

CANTON OBSERVER

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Voters deal Proposal 1 a huge defeat

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton voters, angry at lawmakers and mirroring a statewide trend, dealt a proposed sales tax increase a landslide defeat, crushing it 79.5 percent to 20.5 percent Tuesday in unofficial vote totals.



Ed Harkins

Canton resident Ed Harkins, casting his vote at Summit on the Park, blasted Lansing lawmakers for piling other issues onto what he said should have been a simple

road proposal. "It wasn't about the roads. They had other stuff on the ballot that didn't need to be on there," he said. "There are better ways to do it. We're already paying enough taxes now. We're just not sure where it's all going."

In raw numbers, Canton snubbed the proposal 12,124 votes to 3,134. Clerk Terry Bennett's analysis was that voters believed it was unnecessarily confusing.

"They are willing to pay for roads," she said, "but they didn't like that solution."

Canton resident Pat Bloch was among the 24.1 percent of local voters who cast ballots. She didn't hesitate Tuesday

when asked whether she supported or opposed Proposal 1, which would have raised the state sales tax to 7 percent from 6 percent.

"I didn't support it," she said, standing outside a precinct at Summit on the Park. "We've got such taxes already. We're taxed to death."

Canton resident Frank Houser was among a minority of voters who supported the plan.

"I can't understand anybody who wants to keep riding on these roads unless they have an over-the-road vehicle or they like riding on rough roads," he said.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton voter Frank Houser walks into Summit on the Park to vote on the ballot proposal to fix roads.

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Volunteer Matthew Lee plays catch with Michael Montone.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Owner of dog killed in Canton speaks out

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton resident Simeon Sponsler was leaving home to take her daughter shopping for a prom dress when the family dog, Stewie, darted out the door.

Moments later, Stewie was shot and killed by a neighbor, one street away, who told police he opened fire because the dog was charging at him outside his home on Mannington, south of Joy.

Sponsler disputes those claims, saying she had a leash in her hand and Stewie, a 4-year-old boxer pit bull mix, was running toward her and her 17-year-old daughter Miriam before three shots rang out.

"I was pleading with him. I said, 'Please don't kill my dog.' My daughter and I pleaded with him," Sponsler said. "All I wanted to do was protect him. He's not a vicious dog."

It's now left to Canton police to investigate conflicting statements and turn the findings over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for review. Police haven't disclosed the name of the man who says he was defending himself.

The incident unfolded shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday as

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Miracle League knocks it out of the park with its season opener

The Miracle League of Plymouth launched its 2015 spring season Saturday with a large volunteer presence, a cheering crowd and the smiles of special-needs children playing baseball on their own field.

Opening day at Bilkie Family Field in Plymouth saw four

games by the MLP's players, some of whom use wheelchairs or braces and are assisted on the field by buddies while their family members and friends watch from the bleachers.

"Watching our players on the field and seeing the joy on their and their parents' faces

made the experience second to none," Glen Kordick, the MLP vice president and a deputy commissioner, wrote in an email. "We had an excellent spectator turnout and for this we are grateful. Their interaction and excitement throughout the day definitely made the kids feel like they

were superstars."

"We had so many people on the field and in the stands, it almost sounded like a Major League Baseball game," said Chelsey Coleman, who helps Mark Madonna coach the Yellow Jackets, a team

Canton forum explores race inequities and 'school-to-prison pipeline'

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Michigan school districts are suspending African-American students at a disproportionately high rate compared to their white counterparts, an American Civil Liberties Union official told a crowd in Canton.

Rodd Monts, field director

for the ACLU of Michigan, said districts should tighten policies to help students rather than oust youngsters from school, causing them to fall behind and steering them toward the criminal justice system and, potentially, incarceration.

Monts called it "a critical civil rights issue" as he addressed a crowd of about 100

people during a forum, "Race & Education: The School to Prison Pipeline," organized Friday at the Canton Public Library by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and The Beloved Community, a Plymouth-Canton group that shares the roundtable's goals of racial

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DARRELL CLEM

A diverse crowd listens as Rodd Monts, field director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, discusses racial disparities in schools.



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DOG

Continued from Page A1

Stewie, in violation of township ordinance, was running loose. It wasn't the first time; Sponsler conceded there have been past tickets issued. "Every time Stewie has ever gotten out is because it was an accident," she said.

Statements made to police indicated the dog was running loose and approached two women who were standing outdoors having a conversation, Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said.

One of the women shooed the dog away with a rake she was holding, Traylor said. According to statements made to police, the dog continued to run around the neigh-



SIMEON SPONSLER
Stewie, a 4-year-old boxer pit bull mix, was shot and killed by a Canton man who says the dog was charging at him.

borhood before returning and charging toward a man – a husband of one of the women – who had gotten a gun.

"The homeowner alleged he was being charged by the dog and he discharged his fire-

arm," Traylor said. One of the women also claimed to have been bitten by the dog. The incident happened in an area where yards have no fences. The man who shot the dog had a permit for the gun, Traylor said. Sponsler said she, daughter Miriam, one of Miriam's friends and Sponsler's 2-year-old granddaughter were leaving to go shopping when the tragic events began.

"Stewie got out. He's a runner and he just wanted to run," Sponsler said.

She said she ran over to Mannington after she heard one of the women scream. She said she asked the woman not to scream as she sought to capture Stewie.

"The next thing I knew, the man came out with a handgun," Spon-

sler said, and shots rang out. "My dog fell in front of me."

She said her daughter called police.

"Stewie was not a perfect dog," Sponsler said, but she had hired a trainer who was working with him.

Sponsler said she never would have allowed a dangerous dog near her 2-year-old granddaughter.

Township Attorney Kristin Kolb said dogs in public places have to be on a leash and under control of their owners, though they can run free in the owner's fenced-in yard or in designated areas such as the Canton Dog Park, on Denton north of Cherry Hill.

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VOTERS

Continued from Page A1

Bloch and Houser

reflected the lopsided division that persisted as Canton voters cast their ballots. Proponents say the proposal would have raised \$1.2 billion a year for roads, \$290 million for K-12 schools, \$116 million for public transit and \$111 million for local governments, including \$869,000 a year in state-shared revenue for Canton.

Most voters interviewed Tuesday opposed the ballot measure. Some said they didn't trust the state to spend the money wisely. Early in vote-counting Tuesday, the proposal was failing by a nearly 4-1 margin – and that gap never closed.

Voter Thomas Ross said he sided with state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, who has said lawmakers can find ways to fix roads without raising taxes.

"I'm going to vote it down," Ross said. "I

believe there are other ways to fix the roads."

Ross was among those who said the ballot measure piled too many other issues onto the plan to fix roads.

"There are too many riders on there," he said.

That didn't bother Houser, who said he partly supported the ballot proposal because it contained money for K-12 education.

"We've got to have education, so how else can we do that?" he said.

Mary Harkins, accompanying husband Ed, said the ballot measure was too convoluted.

"It's being sold as a repair-the-roads bill, but not all of the money is going for that," she said. She said the sales tax

increase, if approved, would never be rolled back.

"Once they raise it," she said, "it doesn't go down – ever."

Bennett said voters felt that lawmakers pushed the decision onto them, so they shoved it back.

"They're throwing it back at them to let them do their jobs," she said.

The election appeared to go smoothly in Canton. Bennett lauded election volunteers and township employees for their efforts.

"They are awesome," she said.

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Ross



Mary Harkins

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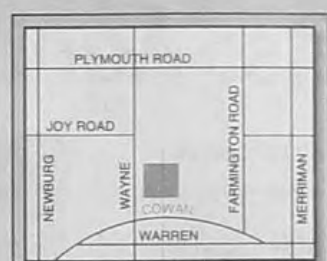
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Vets: Agent Orange affecting kids, grandkids

Vietnam Veterans of America Plymouth chapter hosts annual forum

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Canton resident Lori Weber has undergone 25 orthopedic surgeries for birth defects that have been attributed to her father's Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War.

"If my mother had served, I would be compensated," said the 38-year-old former teacher, who is now on disability. "It was through the process of elimination it was discovered to be Agent Orange. There are other individuals with the same conditions and their fathers also served in Vietnam."

Today, Weber walks on crutches or uses a wheelchair to remain mobile and independent.

Weber will be one of a number of speakers at the Agent Orange Town Hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

the Northville High School auditorium, 45700 Six Mile.

The town hall is the second in a series of four annual forums spotlighting Agent Orange that is expected to draw

hundreds of attendees. The forums that began last year with an introduction and history of the herbicide's use during the war are hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America and

Associates of Vietnam Veterans, Chapter 528 of Plymouth. Planners from Chapter 528 include John Spencer, chapter president, Don Dignan, Bob Dew, Dick Waldecker, Joe Tebor, Dennis Waling and Ron King.

This year's forum will focus on the impact Agent Orange has had not only on veterans, but their descendants, spanning some seven generations. "We are focusing on education," said King, a search and rescue pilot who served in Vietnam 1971-72.

Weber is one of those descendants, as his her 11-year-old son, who was born prematurely and is suffering digestive issues and severe asthma and had to wear a torticollis helmet on his head as an infant. Already, Weber said, she has noticed her son's arms can bend in peculiar ways.

"I can go down the list and check things off," she said, of the similarities other children and grandchildren of Vietnam vets are experiencing.

And that will be the focus of the Saturday town hall, which

will feature keynote speaker Trude Bennett, an expert in childhood diseases, who has studied the impact of Agent Orange use. She is an associate professor emeritus in the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the University of North Carolina.

"These illnesses (displayed by Vietnam veteran descendants) have not been found to be in families (without Agent Orange exposure)," said Waling, a member of Chapter 528 Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America.

The goal of the town hall, committee members said, is to inform the general public, Vietnam veterans and their children and grandchildren of the potential effects of Agent Orange. "There has never been an emphasis put on veterans," said Dew, Agent Orange committee chair.

But plenty of others, including chapter members and author Ed Martini, who wrote the go-to book on the herbicide, *Agent Orange 2012*, will speak

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Cops nab prescription fraud suspect

Quick action by a Meijer pharmacy employee in Canton helped township police nab a woman trying to get a fake order for prescription drugs filled, a police report said.

Canton police went to the Meijer store Friday afternoon after receiving a tip that a white female with a ponytail was attempting prescription fraud. An employee stalled the woman until police arrived by having her wait for the order.

Police then approached the woman, who immediately asked not to go to jail, but the report indicated she was taken into custody.

The woman told police she had a friend who was in a rehab clinic and admitted the two of

them hatched a plan to get prescriptions filled for drugs, the report said. The suspect in Meijer said her friend had posed as a doctor and called in the order.

The suspect told police she was supposed to pick up the prescription and take it to her friend, saying the drugs would likely be sold for money, the police report said.

During the course of her conversation with police, the suspect admitted that her drug of choice was heroin, the police report said.

Rehab violations

A 49-year-old Inkster man was escorted from a Canton substance abuse rehabilitation center after he was found with Xanax, used to treat symptoms such as anxiety, and after he

was seen rummaging through a woman's purse, a police report said.

Police went to Oakdale Recovery Center on Michigan Avenue shortly before 8:30 a.m. Saturday after an employee found the suspect going through a woman's purse and holding a wallet in his hand. The police report also said he had previously been found with Xanax, which he claimed he had bought from a woman who was no longer at the center.

The center asked the suspect to leave. Canton police took him to Inkster, where he had been staying before entering the rehab center.

Restaurant ruckus

Police went to the Applebee's restaurant on Ford Road, near Morton Taylor, after em-

ployees reported a ruckus caused by three patrons, a police report said.

The incident happened about 12:30 a.m. Friday. Employees told police it appeared the customers may try to leave without paying their bill. Two out of three patrons did pay their bill, but a third male was reported to be urinating on the door of the building.

A police report indicated the three customers already had been cut off from alcohol and had become belligerent, with one of the men grabbing a female server around the waist, the police report said.

One of the men tried to flee the scene on foot, but was caught by police. Authorities took the man who urinated on the building into custody and issued trespassing citations to

the other two men, the report said.

Felony arrest

Police arrested a 38-year-old Belleville man who was wanted for a felony warrant after stopping his vehicle at the southbound I-275 ramp at Ford Road, a police report said.

Police learned the suspect was wanted out of Ypsilanti for carrying a concealed weapon. Police had stopped his Dodge Intrepid in Canton after noticing that its windows were illegally tinted.

Police ran the license plate of the vehicle and learned of the outstanding warrant. Police arranged to meet with Ypsilanti police and turn the suspect over to them.

- By Darrell Clem

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FORUM

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equality and justice. It was part of the roundtable's Race2Equity series.

White students far outnumber black pupils in Michigan public schools, Monts said, but more blacks than whites are suspended even though he said there is no evidence to support their behavior is proportionately worse. He said the Michigan Department of Education has introduced a new policy to help guide school districts toward policies that are more corrective than punitive.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Michael Meissen said school officials are working to "build bridges" to address issues such as the school-to-prison pipeline and he acknowledged, "there are disproportionalities."

Meissen said districts sometimes have no choice but to expel students for statutory reasons such as bringing weapons to school or selling drugs. Even in those cases, he said, a plan is made for learning to continue outside the school setting.

"The (school) board requires that we are nimble and work on this fast," Meissen said.

One parent, Sharika Robinson, said her 15-year-old African-American son has been the victim of racial slurs at



Rodd Monts, flanked by other participants, engages in discussion during a Canton forum focusing on racial inequities in Michigan schools. Monts works with the American Civil Liberties Union.

school. She said no one was punished. She also contended her son was disciplined more harshly than white students for similar infractions.

"I want you to know that this school-to-prison pipeline isn't far away," she said. "It's here."

The latest Race2Equity forum also involved the crowd forming smaller groups to discuss the issue. It was an opportunity for suburbanites to mingle with Detroit residents based in for the forum by the Michigan Roundtable.

Steve Spreitzer, president and CEO of the

Michigan Roundtable, said the school-to-prison issue is national in scope.

"This is a national challenge," he said. "It's certainly a challenge for all school districts in southeast Michigan. It's not a bull's-eye on the Plymouth-Canton school district."

Eric Noland came to the Race2Equity forum because he works with students placed in Plymouth-Canton's alternative education program at the Starkweather facility. He said he was seeking information that might help the youngsters he encounters.

Moreover, he said efforts are being made through programs intended to "bridge the gap" between the school's students and local police officers.

Monts, meanwhile, said districts should try to rely more heavily on discipline strategies such as peer mediation to address behavior problems, while also reducing suspensions.

"The more harshly we punish children," he said, "the more damage we do long term."

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Canton Trails are good places to bicycle safely.

Celebrate National Bike Month in May on Canton trails

Area cyclists and residents are encouraged to bike to work or try cycling for fun, fitness or transportation in Canton during National Bike To Work Week, May 11-15, as well as during the month of May, which is recognized across the country as National Bike Month.

Sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists, National Bike Month was established in 1956 as a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling and encourage more individuals to dust off their bikes, get outside and give biking a try.

From recreational riders to race enthusiasts, Canton trails offer the perfect location for cycling accessibility and fun outdoor recreation. The ITC Corridor Trail, Canton's most recently developed trail system, is approximately three miles long and connects the Lower Rouge Trail to both Flodin Park and Griffin Park.

Additional trails within Canton include the Fellows Creek Wetland Nature Trail at Flodin Park, which runs one-third of a mile in length. Park connections that these pathways link are various natural areas and are part of Canton's growing water trail network, which is an established contiguous waterway or series of waterways that is open to recreational use by paddlers. The Lower Rouge Trail currently runs approximately four miles in

length, with its trail head located on Morton-Taylor Road, north of Michigan Avenue, and offers convenient parking and easy access to the trail system. The Lower Rouge Trail currently interconnects Canton's Heritage Park with the I-275 Metro Trail.

The I-275 Metro Trail offers approximately six miles of non-motorized pathways in Canton. This 31-mile pathway follows along the I-275 expressway throughout Oakland, Wayne and Monroe counties. This major artery for recreation and non-motorized transportation currently links 13 communities along the way. This paved asphalt trail runs from the intersection of 12 Mile Road and Meadowbrook Road in Novi to the Huron River in Huron Township, intersecting the Hines Park Trail, Lower Rouge Trail and Downriver Linked Greenways Trail along the way. This I-275 bikeway connects these communities and their trails for an enhanced southeast Michigan regional trails network that increases opportunities for recreation, conservation and non-motorized transportation.

Combined, all of these trails in Canton offer nearly 15 miles of non-motorized pathways for outdoor recreation and connectivity throughout the community. For more information on Canton trails, go to www.cantonfun.org or call the Canton Park Office at 734-394-5310.

ORANGE

Continued from Page A4

Saturday. They have been studying and following the impact of the herbicide that comes with plenty of politics and history.

Waldecker, VVA Plymouth first vice president, last week had a series of books detailing the Agent Orange impact at the chapter on Mill Street. President Franklin Roosevelt chose not to use the herbicide during World War II. Vietnam was another matter.

"In 1961, the government looked at Vietnam as a place to fight communism," Waldecker said.

Spraying started Jan. 9, 1962, in the Mekong Delta. It was distributed over foliage and crops, anywhere the Viet Cong were believed to be hiding. It was sprayed from a U.S. Air Force C-123, which completed about 90 percent of all of the Agent Orange distribution.

Like many veterans, the members of the C-123 crew were never compensated for their illnesses due to Agent Orange exposure, Waldecker said.

By 1967-68, the U.S. Department of Defense had already begun investigating the impact of the herbicide on humans. But President Richard Nixon in 1971 overrode the department's con-



Northville High School is at 45700 Six Mile.

cerns. "We were going to use superior technology to beat the enemy," Waldecker said.

Returning veterans had already displayed health issues. "They were all suspicious illnesses," Dignan said. "A test was created for dioxins."

Lawsuits were filed against the chemical companies, including Dow Chemical, that produced Agent Orange. Approximately \$180 million of the lawsuit settlement was put aside and provided to certain veterans. "There was no determination what they were suffering from, but they were ill," Dignan said, adding some 41 presumptive illnesses were tied to the agent.

The chemical companies and federal government, nonetheless, have never admitted guilt or negligence with the human effects from Agent Orange. "We aren't trying to blame anyone," Dew said.

Two bills, however, are in committee in the U.S.

Congress that would create the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. If enacted, the legislation — Senate Bill 901 and House Bill 1769 — would create within the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health condition for descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

"Part of the issue is that veterans may not have symptoms," said Beth Meade, who is helping the chapter with publicity. "That's why education is so important. Hopefully, this will lead to coverage for the kids."

Educating physicians is also part of the push. "We need to wake them up," Waling said, adding that physicians must be made aware of the potential effects on future generations.

Though Weber was born with hip and spine defects, the impact made itself glaringly visible by

AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL

Registration opens at 7 a.m., followed by the program from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Northville High School auditorium, 45700 Six Mile. The event is free for veterans, families, medical staff and the public.

Speakers will include: Trude Bennett, public health professor; Mokie Porter of the Vietnam Veterans of America; Bob Cummings, Agent Orange Riders; Lori Weber of Canton; Nancy Switzer, Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America; U.S. Rep. David Trott; and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck.

A panel discussion will include Ed Martini, author of *Agent Orange 2012*.

To register, go to www.vva528.org or call 734-421-1805. For more information on Agent Orange, go to <http://www.publihealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/>.

the time she was a teenager. Doctors eliminated potential causes, such as connective tissue disorder. She has had two spine fusions and three hip replacements. The problem is that she doesn't heal. The cartilage tears at a rapid rate. Her endocrinologist has formally gone on record relating her health problems to Agent Orange.

Weber's physicians also supported including her in a study of the Agent Orange impact. But her insurance would not cover the \$20,000 bill or the total cost of her wheelchair. "We are now seeing veterans in their 60s having illnesses. Without a national study, there will be no funding. The things we have found out are just crazy," Weber said.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com
248-396-6620



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, May 19, 2015

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that a Public Hearing will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170, on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate request for real and personal property improvements at Federal-Mogul Corporation, 47001 Port Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. The request is available for inspection from 8-4:30 daily in the Clerk's Office. During the public hearing which begins at 7:00 pm., any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

Publish: May 7, 2015

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1G2WP12K1XF216557	1997	Pontiac	Grand Prix GT
3GNCA23B59S547085	2009	Chevrolet	HHR LT
1GCEK19T5XE155045	1999	Chevrolet	Silverado K1500
2FMZA51654BA16019	2004	Ford	Freestar SE
2MEFM75V96X629440	2006	Mercury	Grand Marquis
3FAKP1131XR120893	1999	Ford	Escort ZX2 Cool
3FALP15P5VR156648	1997	Ford	Escort LX
3FAFP13P21R126226	2001	Ford	Escort
1ZWHT61LSY5623377	2000	Mercury	Cougar

Publish: May 7, 2015

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Livonia Public Schools
Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program To Out-Of-District Students

Twenty seats are open to students entering 1st or 2nd grade, and twelve seats are open to students entering 3rd or 4th grade for the 2015-16 school year.

Limited Registration window: May 5-May 22, 2015.

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2015 - 2016 school year.

This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will be open from May 5 - 22, 2015 at Webster Elementary School, 32401 Pembroke, Livonia, MI 48152 from 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. Monday - Friday.

All candidates MUST meet the ACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, visit www.livoniapublicschools.org or contact Webster School at 734-744-2795.

Carolyn Sumner (seated) has won a lifetime achievement award for her volunteer work with the Canton Public Library. Standing behind her (from left) are Eva Davis, library director; Kathie Gladden, volunteer coordinator; and Gale Forster, technical processing supervisor.



Library honors volunteers who create 'sense of community'

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton resident Carolyn Sumner has accumulated a startling 4,000 hours of volunteer work over the last 20 years for the Canton Public Library.

That's the equivalent of a hundred 40-hour work weeks, according to library statistics, earning her a lifetime achievement award for her efforts to stamp, document and catalog new materials brought in to the library. She helps in the technical processing department.

"She has retired, so we wanted to honor her one last time," said Kathie Gladden, the library's volunteer coordinator. "She was a tremendous help over the years."

"The volunteers are very important, not just for the work they do, but for the sense of community they create at the library," said Laurie Golden, community relations department head.

The numbers are startling. In 2014 alone, 121 volunteers contributed more than 9,077 hours of service to the library.

Library employees

recently celebrated those contributions with a luncheon while awarding certain volunteers the President's Volunteer Service Award, an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service. It's a federal effort that recognizes more than five million Americans in results-driven service every year through 70,000 organizations.

Along with Sumner, the following recipients were honored:

» Gold awards for 500 or more hours of service went to Shirley Reynolds and Judy Richardson.

» Silver awards that come with 250 hours or more went to Debbie Cortellini, Linda Luke, Ilene Saunders and Kathy Young.

» Bronze awards for more than 100 hours of service were received by Barb Backes, Judy Elliot, Tammy Farley, Dorothy Ham, Lisa Kluka, Diane Miner, Loretta Olson, Dan Petroskey, Joan Postell, Nancy Smith, Kathy Sonnanstine, Jody Trame, Stan Goldberg and Mary Watts.

Anyone interested in becoming a library volunteer may go to www.cantonpl.org/jobs.

dclem@hometownlife.com



The first farmers market of 2015 drew a crowd of shoppers ready to start planting.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sunny weather welcomes Plymouth Farmers Market

The Plymouth Farmers Market, a downtown tradition for about 30 years, opened its 2015 season Saturday in and around The Gathering.

After months of cold weather, temperatures were warm and the sun was out for the first day of the market, which saw 25 different vendors.

The number of vendors will grow as the season progresses and more produce comes in, said Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the market. Spots for vendors are sold out for the season.

Saturday's crowd peaked between about 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Graff said. Early in the season is the time people typically buy flowers and plants, he said.

The market will be open from 7:30 a.m. to



Emily Nakfoor made a few spring purchases Saturday, the opening day of the 2015 Plymouth Farmers Market.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

12:30 p.m. most Saturdays through Oct. 30. The

exceptions are July 12 and Sept. 6, when the

market will be closed for special downtown events.

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Margi Bake purchased an armload of pussy willows, a sure sign of spring.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Apps available for P-CCS intra-district, schools of choice

Applications are now available for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' 2015-16 intra-district transfers — grades K-3 — and schools of choice for non-district residents.

Applications for intra-district are online at <http://pccs.k12.mi.us/node/3382>. Applications for school of choice are available at <http://pccs.k12.mi.us/node/3384>.

The district will offer intra-district transfer requests for resident students for the kindergarten through third grade, including sibling priority, only for the 2015-16 school year.

Intra-district requests

Intra-district transfer requests will not be available for grades 4-12 for 2015-16. Final placement

will be determined based on 2015-16 staffing levels/ratios and the number of applications received for each school/level.

The application deadline is Friday, May 22. Families will be notified of placement no later than Monday, June 15. If the number of applications received for a given school/level exceeds the number of available openings, lotteries will be held at noon, June 5, in the board room at Central Office.

Sibling preference would apply only if there was available space within the transfer school. The acceptance of an intra-district transfer request does not change the "feeder" path (elementary, middle and high school) to which a student is assigned. After completion of each level,

a student will be placed in his/her home school attendance area for the next level.

Schools of choice

Applications for schools of choice are for incoming students in grades K-10 who live in Wayne County and are not residents of the Plymouth-Canton school district.

The application provides an explanation of the district policy that guides the process. There is no charge for the schools of choice program, but those who are accepted will continue to be enrolled through high school graduation. Applicants should be aware that schools of choice students must provide their own transportation to school.

Raise money for United Way, while solving a mystery

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

If you like hunkering down with a good mystery novel, the Plymouth Community United Way and Plymouth Downtown Development Authority can do you one better: experience a mystery, while raising money to help others.

"It's like the real game of Clue," said Tony Bruscatto, DDA executive director.

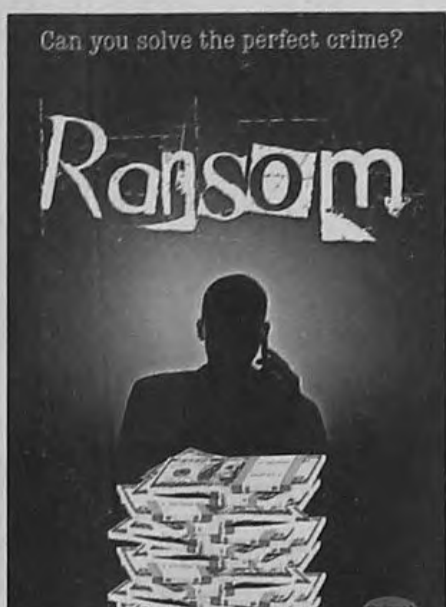
Four-member teams of area residents and mystery connoisseurs will be charged with solving the mystery behind "Ransom." This year, the mystery will involve a kidnapping that could turn deadly fast if teams of would-be detectives don't figure out who was kidnapped, what's the ransom and where to make the drop.

"Ransom" takes place at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 20. The goal is for 20 teams to scour downtown Plymouth for clues available at participating stores and eateries. "You don't have to go at break-neck speed," Bruscatto said.

The impetus behind "Ransom" is to offer participants a chance to also experience downtown Plymouth, its stores and eateries. And just as important, the Plymouth Community United Way, which has partnered with Quizzo — a company that presents the mystery games — to raise money for programs in the area.

Plymouth Community United Way is excited to be part of a kidnapping mystery, as all of the proceeds from the event go to the charitable organization that's funded programs in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and western Wayne County since 1944.

"We greatly appreci-



PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED WAY

ate the opportunity to partner for the event," said Marie Morrow, Plymouth Community United Way president. "It not only raises money for much-needed services in the community, but allows us to create awareness about the work we do."

All of the past Plymouth events were sold out long before the crime supposedly happened. Designed for ages 21 and up, the game consists of teams of four investigators who use crime scene analysis, problem-solving and clues to crack the case.

The entire game takes place on foot downtown, so organizers recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Participants also need their identification and at least one smart phone and one flashlight per team.

The game lasts approximately 2½ hours, with the opportunity to purchase beverages throughout the night at local bars. Quizzo Detroit recommends eating be-

forehand, as there is no time during the event.

The cost is \$80 per team of four. The winning team will be awarded a prize package courtesy of downtown businesses.

To register, call the Plymouth Community United Way at 734-453-6879.

Serving the Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne County area since 1944, PCUW focuses on basic needs, education and health/stability by funding summer classes for students not achieving at grade level; food, rent and utility assistance; senior transportation; shelter and counseling for domestic violence victims and their children; programs for developmentally disabled adults; substance abuse treatment for youth; hospice; grief counseling for all ages, and other human services. Workshops on elder law and a health fair provide valuable information for senior citizens.

For more information, go to www.plymouthunitedway.org.



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It's a beautiful day at the Miracle League of Plymouth's Bilkie Family Field.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OPENER

Continued from Page A1

for younger players. Players from the Michigan Jays and Canton Cardinals youth baseball teams, plus employees from Mitsubishi Electric Corp., volunteered Saturday to work one-on-one with the players as buddies, organizers said.

"I could tell the buddies were all having a great time getting to know their players," Coleman said. "A few kids even stole home plate."

"During the last few years, I have seen our MLP players grow and some of them speak their first words on our field. They have become more confident in catching,

hitting the ball and circling the bases, whether it be on foot, with braces or in a wheelchair. Regardless of how they get around the field, one thing is for sure, they are having fun," Kordick wrote.

Coleman, who also manages publicity for the league, said 40 buddies and two umpires are still needed for this Saturday's games. People interested in volunteering should go to the league's website, www.miracleleagueplymouth.org. There is a frequently-asked-questions page, under the 2015 Important Info link, for people who are interested in buddying and a VolunteerSpot link through which to sign up.

- By Matt Jachman



Tyler Wolfe is at-bat. Buddy Marc Ellis gives him a hand.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



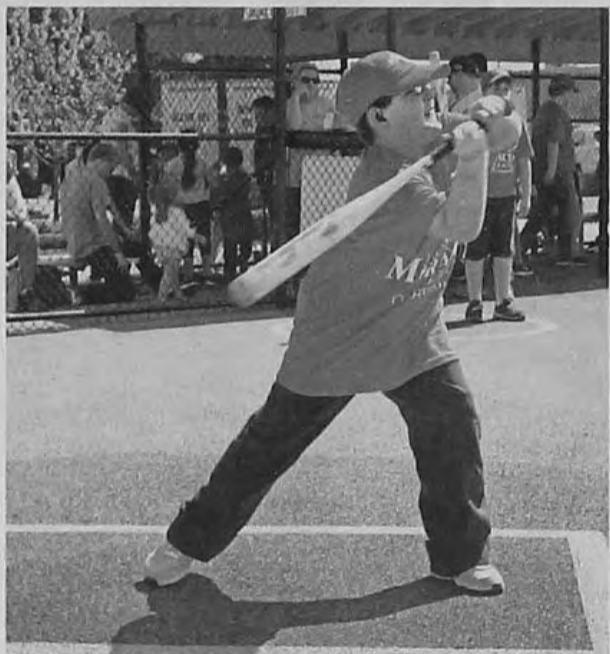
Umpire Dave Visser helps ballplayer Nicholas Newman.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Anna Mae Abrams heads for home plate with an assist from Conner Prahl.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Zach Ferguson is at-bat.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Dominik Moore heads for third base.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The crowd applauds another great play.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Sean Macek is safe at home for another run for the Royal Stars. Umpire Dave Visser makes the call.

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The teams are introduced.

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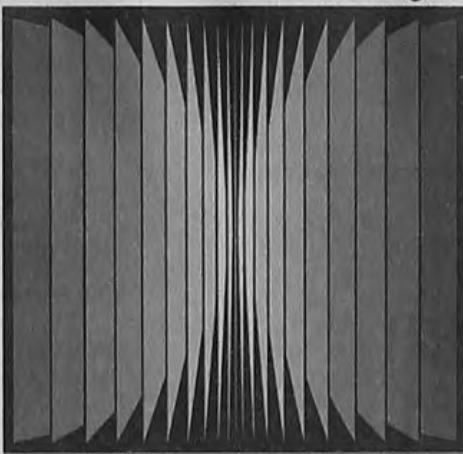
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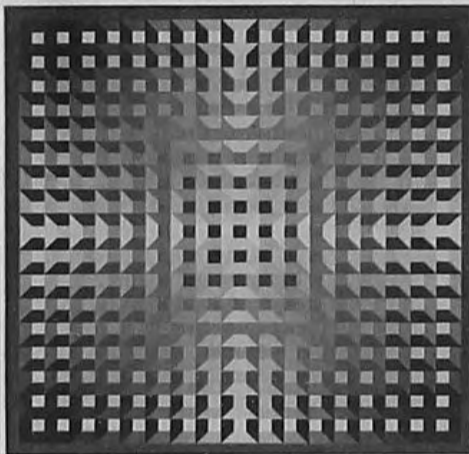
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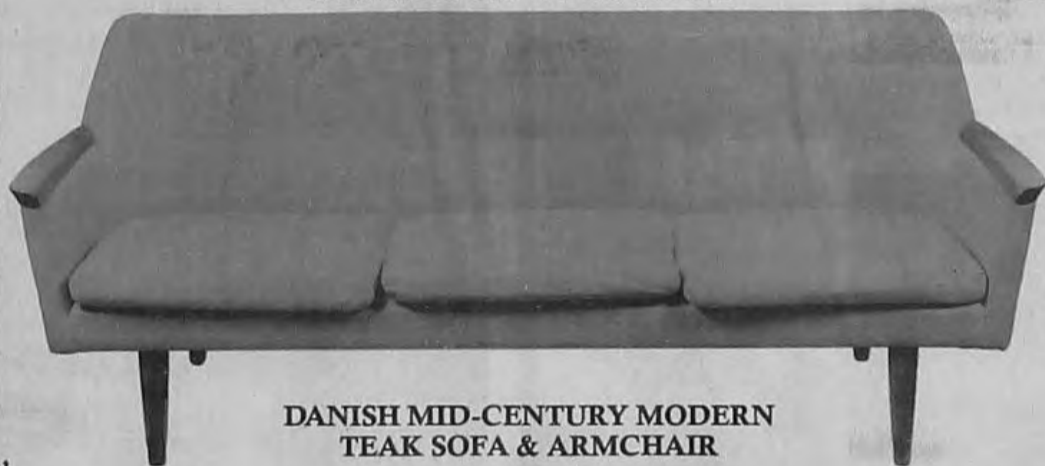
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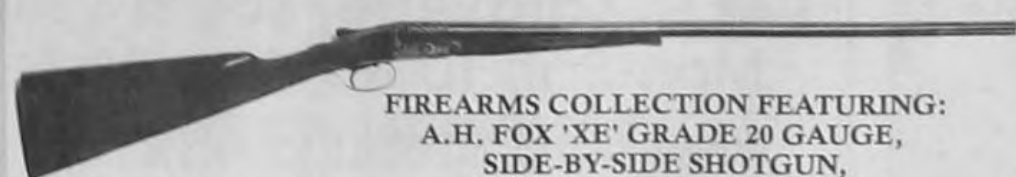
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'Cuckoo's Nest' takes flight at Barefoot Productions

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, a play based on the classic novel by Ken Kesey, caps the 2014-15 season at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

The six-show run opens Friday, May 8, and continues all this weekend and next, with Friday and Saturday shows at 8

p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. All seats are \$15.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest was adapted by Dale Wasserman from Kesey's novel and centers on Randle P. McMurphy, a misfit con man confined to a psychiatric hospital who challenges Nurse Ratched

and her control over the other patients. Jack Nicholson played McMurphy in the 1975 movie version.

In Barefoot's production, Ken Karges plays McMurphy and Nathan Corliss is Billy. Eric Bloch is Chief Bromden and Beth C. Duey is Nurse Ratched. With a

total cast of 16, the show is directed by Craig A. Hane, Barefoot's artistic director.

Barefoot's 99-seat theater is at 240 N. Main in Plymouth, near Union Street.

For this production, the company has added 20 seats theater-in-the-round style to allow the audience to be on all sides of the action.

Advance tickets are recommended; tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 734-



Nathan Corliss as Billy (left) and Ken Karges as Randle P. McMurphy in Barefoot Productions' "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which opens Friday at the company's theater at 240 N. Main in Plymouth.

560-1493 or at www.justgobarefoot.com. The theater's box office will be open 6:30-8 p.m.

Monday and Wednesday and 12:30-2:30 p.m. Sunday for walk-in purchases.

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Area Democrats announce spring gala

After an event last year that drew Sen. Carl Levin and Michigan Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer, area Democrats will host their sixth annual spring gala at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville.

Public radio commentator Jack Lessenberry will be the keynote speaker, discussing an array of topics. He has worked as a foreign correspondent and executive national editor of *The Detroit News* and has written for national and regional publications, including *Vanity*

Fair, Esquire, New York Times, The Washington Post and *The Boston Globe*.

The Democratic Spring Gala is hosted by four local Democratic Clubs: Northville, Plymouth, Canton and West Oakland County. Democrats say the galas have become premier events for southeast Michigan Democrats, allowing them to interact with state political leaders and Democratic local and national office-holders and activists.

Democrats say the galas help to provide funding to promote Democratic candidates. This

year's spring gala comes in advance of the 2016 election cycle.

Other highlights of the evening include a banquet buffet orchestrated by Meadowbrook's executive chef, Michael Olday, a cash bar and dancing to the music of the Nikki Pearse Band.

Tickets are still available by contacting the Canton Democratic Club at CantonDems.com or via email at cantondemclub@gmail.com.

Meadowbrook Country Club is located at 40941 W. Eight Mile Rd, just west of I-275.

MILITARY NEWS

Emery D. Craig

Army Spc. Emery D. Craig graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During training, he studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values and physical fitness.

Craig is the son of Fay Johnson of Canton. He is a 1999 graduate of Belleville High School.

Christian I. Roman

Air Force Airman Christian I. Roman graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San

Antonio, Texas. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits through the Community College of the Air Force.

Roman is the son of Charita and Ramadan Roman of Canton. He graduated in 2013 from Wayne Memorial High School.



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WHO'S YOUR TIGER?

Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.

Kroger buying out Hiller's Market chain

Five Mile/Haggerty store is included in planned sale

By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

Fans of the area specialty Hiller's Markets stores are lamenting Friday's announcement that the stores are being sold to Novi-based Kroger Co. of Michigan. "I can't believe it," said Iris Efron, a Novi resident shopping Friday at the Lyon Township Hiller's. "I've been coming here ever since it opened." The Lyon grocery store, located on 10 Mile Road near South Lyon East High School, is among the seven Hiller's stores in the purchase.



Six of those stores will convert into Kroger stores. The seventh, located in Union Lake, would close as Kroger already operates a location a few hundred yards away. But the Hiller's at Five Mile and Haggerty is only one mile away from a large Kroger at Six Mile and Haggerty.

Though the market has a Plymouth mailing address, it is located in Northville Township. Hiller's Markets also are located in West Bloomfield, Ann Arbor, Northville, Plymouth and Commerce Township, all converting to Kroger. "After 75 years of providing the finest quality groceries and

services to southeast Michigan, I am pleased that Hiller's legacy of excellence will be continued by the Kroger Company," Jim Hiller, president and CEO of Hiller's Markets, said in a release. "I encourage Hiller's customers to continue shopping at Kroger following the transition and to continue supporting their favorite associates." Kroger is encouraging Hiller's associates to apply for positions within the organization. Store conversion details, including hiring events, will be announced closer to transaction completion. "We are excited to welcome Hiller's customers into our stores and introduce them to our great people," said

Jayne Homco, president of Kroger's Michigan division. "Hiller's has a decades-long reputation of great customer service and outstanding selection of local and ethnic foods and we look forward to continuing those traditions as we expand in this market." Ken McClure, consumer communication manager for Kroger of Michigan, said the purchase is part of Kroger's plan to invest \$150 million to expand, renovate and open new stores in Michigan this year. That investment is on top of \$100 million the company spent to expand and improve its Michigan operations last year. The sale is expected to close in July, subject to customary closing conditions. Terms of the

agreement will not be disclosed. Hiller's Markets was started 75 years ago by Sid Hiller. Jim Hiller is the current president and his son Justin is vice president of the family-owned grocery store chain. Justin Hiller, would not comment on how the sale came about, saying only that it was a financial decision. "It's a sad day for me, but at the same time offers an opportunity to care for the employees and that was important to me," said Hiller, who also said he will not be staying on in any role. Michigan.com contributed to this story.

Unique hair salon, gaming arcade looking to expand

Q: Tell us about your business.
It's a safe, friendly, clean hair salon for the family. We feature great cuts and a place to bond with your kids. We offer customers air hockey and foosball to play and spend time with the family.
Q: How did you first decide to open your business?
We decided to do our open after looking at many national franchises.
Q: Why did you choose Canton?
It's a great community with a diverse population and age groups.
Q: What makes your

business unique?
No one else offers our concept of having arcade-like entertainment.
Q: How has it changed since you opened?
We are getting better and have increased repeat customers.
Q: Any funny tidbits or stories?
As an owner, my wife did such a great job on a 12-year-old customer that he went to his mom's car, got \$2 and gave her a tip.
Q: Any advice for other business owners?
Stay the course; use social media; make certain to have great customer service.
Q: What's in store for

DETAILS
Name: Arcade Cuts
Owner: Michael Makki, CEO
Address: 42047 Ford Road, Canton
Opened: Oct. 15, 2014
Employees: Seven
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Appointed senior manager
Bill Makela has been appointed to senior project manager of St. Joseph Mercy Livingston operations, effective March 1. In this role, Makela will be involved in the rapid transformation of St. Joseph Mercy Brighton and Livingston health facilities. "I am honored to play an integral role in the revitalization program and help renew and grow the future health of Livingston county," Makela said. "I grew up in Brighton and have family in the area, which makes the project particularly meaningful for me." As senior project manager, Makela will be responsible for planning and delivering the program to upgrade St. Joseph Mercy Livingston hospital and develop a short stay center for overnight stays at St. Joseph Mercy Brighton. He serves as the point person for the project steering team with oversight of the project plan, clinical care pilot and center activation. His management will ensure seamless integration of the new and redesigned spaces including operating rooms, emergency department, diagnostic services, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy and key clinical support systems. Makela comes to this role from St. Mary Mercy Livonia, where he began his career as an administrative fellow in 2011 and transitioned to a role in campus development in 2012. He earned his bachelor's degree in health science and master's degree in health administration from Grand Valley State University. "Bill will be a great partner to our physicians and clinicians ensuring successful delivery of the Transformation

Brighton and Livingston project," said Brynt Ellis, executive director, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston and Brighton operations. "We have built a world-class team and colleagues such as Bill bring the expertise, energy and dedication necessary to transform health care delivery in Livingston County for tomorrow."
Ride & Drive
Johnson Controls of Plymouth has partnered with Lawrence Technological University to develop the next-generation of energy storage technologies, while providing students with real-world experiences and skills to drive leading edge research and technology discovery. This week, a lab at LTU was dedicated to Johnson Controls, which has donated and installed state-of-the-art test equipment and deployed technical resources to LTU to propel academic and applied research into optimizing vehicle and battery design. Also on tap was a demonstration of the new four-wheel-drive chassis dynamometer, which offers expanded lab capabilities and positions LTU as a leading research facility in the Detroit area for automotive systems testing and development. An advanced Start-Stop Ride & Drive opportunity to try Johnson Controls' 12-volt Lithium-ion battery also was available.
Virtual job fair
Job seekers and Michigan employers can connect through a state-sponsored virtual career fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 13. Pure Michigan Talent Connect's MiVirtualCareerFairs bring together Michigan employers and talent from across the state and the globe in an online, virtual environment. Since 2012, more than 220 employers and 31,000 job-seekers have been connected through the state's 15 sponsored

events. With assistance from the Michigan Works! System and event partner Capital Area Michigan Works!, 545 jobs with 34 Michigan employers in varying industries will be featured in the May event. There's no cost for job-seekers to participate. Registration information can be found at www.mitalent.org/virtualcareerfair. During virtual events, job-seekers can explore customized employer booths, interact one-on-one with participating employers and search and apply for job opportunities. In addition, job-seekers can access information about career development programs and resources in the event Media Center and Resource Lounge. Veterans can connect with staff at the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency booth to learn about veterans' benefits in Michigan. The Michigan Nonprofit Association will be participating as a resource to assist job-seekers interested in finding opportunities in the nonprofit sector.
Canton chamber events
The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host the following:
» Membership: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 13, at the chamber office, 45525 Hanford Road, Canton. Membership to the Max explains how to make use of the chamber. Free event.
» Ribbon-cutting: 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, for TCS Michigan at the chamber office, 45525 Hanford Road, Canton.
» Ribbon-cutting: 4 p.m. Friday, May 15, for Brew Works, 8521 N. Lilley Road, Canton.
» Mixer on the golf course: 7:30-9 a.m. Thursday, May 21, at Fellows Creek Golf Course, 2936 Lotz, Canton. Tee times starts at 8:30 a.m. Fellows Creek will donate all golf and cart fees to the Ryan Broyles for Kids Foundation.

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Google announced it will begin using "mobile-friendliness" as a ranking for websites. This will have a significant impact on search results. We can help.

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- Of the 140 million people in the U.S. who access Facebook (almost every day), 86% of them do so from mobile devices.

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OUR VIEW

Our Academic All-Stars are smart, ambitious, caring and successful

Congratulations, All-Stars!

The 2015 *Observer & Eccentric* Academic All-Star Team represents the most accomplished students from public, private and parochial schools in Oakland and western Wayne counties.

This year's team has 30 students to mark the 30th year of the All-Star program. Seventeen team members posted 4.0 grade-point averages in high school and perfect ACT and/or SAT scores.

Another 46 students are honorable mention and their scores are separated in most cases by a mere fraction of a point. They, too, merit praise.

On Sunday, May 10, the *Observer & Eccentric* will publish - in cooperation with Madonna University, our longtime major sponsor - a special section that showcases these outstanding students.

Based in Livonia, Madonna is committed to teaching, scholarship and service.

Other community partners include Community Alliance Credit Union, a section sponsor, and Parkside Credit Union, the essay sponsor. One lucky all-star will win a \$500 scholarship for an award-winning essay to be announced May 15 at the awards ceremony at Madonna University.

The all-stars and runners-up are smart, ambitious, caring and have high praise for the teachers who have made an impact on their lives. Take time to read about how involved these teens are and what they hope to accomplish in the future. We are proud of them and you will be, too. They are examples of the good things happening in our local schools and communities today.

Judging the team were Carolyn Witte, principal of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills; Dan Willenborg, principal of Livonia Franklin High School; and Charlie Hollerith, principal of Bloomfield Hills High School. All three have been part of the program for more than a decade. The principals met in March to review the applications. The All-Star team is selected solely on academic achievement in academic subjects and SAT or ACT test scores.

The 2015 team includes:

Seventeen students tied for the No. 1 ranking (in alphabetical order) are Jacqueline Bredenberg of Royal Oak, Detroit County Day; Andrew Demko of Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills High School; Kristen Gallett of Farmington Hills, Farmington High School; Andrew Gobis of South Lyon, Detroit Catholic Central; **Charlie Hou of Canton, Plymouth High School**; Iris Huang of Troy, Cranbrook Kingswood; Vineet Jammalamadaka of Novi, Novi High School, Anselm Jia of Bloomfield Township, International Academy; Grace Milton of Farmington Hills, Marian High School; Mansoor Mubeen of Bloomfield Hills, International Academy; Rachel Ockner of Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Hills High School; Shantam Ravan of Westland, Churchill High School; Arthur Shi of Novi, Novi High School; Katie Wallace of Bloomfield, Seaholm High School; Shunhe Wang of Northville, Northville High School; Victoria Whydell of Farmington Hills, Farmington High School; and Kevin Xu of Westland, Churchill High School.

Second through fourth are Michael Shi of West Bloomfield, Wylie E. Groves High School; Rohan Angle of Farmington Hills, North Farmington High School and Naveen Jasti of Troy, Detroit County Day.

Tied for fifth (in alphabetical order) are: **Sean Carey of Plymouth, Canton High School**; Benjamin George of Wixom, Detroit Catholic Central; Maxwell Hermelin of Bingham Farms, Cranbrook Kingswood; Perry Jiang of Northville, Northville High School; **Aniruddha Kappagantu of Canton, Plymouth High School**; Aviral Pandey of Farmington Hills, North Farmington High School; **Caleb Richter of Belleville, Lutheran High School Westland**; Christopher Szymczak of Farmington Hills, Southfield Christian School and Natalie Utley of Birmingham, Seaholm High School.

Rounding out the team is Safia Sayed of Franklin, Wylie E. Groves High School.

Local runners-up include:

- » Aditya Bhatt, Canton High School, Canton
- » Adam Hodgson, Huron Valley Lutheran High School, Plymouth
- » Haikel Haile, Plymouth Christian Academy, Canton
- » Joseph Fanelli, Plymouth Christian Academy, Canton
- » Jena Holden, Ladywood High School, Plymouth



Carey



Kappagantu



Richter



Hou

LETTERS

Give Price a chance

I attended the Plymouth Township meeting recently where Mr. Shannon Price was chosen to serve out Mr. Reaume's term. While I am not a close friend of Mr. Price, I am an acquaintance and share many of his values.

I have come to know him from our common interest, the Rattles With Us Tea Party group and local Republican politics. I door-knocked through the 5th Precinct in 2012, where I am a precinct delegate for him and Patrick Colbeck. So I confess to being somewhat partisan.

I supported the recall efforts directed toward certain current members of the Plymouth Township board. I also believe that many involved in that effort have missed the mark in aiming their belligerent ire toward Mr. Price. To refer to Shannon as a "carpetbagger" is naive and infantile. Mr. Price didn't just drop into the Plymouth area from outer space. He's been involved in local issues for years and not just during his tenure as a county commissioner.

Perhaps, just perhaps, Shannon observed what has been transpiring in our community for the last two years and simply decided "enough is enough." Perhaps, just perhaps, he felt he could be more effective here in Plymouth as opposed to being part of the minority voice of reason on the county commission, the majority of which has driven the county close to bankruptcy. To say that Shannon's skills, enthusiasm and strong moral character are somehow not welcome here is mind-boggling.

I ask those who felt compelled at the meeting to hold up signs saying, "The Fix is In," to change the signs to "Let's Fix This Thing," meaning the township Board of Trustees and its misplaced priorities. Shannon wants to help make this happen.

Plymouth Township is not some country club, where one's worthiness is measured by how long one has lived here.

Let's give Shannon a chance. I've lived in Plymouth Township for nearly 18 years and I sure will.

David Osborn
Plymouth Township

Colbeck does homework

Mr. Dubanik is expressing his true feelings on positions taken by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck. I, along with a room filled to capacity with others March 20 at the

Livonia Senior Center, met with the senator.

We discussed your concerns and the senator answered many questions. The responses were not always to our satisfaction, but they were direct and supported by factual documentation.

Sen. Colbeck has done his homework, unlike Rep. Pelosi, who had not read the ACA, and Sen. Reid, who blocked full discussion of issues on the Senate floor, or the recent candidate for governor of Michigan, who had no plans for the future of our state.

Sen. Colbeck has regular face-to-face meetings with constituents to help them develop better understanding of his actions and ideas.

Orville H. Kappen
Livonia

Not a gullible senior

Mr. Dubanik, I am a senior. I am not gullible. There's no question as to which side of the fence you're on. Am I supposed to somehow recognize GOP hardcore Obama haters?

You said, "We've all seen video of the ever-articulate GOP Tea Party intellectual Sarah Palin shouting from the mountain top to just how wonderful a daily diet of Twinkies, potato chips and Slurpees is for our children." I missed that. Please tell me when and where you saw that.

My previous letter was only regarding school lunches, but you muddled your letter with praises for Mrs. Obama and Obamacare. You said, "Prescription drug costs keep dropping." Really? Not the prescriptions I take. I received a call from my prescription company before the end of 2014 telling me my co-pay for my one eye drop would increase in cost by \$100 the next time it was ordered.

Two friends and I discussed prescription costs some time ago. My out-of-pocket cost for prescriptions in 2014 was \$4,486. It turned out that my year's total was the lowest of the three.

I thank God that I'm able to pay for the prescriptions.

Loretta Stevens Stringer
Livonia

Historic opportunity

When it comes to auto insurance in Michigan, all sides agree on one thing: It costs too much. Michigan drivers pay among the highest premiums in the country, driven by escalating medical costs that have put auto insurance out of reach for too many

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:
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drivers. We enjoy generous benefits in Michigan, but without effective reform, our no-fault system will ultimately fail.

Legislation to address this issue has been passed by the state Senate and will soon be considered on the floor of the Michigan House. The bills include several provisions that we believe will succeed in helping contain costs without reducing benefits. Most importantly, the legislators are attempting to reduce the disparity in costs paid for medical procedures between auto insurers and everyone else.

Under the current system, Michigan residents pay up to three times more for medical services when their auto insurance pays the bill instead of their health insurance. These costs are eventually passed on to drivers in the form of higher auto insurance premiums. The legislation also includes provisions for identifying and eliminating fraud and setting guidelines for in-home care reimbursement.

So what will happen to the money that is saved? AAA will pass the savings on to our insurance customers in the form of lower premiums. If it costs AAA less, it will cost you less. Period.

Our legislators have a historic opportunity to make the best auto insurance in the country more affordable for more drivers. We applaud Lansing for tackling this important issue, and we urge the Legislature to pass this bill and the governor to sign it into law. This is effective reform that will help make auto insurance more affordable. AAA has a long heritage of advocating for Michigan drivers, and we will continue to play our part in making affordable auto insurance available to all.

Steve Wagner
president, AAA Michigan

GUEST COLUMN

Proposal A continues to hurt P-CCS fiscal health

I know this doesn't sound like the most exciting op-ed piece to read. I get it.

School funding is complicated and, really, everything seems to be just fine with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district, right? We have great teachers and principals. When you walk into any one of our buildings, you feel welcome and you see great learning taking place. Our test scores, the state's measurement of success, are quite competitive with our neighbors and always outpace the county and state averages. So why is this year any different?

Well, this year we have a budget gap of \$5 million to \$7 million. For the last 10 years, we have systematically reduced everything we can to ensure that changes in the classroom are minimized. We have sold land. We have used precious fund balance dollars to fill gaps. We have privatized custodial and transportation services in order to avoid the 24.5-percent payroll tax.

Our employees have sacrificed greatly. Raises have been non-existent and health care co-pays and deductibles have increased substantially, as they have for all of us. Take-home pay for our employees has declined since 2008.

We're in this position because of Proposal A. Prior to 1993, all public schools in Michigan were funded entirely by local property taxes. There were very wealthy districts and very poor districts as a result. Enter the Kalkaska Public Schools district. In spring 1993, it ran out of money. It shut its doors two months early.

On July 19, 1993, the Legislature voted to no longer exclusively fund public schools with



Sheila Paton

GUEST COLUMNIST

local property taxes. Over the next few months, it cobbled together a proposal that changed the way schools were funded in Michigan and, while touted as a progressive move at the time, took away all local control of operational funds from school districts - except for a few "rich" districts, which were permitted to continue to obtain operational funding from their constituents.

To summarize, we are beholden to the state for more than 95 percent of our revenue. While the purpose of Proposal A was to even out funding among districts (the Constitution reads: "... the Michigan legislature shall maintain a system of free public elementary and secondary schools. And every school district shall provide for the education of its pupils without discrimination"), nowhere does it say equitable or equal - and legislators have taken that to heart.

Because of Proposal A, four of our neighboring school districts - Van Buren, Ann Arbor, Northville and Livonia - receive more funding from the state per pupil. Funding was established in 1994 based on certain parameters at that time and there is still a significant gap. If we received the funding Ann Arbor receives and its hold harmless millage, we would have more than \$30 million extra in funding. If we had Northville or Livonia's allotment per student, we would receive roughly \$15 million more in funding. So we're doing great things with

inequitable funding. But we can't continue this way.

The budget discussions for the upcoming school year are in process. The governor, House and Senate have each submitted their recommended level of school funding for the upcoming year. Under the governor's proposal, Plymouth-Canton will receive about \$25 less per student, which would be \$430,000 less in funding. That's less per pupil than in 2008.

Given the funding situation, the school district administration is working on a needs-based budget approach starting with those services and programs that we must provide under state law. With a \$5 million to \$7 million funding gap, we must identify non-mandatory programs and services to either implement differently or simply not fund.

These decisions will be very difficult, especially when we know other districts are still able to fund some of these same programs.

So, yes, Plymouth-Canton residents, Proposal A does still matter and the lack of any local control will hurt our ability to effectively compete with our neighbors. If we care about our community, then we must care about our schools. Please, contact your legislator and encourage them to find a way to allow Plymouth-Canton residents to take care of ourselves.

Tell Lansing Proposal A needs to be revisited and Plymouth-Canton demands equitable funding with our neighbors.

Sheila Paton is the proud parent of two Plymouth-Canton Community Schools students and treasurer of the P-CCS Board of Education.

CANTON OBSERVER

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Titanic tales fascinate more than 100 years after sinking

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

As she showed an actual piece of coal from the Titanic, all eyes were on speaker Judith Coebly of Brighton.

Retired educator Coebly brought her Titanic "Century of Tears" presentation to the Plymouth-Canton branch, American Association of University Women, for the Saturday, April 25, spring luncheon at Rose's restaurant in Canton.

"I think it's the human stories that get you," said Coebly, who spent over 38 years as a teacher, counselor and administrator with the Dearborn Public Schools. She noted the recent discovery of a Titanic violin, as well as a deck chair going for \$150,000 to a collector.

"I'm sure there were a lot of romances. That social class distinction was pretty strong," she



JULIE BROWN

Speaker Judith Coebly (left) of Brighton visits with Mickey Edell of Canton, branch president, at the spring luncheon of the Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women.

said when asked about the possibility of the "Rose and Jack" romance of the most recent movie being real.

Social class in April 1912 on the Titanic mostly determined your chances of survival. "The law is you go by class," Coebly said.

Those in third class, or

steerage, nearly all died. "The people at that time accepted what class they were in. They listened to what they were supposed to do. We're starting to see some change, but we're a long way away," said Coebly, noting lower-income people vote less often.

"There was a child floating face up, looked to be about 2 years old."

The undertakers and sailors had given others burials at sea, but determined to bury the young boy in Nova Scotia, and bought his headstone. Around 1999, five graves were exhumed and three teeth were tested for DNA.

The boy thought to be buried there wasn't, Coebly said. A 1912 policeman had saved the toddler's shoes; his grandson had them and the shoes turned out to have been made in England.

That ruled out another child, and eventually Sidney Leslie Goodwin was identified as the toddler and a marker added to his headstone. His remaining family came to Nova Scotia for a ceremony.

That English family was coming to the U.S. for an uncle's business. "Southampton was in a depression," said Coebly.

The family had bought second class tickets, which likely would have saved them, but a clerk's error put them in third class. They weren't bunked together.

The toddler's modern family said, "Oh, no. We want to leave it to all the unknown children" who died on the Titanic, the original headstone of 1912.

A survivor had seen

that family swept away from the ship. "He played with some of the oldest ones," Coebly said of children of the Goodwin family.

Coebly also does other educational presentations. She and her husband in 2012 took the 100-year cruise across the Atlantic to mark the centennial of the Titanic's sinking.

"When the descendants are there, they love to talk," she said. "But the stories pass. They go on and on."

That ship in 2012 stopped at 2:20 a.m. April 15 - 100 years after the last sign of the Titanic.

"Some people use different names, especially if you had your mistress and you were very wealthy," she said of the original passen-

gers. "We think about 1,503" died.

The Carpathia was the rescue ship that came along in April 1912, but too late for so many. Coebly showed a photo she took of a restored White Star Line office; the company is now out of business.

Of the musicians who died, she said, "Their families were charged for their uniforms." That led to bad press in that era.

The Halifax, Nova Scotia, sailors and undertakers ran out of caskets and ice for the bodies, she said.

Coebly urged AAUW members and guests to Google "mistakes in the Titanic movie" to see what comes up.

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88.1 The Park to host 27th annual Radio Auction

You can support 88.1 The Park by bidding on a Grand Hotel golf outing and many more items during the 27th annual Radio Auction from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 16. The auction is presented by Robert Bosch LLC, Diesel Division.

WSDP-FM (88.1) will broadcast the auction and listeners will be able to call in and bid on items donated by local businesses, with new items available every half-hour. There will be great items to bid on, including autographed memorabilia, restaurant gift cards and services from local businesses. A Dream Board with more unique items will be available for bidding all day.

Last year, the station raised nearly \$13,000 and this year has set a goal of \$15,000.

Local businesses and residents still have time to support the student radio station by donating items. Businesses that

donate can benefit from the exposure they will receive on 88.1 The Park. Most importantly, they will be helping a program that has impacted the lives of students and served the Plymouth-Canton community for 43 years.

Todd Chatman graduated in 1983 from Salem High School and is now director of radio marketing for Food for the Poor.

"WSDP set the course for my gratifying 30-plus year career in broadcasting. The practical, hands-on experience I received gave me an advantage in landing my first paid radio job," Chatman said. "Even if your career goals don't include broadcasting or media, the skills you'll craft at WSDP will benefit you the rest of your life. And it's just a whole lot of fun, too!"

Anyone with an idea for the auction can contact the station at 734-416-7732. Businesses that are willing to display an

auction flier can also contact the station.

Businesses or individuals interested in sponsoring a half-hour or hour of the auction can email WSDP station manager Bill Keith at bill.keith@pccsk12.com.

"We want to thank everyone that has supported us over the years. The auction has become such a big part of our fundraising. This is our biggest fundraiser and we couldn't do it without the generous support of local businesses and our listeners," Keith said.

The auction may be watched via the station's live web feed at www.881ThePark.com. The website will also feature a complete list of auction items.

WSDP-FM is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district and is staffed by students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools. The station features music, hourly local news, live broadcasts from the community and high school sports.

Local pastor gives session invocation at state Capitol



State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, (left) welcomed the Rev. Adam Mashni to the Michigan Capitol on Tuesday. Mashni serves as pastor at Northridge Church of Plymouth and delivered the invocation before the Senate session.

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Jazz it up at the Plymouth Elks Lodge each Tuesday

Blues @ The Elks will feature Zydeco Hepcats on May 12 and Detroit legends Ursula Walker and the Buddy Budson Trio on May 26 at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in Plymouth.

The jazz concerts are 7-10 p.m. each Tuesday. Donations can be made at the door. Elks members suggest bringing your dancing shoes. Blues @ The Elks is a partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroit-bluesociety.org).

On Tuesday, May 12, guests will feel they are in New Orleans with the



PLYMOUTH ELKS

The Zydeco Hepcats will be at the Plymouth Elks.

Zydeco Hepcats. Zydeco music was originally created at house dances where people gathered for socializing in Louisiana swamp country. It is a synthesis of creole and cajun music. Monsieur Guillame will be on the

accordion, Perez Morris on the rub board, Wailin' Dale on harmonica, Erich Goebel on guitar, Frankie Lee on bass, Ziggy on drums and Dr. Dave Watson on percussion.

For the first time Tuesday, May 26, Ursula Walk-

er and the Buddy Budson Trio will perform at the Lodge. Walker will provide vocals, while Budson will be on the keyboard, Rich Michaels on drums and Kurt Krahnke on bass. Walker has been on the Detroit jazz scene for more than 60 years and she still brings a fresh approach to jazz and the old favorites. Walker and Budson are recipients of numerous music awards.

For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com. The Lodge is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

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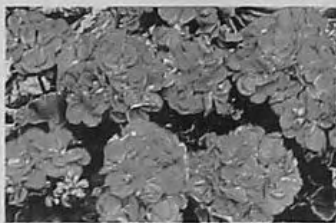
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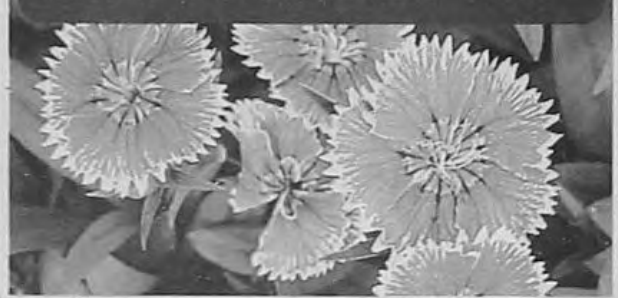


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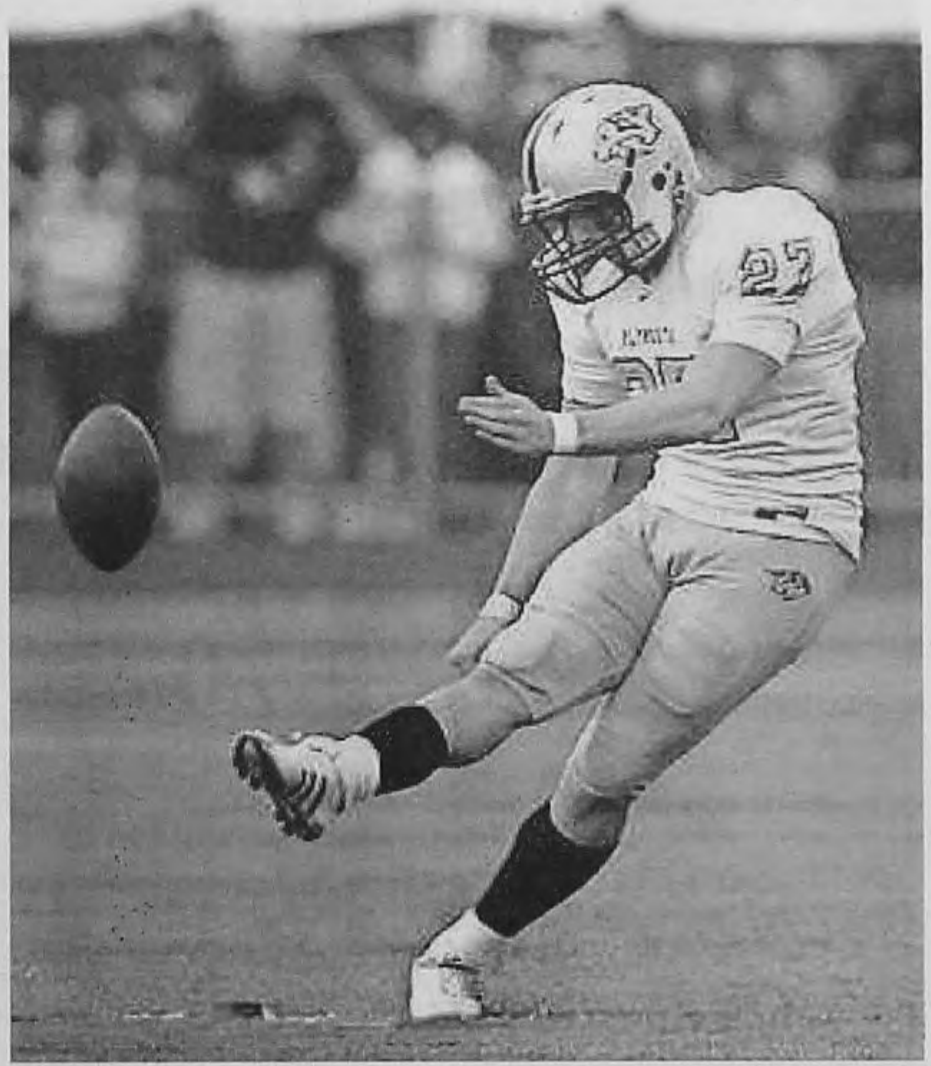
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TOP 'CATS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
During his senior season with the Plymouth Wildcats, Brennen Beyer was a standout as the team marched to the Division 1 state final.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Detroit Lions hopeful Kyle Brindza is shown booting a strong kickoff during his senior season at Plymouth High School.

Beyer lands NFL deal with Baltimore on same day ex-teammate Brindza signs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Make it two former Plymouth Wildcats who are on their way to the National Football League.

University of Michigan linebacker Brennen Beyer inked a free agent deal Saturday with the Baltimore Ravens — within minutes of kicker Kyle Brindza agreeing to a rookie contract with the Detroit Lions.

Beyer and Brindza were key components to Plymouth's run to the 2010 Division 1 football state final at Ford Field and both found out the same day that they are on the cusp of NFL careers despite going undrafted last weekend.

"It's pretty cool, it's pretty special," Beyer said during a Monday telephone call. "It was really cool for Brindza to get picked up, especially Detroit, right at home. It's awesome, it's exciting and it will be exciting to see how it plays out for us."

According to the 6-3, 256-pound Beyer, he will be going to spring rookie camp in Baltimore with the goal of gaining an edge in his quest to land a

spot with the 2015 Ravens, perhaps at linebacker or on special teams.

"I'm leaving. I got to be there Thursday to start rookie camp," Beyer said. "I'll be heading out soon and I'll be doing that for a couple months."

Beyer said the deal with Baltimore came together quickly, although Tennessee and Minnesota also showed interest in the hard-hitting linebacker (who also was a stellar wide receiver at Plymouth).

"There were a few teams that said they could potentially draft me," Beyer said. "I was talking to some other teams about free agency as well. "And the Ravens didn't even have a seventh-round draft pick, but they said they definitely wanted me to come out as a free agent. And I chose to go there."

After sealing his NFL rookie contract (approximately \$350,000, pending on making the 53-man roster), Beyer made it a point to get on the phone with his former high school



Beyer

See BEYER, Page B3

Standout prep, college kicker Brindza inks NFL contract with hometown Lions

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Kyle Brindza undoubtedly remembers the last time he kicked at Ford Field. That was in November 2010, with his high school team in the Division 1 state final.

Now the Plymouth alum might get another chance after signing a rookie free agent contract Saturday with the Detroit Lions.

Brindza, who followed up his outstanding prep career with four excellent years at Notre Dame, made a strong showing when he worked out for the Lions last month and the NFL team reportedly told him it hoped to sign him if he wasn't drafted this weekend.

The kicker still wasn't drafted when Saturday's seventh and final round concluded and Detroit quickly got in touch with Brindza's agent to iron out a deal.

When the word came down, one of those on hand was Brindza's former high school coach, Mike Sawchuk.

"I was at his house Saturday when

he got the call," Sawchuk said during a Monday phone conversation. "And he was surprisingly very, very calm."

"I think everybody else was a little more emotional than he was."

And just minutes later, Sawchuk received a text message from another standout player from Plymouth's 2010 state finalists — University of Michigan linebacker Brennen Beyer, who also signed a free-agent deal (with Baltimore).

"I was there talking to Kyle outside his house and I got the text and said, 'Hey, Beyer just signed with the Ravens,'" Sawchuk said. "He texted me because I told him to text me."

Sawchuk well remembers all those booming Brindza kickoffs, which almost always zoomed through the end zone to force the opponent to begin a drive at the 20-yard line.

Brindza also made 50-yard field goals somewhat commonplace during his days with the Wildcats, a talent he obviously continued with the Fighting Irish to court interest from the Lions and other NFL teams.



Brindza

See BRINDZA, Page B3

PREP SOFTBALL

MAKING THEIR RUN

Plymouth tightens grip on division lead, eyes district

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

A mix of standout veterans and rookie sensations is making Lauren Delapaz's first season at the Plymouth softball helm one to behold.

Delapaz's Wildcats continue to deliver, routing visiting Livonia Stevenson, 7-1, in a KLAA crossover match-up Monday.

Plymouth scored three runs in the first inning and never looked back, improving to 14-1 overall and 11-0 in the conference. Moreover, the Wildcats enjoy a four-game lead over runner-up Canton with four division games to play.

"The coaches are extremely proud that this team has made the decision to be a hard-working team," said Delapaz, who in 2014 was an assistant coach at Canton. "Every day, the girls come to the field with a purpose and a plan and they have been driven to do their best."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Brittney Miller rounds third Monday en route to scoring a Plymouth run.

"Everyone has stepped up and contributed this season in their roles and it is because of great teamwork that this team is as successful as it is."

And if the Wildcats can continue down their winning path, the season could be remembered for more than excellence in the KLAA. Ply-

mouth is hosting the Division 1 district.

"We are hosting districts, so we are excited to play well on our home field," Delapaz said. "However, we have adopted the motto of one pitch, one inning, one game at

See SOFTBALL, Page B4

PREP BASEBALL

Chiefs back in the swing

Canton wins 4-3 for third victory in row

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After a rough patch, Canton's varsity baseball team is starting to get back on track.

The Chiefs swept Saturday's doubleheader against Kalamazoo Central and followed that up with Monday's 4-3 victory over South Lyon East to give the team some momentum entering Wednesday's scheduled KLAA South Division twinbill against Livonia Churchill.

It was Noah Spencer who came through Monday, smacking a game-winning hit with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to score Nick Sprosek from second.

Sprosek led off the inning with a single, his second hit of the game.

Other offensive stalwarts for Canton (13-9 overall) were Justin Dolney (three hits) and Aaron Miller (RBI single).

Earning the victory in relief was Scott Bazner, who followed a strong start from Greg Goodbred (four innings, one earned run).

On Saturday, the Chiefs earned 2-1 and 8-7 wins over

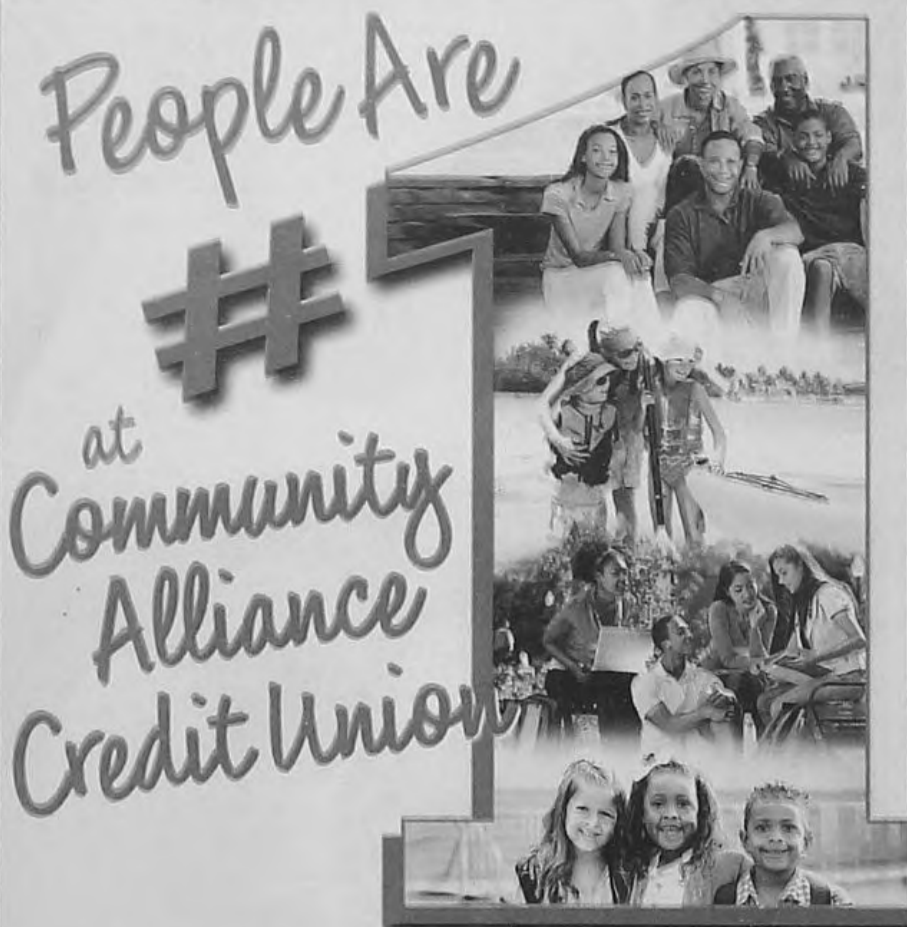


MICHAEL VASILNEK
One of Canton's top hitters in recent games is Noah Spencer, shown here connecting on a pitch.

Kalamazoo Central, with the latter going nine innings before Bazner scored on an infield error for the winning run.

In the nightcap, Bazner pitched two innings of relief for the win, while offensive catalysts were Andrew Loehnis (two hits, two runs), Spencer (two hits, two runs) and

See BASEBALL, Page B4



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PREP ROUNDUP

Medalist Troesper keys Canton golf triumph

Chiefs set team record at Seaholm SunTel Invite

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Donnie Troesper's blistering senior season continued Monday as he sparked Canton to first place at the Birmingham Seaholm SunTel Invite.

Troesper registered a 63 at the par-70 Birmingham Country Club and led the Chiefs to a school record team score of 290.

Canton topped the 23-team field, edging Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (297) and Harland (298).

Chiefs head coach Tom Alles described Troesper's 7-under-par performance as an "amazing round" and the facts were there to support that stance. Troesper had one eagle, seven birdies and only two bogeys.

Troesper wasn't the only Canton standout, however. Sophomore Suhas Potluri placed second overall out of 115 players with a 1-under 69.

"That was his best effort of the season so far," Alles said.

Also solid for the Chiefs were Noah Lindlbauer (77) and Chris Dooley and Hunter Schlampp (81 each).

Meanwhile, Plymouth finished fourth with a 305 score. Scoring for the Wildcats were Jack Boczar and Kyle Kozler (73 each), Justin Kapke (76), Andrew Lloyd (83) and James Baldwin (88).

Salem's 358 tally was good for 22nd place. Hayden Winch (83) was the top scorer for the Rocks. Other finishers were Adam Marcero (87),



NOAH LINDLBAUER LOFTS A CHIP SHOT FOR CANTON DURING A RECENT VARSITY GOLF MATCH AT FOX HILLS.

Shawn Weldon (92), Matt Schaumburger (96) and Travis Stott (99).

Girls tennis

At Saturday's Brighton varsity girls tennis quad, Salem won the silver team trophy for finishing second to the meet hosts.

In the round-robin tourney, Scranton Middle School hosted Nos. 1 and 2 singles and Nos. 1 and 2 doubles; Brighton High School hosted Nos. 3 and 4 singles and Nos. 3-5 doubles.

Earning gold medals for finishing first for the Rocks were Kylie Enright (No. 4 singles), the No. 3 doubles tandem of Emily The and Rachel Henderson and the No. 5 doubles tandem of Sarah Martin and Trina Pal.

SALEM'S CHELSEA YU, BIANCA GHITA, MADISON KULIK AND KYLIE ENRIGHT WON NOS. 1-4 SINGLES, ALL IN TWO SETS.

The Rocks (5-3 overall) also had plenty of success in doubles play.

Victorious in two sets each were Ashley Henderson/Grace Martin at No. 1, Alyssa Bucciarelli/Alyna Schwartz at No. 2, Emilee The/Raegan Henderson at No. 3 and Rachel Godfrey/Corina Ghita at No. 4.

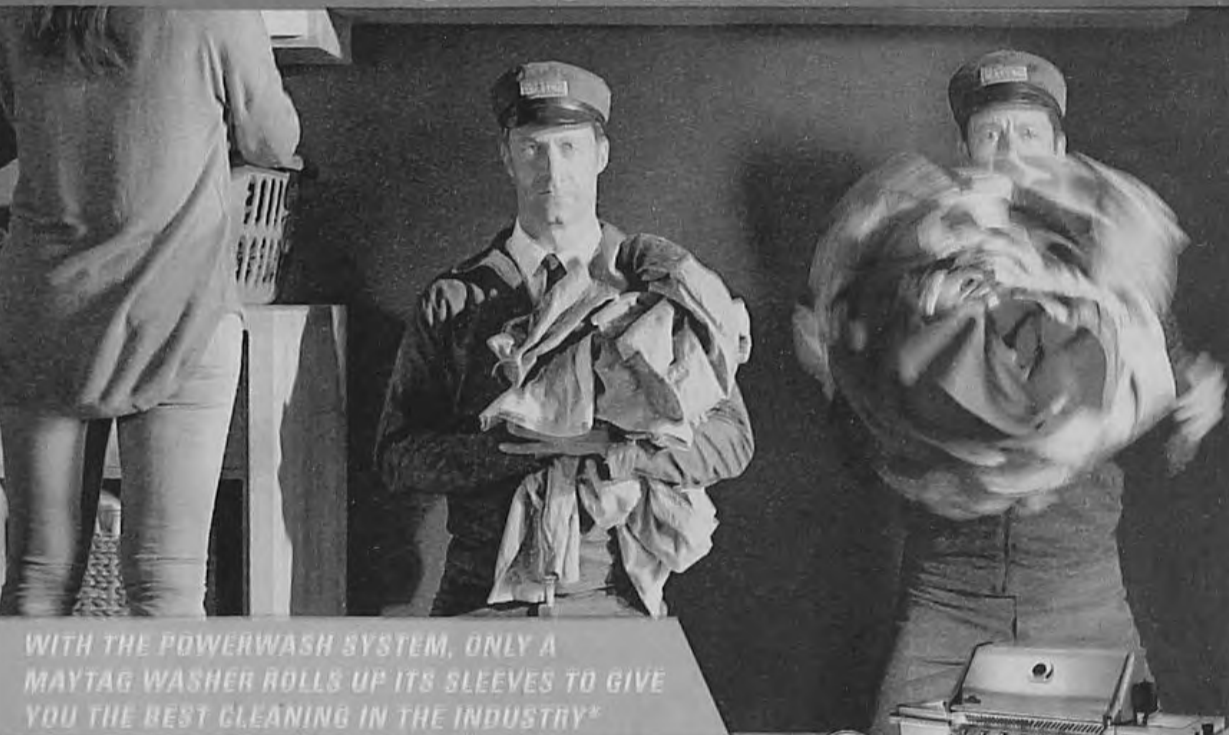
PLYMOUTH 6, SALEM 3: On Friday at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, strong doubles play enabled Plymouth (7-3 overall) to prevail in a Kensington Conference crossover match.

The Rocks took three of four singles flights, with Chelsea Yu defeating Sarah Gamble (6-0, 6-0), Bianca Ghita defeating Amber Tseng (6-2, 6-4) and Madison Kulik posting a 6-1, 6-2 win over Swetha Duraiswamy.

Plymouth freshman Kara Hug continued her standout season with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Kylie Enright at No. 4 singles.

But the Wildcats swept to victory in doubles play: Teahn Horton/Alexa Earls bested Ashley Henderson/Grace Martin 6-4, 6-2 at No. 1; Lauren Conley/Alyssa Lopez edged Alyssa Bucciarelli/Alyna Schwartz 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 at No. 2; Emma Mullenax/Justine Ko defeated Emilee The/Raegan Henderson 6-0, 6-1 at No. 3; Arwa Harawala/Kriya Shah bested Rachel Godfrey/Corina Ghita 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 at No. 4; and Amy Luo/Sindhu Borra earned a 6-4, 6-0 win at No. 5 over Trina Pal/Sarah Martin.

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COLLEGE MEN'S GOLF

Schoolcraft golfers making tournament progress

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The spring season for Schoolcraft's men's golf team goes by in a flash.

Yet Ocelots head coach Paul Brown is optimistic about what his team is doing, particularly as state and regional tournaments get into full swing.

"I have a lot of freshmen and they're starting to understand what tournament golf is all about," said Brown, whose roster includes freshmen Chad Berger, Tyler Fisher and Ray Pokerwinski from Garden City, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and South Lyon, respectively.

Berger and sophomore Austin Harris (Livonia Stevenson) shoot in the low 80s and, Brown said, "They'll break into the 70s once in a while."

Meanwhile, Fisher and Pokerwinski are averaging in the low to mid-80s.

"(Fisher) never played golf in high school, he came out and he's not bad," Brown said. "He's a little rough around the edges, but we're working with him."



NATHAN GARTNER
One of the bright spots all year for Schoolcraft's golfers has been Eric Perry.

Perry's No. 1

However, Brown points to sophomore Eric Perry as the catalyst behind any success the Ocelots are having this spring.

Perry, a Detroit Renaissance product, finished second at Friday's Delta College Invitational with an even-par 71 at Bay Valley Golf Club.

Schoolcraft also took second in the team standings with a 312 tally, trailing Oakland Community College (291).

"My best golfer is Eric Perry; he's from Renaissance in Detroit," Brown said. "He's a really good golfer. He shot 67 out at Jackson (in a recent tournament)."

Other Ocelots at the Delta Invite included Pokerwinski (tied for 10th, 79), Fisher and Harris (tied for 14th, 81) and Berger (tied for 18th, 84).

The Ocelots followed that up with the MCCA Championship at par-72 Port Huron Elks Golf Club, which took place Sunday and Monday.



NATHAN GARTNER
Schoolcraft men's golf coach Paul Brown gives instruction to his players during a tournament.

Because Schoolcraft is the lone Division III team in Michigan, it automatically advances to NJCAA regional slated for Saturday and Sunday at Weatherwax Golf Course in Ohio.

Schoolcraft finished seventh with a 658 tally, with the Ocelots' best 36-hole performance turned in by Perry (tied for 18th, 154).

Also on the Ocelots' scorecard in Port Huron were Berger (tied for 33rd, 164), Pokerwinski (tied for 38th, 166), Fisher (47th, 174) and Harris

(51st, 178).

Short game

Whatever happens in Ohio, Brown is seeing progress with the young men on his squad, who also compete during a fall season.

But this has been a frustrating spring, with weather literally putting a damper on things.

"It's real short," Brown said. "We have seven tournaments in the fall and we had like six tournaments."

"We were supposed to have seven or eight tournaments in the spring, but two of them got canceled because of the weather."

With a few more practices at Fox Creek in Livonia, weather permitting, of course, the Ocelots will look to finish off strong at the regional.

Although Schoolcraft must win in the team event to move on to nationals, Perry (or another Ocelot) could advance if he is medalist at the tournament, stated Tod Hess, MCCA information director.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

MU's Abraham lands six volleyball recruits

Class includes two off state title Romeo team

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Madonna University women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham stayed busy during the off-season as he recently announced the signing of six players to NAIA letters of intent.

Leading the way are junior college transfers Miranda Fuerst (Oakland CC) and Nicole Oestrike (Mott CC), along with Nicole Chesnut, the school's first signee from New Zealand.

Abraham also landed three high school recruits, including Lauren Korth and Deanna Krumholz, members of Romeo's Class A state championship team, along with Taylor Suurmeyer of Farmington High.

"We have a very talented recruiting class," said Abraham, the NAIA's career wins leader with 1,084 victories in his 28 seasons at MU. "All of the recruits we have so far can come in and compete."

The Crusaders ended the 2014 season with a 38-9 record and were ranked 16th in the final NAIA coaches' poll after advancing to the NAIA National Championship for the 14th time in the 28-year history of the program.

The 6-foot Fuerst, a middle hitter who played at Unionville-Sebewaing, led OCC to a pair of Eastern Conference and Michigan Community College Athletic Association titles, while reaching the 2013 NJCAA Division II national semifinals, where she earned all-tournament team honors.

Meanwhile, the 6-0 Oestrike (New Boston Huron) spent one season at NCAA Division I Western Illinois before transferring to Mott, where she earned NCAA Division II All-America and MCCA Player of the Year honors.

"Nicole is a highly competitive and highly talented all-around athlete," Abraham said. "She is a very intelligent hitter with the ability and skill set to terminate from the outside

attacker position.

"Miranda is a big, strong offensive-minded player who can attack from any position. She has experience across the entire front row as a result of her size, strength and athleticism."

Chestnut, who stands 6-4, hails from Auckland, New Zealand (Rangitoto College School), where she led her squad to third-place finish in the 2013 national tournament. She was also selected for the New Zealand Under-19 National Beach Team.

"She is a scholar-athlete with great upside as a player," Abraham said. "She will need to adapt to the speed and style of the collegiate game, but with some training and experience, the sky is the limit."

Korth, a 5-10 setter, earned Division 1 all-state honors after she racked up 1,032 assists, 224 kills and 177 digs as a senior.

Meanwhile, Krumholz is a 5-4 defensive specialist who was tabbed third team all-state as a senior. In the Bulldogs' state title run, she posted a .913 serve percentage with 55 aces and 354 digs.

"I usually know everybody and, honestly, I did not know Lauren and Deanna that well when we started recruiting them," Abraham said. "I did not see them until the state districts and fell in love with the way they played the first time I saw them. It was first for their energy and skill set, of course, but the way they corralled each other on the floor and made everyone around them better."

The 6-0 Suurmeyer, who resides in Northville, was a two-sport standout at Farmington, where she also played basketball. She was a two-time all-region selection in volleyball and carries a 3.84 GPA.

"Taylor is first and foremost an outstanding student," Abraham said. "You could tell she is a hard-working person and has her priorities intact. That fit right in with the kind of people we recruit. She has good size and a good skill set. As we watched her a little more, we could see she had the ability to hit the ball hard."



Abraham

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Salem boys capture KLAA Central

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After finishing in a third-place tie at Saturday's Observerland Relays, Salem's varsity boys track and field team had another item to check off the list.

The Rocks did just that Tuesday by defeating host South Lyon 88-49 to secure the KLAA Central Division cham-

ionship.

"We got contributions from all areas ... and we won all four relays as well," Salem coach Steve Aspinall said. "The turning point of the meet was probably the 400 dash."

In that event, freshmen Andrew Davis, Ryan Young and sophomore Nathan Schubring finished 1-2-3.

There were other top performers for the Rocks.

Sophomore VerShawn Patrick dominated the sprint events, winning the 100 and 200 dashes and anchoring the 400-meter relay.

Taking the top spot in the 1,600 was junior Chaz Jeffress, who also led off the winning 1,600-meter relay.

Junior Jacob Miller prevailed in the long jump. Junior Jan-nik Schmitt won shot and discus.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Crusaders keep WHAC title hopes afloat

The Madonna University baseball team kept its hopes of a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season title mathematically alive April 29 with a sweep of No. 7-ranked Davenport, 6-2 and 4-3, at Ilitch Ballpark.

Todd Jones (3-2), who gave up two runs on eight hits in 6½ innings, earned the win for MU in Game 1. Bobby St. Pierre also threw a scoreless

ninth, while middle reliever Patrick Wierimaa (Redford Union) retired all five batters he faced.

MU's Shane Dokey went 3-for-4 with an RBI, while Zack Byron (2-for-4, two RBIs), Levi Larmour (2-for-4, RBI) and Taylor Grzelakowski (2-for-3) also made offensive contributions.

In Game 2, starter Dylan Cooper (3-0) tossed the first

six innings to earn the win. He allowed two runs on nine hits and a walk. St. Pierre, who gave up a run in the seventh, picked up his school-record 11th save of the season.

Ryan Freemantle drove in what proved to be the game-winning run in the nightcap.

Mitch Hudvagner also went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, while Grzelakowski collected two hits and an RBI.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page B1

a time.

"Before we get to districts, we want to work hard with the schedule in front of us, with four divisional games, one conference game, two tournaments (Canton Classic and Michigan Challenge) and the conference tournament. We know we have a great thing going and want to enjoy the ride one day at a time."

Against Stevenson, the Wildcats — as usual — were sparked by veterans (pitcher Mikayela Marciniak, Britney Miller) and freshmen (Whitney Holden, Jessica Tucci).

Marciniak and Miller, who are both joining Oakland University's softball team in 2016, came through once again.

The former pitched a complete game, giving up just one run and not walking a batter. At the plate, Marciniak helped her own cause with a three-run homer in the sixth to give Plymouth some breathing room.

Miller, meanwhile, had a 2-for-3 day and scored twice. Junior Rachel Zerna ener-



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Getting ready to take a cut during Monday's KLAA varsity softball game is Plymouth's Rachel Zerna.

gized the attack, delivering three hits in four at-bats, stealing two bases and scoring a run.

As for the "rookies," Holden went 2-for-3 with a double

and two RBIs, while Tucci chipped in with a single, double and two RBIs.

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BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

Goodbred (hit, RBI).

Tyler Byers pitched four scoreless innings in the Saturday opener, with Mitch Zeleznak picking up the save.

Nick Romanowski and Sprock helped the cause, each tallying an RBI hit.

Plymouth prevails

Host Plymouth knocked off Livonia Stevenson, 5-3, in a KLAA crossover game Monday.

Kevin Anthony pitched a complete game for the Wildcats, who were in need of a victory, coach Jason Crain

said.

Coming through on offense for Plymouth were Pete Carravallah (3-for-3), Patrick Downing (2-for-4, RBI) and Seth Hubbard (2-for-3, two RBIs).

The Wildcats, meanwhile, split Saturday's home twinbill against Saline.

In the opener, Plymouth lost 7-2 despite three solid innings of work by Owen Spryszak. John Kochan and Cory Burnette combined to pitch a scoreless final inning.

Andrew Hejka, Carravallah and Hubbard each registered hits.

Game 2 went much better behind a complete-game effort from Josh Janovsky, who gave up only one earned run. Tallying two hits each were Hejka,

Cameron Stella, Downing and Hubbard.

PCA wins big

Plymouth Christian Academy visited Macomb Christian and earned a 10-5 victory April 29 in an MIAC Red Conference contest.

Adam Albert started and picked up the win, pitching into the seventh before giving way to reliever Mike Slater.

Will Creelius (two singles) and A.J. Greuber (single, double) led the Eagles' offense. Others chipping in included Josh Mason (double), Mike Slater, Josh Slater, Tanner Hay, Nick Andres and Jake Shook (each with a single).

tsmith@hometownlife.com



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Plymouth's Andrew Hejka, shown from earlier this season, had hits in both ends of a doubleheader against Saline.

Homearama national award a proud moment for builders group

Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan has been awarded the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) 2014 Association Excellence Award for the Ultimate Homearama 2014. The award is in the category of "Best Parade or Tour of Homes" for HBAs with 601-plus members and awarded by the NAHB Executive Officers Council.



"This award is highly sought after," said Michael Stoskopf, CEO of HBA, "especially by larger local HBAs who produce these types of events. Our winning the category is high praise – and deservedly so – for our team of developers, builders, subcontractors, township officials, sponsors, advertisers and staff who made this project such an overwhelming success."

The Ultimate Homearama 2014, an event sponsored by Gorman's Home Furnishings & Interior Design, was a showcase of six multimillion dollar custom homes located at Pinnacle community in Oakland Township. It was held open to the public from Aug. 27 through Sept. 21, 2014, and drew 24,599 visitors.

The community was developed by Mocerri Companies. Builders of the six homes were Arteva Homes, Cranbrook Custom Homes, MJC



This is Greystone Manor by Mocerri, of last year's award-winning Homearama.

Companies and Mocerri Custom Homes. As a result of the Ultimate Homearama 2014, HBA donated \$110,796 to five different charitable organizations.

The event was held as a public service activity of HBA in order to highlight the benefits of new construction, the newest trends in home automation and technology, the positive economic impact of new home construction and

residential land development. It was also an effective way to show visitors how to "Bring the Dream Home" through both new home purchases and remodeling.

HBA is planning to hold another Homearama event in 2016. Details will be announced later this year.

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Home Builders Association of SE Michigan (HBA) and Apartment Associ-

ation of Michigan (AAM) are trade associations representing 800 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. HBA is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

Modifying a unit: Heed the documents

Q: I want to remove the carpeting in my condominium unit. Do I need to seek approval from the condominium association before I do this?

A: Under most condominium documents, the answer is yes, and a recent case from California illustrates exactly this point. A condominium member's wife suffered from dust allergies, and they had worsened since moving into their unit. The member removed the carpeting and replaced it with wood flooring, but did not seek prior approval from the association in an apartment style condominium.



Robert Meisner

Soon after, members in the unit below complained to the association of constant noise from the unit above. After the upstairs member ignored an association letter about the floor, the association requested alternate dispute resolution, which this member ignored as well. The association then obtained a preliminary injunction requiring the member to remedy the unauthorized modification of the flooring to reduce the noise to the unit below.

The appeals court upheld the injunction, reasoning that the injunction did not cause undue harm to the member, because it did not require him to remove the wood flooring and reinstall the carpet. Instead, the injunction ordered the member to cover eighty percent of the wood floor with either throw rugs or with sound-proofing material, a material that could have been hypoallergenic.

Q: How should condominium or homeowner's association directors handle requests for modifications or alterations of the unit or lot of a member?

A: Fairly and equitably, and in accordance with the governing documents. These requests should also be handled timely, because some governing documents state that if approval is not denied within a given period, it is deemed approved. If the Board or Architectural Control Committee is given discretion to grant exceptions and exceptions are granted, then those exceptions should be given in writing and a copy kept for the records of the association.

Once a modification request is received, the board should promptly investigate the request, and should quickly notify the member whether approval has been granted or denied. If approval is granted, the board should monitor the project to make sure nothing is altered except what was actually approved. In any case, it is good practice for the Board to obtain a modification agreement to be signed by the parties, and then recorded with the register of deeds.

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

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.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests

\$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

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-realty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 8-12, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

16228 Birwood Ave \$140,000
16060 Buckingham Ave \$329,000
17386 Dunblaine Ave \$285,000
32234 Spruce Ln \$375,000
32275 Verona Cir \$229,000
16240 W 13 Mile Rd \$125,000

BIRMINGHAM

832 Bird Ave \$590,000
1723 Cole St \$310,000
1716 Graefield Rd \$132,000
2196 Manchester Rd \$264,000
1115 N Old Woodward Ave Unit 65m \$223,000
600 W Brown St # 301 \$225,000
1003 Wakefield St \$430,000
600 Wallace St \$1,135,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

1719 Saint Johns Ct \$330,000
647 E Fox Hills Dr \$63,000
2407 Hickory Glen Dr \$520,000
4061 Hidden Woods Dr \$340,000
2395 Hunt Club Dr \$430,000
1741 Huntingwood Ln # C \$100,000
6435 Sunningdale Dr \$205,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

5430 Forest Way \$325,000
5038 Kellen Ln \$437,000
443 Kendry \$207,000
2551 Kent Ridge Ct \$1,700,000

1551 Lochridge Rd \$1,250,000
2704 Turtle Ridge Dr \$450,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

370 Annapolis St \$160,000
1965 Applebrook Dr \$476,000
1912 Cheshire Ln \$60,000
2647 Crocker St \$126,000
2275 Fairgrove Ct \$309,000
2720 Ivy Hill Dr \$265,000
5323 Kristi Ln \$240,000
9660 Nestoria St \$124,000

FARMINGTON

23391 Farmington Rd \$2,400,000
23014 Maple Ave \$280,000
22921 Power Rd \$175,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

27875 Berrywood Ln Unit 88 \$86,000

28240 Briar Hill Dr \$170,000
37513 Burton Ct \$237,000
29731 Canterbury Ct \$272,000
31109 Country Blf \$130,000
38903 Country Cir \$115,000
24675 Farmington Rd \$214,000
30068 Fox Grove Rd \$270,000
27077 Hampstead Blvd \$412,000
22515 Haynes Ave \$52,000
28378 Kirkside Ln \$197,000
25088 Pimlico Ct \$158,000
29523 Pine Ridge Cir \$130,000
21183 Prestwick \$469,000
38227 Remington Park \$167,000
30864 Ridgeway Dr \$178,000
32685 Rockridge Ln \$2,428,000
36049 W Lyman Rd \$168,000
30121 Walnut Ct \$310,000
27501 Westcott Crescent Cir \$155,000

FRANKLIN

30690 Oakleaf Ln \$794,000

HIGHLAND

868 Adam Ct \$310,000
227 Clark Rd \$132,000
4057 Loch Dr \$159,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

27275 Goldengate Dr W \$132,000

MILFORD

31300 Bailove \$30,000
3230 Granda Vista Dr \$95,000
880 Panorama Ct \$137,000
2275 Quendale Ln \$285,000
190 Water St \$372,000

NORTHVILLE

23134 Chelsea Ct \$100,000
113 Ely Dr S \$215,000
51025 Sunday Dr \$530,000

NOVI

43050 12 Oaks Crescent Dr # 5011 \$200,000
22143 Antler Dr \$400,000
25737 Arcadia Dr \$410,000
44750 Bayview Dr # 43 \$81,000
50595 Chesapeake Dr \$705,000
23072 Cranbrooke Ln \$79,000
27489 Cromwell Rd \$340,000
27650 Cromwell Rd \$311,000
23210 Gilbar St \$310,000
25641 Hillsdale Dr \$620,000
43225 Sandstone Dr \$330,000
24778 Sarah Flynn \$270,000
41831 Waverly Dr \$165,000
45807 White Pines Dr \$400,000

SOUTH LYON

52021 11 Mile Rd \$169,000
410 Second St \$150,000
407 Amelia Cir \$308,000

24937 Carriage Ln \$80,000
24969 Carriage Ln \$81,000
214 Detroit St \$133,000
54845 Grenelle Cir E \$528,000
337 Harvard Ave \$120,000
1039 Paddock Ln \$250,000
24084 Prescott Ct \$380,000
22190 Quail Run Cir Unit 1 \$145,000

SOUTHFIELD

27336 Everett St \$143,000
22886 Evergreen Rd \$70,000
16310 Fairfax St \$129,000
17459 Gateway Cir \$129,000
29444 Guy St \$157,000
20295 Harbor Ln \$113,000
25109 Kingshire Rd \$164,000
17607 Magnolia Pkwy \$133,000
29293 Marshall St \$120,000
18645 Nadol Dr \$87,000
28031 Pierce St \$130,000
30260 Southfield Rd # A157 \$32,000
30204 Southfield Rd # A223 \$25,000
28880 Streamwood Ln \$168,000

WHITE LAKE

4076 Cross Rd \$349,000
9518 Garforth St \$190,000
8596 Newport Dr \$267,000
2402 Orchard Ln \$225,000
10540 Pontiac Lake Rd \$186,000
1170 Rossfield St \$166,000
104 Shotwell St \$140,000
8814 White Lake Rd \$68,000
8814 White Lake Rd \$135,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 29, 2014, to Jan. 9, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

41718 Bedford Dr \$69,000
42657 Boulden Ct \$227,000
44625 Cranbrook Ct. \$200,000
1971 Crowndale Ln \$375,000
39649 Dorchester Cir \$140,000
46083 Greystone Ln \$200,000
51254 High Meadow Crossing St \$410,000
1739 Lasalle Rd \$562,000
47148 N Pointe Dr \$396,000

42442 Saratoga Rd \$95,000
43070 Versailles Rd \$230,000

GARDEN CITY

1749 Helen St \$69,000
33028 Hennepin St \$93,000
31325 Sheridan St \$65,000

LIVONIA

30004 Bobrich Ct \$156,000
17353 Country Club Dr \$219,000
17170 Deering St \$132,000
36666 Dowling St \$110,000
36304 Fairway Dr \$375,000
14399 Gary Ln \$191,000
39054 Grennada St \$182,000
14897 Harrison St \$42,000
9829 Horton St \$200,000
14237 Houghton St \$185,000
14401 Inkster Rd \$180,000

19345 Lathers St \$42,000
38930 Lyndon St \$187,000
15112 Marsha St \$169,000
17863 Myron St \$280,000
8864 Nebraska St \$140,000
33385 Norfolk St \$300,000
27555 Oakley St \$249,000
14745 Taylor Blvd \$217,000
18025 University Park Dr \$118,000
14815 Yale St \$132,000

NORTHVILLE

18165 Blue Heron Pointe Dr \$385,000
19421 Cardene Ct \$193,000
44903 Cherry Ridge Rd \$750,000
39583 Dun Rovin Dr \$266,000
46632 N Valley Dr \$304,000
19504 Northridge Dr \$102,000

17994 Stonebrook Dr \$640,000
42309 Waterfall Rd \$355,000

PLYMOUTH

42185 Mill Race Cir \$120,000
42193 Old Pond Cir \$90,000
44636 Oregon Trl \$160,000
9303 Rocker Ave \$206,000
302 W Spring St \$115,000
12933 Wendover Dr \$281,000

REDFORD

19999 Denby \$55,000
11380 Dixie \$90,000
14189 Farley \$113,000
8809 Fenlon \$85,000
12031 Leverne \$70,000
25137 Lyndon \$80,000
9372 Sarasota \$83,000
9383 Winston \$59,000

WAYNE

4413 Third St \$69,000
34225 Annapolis St \$50,000
35324 Elm St \$118,000
34844 Stellwagen St \$40,000

WESTLAND

32431 Anita Dr \$136,000
1204 Edwin St \$117,000
32082 Hazelwood St \$90,000
34986 Rosslyn St \$90,000
34617 Sansburn St \$95,000
8360 Vista Ln \$250,000



Dogs



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2000 Harley Davidson Road King Classic Model# FLHRC1 1450 CC

Trucks for Sale

04' Ford F150 Heritage XLT Super cab, 4x4, 150k miles...

Chevy 2000 2500 Pick Up, 2 w/dl dr, manual wind & locks...

CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 2015 Double cab, standard box, 4wd, LT, W/LT...

RAM 2012 4x4, crew cab, 5.7ft box ST, air, ABS, priv. glass...

Vans

ACCESSIBLE Wheel Chair Vans Bought and Sold

Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM 2012 FWD, leather, heated seats...

BUICK LaCROSSE 2013 AWD, leather 27K miles rear view camera...

CHEVY EQUINOX 2013 FWD 1LT, rear view camera, power sunroof...

GMC ACADIA 2011 AWD, 4 door, SLT1, leather, rear view camera...

Sports Utility GMC ACADIA 2012 AWD, 4 dr, Denali, Rear view camera & monitor...

GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 door, SLE-1, 42K, one owner, extra clean!

GMC TERRAIN 2012 FWD, 4 dr SLT-1, 42K, lthr, rear view camera...

GMC YUKON 2012 AWD, 4 door, 1500 Denali, lthr, Nav. system...

LaCrosse 2012 FWD, leather, ABS, pwr sunroof, 20K miles

REGAL 2014 Premium 1, FWD, 1500 mi. rear view camera, monitor...

REGAL GS 2014 FWD, 2k miles! Parking sensors, crumple zones...

VERANO 2014 4 dr sedan, back up and rear view camera, ABS...

CTS 2009 3.6L V6, AWD, Options galore! \$14,990

CAMARO 2015 2 door Convertible LT w/1LT, 16K miles. Power roof...

CRUZE SEDAN 2012 1LT, air, power sunroof, 18K miles, 1 owner...

MALIBU 2014 1LT, 1400 miles, 1 owner, loaded. Just like new...

Cash in with Classifieds 800-579-SELL

Chevrolet MALIBU LS 2013 24K miles, Bluetooth 1 owner, ABS...

Chrysler-Plymouth SEBRING CONV. 2005 LTD, 2 dr, alarm system, lthr, ABS...

TAURUS 2011 4 dr sedan, SEL FWD, crash sensors, leather, ABS...

2007 ODDYSSEY LX 1 owner, new tires. Runs great!

CIVIC 2013 EX-L Auto Sedan w/Nav. Leather, moonroof...

FIT S 2008 - 100K MI. alloys, Looks & Drives Like New...

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LIBERTY 2012 4x4, 4WD, 4 door Sport, 1 owner, 31K mi...

JAGUAR XF 2012 Want to be noticed? Drive this beautiful Baltic blue Jaguar XF!

Cash in with Classifieds 800-579-SELL

Jeep

Jeep

Cash in with Classifieds 800-579-SELL

Pontiac G6 2007 2 door Convertible GT, leather, air, power top...

G6 2007 2 dr convertible GT, black, leather, power top...

Volvo XC90 2010 AWD, 4 dr, i6, power sunroof, 3rd row seat...

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Challenging fun for ALL ages Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER ACROSS 1 Ply the oars 4 Hunt and peck 8 Lemons and clunkers...

DOWN 1 Hashana 2 Knuckle under 3 Flag waver? 4 Kind of balloon...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

Answer to Previous Puzzle CHICK MATTE EUGENE DISARM ARN EDGES ROM SRI WAIFS MUY EATS MRI SAPS YETI DEDUCE YIN DAM HELIOS BARA LURE RUB CULT ADA SWEAT SCI MDS OASIS SOB BLEARY TAHITI SERGE RIATA

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

SUDOKU Fun By The Numbers Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked...

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes...

POISON PREVENTION WORD SEARCH WORDS ABNORMAL ANGINA ANTIVENIN BOWEL BREATHING CAUTION CHEMICAL COMA CONTACT CONVULSION DANGEROUS EMERGENCY FAILURE FOREIGN HOSPITAL HYPERACTIVITY INGEST INJURE IPECAC LEAD MEDICATION MERCURY MOUTH NAUSEA NEUROLOGICAL OBSERVATION OVERDOSE POISON PROGNOSIS SLUGGISH SUBSTANCE SWALLOW TOXICOLOGY UNCONSCIOUS VOMITTING WASH

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE Sudoku Word Search

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Local artist shows whimsical figures at Birmingham fair

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Get ready to giggle when you walk into Ann Marie Fischer's art booth this weekend at Art Birmingham, one of the first outdoor art fairs of the season.

The Farmington Hills artist's whimsical mixed media figures have drawn smiles and laughter for 26 years at festivals throughout southeastern Michigan. The public reaction was so strong when she started showing her work, that she simply named her collection "Giggles."

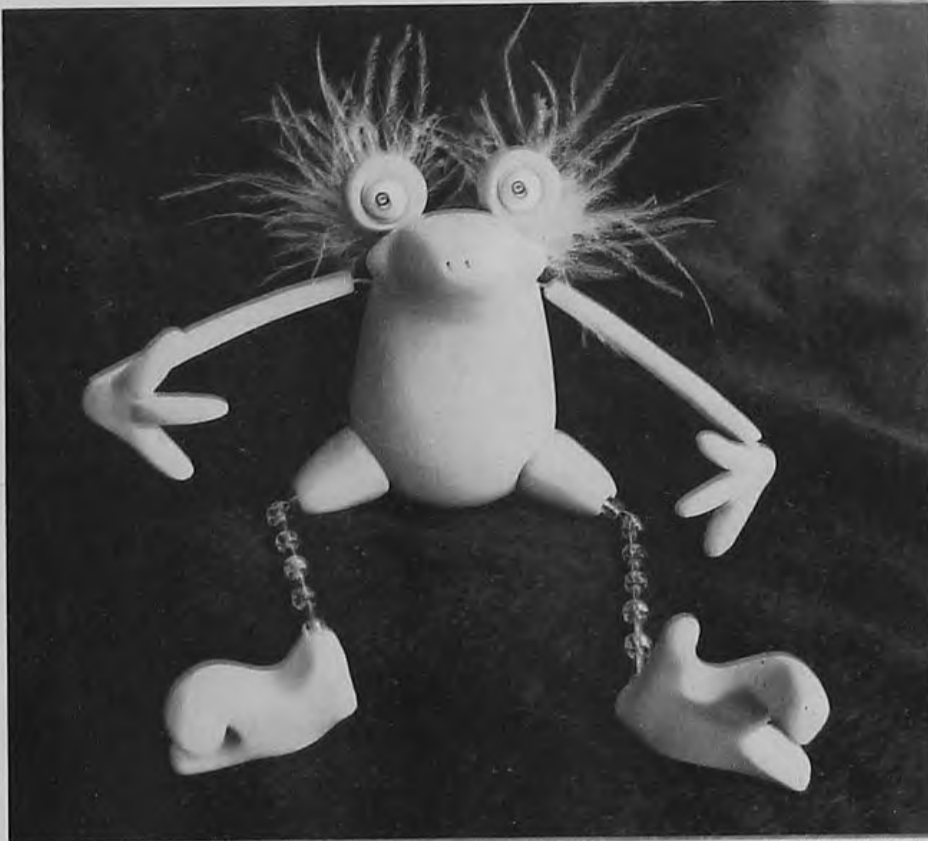
"I meet a lot of wonderful people at shows. I can't imagine doing something else at this point. I enjoy meeting people," Fischer said. "It's a pleasure to make something and have someone love it enough to buy it."

Fischer is among more than 150 artists who will show and sell their works at the 34th annual Art Birmingham, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 9, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 10, in Shain Park, west of Woodward, south of Maple, in downtown Birmingham. The Guild of Artists & Artisans, the same group that organizes the Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair, runs Art Birmingham. In addition to exhibiting artists, an art activities tent will offer art projects for children 12 and under, and a caricature artist will sketch on site from noon to 4 p.m., both days.

Angels, snowmen

When her indoor exhibit season ends in mid-December, Fischer takes a few weeks off before heading into her basement studio to sculpt polymer clay snowmen, witches, frogs, flamingos, angels — and whatever else strikes her fancy — in preparation for spring-fall art fairs.

"There is no down time. I'm working all winter. It's labor-intensive work. I make mul-



Ann Marie Fischer of Farmington Hills sculpts goofy frogs and other animals from polymer clay.

tiples of certain designs, but I make changes every year. No two pieces are alike."

Fischer sculpts the heads and sometimes full bodies of her characters from polymer clay, mixing her own colors, adding paint, feathers, beads and vintage touches.

"I'll find pieces at flea markets or estate sales and no one looks at them the same way I do," she said, adding that she turns old door plates into angels.

Fischer's work ranges from \$10-\$400, but she'll sell pieces from \$10-\$150 at the Birmingham show. New this year are free-standing angels and angels with polymer clay heads and salt shaker bodies. Fischer made and sold snowmen from salt shakers last year after collecting vintage glass shakers for four years.

"I didn't want people coming into the booth and it looking like I went to a restaurant supply and bought shakers," she



Artist Ann Marie Fischer collected vintage salt shakers for four years before creating snowmen with glitter-filled glass bodies and hats made of shaker tops.

said. "I have a few I won't part with. I love the patina. I enjoy learning about things from the past. The workmanship draws me in as well."

Her own path

Fischer, a 1977 graduate of Mercy High School, took art classes from the late Sister Mary



Anne Marie Fischer's wall angels are made from vintage door plates.

Ignatius Denay, whom she remembers as a "wonderful teacher" and a "stickler for detail."

"We covered the whole gamut. Her classes were advanced," Fischer said. She took a few college-level art classes, before joining her family's business where she did precision grinding for several years. In her spare time, she created funny figurines and began showing at weekend fairs and festivals with her mother, who loved to china paint, and two aunts who also were involved in the arts. Six years ago she quit her day job to become a full time artist.

She considers herself self-taught in clay sculpting.

"I never bought a book on polymer. I always like to find my own path. I always wanted my work to look like my work."

In addition to Art Birmingham, Fischer will

exhibit at Art on the Grand next month in Farmington and the Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair in July, among other shows. She's waiting to hear if she'll be accepted into the Ann Arbor Summer Fair Art Fair again this year. Fischer also shows her work at Yellow Door Art Market in downtown Berkley. She'll be at booth 135 at Art Birmingham.

Other local artists involved in Art Birmingham include Andrea Anderson of Farmington Hills with wearable fiber art, Barbara Spraul of Livonia with paintings, and Joelle Medici of Farmington Hills with fiber art sculpture.

For more information about Fischer's art, visit Giggles by Ann Marie Fischer on Facebook.

For more about Art Birmingham, visit the-guild.org and click on art fairs.

Middle Eastern music a great sound at Cherry Hill Village theater

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

A Middle Eastern Fusion Fest finished up Canton's Acts of Culture Week on Sunday, May 3. The concert drew an enthusiastic audience to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"It's such a beautiful spring day outside," said Beth Stewart, executive director of the featured Michigan Philharmonic. "We really thank you for coming."

Before intermission, the Philharmonic's Chamber Ensemble played music from Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel and more. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade: The Young Prince and The Young Princess*, Oztoprak's *Zuzdil Samai and Arabian Waltz* by Rabih Abou-Khalil were featured.

Michael Ibrahim, music director of the National Arab Orchestra, took the stage after intermission, explaining differences and similarities between Western and Middle Eastern music. He played Middle Eastern music, demonstrating how it's often more improvisational than what's heard from Western performers.

"Our goal is to promote the rich cultural diversity in this community," said Susan Schwandt, who chairs the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage.



Enjoying the Middle East Fusion Fest are (from left) committee member Samar Sakakini of Canton, Cecilia Escobar of Canton, who's the first vice chair for the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage, Beth Stewart of Plymouth Township, Michigan Philharmonic executive director, and Susan Schwandt of Canton, commission chair.

That volunteer advisory group works with Canton Leisure Services and the Village Theater of Cherry Hill, said Schwandt, a Canton resident. She's a staffer at Health Alliance Plan.

The commission works to make programs affordable and accessible, Schwandt said. She noted involvement by the commission in Canton's annual Martin Luther King Jr. observance, as well as having a booth at Canton's Liberty Fest and other cultural offerings.

Schwandt was helped by Cecilia Escobar of Canton, an artist and commission first vice chair. "Cecilia's actually

the one who jump-started today's concert," Schwandt said of the Middle Eastern Fusion Fest, the conclusion of the fifth annual Canton Acts of Culture Week.

Sponsorship for the week was provided by the Canton Community Foundation.

Nan Washburn conducted the Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble, with the concert wrapping up with children from Maples Elementary School of Dearborn taking the stage to present Middle Eastern music. The Acts of Culture Week featured an array of events focused on visual and performing arts.

The Michigan Philharmonic and National Arab Orchestra will team in September for a concert at the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts in Detroit.

The National Arab Orchestra also will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, May 8, at The Masonic Temple, 500 Temple Ave., in Detroit. For ticket information, call the box office at 313-638-2724 or go to www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets at \$20.

The May 8 concert will feature Michael Ibrahim directing, with Salah Kurdi, a composer and vocalist.

An "Acts of Fashion

Show" is also set for 7 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Tickets are \$12 each and available at www.actsoffashion.com or by calling 734-612-2041. Children 6 and un-

der will be admitted free. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Children's Center and the Michigan Veterans Foundation.

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FARMINGTON HILLS WOMEN TURN SCONE-MAKING INTO BUSINESS

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Mary Wallace and Julie Tenbusch want their home-made-style scones to smell as good as they taste.

The Farmington Hills residents and food entrepreneurs create, cut, freeze and package dough in seven different flavors, but leave the baking up to their customers.

"It was important to us for people to have the aroma in the house of the fresh-baked product," Wallace said. "And there is less waste for us if I don't bake them because if they go bad on the shelf I've got to take them back and absorb the cost. So, we thought of selling the frozen dough.

"Just the experience of having something fresh-baked in the house is nice. It's just like you made them. You can brag about them and no one will know the difference."

Wallace and Tenbusch rented space at The Culinary Studio, a commercially licensed kitchen in Southfield, and launched Wallace Scones last summer. Hiller's Markets began selling the ready-to-bake product by September and by March this year, it was in 24 metro Detroit locations, including three Busch's markets, Hollywood Markets, Holiday Market in Royal Oak and Canton, Market Square in West Bloomfield and Birmingham, and Vince and Joe's in Shelby Township, in addition to Hiller's. At Hollywood, it's in both the frozen department and available baked in the bakery department.

"We had the recipe six or seven years and just decided let's try this. Let's give it a whirl," Wallace said.

"We started making them for family and friends," Tenbusch added. "Everybody kept saying you girls should start selling them."

They had no business nor professional food production experience. Tenbusch, who has seven grandchildren, had taught in Southfield Public Schools for 10 years and then obtained a nursing degree while raising her four children. Wallace retired last July after a career in nursing and computers. She met Tenbusch when the two worked for Trinity Health.

"This is so different. We've always been in the service industry and now to be in the business side of it, it's very interesting," said Tenbusch, who still works part time as a nurse.

Upgrading equipment

They normally put in two and a half days a week at the Culinary Studio, mixing ingredients, measuring dough and cutting it into scones, freezing the product and vacuum-sealing it into packages. They make between 16-20 batches in five hours, producing 72 scones in each batch. Until a month ago, when they bought a machine to cut the dough, they scooped it by hand into round, 2 1/2-ounce portions.

"We were using ice cream scoops and we both started getting carpal tunnel, so we ended up with this machine called a Duchess," Wallace said. "You put the dough, a specified number of pounds, into a pan and it presses it." After it's cut, the dough goes into the freezer and is packaged the next day.

Both invested \$3,500 into the new company, and have re-invested profits into time-saving equipment, including the dough-cutter and a packaging machine that can vacuum seal four bags simultaneously. They buy their basic ingredients — cream, flour, sugar — at Costco. They hired one part-time employee to help cut large bricks of butter into small cubes and top each scone with a milk wash and sugar sprinkle before it is packaged.

The company sells eight flavors of scones: blueberry, white chocolate cherry, white chocolate cranberry, cranberry orange, currant, cinnamon raisin, cinnamon chip and chocolate chip. Wallace and Tenbusch launched the chocolate chip flavor late last month and are considering the addition of a savory scone to their



Wallace Scones are vacuum-packed and frozen.

menu.

"I've experimented a little. We've been talking about new flavors for a while. I think the chocolate chip is going to be a hit," Wallace said. "These are great for dads and kids to have them for Mother's Day and pamper mom a little."

Starting a business

Wallace calls their endeavor a "hobby job," that both women enjoy. But before they opened for business last year, they put in lots of research time, test marketed their product, met with packaging design students at Michigan State University, and joined FoodLab Detroit, an organization that helps food entrepreneurs grow and improve their businesses.

"We started with a spread sheet on our ingredients and what it cost per unit of measure to understand what it would cost us to make them and so we could better understand what we needed to charge for them," Wallace said. "We've got nutritional fact labels that Michigan State worked on with us. You're required by the state to put your ingredients on your product but everybody doesn't have to put on nutritional facts. We decided to do that right out of the gate."

The pair couldn't produce the ready-to-bake scones for public consumption in their home kitchens under Michigan's Cottage Food Law because the dough must be frozen. The law permits home production of foods that require no temperature control to stay safe.

"Right away, I had to be out of my own kitchen and find another place," Wallace said. "The Culinary Studio is perfect for us. We wouldn't be doing this if we had to fund our own



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Julie Tenbusch, left, and Mary Wallace brush a milk wash on their ready-to-bake scones.

kitchen."

Wallace encourages other budding food entrepreneurs to start their own businesses, but to keep in mind the process includes "a lot of work."

"Don't be afraid of it. If it's something you really believe in and have fun producing, then go for it. See where it goes. If you don't have to invest a bunch of money to get started, what do you have to lose?"

Find Wallace Scones on Facebook and at wallacescones.com.

Learn about The Culinary Studio rental kitchen at myculinarystudio.com.



Julie Tenbusch places cut dough on a cookie sheet for freezing.



Mary Wallace adds butter to a mixer.



Using a machine sure beats scooping dough by hand. Julie Tenbusch presses the lever on a dough-cutting machine