC

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Tracee Swank will share new ideas about witnessing, discipling, and outreach to the community. Cost is \$25 per person. A group rate of \$75 for five or more is available. Register by March 1

Contact: 734-464-0211

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1 and 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3

Location: St. Genevieve, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Open house for preschool 3- and 4-year-olds and kindergarten is Sunday. The first 30 families will receive a free copy of *Pete the Cat*. Preschool and kindergarten-eighth grade open house is Tuesday. A scholastic book fair will coincide with both open house events

Contact: 734-425-4420

VBS PREVIEW

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Location: Ward Church, 4000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Publisher exhibits, four sessions of 28 workshops, curriculum displays, lessons and demonstrations, along with eight tables of used Christian books, CDs DVDs, and children's materials. Morning refreshments and lunch included. Register by Feb. 20 and pay \$35. Registration by Feb. 27 is \$45, at the door, \$55. Students, teen through college, pay \$20. Visit icaOnline.org

Contact: 248-557-5526

VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 1

Location: Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The first of five Vespers services sponsored by The Council of Orthodox Christian

Churches of Metropolitan Detroit. Services conducted by members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit

Contact: Richard Shebib, at 248-345-9346 or pascha-books@sbcglobal.net

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

FAITH COMMUNITY WESLEYAN

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethan Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

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

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addition No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous

Contact: 248-559-7722; www.oa.org for additional information

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts)

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/

DRUMS, FIFES TAKE THE STAGE AT FREEZER JAM IN LIVONIA

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Freezer Jam will heat up the auditorium at Stevenson High School this weekend in Livonia.

Drums, fifes, pipes and color guards will take the stage Saturday, Feb. 21, for this 20th annual concert and conference that draws together fife and drum corps from throughout the Midwest. They'll gather for classes during the day and will perform both individually and in an all-group jam session during the evening concert.

Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps presents the event, which kicks off the group's performance season.

"I hope the audience will come away with a little bit of the history that we are trying to continue. And that they'll come away with an appreciation for what young kids are doing today," said Jim Predhomme, Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps musical director. "During a parade, you get to hear one song as a group marches by. Here, each will get eight to 10 minutes on stage. The audience will get to hear a lot of music. They'll see different styles of corps, of music.

"One thing that's fun that will happen at freezer jam is that whenever you get fife and drum corps together, usually there is an impromptu jam session. Someone starts a song and everyone joins in."

The concert is from 3-6 p.m. and will include the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps along with visiting corps, and the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps. Tickets are \$15 each, available at freezerjam.org. Stevenson High School is at 33500 Six Mile.

Emily Markey, a fifer who will serve as the Plymouth Corps' drum major this year, said fife and drum corps differ in dress, and performance style. At least one of the vis-



Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps marches into Comerica Park last year.

iting groups includes bagpipers.

"Before each corps goes on stage a brief bio is read, explaining what their uniform represents and who they represent from the past and what area they're from," said Markey, a high school senior in her last year with the Plymouth group.

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, open to ages 12-18, represents George Washington's personal guard. Its 45 musicians wear replicas of guard uniforms when they perform at parades, festivals

or on the concert stage.

"That's 10 pounds of wool. Exact replicas," Markey said. "You get used to it. My first year was bad, now it's nothing to me to be in uniform in hot weather. We drink a lot of water."

Learning the fife

Markey played tuba and violin in middle school, and added fife to her musical resume after the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps visited her school.

She joined the Corps, looking forward to traveling with



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps performs on tour last year.

the group, performing extensively throughout the summer and meeting new people.

"It's much different than what I played in band and orchestra," she said. "It's more difficult music, at more of a collegiate level. And we memorize all of our music. We learn five to six songs every year. You learn to read notes faster."

Most beginning fifers learn to play the instrument after they join the group. They practice weekly and take lessons from one of the Corps' five instructors from October through January, in preparation for the annual Freezer Jam in February.

"The fife's not in any school band. And even if they've played music for a few years, they are starting over on a new instrument," said Predhomme, who played drums when he joined the group as a student in 1978. He later taught drums before becoming the Corps musical director. "That's a unique challenge. It's not something that mom or dad just has around the house the kids can pick up."

New fingering, handling

Although the fife may sound similar to a flute or piccolo, its finger pattern is similar to that of an alto saxophone.

Percussionists also learn to

make adjustments when they play snare drum in the group. They handle their sticks with a "traditional left hand grip," holding the left hand in a "side-ways" position.

"Our drums are not modern drums with high tension. It's all rope tension. You don't get the same bounce that you would off a modern drum. It takes a lot more work."

Predhomme described the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps' repertoire as historical, with a contemporary flair.

"The musical arrangements we play are not entirely period accurate of the music of 200 years ago. They do have some modern elements. We play *Yankee Doodle* but we might play it different in some ways.

"There are two schools in the fife and drum community. Some focus on reproducing the music exactly of the day and the others add a modern spirit to it. We blend the old with the modern and focus more on entertaining than re-enacting."

For more about the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, visit its Facebook page. Preview or buy the Corps' songs at itunes.apple.com. Check out videos of the Corps at YouTube.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Wild Winter Weekend: Ice cream and hot cocoa will be available for purchase at a discount. Event includes animal arts and crafts, face painting, animal enrichment activities, talks by the zoo's expert keepers and a winter safari scavenger hunt, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7-8, at the Ford Education Center. Free with zoo admission

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

DIRTY SHOW

Time/Date: 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21
Location: Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay Ave. Detroit
Details: Exhibit of erotic art. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$45 seated, \$75 VIP

Contact: dirtyshow.org

GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through Feb. 28

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Artwork and essays on Martin Luther King Jr., by students in the P-CEP Arts Academy

Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillage-theater.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through Feb. 27

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: Ninth annual Member Exhibition features more than 70 works of art in all media.

Coming up: "the mystery lesson," paintings by Kate Paul, March 6-28

Contact: 248-344-0497

CALL FOR ENTRIES

REEL MICHIGAN FILM FESTIVAL

Time/Date: Entry deadline is April 17; film festival screening is June 20

Location: Screening at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville

Details: The Festival is accepting Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films, less than 20 minutes. Entry form is

available at northvillearthouse.org/special-events/reel-michigan/

Contact: reelmichigan@gmail.com

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: Submission deadline is March 21; art show reception is Sunday, April 19

Location: Art will be displayed at Westland Library meeting room, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland

Details: The club seeks original art work, including oils, watercolors, acrylic, pastels, collage, photo art, pottery and more. Submit up to three entries for \$30; \$5 for each additional piece. Submit photos for judging on CD or flash drive. Download an entry form at threecitiesartclub.org.

Contact: Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939

COMEDY

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Adam Hunter; tickets are \$12 for show only or \$25 for show and a dinner on Thursday; \$16 for show or \$29 for show and dinner, Friday-Sunday

Open mic: Each comedian gets five minutes of stage time. Open mic begins at 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Call the box office Tuesday through Thursday, to get on the performer list

Contact: 734-261-0555; catchthefunny.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb. 19-29, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21

Location: Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: Orny Adams; tickets \$10 Thursday, \$20 Friday-Saturday

Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

FILM

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Feb. 27

Location: 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Details: Free showing of Charlie Chaplin's classic film, *Modern Times*, for seniors in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Groups of 15 or more can reserve a free bus by calling 313-833-1292

Contact: 313-833-7900

MAPLE THEATRE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21

Location: The Maple Theater, 4135 Maple, just west of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills



MICHAEL HACALA

See Jill Jack, Friday, Feb. 27, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Details: Hosted by the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Metro Detroit, the event includes screening of *Orphans of the Genocide*, an appearance by Bared Maronian, film director, discussion and a brief introduction of the film, *Women of 1915*. Free

Contact: 248-750-1030

MICHIGAN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24

Location: 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor

Details: *Bridging the Gap*, *The Joseph Dulin Story* is a documentary about the late education advocate and founding principal of National African American Parent Involvement Day. Admission is \$10; advance tickets available online

Contact: ticketwatch.com

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 21-22

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: *Penguins of Madagascar*; admission \$3

Coming up: *The Imitation Game*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 and March 5, 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 27-28, 4:20 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 1

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 20 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 21

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: *Victor Victoria*; \$5

Coming up: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, 8 p.m. March 6, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 7; vintage fashion market, 1-9 p.m. Saturday

Contact: 313-898-1481



SUBMITTED

Agent Maxwell Smart, played by Christopher Glutting of Livonia, makes a call on his shoe phone while Agent 99, played by Leanne Young of South Lyon, tries to get his attention. Spotlight Players stages "Get Smart" for two weekends, beginning Feb. 20, in Canton.

HISTORY

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through May 3

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: "Death Dogs: The Jackal Gods of Ancient Egypt," will explore the mysterious ancient Egyptian jackal-headed gods associated with death and the afterlife. The exhibition will feature approximately 40 artifacts, some never before displayed and many coming from University of Michigan excavations in Egypt, along with archival photographs and explanatory graphics.

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Creative Hands: Busy Hands" is the new exhibit, which runs through June 14. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Fundraiser: A Night FOR the Museum, doors open at 6 p.m., Saturday, March 7, at the Golden Fox, at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, west of Plymouth. Tickets are \$75 per person, available at the Museum or online at plymouthhistory.org. Deadline for purchase is March 4

Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show runs 7-9:30 p.m., third Saturday of the month through May

Location: Plymouth Community Arts

Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: \$5 at the door.

Contact: BFSpresident@aol.com

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Time/Date: 6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. show, Saturday, March 7

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Performances by Fang Shubo, the Canton Philharmonic choir, the March Wind Choir, the Michigan Chinese Choir, Yangtze Melody Group, the Spring Group, Desert Island Band and Shangarila band. The celebration will include a Chinese fashion show, tai chi, and dancers from Ann-Hua Chinese School, New Century Chinese group, Hua-Chin Northville Dance Group and Chinese Dance Star featuring a Tai dance by Thomas Davis, a University of Michigan student. \$2 at the door

Contact: 734-394-5300; CantonVillageTheater.org

GREATER DETROIT JAZZ SOCIETY

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Feb. 21

Location: Shield's of Southfield, 25101 Telegraph, Southfield

Details: Ray Heitger's Cakewalkin' Jazz Band of Toledo; \$10

Contact: GreaterDetroitJazzSociety.com

TOKEN LOUNGE

Time/Date: Doors open 7 p.m., concert starts 7:30 p.m., March 4

Location: 28949 Joy Road, Westland

Details: English rock band Uriah Heep performs, with special guests, The Jagged Edge and Victor Perraino's Kingdom Come. Tickets \$30 and \$35 through TokenLounge.com

Contact: 734-513-5030



SUBMITTED
Pearled Sorghum
Tangy Pear Salad

ENJOY GLUTEN-FREE SORGHUM IN BAKED GOODS, SALADS

An ancient grain with roots that trace back as far as 8,000 B.C., sorghum is experiencing a resurgence as demand for non-GMO and gluten-free food grows.

Sorghum is an excellent substitute for those with Celiac disease or gluten intolerance, and can be used to make both leavened and unleavened breads, various fermented and unfermented beverages and can be steamed, popped, flaked or consumed as a whole grain or syrup.

"Sorghum is light in color, has a pleasing texture and tastes similar to wheat, which

makes it perfect for use in gluten-free baking," said Carol Fenster, gluten-free expert and cookbook author.

Sorghum also provides iron, calcium, potassium, as well as polycosinol, which research has shown to lower serum cholesterol and may improve heart health.

Contrary to the perception that some grains lead to a spike in blood sugar, research has indicated that sorghum offers slow digestibility and a lower glycemic index. Foods with a lower glycemic index are believed to increase satiety, which means people feel fuller longer, aiding

with weight management.

White, food grade sorghum can be milled directly into whole grain flour to produce foods such as cookies, cakes, breads, pizza dough, pastas, cereals and more. Whole grain sorghum is also a healthy addition to salads. Sorghum's natural attributes make it possible to enjoy deliciously healthful and gluten-free versions of some of America's favorite foods.

For more recipes and tips for cooking with sorghum, visit www.HealthySorghum.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



THIN & CRISPY SORGHUM PIZZA CRUST

Contributed by Nu Life Market

1 cup white whole grain sorghum flour
½ cup potato starch
4 teaspoons gluten-free baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cream of tartar
2 teaspoons sugar
2 teaspoons xanthan gum
½ cup shortening
½ cup rice milk
Olive oil
Garlic powder or granules

Whisk dry ingredients together. Cut shortening into flour mix until crumbly. Add rice milk and mix until dough forms sticky ball. Knead on floured surface and continue to work dough, adding flour if necessary. Dough is ready when it no longer sticks to your hand. Roll into ball and flatten onto ungreased pizza pan. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with garlic powder. Gently roll edges over to form ridge. Bake for 12 minutes at 450°F. Top with your favorite toppings and bake for additional 10-15 minutes.

MUSHROOM AND GARLIC PEARLED SORGHUM

Contributed by Nu Life Market

½ cup of Nu Life Market Pearled Sorghum Grain
2 cups vegetable stock
¼ onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 cup mushrooms, quartered
3-4 asparagus shoots
¼ cup thyme, chopped

Bring sorghum and veggie stock to a boil and simmer for approximately 50 minutes. In small skillet, over medium heat saute onion, garlic and mushrooms until tender. Add to cooked sorghum. Garnish with steamed asparagus shoots and fresh thyme. Serve.

GLUTEN-FREE SUGAR COOKIES

Developed by Amy Perry for the United Sorghum Checkoff Program

1½ cups sorghum flour
½ cup cornstarch
½ cup soy flour
1½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup butter
½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
4 teaspoons milk

Whisk flours, cornstarch, baking powder and salt together, set aside. Thoroughly cream butter, sugar and vanilla. Add egg, beat till light and fluffy, stir in milk, blend in dry ingredients. Chill about 1 hour. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Roll dough into balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 7 minutes. Remove immediately from cookie sheet, cool on wire racks before frosting.

PEARLED SORGHUM TANGY PEAR SALAD

Contributed by Nu Life Market

Salad:
½ cup cooked pearled sorghum grain
8 cups prepared mixed baby greens
1 small red onion, halved and thinly sliced
½ cup dried cranberries

Toppings:
2 red Anjou pears, halved vertically and thinly sliced

Dressing:
Favorite dressing or balsamic vinaigrette

To cook sorghum, a ratio of one part sorghum to four parts water should be used. In appropriate size saucepan, add water and heat until boiling. Add sorghum and allow to simmer on medium heat, stirring occasionally, for approximately 45 minutes or until desired tenderness.

Once cooked, drain water from pan and rinse cooked grain. Allow cooked sorghum to cool completely before adding to salad, to avoid wilted lettuce.

Toss together cooked sorghum, baby mixed greens, onion and dried cranberries in large bowl.

To serve, place desired amount of tossed lettuce mixture onto salad plate, adorn with 5 pear slices and drizzle with desired amount of dressing.

CITY BITES

Free classes

Livonia — ABC Warehouse wants to help take the pressure out of preparing weekday dinners by offering home chefs a class in pressure cooking, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at 30280 Plymouth Road. The class is part of a cooking — and tasting — series offered free on Monday through April 13 at the Livonia store. Other sessions are vegetarian dishes, March 2; cheesecakes, March 9; Caribbean cuisine, March 16; brunch fare, March 23; and salads & dressings, April 13. No pre-registration is required. The classes repeat on Tuesday at ABC Warehouse's Troy location, on Wednesday at

its Lakeside store, and on Thursday in Novi at 43606 W Oaks Drive. For more information, call the Livonia store at 734-266-6150 and the Novi store at 248-348-2988.

Four-class series

Canton — Chef Paul Penney offers a four-part demonstration and lecture, "Back to Basics in the Kitchen," beginning Feb. 24 at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. His first session will focus on cleaning out and restocking the pantry for easier meal preparation and planning. Other topics are soup stock, March 25; braising and roasting meat, April 29; preparing grains and veggies, May 27. Classes run

from 7-8:30 p.m. Cost for the February class is \$20 for Canton residents; \$25 for nonresidents. The remaining three classes cost \$25 each for Canton residents; \$30 each for nonresidents. Samples and handouts will be available at each class. For more information or to register, visit CantonFun.org or call 734-394-5460.

Fish fries

Redford — St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club is gearing up for its annual Lenten Fish Fry Fridays. The group will serve deep fried or baked cod dinners with three side dishes, beverage and dinner roll (\$9, adults; \$4.75, children under 12) 4-7 p.m. every Friday of

Lent, beginning Feb. 20, at the church, located at West Chicago and Inkster roads. Other menu items will include a weekly special for \$10.50; soup and salad bar, \$8.75; mac and cheese with three sides and a beverage, \$7.25; pizza with salad or fries and a beverage, \$6.24; and cheese pizza by the slice, \$2. Seniors, 60 and over, get a \$1 discount on all dinners. Drive-through service is available — enter on Westfield behind the gym. Call the church at 313-937-1500 for more information.

Livonia — St. Genevieve-St. Maurice Catholic Parish also offers a fish fry, 5-7 p.m. every Friday through March 27, at the church, 29015, Jamison.

Seniors early bird special starts at 4:30 p.m. Weekly seafood special is \$10. Dinner prices are \$9, adults; \$8, seniors; \$7, early bird special; \$6, children, 12 and under. The menu includes fried white cod or seasoned baked cod and fried fish nuggets. Other meal items include soup, potato, green beans, mac and cheese, cheese pizza, salad, coleslaw, rolls, punch and coffee. Call 734-427-5220 for more information.

Does your church offer a Friday fish fry during lent? Send the details to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.