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MDOT: Ford Road work could help ease traffic crashes

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton has three of the top 10 most crash-prone intersections in Wayne County, a new report shows, with Ford and Haggerty once again topping the list.

But road construction crews are arriving in Canton this week for $3.7 million in Ford Road improvements that officials say should ease traffic congestion until a much larger project — converting Ford into a boulevard — receives funding.

"This is something that is going to help alleviate the problem short term," said Mike Bellini, Michigan Department of Transportation engineer, though officials say it's far from a panacea.

Canton, despite being just one of 43 communities in Wayne County, has three of the worst 10 intersections for crashes. Using Michigan State Police statistics, Michigan Auto Law compiled a list for a blog post to urge extra caution.

The Ford-Haggerty intersection topped the list with 89 crashes in 2014, down from 95 the previous year. Rounding out the top 10:

» Wayne and Warren in Westland, 71 crashes.

» Ford and Wayne in Westland, 70.

» Middlebelt and Plymouth in Livonia, 69.

» Ford and Lilley in Canton, 66.

» Ford and Beech Daly in Dearborn Heights, 65.

» Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon in Plymouth, 57.

» Farmington and Plymouth in Livonia, 56.

» Ford and Canton Center in Canton, 52.

» Ford and Middlebelt in Garden City, 52.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Canton's traffic-crash problem along Ford Road begs for a major fix, but MDOT has pointed to a lack of money. In the meantime, LaJoy said Canton is trying a seventh time for a new round of federal aid.

"We are going after it with everything we've got," he said, despite six rejections from TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, a federal program aimed at improving roads and creating jobs.

As construction crews roll into Canton for the initial phase of improvements along Ford, officials say motorists can temporarily expect even

See FORD, Page A2

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maxine Ellis (left) and Helen Burns.

Pen pals of 70 years using a new tool — Skype

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maxine Ellis and Helen Burns are trans-Atlantic pen-pals and fast friends.

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Seventy years have passed since Maxine Ellis and Helen Burns, then mere schoolgirls, became pen pals separated by the Atlantic Ocean.

They still have the yellowed letters they wrote, the personal diaries they kept, the thoughtful gifts they sent, the shared memories that best friends cherish.

And now they're using Skype, an online tool that allows Ellis, 85, and Burns, 84, to hear one another's voice and see each other's face, even though Ellis lives in Canton and Burns in England.

The second Friday of each month, the two women have a lengthy conversation during their virtual visit, before blowing each other a kiss and counting down from three before they simultaneously log off.

See SKYPE, Page A2

Decision delayed concerning preschool at Allen

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Families on the waiting list for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district's early childhood program will have to wait another week before learning whether they can enroll their preschoolers at Allen Elementary.

The Board of Education postponed Tuesday a decision on using the soon-to-close school on Haggerty to expand the tuition-based program for preschoolers, which currently serves about 450 children at five district schools. Board President John Barrett said — and fellow trustees agreed — the proposal required more study.

Discussion of the plan, however, continued.

"We want them with us. They should be with us," Superintendent Michael Meissen said of preschoolers. Adding preschool classrooms, Meissen said, would help close achievement gaps seen in later grades, attract — and keep — students who might otherwise go to private or charter schools and create a small revenue stream.

There are 62 families on a waiting list for the preschool program, which officials said is at capacity for the next

See ALLEN, Page A8

Agent Orange left lasting impact on vets and their families, advocates claim

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The Vietnam War ended decades ago, but its impact is still being felt today by veterans and their families, including those who have experienced the harmful effects from the chemical known as Agent Orange.

Bringing awareness to the community and better informing the veterans and family members was the goal of the Agent Orange Education Campaign town hall, May 9 at Northville High School and hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America and Associates of Vietnam Veterans, Chapter 528 of Plymouth.

It's the impact of Agent Orange on the younger generations that have many veterans concerned. So much so they are reaching out for support.

"It's time to start taking care

See VETS, Page A8

LONNIE HUHMAN

Mokie Pratt Porter, the VVA director of communications, spoke at the May 9 town hall meeting as an individual dressed as "Death" took to the stage at Northville High School wearing orange (rather than the traditional black) to signify the terrible impact Agent Orange has had on veterans and their families.

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Beloved Community announces essay contest winners

The Beloved Community, a Plymouth-Canton group whose goals include seeking racial justice and encouraging education, has announced the winners of its 2015 essay scholarship contest.

The organization received nearly 150 essays from students in grades 6-12 in the Plymouth-Canton area. The contest was open to youngsters in public, charter, private and home-school classes.

This year's essay topic was, "What Dr. Martin Luther King's goal of 'Beloved Community' means to me and how can we make it a reality in the Canton and Plymouth communities?"

The Beloved Community has notified the following students that they have placed in the competition, though their exact ranking will be announced during a ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Tonda Elementary School.

Middle school students named in the competition are all from Discovery Middle School. They are Caitlin Sheahan, Melanie McKeehan and Andrew Wylie.

High school students who placed include Natasha Pietruschka and Julius Crouch, both of Canton High School, and Mohit Aspal of Salem High School.

Middle school winners will receive $200 for first place, $75 for second place and $50 for third.

High school winners will receive $500 for first place, $175 for second and $100 for third.

The Beloved Community also plans to honor Discovery Middle School teacher Adrienne Quinn at the ceremony. In all, 127 of the essays submitted for the contest came from Quinn's students, with all middle school winners from her class.

Local residents are welcome to attend the awards ceremony. Anyone who has questions may send an email to thebelovedcommunitycanton@gmail.com.

FORD

Continued from Page A1

worse traffic congestion. MDOT project manager Bill Erben said the first part of the project involves closing a lane on eastbound Ford, west of Haggerty, where work crews plan to extend the right turn lane "by a few hundred feet."

Erben said a huge part of the traffic problem along Ford Road is that Haggerty is too close to I-275 — a problem that has resulted in a high-crash area.

Todd Berg, a Michigan Auto Law attorney, said the firm's blog focuses on Ford-Haggerty and other intersections to urge drivers to be safe, especially when approaching areas known to be dangerous.

"If you're being vigilant about being safe, put your phone down, hands on the wheel, observe the speed limit, take your time and no distracted driving," Berg said.

Erben, meanwhile, said the work starting in Canton will complement the larger fix — the Ford Road boulevard plan — whenever it occurs.

LaJoy said a separate project involving the $5 million paving of Lotz Road between Ford and Cherry Hill — another project this construction season — also should alleviate some Ford Road traffic.

FILE PHOTO

Officials say Ford Road traffic should be eased after construction work is done.

MDOT officials have warned motorists to expect detours and sporadic, staggered closings of the I-275/Ford ramps, likely on weekends.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the work, once completed, also should make the Ford Road corridor safer for pedestrians.

During the Ford Road project, slated for completion later this summer, workers plan to complete the following:

» Build a continuous, third westbound lane from Lotz to Lilley.

» Resurface the stretch of Ford between Lotz Road and Marlowe Street, which is west of Morton Taylor near the Rusty Nail Lounge.

» Convert right-turn-only lanes for eastbound and westbound Ford at the Haggerty intersection into a shared turn/through lane by modifying pavement markings, signs and traffic signals.

» Extend the right-turn lane for eastbound Ford at Haggerty.

» Extend the left-turn lane from westbound Ford onto southbound Haggerty.

» Add pavement markings to improve turn lanes from the northbound and southbound I-275 exit ramps onto Ford.

» While having three through lanes on westbound Ford, also maintain a dedicated lane for westbound Ford motorists to enter the loop ramp onto southbound I-275.

» Add sidewalks along eastbound and westbound Ford Road to connect those already there, improving access to places such as the I-275 Metro Trail that runs alongside the interstate.

» Provide an optional second exit lane at the southbound I-275 exit ramp to Ford Road, allowing motorists to more easily exit the interstate.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maxine Ellis (left) and Helen Burns have been pen pals for 70 years, although they now use Skype.

SKYPE

Continued from Page A1

They reflected on their friendship and how they have embraced technology such as Skype. This time, however, they sat side-by-side and held hands after Burns arrived in Michigan for a two-week visit.

"I'm a hugger," Ellis said, "so when I see Helen on Skype, I feel like I could put my arms around her."

"It's just lovely to see Maxine's face and her expressions on the screen," Burns said.

They haven't stopped writing letters, though Ellis has started typing hers after it became more difficult for her to put pen to paper.

"Helen has got a beautiful handwriting," Ellis said.

Ellis was 15 when she penned her first letter to Burns, who was 14. They began a pen-pal friendship that started between their schools – and they never stopped. Their special bond has survived the deaths of husbands, the birth of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and, for Ellis, a great-great-grandchild.

Ellis recalls the time she mailed chewing gum and nylons to Burns because she couldn't get either in England.

"I think the Lord brought us together," Ellis said. "We both have very strong beliefs."

The women say they are as close as sisters.

"We both like people," Burns said. "We care for people – and we are very cared for by people."

As evidence, Burns' daughter Penelope McMillan and Ellis' daughter Claudia Vanderpool joined the pen pals as they retraced the years while sitting inside Waltonwood at Carriage Park, a senior independent living center in Canton where Ellis lives.

McMillan, inspired by the friendship, decided to check with the *Guinness Book of World Records* to determine if Ellis and Burns might be the longest-lasting pen pals on record. They were not, but McMillan said it makes them no less fascinating.

"I think it's incredible," she said.

Vanderpool agreed, saying 70 years of close friendship is unique.

"You don't see many marriages go that long anymore," she said.

Ellis visited Burns in England just one time, in 1977.

"I got to see the queen," she said. Though it was from a distance, Burns stood on a bench and snapped a picture.

Burns has made it to America several times, first in 1969 when the women met for the first time. She has said "it was like I had known Maxine all my life."

As decades passed, their letters documented happy years and sad times, such as the deaths of their husbands. Ellis was there as Burns made a career teaching school, while Burns kept up with Ellis' life as she raised seven children and worked at jobs such as a drugstore clerk and giving pedicures to senior citizens.

As modern communication has evolved, Ellis and Burns still occasionally send written letters and they correspond by email, but now Skype has become part of their lives. They embrace any tool that helps them stay in touch.

"Love is one thing you cannot buy," Burns said. "You can be a millionaire, but without love, you're not rich. Maxine is very much a part of my life."

It's mutual.

"I don't know what I'd do without her," Ellis said. "I can't picture life without her."

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Celebrate the closing of the 160-year-old Central Middle School, 650 W. Church, in Plymouth.

Mark closing of Allen, Central

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Allen Elementary, which opened in 1953, is closing at the end of the school year.

Families, staff, alumni and students will celebrate this month and bid farewell to Allen Elementary School and Central Middle School.

The Allen school community will say goodbye with a party, sponsored by the school PTO, 5-8 p.m. Friday, May 29. The Central community will do the same starting with a ceremony 3-4 p.m. Saturday, May 30, in Kellogg Park. Following the ceremony, folks will head over to the middle school for fun, music and games.

In both cases, plenty of students, staff and residents will reminisce about the good times at both longtime Plymouth-Canton Community Schools buildings.

Allen's fate was announced in late 2014, when the P-CCS Board of Education voted to close it due to declining enrollment and other factors. Central, the former Plymouth High School, will close as a school at the end of the current term. The site was purchased by Plymouth resident Mark Malcolm for about $3.2 million on behalf of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex. PARC plans to remodel parts of it into a community center for the many groups that already use Central for athletic and educational purposes.

Meanwhile, Central and Allen families want a chance to share the love of their schools and celebrate long histories.

"We will have a lot of memorabilia," said Jennifer Buckley, an organizer for Allen's closing celebration. "It will be a big party."

The Allen staff has worked with the Plymouth Historical Society and Plymouth District Library to preserve quite a few artifacts from the elementary school's years in service. The artifacts will be displayed in the Plymouth Historical Museum, while some of the student-made Legacy Tiles will remain safe at the library.

The Allen community will celebrate on the school's rear playground. Games, a fair, ice cream and food will be part of the planned fun. The common areas of the school building will be open for self-guided tours and photos and mementos will be displayed throughout the hallways. Teachers and principals from the past and present will be there to share memories.

An open house to view the Legacy Tiles is scheduled for 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at the Plymouth library. A chance to receive one of the Legacy Tile frames displayed in the hallway will be available to past students at the event. Each five-tile panel will have an envelope placed below the frame for families who wish to add their name to have a chance to receive the five-tile panel.

Edna M. Allen School was built in 1953 in a cornfield. Additions were constructed in 1964 and 1967. It was named in honor of Edna M. Allen, a principal and teacher in Plymouth Schools for 32 years.

During its history, Allen has had five principals: Don Rank, Tom Workman, Jim Burt, Marcia Moore and Maureen Molloy. Allen's school colors are red and white and the school mascot is a dragon. "Throughout the years, the Allen School family has been a place where parents and staff work closely together to provide excellent learning opportunities for children," event planners said.

Central Middle School, formally known as Plymouth High School, was also known over the years as Central Junior High, Central Grade and Union School.

The Central celebration will bring together current and former students and families, as well as staff. The May 30 ceremony will be led by Darrin Silvester, a Plymouth-Salem graduate, Salem teacher and local historian.

Planners are urging guests to arrive early to get a spot — and bring a chair — for the ceremony. The Michigan Philharmonic will provide music 2-3 p.m.

Then it will be time to party back at Central until 8 p.m. with food, music and games. Admission is free and open to the public. Self-guided tours of the building will be available 4-8 p.m. Attendees can sign up in advance to register for a time slot to tour the inside of the school. The sign -up is first-come, first-serve; to register for a time slot, go to www.eventbrite.com and enter "Central Celebration tours" in the search bar.

As part of the tribute to Central at 650 W. Church, the school store team will have for sale shirts bearing a commemorative design. The image on the shirt recognizes the 162 years the location has served the community as an educational institution; the design is currently on display in the school showcase.

Anyone who cannot attend the event, but wants to buy a shirt, may place an order at www.shop.mylocker.net and enter locker number BF837. As an added bonus, in step 3 of the order, enter in promo code 8MveDH9h to receive $10 off the purchase.

Parking at The Gathering for the ceremony at Kellogg Park will be reserved for Class of 1965 grads and older. Parking at the Cultural Center will be available for tours and building events. The Central Middle School parking lot will be reserved for classic cars and food vendors. Anyone who wants to have their car in a classic car display should be parked in Central parking lot no later than 2 p.m.

For more information on the Central event, contact celebrating650@gmail.com.

For more information on the Allen event, contact the school at 734-416-3050.

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248-396-6620

Send us your prom photos; enter contest

It's almost time for the prom and the *Observer* wants to print some of the photos seniors will take at the events.

Please email photos with complete identifications to editor Joanne Maliszewski at jmaliszews@hometownlife.com. Unfortunately, we cannot print photos without IDs. Photos will be printed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

But there's more for those who attend this year's prom:

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Lightning strike sparks fire at Plymouth Township business

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Lightning struck the roof of a multi-tenant building in a Plymouth Township business park Friday, sparking a fire that caused extensive damage to one unit and left others with smoke and water damage. No one was hurt.

Plymouth Township Fire Chief Dan Phillips said the lightning hit shortly after 9 p.m. at the one-story building on General Drive, south of Ann Arbor Road. A man in the building – working in a unit other than the one that caught fire – called 9-1-1 to report the incident.

Firefighters from the township and the city of Northville responded, while mutual aid was called in from Livonia and from Northville and Canton townships, the chief said.

The lightning had set some of the contents of the unit – boxes of audiovisual equipment – on fire, Phillips said. A foam-water mixture was used to put out the blaze.

MATT JACHMAN

This door and some boarded-up windows are about the only exterior sign of a fire at a building on General Drive that was caused by a lightning strike Friday night.

"The firefighters did a great job knocking that fire down and stopping the spread, the extension of the fire, into the other units," Phillips said.

But each of the other units had to be checked in case there was fire in them as well, he said. "We had to force our way into all seven units," Phillips said.

"When there's a lightning strike it goes to ground," he added. "You have to go through the entire building and make sure there are no other problems."

Firefighters were at the scene for about four hours.

Phillips said the unit in which the fire was located will likely need extensive repairs. Windows and a door at the unit, on the building's north side, were still boarded up Wednesday morning and workers were taking measurements for replacements.

Phillips said a fire caused by lightning is somewhat unusual.

"Any lightning strike can cause a fire, but I would say it's not the norm," he said.

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Father pleads guilty to abusing baby daughter

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A 33-year-old Canton father has pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree child abuse involving his baby daughter, who was only eight weeks old when she suffered fractured bones, a court clerk confirmed Tuesday.

Vincent Joel French II, jailed with a $500,000 cash bond since his arrest in October, could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison when he is sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin.

French pleaded guilty in late April to a single charge of second-degree child abuse after authorities agreed to dismiss a second count, the clerk said. His decision averted a trial that had been scheduled to start this week.

French

Canton police Lt. Michael Steckel has said the infant suffered three fractured ribs and a fractured femur in her right leg. The child's wounds already had started to heal by the time she was taken to a hospital.

Canton police Lt. Chad Baugh had said the incident happened at The Crossings, an apartment complex near Joy Road and I-275 on Canton's north side. Police learned the girl had been abused from Child Protective Services, which had been contacted by the hospital.

French already had pleaded guilty in 35th District Court to a misdemeanor charge of domestic violence involving his 7-year-old stepdaughter, a court clerk confirmed Tuesday. He was sentenced to the maximum 93 days in jail – time he already has served – for that offense.

In return for that plea, a misdemeanor charge of fourth-degree child abuse, also involving the stepdaughter, was dismissed, the clerk said.

Baugh has said none of the charges against French involved his 9-year-old stepson.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Cops nab pair accused of prostitution

Canton police nabbed a man and a woman for prostitution Saturday night after investigating what began as suspicious behavior outside the Days Inn on Michigan Avenue, near I-275, a police report said.

Police had noticed that a vehicle kept circling through the parking lot before the female driver parked and went into a second-floor hotel room, where authorities had seen a man waiting outside while talking on a cellphone, the police report said. She was inside the room for 20-30 minutes before she left in the car.

Police trailed the Brownstown woman onto northbound I-275, where police claim she was driving 80 mph before she was pulled over. She initially told police she had been to an ex-boyfriend's house in Westland, but police informed her that she was spotted at the Days Inn.

She then changed her story, saying she had stopped at the inn to talk with her ex-boyfriend's cousin. Police told her that the man she had encountered at the hotel, a 34-year-old Westland resident, was being interviewed at the same time she was.

The woman finally conceded she had been paid $120 to $140 to perform oral sex on the man at the hotel. Police searched the woman's car and found an empty box of condoms under the driver's seat and several other condoms in the center console. Police also found two bottles of prescription pills in the woman's possession.

The woman was facing charges of prostitution and possession of a controlled substance, the police report indicated, while the man was cited for prostitution.

Fake gun incident

A 28-year-old Canton woman notified police after she

See CANTON, Page A10

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Cocaine arrest

A 39-year-old woman was arrested on a cocaine-possession charge Friday night after suspected cocaine was found in her purse.

The woman, driving a Jeep Patriot, was stopped in the area of Main Street and Ann Arbor Road around 11:30 p.m. after a patrolling officer checked the vehicle's license plate and found the registered owner was three warrants, including a felony warrant, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The driver turned out to be the owner and police also found her license had been suspended, the report said.

A search of the suspect's purse, police said, turned up three plastic bags with suspected cocaine, plus two straws, one with residue of suspected cocaine on it. The woman told the officer the bags were not hers, police said.

A test later indicated the presence of cocaine in the powder, police said.

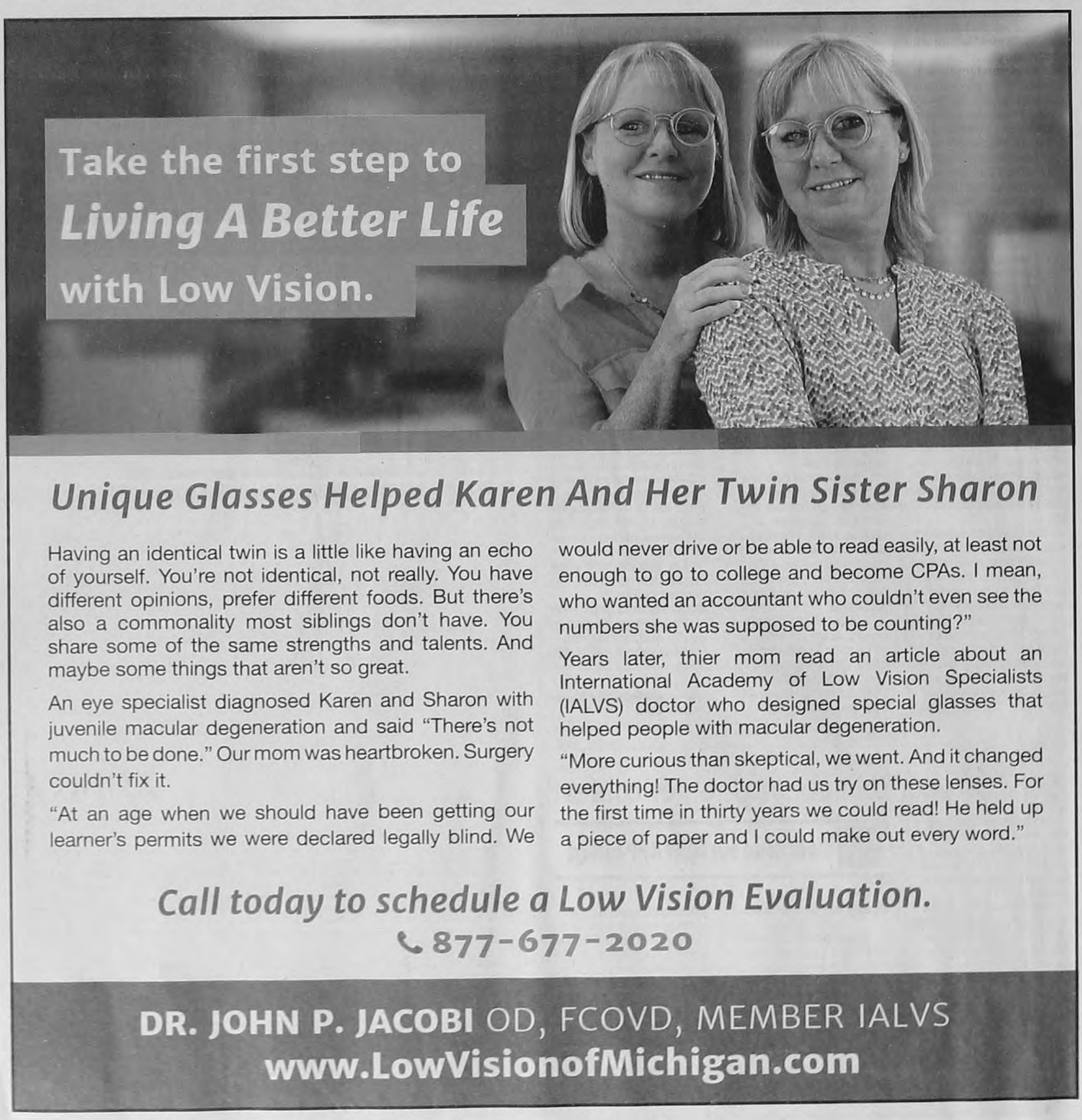
Vandalism

The back window of a Ford Expedition was broken out the evening of May 6 as the vehicle was parked at Plymouth Township Park.

The vehicle was parked in the north lot at the park, near the baseball fields, a police report said. The victim, who told police it was a company vehicle, was informed of the vandalism by a friend; no one was seen in the area of the Expedition, police said.

A golf-ball-sized rock was found inside the Expedition. No other vandalism nearby

See PLYMOUTH, Page A10



Winners included (front row, from left) students Colette Plattner, Lauren Heussner, Carissa Warnshuis, Parker Ellinger and Paul Quint. In the back row from left are Josh Meier, Canton fire chief; Caryn Huntsman, Plymouth Christian Academy principal; Thomas Paden, Canton Chamber of Commerce executive director; and Chris Stoecklein, Canton deputy fire chief.

Canton fire poster winners honored

Canton Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest winners were honored recently with a small ceremony held at Canton's Administration Building.

The poster contest is for local elementary school children and is held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week to educate children on fire prevention awareness.

This year's posters followed the National Fire Prevention Week theme of "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives ."

Posters were judged in two categories: first through third grade and fourth through sixth grade. This year's winners are:

» First through third grades – first place: Paul Quint, third grade at Plymouth Christian Academy; second place: Parker Ellinger, third grade at Plymouth Christian Academy; third place: Christeena Boddakayala, second grade at Achieve Charter Academy. Honorable mention: Colette Plattner, second grade at Plymouth Christian Academy

» Fourth through sixth grades – first place: Hallie Creighton, fifth grade at Plymouth Christian Academy; second place: Lauren Heussner, fifth grade at Plymouth Christian Academy; third place: Carissa Warnshuis, fifth grade at Plymouth Christian Academy. Honorable Mention: Monty Grapp, fourth grade at Dodson Elementary School

This year's contest event was sponsored by the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

East students add up math competitions wins

East Middle School students made a name for themselves recently in the Chicago finals of the MathCON competition.

More than 45,000 students from 332 schools in 43 states participated in the online test, which led to 700 students being invited to Chicago for the finals. Of the 700 students who qualified for the finals, 70 were from East.

East Middle School was awarded the Achievement Award for Excellence as the Most Outstanding School in the middle school division.

By the end of the competition, eight East students earned top 10 finishes in the following categories:

» Srivasudha Ramanujam earned first place in sixth grade, winning an iPad mini.

» Julia Bhuyian, Axel Mikulan and Vishal Nayak each came in second place in sixth, seventh and eighth grade, respectively.

» Jason Zheng took fourth place in seventh grade and Abhimanyu Deshpande earned fourth place in eighth grade.

» Balamurugan Arunachalam finished in fifth place in sixth grade and Alice Qin came in eighth place in sixth grade.

East teachers Melanie Formosa, Jennifer McLaughlin and Stephanie Keiles accompanied students to Chicago for the competition and to support their students.

For more information, go to http://mathcon.org/.

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

East Middle School students in Chicago at the MathCON competition.

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

East teachers (from left) Melanie Formosa, Jennifer McLaughlin and Stephanie Keiles accompanied students to Chicago for the competition.

P-CEP instructor and coach Diana Woodward (from left) with students Dakota Kay and Avery Waarala, as well as Chase McConnell, a former student and team mentor.

P-CEP students capture top culinary awards

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

There's a lot more to good cooking and running a healthy operation than pulling a frying pan out of the cupboard. Just ask the coach for Plymouth-Canton teams that have taken honors in state and national competitions.

Diana Woodward, culinary and hotel/restaurant instructor and team coach at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, couldn't contain her excitement recently when she spoke of her students and their competitive wins.

"We just got back from the nationals," she said after Plymouth-Canton took fifth place in the management category.

"The students had to write a full business plan," she said. "Then they have to design a restaurant — blue prints — including decor, menu, staff and cooking. It was 86 pages."

But that's not all. The students then had to make a 10-minute presentation to a group of would-be investors. "Then judges question them about every aspect of the restaurant," Woodward said.

The nationals were the result of many competitions, including a state contest in which Plymouth-Canton took first place in the nutrition competition and second place — losing by only a half-point to the winning team — in the culinary contest.

In the nutrition contest, the team developed a menu of healthy foods for children. Members had to include a nutrition and cost analysis, as well as cook the meal within 30 minutes and present it to judges.

In the culinary competition, the team had to complete a three-course meal without electricity, water or refrigeration. "The first course alone had nine menu recipes," Woodward said.

Altogether, the Plymouth-Canton teams brought home about $35,000 in scholarships. This year, all competing students are seniors, she added.

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Spaces are available for students who will be in grades 9 and 10 this fall.
Discover how small class size, innovation, and personalized learning can transform the high school experience for your child!
New School High is a community-based, teacher-led, tuition-free public school academy.
newschoolhigh.org

Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and yard tools for the May 31 clean-up.

Making history

Partnership for Arts offers clean-up day for Village Arts Factory project

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

If you want to be part of preserving Michigan's past, while making new history, roll up your sleeves and get out your tools and yard equipment to take another step in the clean-up of what will become the Village Arts Factory in Canton's Cherry Hill area.

Engel

"This is part of history," said Jill Engel, executive director for the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

The partnership bought the 14-acre site, formerly known as auto magnate Henry Ford's Village Industry. The site includes a dormitory, the Ford factory – both of which are on the National Historic Register – and an industrial warehouse. There are also three additional buildings, including a pole barn, on the south side of the property.

Long abandoned before purchased by the partnership in 2012, the site, 50625 Cherry Hill Road, needs a clean-up set for 1-5 p.m. Sunday, May 31. The event is open to the community. In fact, Engel has had a lot of response so far, but could use more help for the planned tasks.

The site is where Henry Ford had one of 19 village industries, 18 of which were for farmers who could work at the factories during off-season. The one in Canton served as a factory at which disabled World War II veterans could live in the dormitory, receive rehabilitation and work.

"Most people don't know about this," Engel said. "(Ford) wanted to respect the privacy of the veterans. Eighteen to 22 disabled veterans lived in the dormitory."

The day after Memorial Day, a section of the 45,000-square-foot warehouse will be demolished to detach it from the factory. The demolition, however, will leave an existing walkway in place.

Following the May 31 clean-up, the three buildings on the south side of the property will be demolished. Walls from the pole barn will be used to enclose the warehouse where it was sectioned from the factory, Engel said.

On the community clean-up day, volunteers will help demolish interiors of the dormitory and the Ford factory, as well as work on landscaping and clean-up of the river. The clean-up leads to the start of planned renovations and construction of the Village Arts Factory this year. The day will end with a barbecue for all volunteers. The meal is sponsored by Mans Lumber.

The goal this year, Engel said, is to have the dormitory renovated with work beginning on the parking and driveway areas. In 2016, the plan is to complete the parking/driveway areas and begin renovations on the factory. "It needs a total rehaul," she said.

By 2017, the partnership wants to work on the warehouse along Cherry Hill Road.

Meanwhile, the partnership is waiting to find out whether two grants will be awarded to help with renovation. One is a $100,000 grant from the Ford Motor Co. Foundation and the other is a $75,000 Community Development Block Grant through Canton Township. Already, the Mannik Smith Group in Canton has provided some $100,000 in in-kind services, Engel added.

Plans are also in the works to conduct a public fundraising effort this fall. A marketing-fundraising folder created by Driven in Ferndale is ready for print. The company donated 75 percent of its services to complete the effort.

To participate in the May 31 clean-up, RSVP before May 27 by email at jengel@partnershipforarts.org or by calling 734-765-7061.

HOW TO HELP

The Partnership for the Arts & Humanities is asking area residents to take a tour through its new website at www.partnershipforarts.org. There you can find out the history, with photos, of the Henry Village Industry site, as well as the partnership's plans for creating the Village Arts Factory.

Executive Director Jill Engel is also asking interested residents to apply for two positions on the partnership's volunteer board.

Anyone with an interest in art, historic preservation, veterans services, education or entertainment is encouraged to send a resume and a letter of interest. Be sure to include previous community involvement and fundraising experience.

Resumes will be accepted through June 12. Send your information to Jill Engel, Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, P.O. Box 871722, Canton, MI 48187. For more information, call Engel at 734-765-7061 or email to jengel@partnershipforarts.org.

The partnership meets the last Wednesday quarterly — January, April, July and October — in the late afternoon. Other board responsibilities include attendance and promotion of two annual fundraisers and marketing and committee meetings for the Village Arts Factory project.

It's fun, good exercise and will help the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities as it work towards creating the Village Arts Factory in Canton.

Following the community clean-up May 31, all volunteers will be treated to a barbecue, sponsored by Mans Lumber.

Not many people know that auto magnate Henry Ford operated this small factory on Cherry Hill in Canton.

AUCTION

Saturday, May 16th
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Listen to 88.1 The Park to bid on items every half-hour. A special dream board of items will be available for bidding all day

"WSDP is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The station is staffed by students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools and has been serving the community for 43 years."

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Auction

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2015 Auction Items

DONOR	ITEM DONATED	ITEM VALUE
Anonymous	Framed Autograph Collection for the 1961 New York Yankees	?
88.1 The Park	Two Vans Warped Tour Tickets	$77
AMD	AMD Fire Pro Computer Graphics Card	$200
The Ark	Two Tickets to see The Bodeans	$54
Atsalis Dental Excellence	Zoom Teeth Whitening	$250
Barrio	Gift Card	$50
Benito's Pizza	Gift Certificates	$20
B.E. Unique	Haircut and Style	$45
B.E. Unique	Haircut and Style	$45
B.E. Unique	Haircut and Style	$45
Bonstelle Theatre	Four Tickets	$100
Boyne Golf	18 Holes of Golf for Two	?
Brann's Steakhouse	Two Express Lunches	$20
Brann's Steakhouse	Two Express Lunches	$20
Brian and Cara Maxson	Outback Gift Card	$25
Brian and Cara Maxson	Red Lobster Gift Card	$25
Brian and Cara Maxson	Wendy's Gift Card	$20
Buddy's Auto Repair	Oil Change/Lube/Filter	$35
Canton Animal Hospital	Gift Certificate	$50
Chateau Chantal	VIP Wine Tasting for Six	$150
Chili's	Gift Certificate	$25
Compari's	Gift Card	$25
Costco	Gift Card	$25
Dairy King	Gift Card	$10
Darren McCarty	Autographed Photo	?
Dave and Busters	Dave and Busters Power Card	$25
Dave and Busters	Dave and Busters Power Card	$25
Delhi Hut	Gift Certificate	$25
Detroit Red Wings	Puck Autographed by Danny Dekeyser	?
Detroit Tigers	Autographed Miguel Cabrera Photo	?
Detroit Zoo	Family Four Pack of Tickets	$56
Devz Pharmacy	Mother's Relaxation Gift Basket	$66
E.G. Nicks	Gift Certificate	$25
Emagine Theatres	Four Passes	$40
Firestone	Oil Change and Filter	$40
Fit Body Boot Camp	Six Month Unlimited Membership	$882
Grand Hotel	One Round of Golf for Four	$500
Gretchen Miller	Agio Spa Gift Card	$50
The Henry Ford	Four Tickets	$100
Hilberry Theatre	Two Tickets	$60
Hollywood Tanning	Gift Certificate	$30
Hollywood Tanning	Gift Certificate	$30
Huntington Learning Center	Academic Evaluations	$199
Kites and Fun Things	Gift Certificate	$25
La Bistecca	Gift Card	$50
La Bistecca	Gift Card	$50
Lucky Strike	Bowling Party for Eight	$200
Lucky Strike	Bowling Party for Eight	$200
Mainstreet Auto Wash	Four Car Wash Passes	$20
Mainstreet Auto Wash	Four Car Wash Passes	$20
Mainstreet Ventures	Restaurant Gift Card	$25
Mainstreet Ventures	Restaurant Gift Card	$25
Manuel and Kendra Barberena	I-Tunes Gift Card	$25
Mark Riddley's Comedy Castle	Pass for Two	$40
Mark Riddley's Comedy Castle	Pass for Two	$40
Martin Family	La Bisteeca Gift Card	$50
Meadow Brook Theatre	Two Tickets	$82
Me and My Nails	Pedicure	$25
Me and My Nails	Pedicure	$25
Me and My Nails	Pedicure	$25
Me and My Nails	Pedicure	$25
Michigan International Speedway	Two Tickets for World Truck Series and two Pit and Paddock Passes	$160
M.L. Elrick	Behind the Scenes Tour of Fox 2	?
M.L. Elrick	Three Autographed Books	$45
M.L. Elrick	Three Autographed Books	$45
M.L. Elrick	Three Autographed Books	$45
M.L. Elrick	Three Autographed Books	$45
Oasis Golf Center	Golf Package	$55
The Penn Grill	Gift Certificate	$50
Plymouth Auto Care	Gift Certificate	$50
Portelli Beanie	Hat and Scarf	$44
Portelli Beanie	Hat and Scarf	$44
Portelli Beanie	Hat and Scarf	$44
Portelli Beanie	Hat and Scarf	$44
Purple Rose Theatre	Two Tickets	$74
Red Anchor Tattoo	Piercing and After Care	$50
Red Anchor Tattoo	Piercing and After Care	$50
Red Anchor Tattoo	Piercing and After Care	$50
Red Anchor Tattoo	Piercing and After Care	$50
Ric and Rocky's Family Car Care	Gift Certificate	$50
Ric and Rocky's Family Car Care	Gift Certificate	$50
Robert Bosch LLC	Bosch Power Box 360	$180
Rick and Dottie Grzebike	Gift Certificate for Willow Greenhouse	$25
Rick and Dottie Grzebike	Gift Certificate for Willow Greenhouse	$25
Ross Family	La Bistecca Gift Card	$100
Ross Family	La Bistecca Gift Card	$100
Roy's Squeeze Inn	Gift Certificate	$25
Saad Meats	Gift Certificate	$10
Salon International	Gift Card for Haircut	$53
Sandra Allen Yoga Instruction	Yoga Instruction	$75
Sean O'Callaghan's	Gift Card	$25
Showroom of Elegance	Gift Card	$25
Showroom of Elegance	Gift Card	$25
Showroom of Elegance	Sterling Silver Diamond Dazzle Earrings	$450
SOS Radio Network	Chris August CD and Commemorative Blanket	$40
SOS Radio Network	Mug and Coffee Gift Pack	$40
SOS Radio Network	Two Chris Tomlin CD's and T-Shirt	$45
SOS Radio Network	Two Hawk Nelson CD's and T-Shirt	$45
SOS Radio Network	Two Colton Dixon CDs (one autographed)	$30
SOS Radio Network	Five CD Pack	$75
SOS Radio Network	Three CD Pack	$45
Stratford Festival	Two Tickets	$170
Super Fine Wine and Liquor (Canton)	Gift Certificate for Two Bottles of Wine	?
Sweet Lorraine's	Gift Certificate	$50
TGI Fridays	Four Cards for a Free Appetizer or Dessert	$31
TGI Fridays	Four Cards for a Free Appetizer or Dessert	$31
Tic Tac Nails	Maincure and Spa Pedicure	$35
Tina's Nails	Manicure	$12
The Tool Shop	Gift Certificate	$20
Trail's Edge Cyclery	Big Cheese Tune Up	$150
Trinity House Theatre	Two Tickets	$30
Trinity House Theatre	Two Tickets	$30
Trinity House Theatre	Two Tickets	$30
Vanessa's Flowers	Gift Card	$25
Victory Honda of Plymouth	Go Pro Camera	$300
West End Yoga	One Month of Yoga	$99
Willow Greenhouse	Gift Certificate	$25

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www.881thepark.com

Connor's Family Dining celebrates 50 years with customer party

A day of classic songs, cars and prices May 18 will highlight the 50th anniversary celebration for Connor's Family Dining on Five Mile and Haggerty roads.

The restaurant, which originated in Dearborn Heights in 1965, found a new home at the intersection of Northville, Plymouth and Livonia in 2008. Owner Joe Maceri said he was anxious when he opened the new location during an economic downturn, but the customer response quickly calmed his nerves and exceeded all expectations.

"We opened the doors, people walked in and they haven't stopped," said Maceri, who has worked for the restaurant for 44 years. "It blows my mind when I see what we've been able to do. We are blessed."

In recent years, Maceri held a customer appreciation day each May with reduced prices, classic car displays and other goodies. He plans to take it to another level to celebrate the restaurant's golden anniversary. His staff will be dressed in 1960s attire and serving select items at pricing from that decade, such as coffee for 15 cents and pancakes for 55 cents.

Music from the 1960s will be featured throughout the day, with a barber shop quartet singing in the early afternoon and the band The Favorites performing outside in a parking lot tent 4-8 p.m. During that time, at least 50 classic cars will line other parts of the parking lot. The restaurant will be open that day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Prior to the anniversary celebration, Maceri plans to complete a series of interior renovations to the 110-seat eatery, such as new carpeting, seating, table tops and window blinds.

He attributes the restaurant's longevity to the collection of employees and customers.

"I love what I do and it is because of the people," Maceri said. "The customers, our great staff, we are all in it together to make this work. I don't say this lightly, but I consider them all my friends."

Clyde and Eileen Connor opened the restaurant on Telegraph Road in 1965 and hired Maceri as a teenage bus boy in 1971. He became a valued employee for the Connors, who sold him the business in 1982. Maceri briefly operated two locations after opening the new Five Mile/Haggerty location seven years ago, but sold the original site two years ago.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe Maceri and son Chris Maceri celebrate 50 years of the family's business, Connor's Family Dining.

VETS

Continued from Page A1

of these children," said Bob Cummings, who is with the Agent Orange Riders out of Alpena.

He says exposure to these chemicals has affected him and his family.

He served with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne and 1st Cavalry from 1971-72 and recalled seeing the aircraft overhead, spraying the defoliant, soaking the jungle and the troops below. This was done to expose the enemy.

Agent Orange was used for at least a decade during the war. According to the vets who spoke, they were told the chemicals were not harmful.

Years later, the impact of this exposure became brutally apparent for Cummings, when his grandson unexpectedly died days after being born. This led him to look for causes. He turned to his children, one born with spina bifida, another diagnosed with Bell's palsy and a third born with a congenital heart defect. This led back to himself and what he may have been exposed to that could cause such harm.

"It's time to start taking care of these children."

BOB CUMMINGS
member, Agent Orange Riders

Cummings couldn't help but think the Agent Orange had not only hurt him, but that its harmful impact was passed on.

Another speaker that day was Lori Weber, the daughter of an exposed Vietnam vet. Weber has undergone 25 orthopedic surgeries for birth defects that have been attributed to her father's exposure. She, too, stood as another example of the generational harm Agent Orange has had on families of veterans.

Support needed

Two other speakers were U.S. Rep. Dave Trott and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck. Both spoke about veterans issues and firmly put their support behind the cause. They said some improvement has been made in helping veterans and their families, but things can get better, especially if the proposed Military Toxic Exposure Research Act becomes law.

"We need to do more," Trott said of further addressing the harmful impact of Agent Orange.

The act would have the VA set up an advisory board to lead a study of the exposure and the impact Agent Orange has had on veterans and their families.

The speakers and supporters at the event believe these personal stories and messages need to get out to the medical field, as well as the public.

Event speaker Mokie Pratt Porter, the VVA director of communications, said this is one of the last battles of the Vietnam era that needs to be overcome.

"We can't afford to lose," she said.

To learn more, go to http://www.vva.org/Committees/Agent Orange/TownHall.htm.

lhuhman @hometownlife.com
517-294-4215

ALLEN

Continued from Page A1

school year at its currently planned locations. Meissen wants to open four preschool classrooms at Allen — there are two preschool classrooms there already — and district officials predict net revenue of $20,000 with that plan.

"We're listening to our community. We're trying to do things that help the cause. Big picture," Meissen added.

'Flawed premise'

But some trustees questioned the financial assumptions, saying they weren't convinced of the revenue projection, and said that other uses for Allen should be explored.

Trustee Mike Maloney said the preschool plan is based on a "flawed premise" that Allen will be mothballed yet continue to be owned by the district. Officials say it will cost nearly $49,000 a year to maintain the empty school.

"I think we ought to look at all the uses for that building, including selling it," Maloney said.

Maloney also said he'd rather see preschoolers enrolled at their neighborhood schools. Trustee Shelia Paton agreed.

"We can't do that right now because we don't have the space," Meissen said.

Details sought

Peggy Kaczmarek, the district's early childhood coordinator, said requirements for classrooms used by pre-kindergarten students are far different than for those used by older students and that two of the Allen classrooms would have to be properly equipped under the plan. Kaczmarek said that, if the plan is approved, she would move the preschool administration offices to Allen; the offices are now at Field Elementary.

Maloney and Trustee Mark Horwath asked for more financial details. "This thing isn't very well fleshed out," Maloney said.

Meissen said the numbers already provided "are good," but that he would provide more information.

"I'm sorry you feel the plan is half-baked," Meissen said. "I'm looking at an achievement gap. I'm looking at the most important thing you can do, is grab these kids early."

Corrin Stamatakos, the mother of a preschooler already in the program and a member of the blue-ribbon panel looking at ways to improve the district, pleaded with board members to add preschool space.

Stamatakos said afterward that the early childhood program, which her two older children attended, is an under-marketed asset and that she's convinced that if space were added, even more families would enroll than the 62 on the waiting list.

"In a time of competition, we have got to capture the families like mine. Otherwise, we're going to go other places," Stamatakos told board members.

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St. Mary Mercy Hospital
South Entrance

Healthy Aging Conference

Seniors, families and caregivers are invited to join us for a day of seminars, health screenings and exhibitors. Lunch is included.

All activities are free of charge.

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Health Screenings

- "Ask the Doctor"
- "Ask the Nurse Practitioner"
- Balance Screening
- Skin cancer screening
- Memory screening
- Nutrition screening
- Wellness Center tour

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Speakers

10 - 10:45 a.m.
Preparing Now, Preventing Injury
Learn to prepare your home to prevent injury
Speakers: Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC, Injury Prevention Specialist; and Michelle Moccia, DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN, Program Director, Senior ER

11 - 11:45 a.m.
Being Legally and Financially Prepared
Learn to prepare your legal and financial affairs
Speaker: Alisa Kwang, Attorney, Law Offices of Alisa Kwang, PLLC

12 - 12:30 p.m.
Eating for a Healthy Colon
Food demonstration. Box lunch provided.
Speaker: Allison Spitzley, CDM

12:45 - 1:30 p.m.
Preparing a Healthy Mind
Learn to prepare your mind for aging
Speaker: Mary Jane Favot, MSN, GNP-BC, Gerontology Nurse Practitioner

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Health Exhibitors

- Joint health
- Stroke education
- Heart health
- Colon health
- Exercise programs for seniors
- Physical rehabilitation
- Home health care
- Estate planning

Pre-registration is preferred. For more information or to register, call 734-655-2929, or visit *stmarymercy.org/healthyaging conference.*

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Competitor Magazine named Detroit's "underwater mile" one of the 26 most memorable marathon miles in 2010.

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2014 Winner of the Governor's Fitness Award, in the category Extraordinary Event/Organization

Top 25 medal design four years in a row. 2010 - 2013 - Marathon & Beyond

Competitor.com ranked Detroit as one of its 10 Great Fall Half Marathons for 2014

Healthy Summer Kick-off highlights fun and health

It was a day of fun and learning about healthy living May 2 at the fourth annual Healthy Summer Kick-off, sponsored by Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, IHA, Canton Leisure Services and the *Canton Observer*.

TV health personality Lila Lazarus served as emcee for the interactive, family friendly event at St. Joseph Mercy Canton. Free yoga sessions from Vinyasa took place throughout the day, courtesy of The Summit, as well as free chair massages from Indigo Salon, Spa & Boutique of Canton's Cherry Hill Village.

Free children's bike helmets and fittings were given out to the first 200 kids in attendance, courtesy of IHA, whose pediatricians and family medicine physicians were on hand to provide mini-fitness checks to kids.

St. Joseph Mercy Canton offered a number of free health screenings, including blood pressure testing, body mass index and skin cancer screenings, which is timely as May is National Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

The popular Health Exploration Station at St. Joseph Mercy Canton was open for tours and play, while Urgent Care hosted a teddy bear clinic for children to have their favorite stuffed animal mended.

Health reporter Lila Lazarus talks with Dr. Brian Cha of IHA about skin cancer risks at the recent fourth annual Healthy Summer Kick-off in Canton.

Caleb Wieland of Canton gets his helmet fitted by Joyce Kessler, trauma program, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor.

Librarian: eBook romance novels popular among Plymouth readers

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Julie Herrin, director of the Northville District Library, urges people to give eBooks a try.

"It's a wonderful service and not many people know we have it," Herrin said. "They're buying their books."

You can get eBooks now through public libraries and those titles are coming on strong.

"We've done a lot of publicity about it," Sheila Collins, director of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, said about eBooks. "They're popular. The statistics have increased every month."

Both Westland and Northville use OverDrive, a commercial service, to manage eBooks. Area libraries pool resources in consortiums, such as The Library Network, to keep costs down.

"OverDrive is the leader definitely in the business now," Herrin said. "Different publishers have different scenarios," she added of the six major publishers and many smaller ones.

OverDrive has software to access the eBook, with each publisher setting a price.

"Random House doesn't put any limit on their books, but they're awfully expensive," Herrin said. Publisher Hachette allows 26 circulations, she said, and then the title must be purchased again.

Reference materials are constantly improving, Herrin said.

"It's immediately up to date online," she said, so her library pays for databases, as well as OverDrive, which runs $6,000 a year for the Northville library.

That's out of a $196,000 Northville book budget for all ages, which also includes CDs and DVDs. Northville has OverDrive Advantage, for some $2,000 a year, to buy material just for Northville patrons.

The eBook titles range from around $10 to $100, she said, and are mostly leased. Some states have begun to run their own library service with their own software for eBooks.

Fiction readers are avid

Kathy Petlewski, electronic resources librarian at the Plymouth District Library, said of eBook popularity, "Fiction over non-fiction. I would say romance tops the list. After that would be mysteries and thrillers," citing authors James Patterson and John Grisham.

"Right now, it's a rather small percentage going to eBooks," Petlewski said of Plymouth's purchasing. However, generosity of the Friends of the Library is boosting the electronic collection.

"We are finding that audio books in percentage are gaining in popularity," she said.

Plymouth is in a different consortium, the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services, with its 25 member libraries, but also uses OverDrive.

"They are streamlining it. They are making it better," Petlewski said of eBook use, the ease of which varies with the e-reader. "Now you can go on your device and do the whole procedure."

She uses a combination of print and eBooks, such as a recent eBook for the plane and hotel during a Washington, D.C., conference. Petlewski, a high school classmate of Herrin's, said, "Not at all," in terms of envisioning today's technology years ago.

"They didn't have any classes on computers. It was not in the realm of possibility," Petlewski said. She's embraced technology and noted its benefits for authors who self-publish.

About 30 percent of Plymouth library website users now visit on a mobile device. The percentage is the same as last year, she said, but the number has grown from about 7,600 last year to 17,000 this year.

"That's a huge jump," said Petlewski. "Our community is a very well-educated community. I think our patrons were very quick to adapt."

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CANTON

Continued from Page A4

saw a suspicious man with what was described as a gun while she was on a section of the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail, near Michigan Avenue and Sheldon, a police report said.

The woman described the suspect as a white male wearing a blue jersey and carrying a black gun in his hand. She said she became nervous after she saw him.

Police managed to track down the suspect in a subdivision off Palmer Road and learned that he was carrying two Airsoft guns that resembled real guns. One of them had an orange tip removed from it, making the gun look even more real.

The man told police he didn't realize he wasn't supposed to remove the orange tip. Police cited the man for having a facsimile firearm in violation of township ordinances.

A muddy mess

A tow truck trying to pull a car out of mud got stuck itself May 6 during an incident at Patriot Park, a still-emerging park near Ford and Ridge roads, a police report said.

Police went to the park amid reports of suspicious behavior. Police arrived and found a blue Chevy Silverado mired in mud after causing damage to the property trying to get out. Police learned that a man and his wife had taken their children to the park May 3 to go hunting for mushrooms and got the vehicle stuck in the mud.

A tow truck arrived at the scene and tried to pull the pickup truck free, only to become mired in the mud. Yet another tow truck was brought to the scene, first to pull the first tow truck out and then the pickup truck.

Police alerted Canton Leisure Services about the damage to the park.

Kroger theft

Police were investigating reports that a Canton couple went shopping Friday night at the Kroger store near Canton Center and Ford, leaving the store without paying for their groceries, a police report said. Witnesses saw the pair tossing items which hadn't even been bagged into their vehicle.

The incident happened about 7 p.m. Police received reports of a white man and a white woman leaving the scene in a dark-colored van. An alert employee was able to get a license plate number, a police report said.

Police traced the license plate number to an address on Willow Creek Drive. The male suspect initially denied having been to Kroger, but the investigation was continuing.

– By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH

Continued from Page A4

was reported.

Heroin arrest

A 45-year-old man being arrested on a larceny charge May 6 was found with suspected heroin in his vehicle.

The arrested occurred just before 3 p.m. at a business on Eckles Road; several officers had been dispatched to the area to await the suspect's arrival as a detective was obtaining an arrest warrant, a police report said.

Upon his arrest, police searched the suspect's Chevrolet Trailblazer and found suspected heroin in a folded piece of paper tucked into a pair of blue jeans, police said. Later, as his wallet was being searched at the police station, more suspected heroin was found, police said.

A preliminary test indicated the presence of heroin, police said.

– By Matt Jachman

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**.

LO-0000242203

Crowd-funding effort could turn Detroit Zoo poo into energy

Get a whiff of this. The Detroit Zoological Society and Michigan Economic Development Corp. have announced a crowd-funding campaign through the Michigan-based crowd-funding platform Patronicity.

The campaign will support an energy-producing biodigester that will harness the power of poo at the Detroit Zoo, located in Royal Oak. If the DZS attains its crowdfunding goal of $55,000 by June 15, the MEDC will provide a $55,000 matching grant. For project details and to donate, go to www.Patronicity.com/DetroitZoo.

"We are pleased to partner with the Detroit Zoo and support this eco-friendly, energy-saving project," MEDC Community Development Director Katharine Czarnecki said. "This campaign will allow residents, businesses and everyone who appreciates the zoo and the positive impact it has on metro Detroit to be a part of this innovative undertaking."

The biodigester will turn the 400 tons of animal manure generated annually at the Detroit Zoo, as well as other organic waste, into a methane-rich gas.

This biogas will be used to help power the 18,000-square-foot Ruth Roby Glancy Animal Health Complex, saving the Zoo $70,000 to $80,000 a year in energy costs, according to a press release.

The system will also convert manure into compost that will be used to fertilize animal habitats, gardens and public spaces throughout the 125-acre zoo.

"The biodigester will turn one of our most abundant resources — manure — into energy and represents a significant step on our green journey," said Ron Kagan, DZS executive director and CEO.

Construction on the biodigester will begin in the spring in the administrative area of the Detroit Zoo.

The Detroit Zoo's 125 acres of naturalistic habitats are home to more than 2,500 animals representing 280 species. For hours, prices, directions and other information, call 248-541-5717 or go to www.detroitzoo.org.

Dinosaurs return May 22 to Detroit Zoo

Forty life-like animatronic dinosaurs that snarl and move – and some that spit – will take up residence at the Detroit Zoo next month to provide a mega-dose of Vitamin Z for visitors of all ages.

Dinosauria, presented by Kroger and Michigan Education Savings Plan, opens May 22 and runs through Labor Day. The blockbuster summer attraction – the largest dinosaur exhibit of its kind in the country – was last featured at the zoo in 2011.

Visitors will enter a veritable "Zoorassic Park" as they travel back in time along a lush, winding, four-acre DinoTrail recreating prehistoric life. Enormous primeval creatures will lurk at every turn, including adult dinosaurs, youngsters and even a nest with eggs and hatchlings.

DETROIT ZOO

Dino-Baryonyx will be among the animated dinosaurs taking up residence in the zoo, beginning May 22.

The robotic dinosaurs are built on steel frames by Billings Productions of Allen, Texas, and covered with intricately painted foam rubber skin. High-tech electronics and air pistons power the dinosaurs' menacing claws and gnashing teeth while a sound system gives them their "voices."

Dinosauria will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily May 22 through Sept. 7 (until 8 p.m. each Wednesday during July and August). Tickets are $5 with zoo admission for visitors ages 2 and older and will be available at main admissions, the Dinosauria ticket booth or online at www.detroitzoo.org.

The Detroit Zoo's 125 acres of naturalistic habitats are home to more than 2,500 animals representing 280 species. For hours, prices, directions and other information, call 248-541-5717 or go to www.detroitzoo.org.

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BUSINESS

JOANNE MALISZEWSKI, EDITOR
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Canton Farmers Market opens Sunday

The Canton Farmers Market will open its regular season Sunday, May 17, at Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge Road, with plenty of great vendors, fresh food, live music and more.

The market will take place rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday (with the exception of July 5) and will feature a variety of local goods for sale, weekly kids crafts and activities, live entertainment, cooking demonstrations and more.

"We are thrilled to be starting another season of offering great local goods at our weekly markets," Canton Farmers Market manager Tina Lloyd said. "By buying local, you can know where your food comes from while benefiting both the local economy and the environment."

The Canton Farmers Market is in Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge Road.

This year's summer season will see the return of many favorite vendors, as well as some local newcomers to the market, including: Jar Head Salsa & Tortilla Chip Co., Black Sheep Northville (wool dryer balls), Valganics (handcrafted soaps), Cheesecake Etcetera, Mama Mucci's Pasta, Stamatopoulos & Sons (olive oil and related products) and more.

Local vendors returning this season include: Agricola, Baubles by Barb, Bobilin Honey, Cakes by Penny, Classique Gifts & Bakes, Crunch Granola, Don't Worry Bead Happy, Farmington Soap Works, Good Times Kettle Corn, Geiser-Weaver Associates, Grace Savory & Sweet, Jen's Gourmet Dressings, JKM Soy Candles, Kapnick Orchards, Kristie's Kreations, Lula Bre's Sweet Eats, Parran's Greenhouse and Farm, Michigan Garlic, Paw-la's Pantry, Prochaska Farms, Sansonetti Sauces, SP Woodworking, Steinhauser Farms, Terracotta Paste, U.P. Pasties, Xiong's Fresh Asian Produce and Zingerman's Creamery.

Items available for sale on opening day include: honey, greens, spinach, asparagus, flowers, herb and vegetable plants, seasoning blends, jams, pasture-raised meats (beef, pork, chicken), granola, salsa, pasties, pot pies, sauces, marinades, salad dressings, artisan cheese and bread, a variety of baked goods, dog treats, handcrafted soaps and body products, kettle corn, garlic, gluten-free baking mixes and more.

"Keep in mind this is a locally grown and produced market," Lloyd said. "The season begins with farmers bringing spinach, greens, asparagus, flowers and garden plants and gets better every week as more farmers return with more produce."

At opening day, Bob Skon will perform music live on the Bartlett-Travis House porch and Chef Kristi Zebrowski of Grace Savory & Sweet will prepare food with local ingredients and hosting "Salad School." The Master Gardener volunteers return with information on seed starting and kids can enjoy jumping in the free bouncer on site, as well as planting a sunflower seed to take home.

Upcoming special events include a perennial exchange both May 24 and May 31, as well as a demonstration on canning tomatoes Aug. 16 by Michigan State University Extension educator Eileen Haraminac. This year's market will also feature twice as many live cooking demonstrations as last year's, Lloyd said.

Canton's free Bark in the Park event, located a short trail walk away from the farmers market at the adjacent Canton Dog Park, will take place during the hours of the farmers market's opening day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 17.

"Market shoppers and dog owners alike are welcome and encouraged to visit both free community events," Canton recreation specialist Laura Mortier said.

For more information about the Canton Farmers Market, go to Cantonfun.org under the Programs tab, pick up the farmers market brochure at the market or contact Lloyd at cantonfarmersmarket@canton-mi.org.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Biz 2 biz mixer

Bring your business cards to the next Business 2 Business Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, at Aqua, 413 N. Main, Plymouth. Businesses in Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Northville and surrounding areas are invited.

For more information, contact Lori Morrison, Ribar Floral Co., at 734-455-8722.

Calling all brides

Are you a bride-to-be? Do you have a friend or relative who is getting married? The Canton Downtown Development Authority invites new brides to take photos of their wish list for a chance to win. Now through Sept. 18, take a photo of wedding- or bridal shower-related items found on Ford Road in Canton and upload the photos to Instagram using hashtag #FordRoadBrides. Add the business location, giving permission to re-post. The photo with the most "likes" on ShopCanton social media will win a prize pack of gift certificates.

Be creative! It could be dresses, flowers, table settings, jewelry, hair designs or even cake! The winners will be announced June 5 and again Sept. 25 via ShopCanton social media: Facebook.com/ShopCanton; Twitter.com/ShopCanton; Instagram.com/ShopCanton ShopCanton.org.

SEND US YOUR BUSINESS NEWS

The *Observer* accepts news items for our Business Briefs column. Email information to editor Joanne Maliszewski at jmaliszews@hometownlife.com. Include contact information. Photos are welcome.

Ribbon-cutting

Join the Canton Chamber of Commerce as it welcomes new business, Canton Brew Works, 8521 N. Lilley, at a ribbon-cutting at 4 p.m. Friday, May 15.

Low flying

ITC of Novi will conduct its semi-annual aerial patrols of high-voltage transmission towers and lines in southeast Michigan from approximately May 18-29, weather permitting. The helicopter patrols are conducted to provide an overall status of the overhead transmission system that is operated by ITC's Michigan operating entities, ITC Transmission and Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC.

The aerial inspections in southeast Michigan will cover the area from Lansing, south to the Ohio border and east to the Lake St. Clair area, including all or parts of Ingham, Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Wayne and Monroe counties.

These twice-a-year patrols are a North American Electrical Reliability Corp. requirement for ITC's operations, maintenance and vegetation management functions and are in line with ITC's model for operational excellence. They include inspections of steel towers, wood poles, conductors (wires), insulators and other equipment. Crews check for damaged or worn equipment and vegetation hazards.

The inspection flights are often conducted at low altitudes to allow accurate visual inspection of equipment for lightning damage, wear or other potential problems. This is normal procedure, so there is no cause for alarm if a low-flying helicopter is sighted near transmission lines. The flights began May 4 in western Michigan and will cover nearly all of the Lower Peninsula, concluding in northern Michigan approximately June 26.

Plymouth chamber

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce will offer the following events:

May 20: Multi-chamber luncheon, featuring Olympia Entertainment's president and CEO Tom Wilson. The event runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The cost is $30.

May 26: Business Development Workshop: "Am I Telling or Am I Selling" by Greg Coyne, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. Free.

Plymouth Community Development extends hours for summer season

The city of Plymouth Community Development Department is extending business hours to better serve customers during the busy summer construction season.

Contractors, builders and residents will be able to pick up and apply for building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical permits at 7 a.m. beginning Tuesday, May 26. The office is currently open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Community Development Department is hoping the extended office hours will make it easier for contractors and residents to get a jump on the business day. The extended hours will last through Labor Day.

According to Community Development Director John Buzuvis, "The goal of the extended hours is to be more responsive to our customers' needs by helping builders, contractors and residents get the paperwork done and get to the job site sooner."

There's no risk investing in higher education

Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Congratulations to all high school graduates. Graduating from high school is a milestone that we should pause and celebrate. I say pause, because my hope is the majority will continue to pursue their education.

Despite the challenges (financing) of continuing one's education, it is an investment that will pay off over time. Unfortunately, those who do not pursue their education will be locked into low-paying jobs with little opportunity.

I write about this because with high school graduation come gifts.

When I graduated from high school, cash was the No. 1 gift, just as it is today. After all, it's easy and who can't use cash?

However, we all know what happens to cash. Before you know it, it's gone. That's why for this high school graduation season, I encourage gift-givers to do something different. As opposed to giving cash or a gift card, give something that will have a little more meaning. Help the graduate with their future education.

I recognize that most graduation gifts are not going to pay for even a semester of tuition. However, gifts add up. Before you know it, if more and more people band together, they can make a dent in the cost of a college education.

I recommend making a donation to the Michigan Education Savings Plan (www.misaves.com). The MESP is a Section 529 Plan that has certain tax benefits because all the money contributed will grow tax-free. The money can also be withdrawn tax-free as long as it's used for a qualified education expense, which basically includes tuition, books and other required fees. In fact, you can also use the MESP for room and board.

In addition, one of the beauties of the MESP is that it can be used for any public or private institution in the country. It's not limited to Michigan schools.

For those who are making larger high school graduation gifts, you can open your own MESP for the graduate or another 529 Plan through Vanguard or Fidelity. However, for people who are not making large gifts, it would make sense for them to contribute into an established MESP.

High school graduates are entering into a very competitive and challenging world, where education is very needed and very expensive. Help reduce the financial burden on a graduate and send a strong message on the value of continuing education.

Congratulations, graduate, on a job well done.

Education is the only investment I can think of that has no risk.

Good luck.

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

OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEW

Turnaround honorees deserve applause

Last week, 23 Plymouth-Canton Community Schools students were honored for literally turning around their lives — and their academic futures. What's really neat about this group of students is that, at such young ages, they have developed skills for recognizing hurdles and finding a way over them.

The students were recognized at the 19th annual Turnaround Achievement Awards. The event has been sponsored for as many years by Canton's Super Bowl, whose owners, Mark and Diane Voight, have shown their commitment to education, to a special group of kids and to the community.

During the two-hour event, teachers and other school staff approached the podium with the student they nominated. If anyone has ever doubted the commitment and dedication of public school teachers, think again. These staff members recognized problems in students and worked diligently — as did parents — to set the kids on the right track.

The end result clearly was a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in the students, ranging from elementary to high school.

More than that, the pride and love these school district staff members have for their students couldn't be missed as many had tears in their eyes as they explained their nominations. The students were no less in awe of, and full of affection for, their teachers, family and others.

As in all the past years during which Plymouth and Canton students have been recognized for changing their behavior, attitudes, focus and, in the end, their lives, the 2015 honorees were no different. With support and encouragement, the students have opened new doors of opportunity for themselves.

Just think for a moment how tough it is for adults — with plenty of life experience — to make even the slightest change in their lives for the better. Imagine what it takes for a first-grader to change an attitude, behavior or to re-focus their attention.

Their efforts are unbelievable. Let's give the Turnaround honorees a big round of applause. They deserve it.

JOANNE MALISZEWSKI

Salem High School student Amanda Bates jokes with her teacher Kelly Giromini and Allie Suffety, Salem assistant principal, as Bates is recognized for her turnaround achievements.

LETTERS

Stop questioning integrity

My name is Gary Winters and I am the store manager at the local Busch's store in Plymouth. I have proudly had the pleasure to work with Ron Edwards and Plymouth Township since 1998 in assisting with securing product, along with being a sponsor for the annual fireworks and Fourth of July picnic.

We were one of the first businesses that Ron contacted in 1998 to find support for the hometown Fourth of July picnic. I found Ron to be very sincere and extremely excited about creating an event that would be free to the general public and something that both he and Plymouth Township could be proud of.

I personally saw the effort that Ron has put in every year and the tireless effort on his part and that of others who work together as a team to put on an amazing picnic. Behind the scenes, Ron will often work early and late hours to meet with business partners and local residents who are more than willing to support both the picnic and annual fireworks that began in 2008.

If it weren't for the hard-working effort of Ron and his team, these events would never have grown to the size and magnitude of what they have come to be. I have attended several fireworks shows in my life and the fireworks that Plymouth Township puts on are absolutely amazing for the size of community this is.

In closing, I think it might behoove your paper to consider writing a front page article on the events after they take place and how proud the community is about these events rather than questioning the integrity of the people who make this happen year in and year out.

Gary Winters
Busch's, Plymouth Township

GUEST COLUMN

Help preserve historic Starkweather School site

Can you name, within city limits, one piece of publicly owned historic property which city officials rededicated as such, to hold in public trust for all time?

I believe the Starkweather School site is as important to Plymouth as are the post office murals. History bears witness to this publicly created art, as did residents by a 4-1 margin in a 1926 city-wide election. Can anyone name a historic and locally created public works project that was approved by an 80-percent vote? Not even the old high school bears this distinction.

Daniel Sabo
GUEST COLUMNIST

Old Village is historically important. Henry Ford thought so, too, given two structures he felt were important enough to purchase and move to Greenfield Village. This is why I believe that, if the former school property is to be turned over to private interests, it should be decided by a city-wide election instead of by a handful of appointed and elected officials.

Unfortunately, city officials, some local businesses and preservationists apparently prefer otherwise. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools has allowed this historic property to fall into a poor state.

Oak window frames, (now antique) tiled fireplace, bay windows, frontage of the site, which is shown on 1800s county atlases to be a public square — all have fallen. This despite the recent $100 million bond approval awarded to P-CCS for major construction work outside of the city. It is very sad that, instead of turning the property over to whom it rightfully belongs — residents — the Plymouth City Commission and city planners, in their coordinated efforts, prefer to promote a high-density housing project on public historic land.

Plymouth has two pieces of major public historic green space left. One is Kellogg Park. The other is in Old Village. There is an opportunity here. Elected officials and residents could set aside a historic building and historic public green space for all time.

Long ago, Plymouth relinquished Riverside Park to the Wayne County Parks system. Green space in back of the school is one last sliver of land left that could be re-purposed and preserved for everyone.

Opportunities like this do not come very often and, once decisions like these are made, generally are irreversible. I believe this is the first and last opportunity residents will have to make such a choice – that is, if elected officials allow them to.

There has been a lot of talk lately about "branding." I can tell you something about "branding." There is another recently approved project called "Starkweather Station" on the edge of where I grew up in historic Old Village. So named, according to public record, for William and Keziah, my great-great-great grandparents, who built a log school house there.

City and township are often "branded" as historic. I ponder how city planners, city commissioners, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and business leaders can continue to "brand" the city of Plymouth as historic, while allowing the only major piece of historic public property to become gobbled up for private use, something for which it was never intended.

To quote my grandfather Karl Starkweather from his May 7, 1926, *Plymouth Mail* article: "We do not want our children to be brought up in flats, apartment houses and congested areas in order to be near the centralized school. Builders tell us that when a new family head with growing children comes to town, he locates his home as near to a school as possible. He would rather drive several miles to work and have his children near a school, then to have the situation reversed."

I would like to echo the words of my grandfather by suggesting adults and children do not want more congestion and housing projects in historic neighborhoods and would prefer more green space open to the public and historic public buildings re-purposed for public use.

Yes, some change is good. However, I believe the kind of change to the city that is being proposed is change the city can do without and would cause long-term harm to a neighborhood that approaches two centuries in age.

In my opinion, P-CCS has lost all moral right to retain the building, given that last August, board members were willing to see it torn down by a 6-0 margin. Since they clearly no longer want it, they should give it back to whom it rightfully belongs — the people. Or let the people decide.

As city leaders and residents ponder the original question, I hope they realize this is their first and last chance to fight for and preserve something as important for the public good, for all time. I hope history will show that today's residents make as wise a choice as did their predecessors 89 years ago. Whatever the outcome, history will be made.

Daniel B. Sabo, a Taylor resident, is the grandson of Karl Starkweather. He grew up in the Starkweather home in Plymouth's Old Village, attended Starkweather School for six years and is a Plymouth-Canton Community Schools graduate.

OUR VIEW

When it's the real deal, are you prepared?

We're all used to hearing the testing of tornado sirens at 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month, but did that one Wednesday, April 15, throw you off?

That test was in recognition of Severe Weather Awareness Week, but if you didn't know that, did you look up in the sky and think, what if?

What if it's not a test? What are you going to do? Where do you go? Where are your children? How do you contact them? What's their school's emergency dismissal policy?

The list of questions is virtually endless, but the time to figure out the answers is before a twister is heading your way.

So are you prepared?

Planning starts with familiarizing yourself with the community's warning system and monitoring it. Learn the difference between sirens for a tornado watch and a tornado warning.

Severe thunderstorms often precede tornadoes and are a signal to turn on the radio or TV for current emergency information. If a **tornado watch** is issued, it means tornadoes are likely to occur in the area. Be prepared to take shelter quickly, check supply kits and continue monitoring broadcasts for updates.

A **tornado warning** indicates an imminent threat – a tornado has been sighted visually or by radar – and you need to take shelter immediately.

Draw a floor plan of your home and illustrate and discuss how to get to shelter from every room. Indicate locations of first-aid kits and fire extinguishers and show how to use them. Show where valves and switches for gas, electricity and water are located and show how to turn them off. Make sure you have a supply of batteries on hand for flashlights and radios.

Beyond 9-1-1, create a list of important phone numbers – insurance agent, utility companies, neighbors, landlord or property manager. Make another list of medications, identification numbers for vehicles (cars, boats, etc.), banking account numbers and credit card account numbers and phone numbers.

We all have vital documents – insurance policies, Social Security cards, vehicle titles, birth certificates – that need to be stored in a fire- and water-proof safe.

You can't eliminate every risk, but you can make your house safer. Do a walk-through of your home and make it tornado-ready. Store toxic materials safely. Secure large items (such as a bookcase) that might fall. Remove heavy items from shelves more than three feet high. Move beds and chairs away from windows, picture frames and mirrors.

Business owners need to be just as prepared as homeowners for a tornado. Employees need to be trained and familiar with emergency plans. Devise a system for knowing who is in the building and account for all – workers and customers – arriving in the shelter. In advance, assign duties to workers (and alternates) and create checklists.

There are legal requirements for an Emergency Action Plan for some businesses; check with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration to make sure you're in compliance.

There is a wealth of information available online to help plan for an emergency. The American Red Cross, NOAA and FEMA have developed a preparedness guide and it's a great place to start.

Even if your family and business have plans in place, you need to get those out now and refresh everyone involved. Plan, equip, train and exercise. Don't wait until it's too late.

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Vietnam War memorial coming to Northville High School

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The Wall will be set up at Northville High School, located at 45700 Six Mile Road.

The Vietnam War Memorial Wall is coming to Northville.

As part of the sixth annual Northville High School Baseball Armed Forces Day, "The Wall That Heals" is stopping at NHS as part of its national tour exhibition. This wall was created by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to travel to communities across the United States as a healing tool for veterans and families, as well as an education resource for others.

It's a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"This is a huge honor for us to have the wall stopping here in Northville," said NHS varsity baseball assistant coach Bill Flohr, who is helping to coordinate the event along with other local supporters, such as the VFW and American Legion.

The goal of bringing The Wall to communities throughout the country allows those enshrined on the memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit provides thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing The Wall to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

It will also be accompanied by a mobile education center that tells the story of the Vietnam War era and The Wall. The exhibition will bring the experience of Vietnam to Northville and will provide an opportunity for students and community to gain a heightened awareness of the impact and legacy of the Vietnam War.

Monetary donations are needed to help fund the wall's visit. Those interested can make checks payable to NHS Baseball Memo-Freedom Center or go to http://www.gofundme.com/kh1th4.

NHS Baseball's Armed Forces Day will start at 11 a.m. May 16 with a special ceremony and a baseball doubleheader baseball to follow.

The wall will be on display May 13-17 at NHS (45700 Six Mile Road), with opening ceremonies at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

For additional information, email info@precisionbaseballone.com or contact Flohr at 248-761-9694

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Garden expo offers tips for growing plants and keeping good bugs

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Four Seasons Garden Club in South Lyon and Willow Greenhouse in Salem Township are joining forces for a gardening expo May 16. Pictured are (from left) John Keast, Jenni Zimmer, Ruth Ann Adler and Nick Zimmer.

A local nursery and garden club have teamed up to offer tips for plant lovers during a free garden expo packed with speakers, demonstrations, workshops, craft sales and children's activities.

The first-time event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Willow Greenhouse, 7839 Curtis Road, in Salem Township.

Members of the Four Seasons Garden Club of South Lyon and Nick Zimmer, owner of Willow Greenhouse, have packed the day with garden programs for all ages. Garden expert Janet Macunovich will demonstrate the best ways to tackle spring pruning projects.

The expo is a convenient way for the club and the greenhouse to promote gardening, said John Keast, Four Seasons president.

The day's events include:

» 10:15-11 a.m., Joyce Schuelke explains how to bring butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden

» 11-11:30 a.m., Kathy Hanson will talk about how to attract birds to your garden

» 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Zimmer teaches everything you need to know about good bugs and bad bugs

» 12:15-1 p.m., Zimmer will demonstrate how to master container gardening, with a chance to make one

» 1:15-2 p.m., Jennie Zimmer will bring fairy gardens to life

» 2-3 p.m., Macunovich discusses spring pruning

» 3:15-4 p.m., Paul Volmering talks about the dos and don'ts of composting

Vendors will sell garden art and master gardeners will be available to answer questions.

Container gardens can be beautiful, bountiful and are ideal for people who don't have land to plant, said Jennie Zimmer, Nick Zimmer's mom and greenhouse manager. The demonstration will show how to grow your favorite vegetables in a beautiful centerpiece that can also be used to decorate your yard.

"We want to make it easy for people to pick out their own plants, make it attractive and realize that it's not hard," Jennie Zimmer said.

Natural projects

Holding a two-foot flower made from plastic cups, sturdy twigs and bottle caps, Four Seasons treasurer Ruth Ann Adler said the children's craft represents the recycle, reuse and re-purpose philosophy.

While the expo doesn't have a specific theme, recycling and natural growing methods will be common threads heard throughout the day. Nick Zimmer's 10,000-square-foot greenhouse uses natural growing methods and is pesticide-free.

He pointed to rows of hanging baskets, explaining that each one contains a pouch with "good bugs" that keep out the bad guys. When customers take home their basket, they also leave with a "breeding station" for the good bugs.

Zimmer took over the greenhouse in spring 2013 and is open Easter through Christmas.

"I'm excited to get to know South Lyon better," Zimmer said, adding that he connected with the Four Season Garden Club while looking for a way to get more involved in the community. "I want to give something back."

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COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

GVSU ATHLETICS

Plymouth High School alum Mike Nadratowski is putting the finishing touches on a standout baseball career at Grand Valley State University.

'GRAND' CAREER

Plymouth alum Nadratowski closing out stellar baseball career with Lakers

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Mike Nadratowski's voice perked up over the telephone when talking about how two Plymouth High School classmates just signed free agent deals with National Football League teams.

Nadratowski is another member of the Class of 2011 who has made a name for himself in athletics in the years following graduation, crafting a stellar four-year baseball career at Grand Valley State University.

"I think I made a lot of people proud, from my hometown and my high school," Nadratowski said. "Also it's great to see other athletes from my grad class, like Brennen Beyer and Kyle Brindza, make it a long way.

Nadratowski

"It's really cool to see how well our graduating class of athletes has done. It's something pretty cool that I'll always look back on."

Beyer and Brindza signed rookie free-agent contracts with Baltimore and Detroit, respectively.

The 21-year-old Nadratowski also has done the hometown proud during his four-year career as a Laker — which, incidentally, is not completed just yet.

Sunday, the fleet-footed center fielder and lead-off hitter went 3-for-6 to help his team (34-16) defeat Ashland 15-6 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship game.

His efforts throughout the tournament (.450 average) garnered him a spot on the all-tourney team.

Thursday, Nadratowski and his teammates — including Novi alum and Lakers all-time hits leader Kevin Zak — will begin play as the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Midwest Regional in St. Charles, Mo.

Since his freshman year (2012), the Division II Lakers have enjoyed plenty of conference and tournament success and Nadratowski's play has been a major factor.

Lofty numbers

Nadratowski is the GVSU career leader in stolen bases with 76 as of Sunday. He also ranks among in the top 10 in career games (215), runs (186) and hits (265).

"I honestly didn't know," Nadratow-

See LAKERS, Page B3

GIRLS SOCCER

'Cats grab another title with shutout

Plymouth wins third KLAA South crown in four years

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Injuries haven't stopped Plymouth's varsity girls soccer team.

And neither could Livonia Franklin, which fell 4-0 Tuesday night to the host Wildcats on Plymouth's senior night.

With the convincing victory on a cool, rainy night, Plymouth clinched the KLAA South Division for the third time in four years and now visits KLAA Central champion Northville for the conference title Thursday.

"It was a really great feeling, especially since last time we played them we tied 0-0 and it was super frustrating," Plymouth senior midfielder Hope Sheffield said about clinching on senior night. "To finally get those goals in the back of the net was really awesome."

Plymouth (9-5-1, 8-1-1 in the KLAA South) continues to keep rolling despite recently losing two key defenders to injury — senior Erin Winters and junior Megan McCurry.

See SOCCER, Page B4

MICHAEL VASILNEK

Plymouth senior Hope Sheffield (left) battles for the ball against Livonia Franklin's Anna Dodane.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem freshman Morgan Overaitis has made enough of a splash this season to offer a verbal commitment to the University of Michigan.

PREP SOFTBALL

Morgan's mission: Salem now, U-M later

Rocks frosh Overaitis gives verbal commitment to play softball at Michigan

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The good ones arrive early, or so they say.

That seems to be the case with Salem freshman softball player Morgan Overaitis, who already is primed to someday become a Michigan Wolverine.

Overaitis has already given a verbal commitment to the University of Michigan to play softball there, even though her high school career is in its early stages.

"It's an amazing opportunity to be offered from any school as a freshman," Overaitis, 15, wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "Michigan is a great school with a great education and softball program.

"I am beyond ecstatic to go to my dream school and play the game I love."

Verbal commitments are not binding for the player or the university, so a lot can happen in Overaitis' case between now and her senior season (2018). Student-athletes are permitted to sign official national letters of intent once they become a senior.

With the Rocks, Overaitis is hitting the daylights out of the ball while also pitching and playing wherever head coach Bonnie Southerland needs her.

"That is extremely unusual, but she's a pretty phenomenal player," Southerland said about Overaitis committing to U-M so early. "I can totally see why they were looking at her and they verbally signed her.

"She's a great kid; she can play just about any position out here. She's got an amazing bat, great range, great arm, good speed. She's the real deal and she's the whole package, so I can see why they did that."

Overaitis probably won't be pitching for the Wolverines, however. She said she was recruited by the Wolverines for her batting prowess, as well as her ability to play shortstop.

Young vet

It doesn't bother the daughter of Michelle and Craig Overaitis that Michigan pursued her at such a young age, nor does she think her early college decision will have a negative impact on the rest of her prep career.

"The recruiting process has changed dramatically over the years," she wrote. "Coaches are recruiting sooner and sooner. They need to get their players early on, so that other schools don't also try and recruit them."

As for playing at Salem,

See OVERAITIS, Page B3

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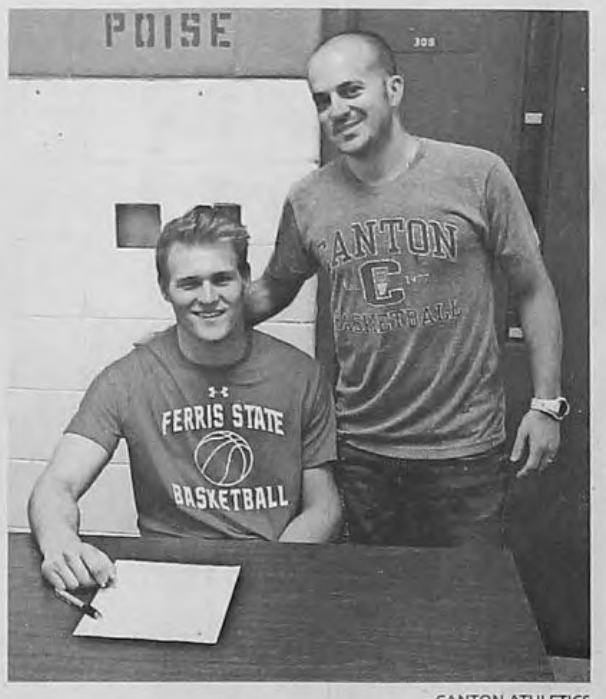
COLLEGE SIGNING

It's Ferris State for Williams

Ultimate Canton competitor signs with Division II Bulldogs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer



CANTON ATHLETICS
Canton senior point guard Greg Williams and Chiefs varsity boys basketball coach Jimmy Reddy celebrate Williams signing to play at Ferris State.

What's in a name? Perhaps the clue as to where Canton senior point guard Greg Williams was going to play college basketball all along.

The Bulldogs of Ferris State University recently signed Williams, who is a fierce competitor on the court and an athlete who knows what he wants and goes after it – just like a bulldog.

Williams, named to the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Class A all-state and all-conference team after leading the Chiefs to the KLAA South Division crown, looked poised to go to Schoolcraft College — where ex-Canton teammate Davon Taylor had a successful freshman year in 2014-15.

Then Ferris State ramped up its interest and Williams decided to go the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference route.

With the Bulldogs, Williams will follow in the footsteps of another former Chiefs player, standout point guard Dietrich Lever.

"I am so happy for Greg that he found a spot that he felt comfortable with and where the coaches really wanted him," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "It is not easy to play Division II basketball, especially in that conference.

"But I know that Greg is going to be successful there because of his high skill level and because he is the ultimate competitor."

According to the 6-3 Williams, a campus visit to Ferris State made him feel at ease about spending the next four years of his life there.

"I went on a visit to Ferris and immediately liked it and felt comfortable," Williams said. "The coaches were very cool and honest people who made me feel comfortable and at home. Then I played an open gym tryout with the team for about an hour and played outstanding and I was offered the spot.

"The team was cool and played at a high level and felt like I was playing back at Canton with the style and tempo they play. It's the perfect fit."

Williams added that following Lever at Ferris State is "pretty cool. I'm just excited that my goal was to play Division II ball in the GLIAC and it happened. And I can't wait to be a part of their program."

Reddy also likes having a Canton-Ferris connection.

"It's really neat that he is going to Ferris State, because Dietrich Lever just got done playing there so we have kind of a pipeline of our players going to Ferris State now," he said.

Williams, who also was a stellar quarterback at Canton, averaged 20 points, 4.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.0 steals per contest.

In addition to the other accolades, his outstanding senior season earned him a spot on the All-Area first team.

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PREP SOFTBALL

DAVE PAYNE
Canton's varsity softball team celebrates after winning Saturday's annual Canton Classic. The Chiefs defeated Plymouth 6-1 in the championship game.

Salem attack stops Chiefs' momentum

Rocks rout Canton 13-2 in makeup softball match-up

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

DAVE PAYNE
Launching a home run during the Canton Classic is Chiefs player Val Lentine.

The buzz from winning the Canton Classic didn't last long for the Chiefs, who took it on the chin Tuesday against Salem.

On a cool, breezy afternoon, the visiting Rocks came out swinging in the first inning against Canton starting pitcher Mackenna Payne and didn't let up — posting a 13-2 varsity softball victory.

"They just weren't focused today," said Chiefs head coach Al White, who didn't have much to say about the lopsided defeat to the campus rival.

Salem (17-5) got off to a 1-0 lead in the first inning, when freshman shortstop Morgan Overaitis (2-for-4, three runs, two RBIs) doubled and trotted home on a hit by junior catcher Kara Hutchison (3-for-5, two RBIs).

The Rocks chased Payne in the second and senior reliever Hannah Shuler could not stem the tide as Salem upped its lead to 3-0.

Salem senior Maranda Armstead (2-for-4, run, two RBIs) doubled to left to bring home freshman first baseman Makayleigh Silverman for the first run of the inning.

Then, with Shuler in the circle, sophomore third baseman Mel Anderson (3-for-4, two runs, RBI) smacked a two-base hit to left-center for another run.

"It's so fun to have a team that we all pick each other up," Armstead said. "We're all hitting well and we're confident that whoever goes up to the plate is going to get a hit."

Salem's fifth player with multiple hits was sophomore second baseman Kristin Mihalic, who went 2-for-2 and scored twice.

With a quick three-run lead, Salem freshman pitcher Maddy Rosiewicz got busy dispatching the Chiefs, with the only wrinkle being a two-run third to cut the Rocks' lead to 3-2.

Canton closed the gap on Olivia Grant's two-run homer to left, scoring Sydney Dawson (who doubled).

Dawson was the lone Chief with multiple hits, going 2-for-3. In addition to the Grant home run, other Canton hits were tallied by Izzy Dawson, Halee Warren, Nicole Clark and Val Lentine.

"(Rosiewicz) pitched just a wonderful game," Salem head coach Bonnie Southerland said.

The key inning as far as White was concerned was the top of the fifth, when Salem scratched across two runs on a fielder's choice and Armstead's single.

Salem then poured it on, with three runs in the sixth (featuring an RBI single by Hutchison) and five more in the seventh.

Overaitis stroked a two-run triple to left field and Hutchison followed with another hit to make it 11-2.

"Everybody swung the bat very well," Southerland said. "They just came ready to play today.

"We got a lot of talent, but the thing is we're really young. Seeing what they did today, they got a promising future out here. I only have one senior, so we're strong and we're deep. This year is a year to get prepared for what the future holds."

Other Salem players to record hits Tuesday were Rosiewicz, junior center fielder Jamie Squires and Silverman.

Salem still had a chance to win the KLAA Central. The Rocks (10-4 in the division) were slated to play South Lyon East in a Wednesday twinbill; division-leading Novi (11-3) was to face South Lyon (8-5).

The Rocks' lone senior, Armstead, smiled when talking about passing the baton to such a talented, young group for 2016 and beyond.

"It's great. It feels good that I know these girls are going to get it done next year," Armstead said.

'Classic' Chiefs

Canton captured the annual Canton Classic Softball Tournament on Saturday, defeating Plymouth 6-1 in the championship game behind a complete game pitching performance from Payne.

She only gave up three hits (one to her Plymouth pitching counterpart, Mikayela Marciniak) and an unearned run.

Sparking the Chiefs' offense was Lentine, who homered and went 3-for-4.

Payne helped her own cause, going 3-for-4 and driving in a run.

Also chipping in with two hits each were Grant and Shuler.

"We played very well; we played good all day Saturday," White said.

Canton topped a field that included Plymouth, Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Ladywood, Belleville, Tecumseh and Macomb Dakota.

Earlier in the day, the Chiefs earned a 3-2 victory over the Blazers while also defeating Stevenson and Tecumseh.

The clutch performer in the 6-2 win over Tecumseh was Izzy Dawson, who doubled in the first and third and added a single — the latter to bring home sister Sydney Dawson.

Shuler earned the win, going seven innings and giving up just five hits and one walk. She also contributed a two-run double.

White said the one-run victory over Ladywood was a big one in the march to the tournament championship.

Canton trailed 2-1 in the fifth when Warren hit a two-run homer to score Izzy Dawson and put the Chiefs in front.

Once again, Shuler threw a complete game.

The Chiefs also blanked Stevenson, 5-0, behind Payne's shutout. She gave up just one hit and fanned eight.

Leading the offense was Shuler (3-for-4, two RBIs) while Payne (2-for-3) and Grant (2-for-4, two runs) chipped in.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at www.plymouthtwp.org under Agendas/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Regular Meeting dates in 2015: May 19 , June 16, July 21, August 18, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 17 and December 15.
Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Publish: May 14, 2015

PLYMOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

It's official: Brandon steps aside

He opts to leave head coaching job, citing 'around-the-clock stress' and family considerations

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nick Brandon thought about continuing as coach of Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team, even after he was recently promoted to an administrative position in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

But after mulling over the possibilities, Brandon released a statement Monday to players and their families that he is stepping down from the Wildcats head coaching job after leading the squad to its first-ever KLAA South Division championship.

Brandon emphasized that he has "great interest in continuing with the program in a lesser role or capacity, but that decision is one for the next head coach."

Plymouth High School athletic director Kyle Meteyer now will look to replace Brandon, who spent only two seasons at the varsity helm.

"I am 100-percent confident that (Meteyer) will make the right decisions to keep the program moving in the direction it currently is," Brandon said.

In his statement, he cited increasing demands and pressures involved with coaching that he didn't think he could continue to handle, as well as wanting to spend more time with his family, especially his two young daughters.

"Being a varsity head coach is an incredible amount of tireless work and much of the work involves things that others don't see," Brandon's statement continued. "Many also do not realize the intense pressure or around-the-clock stress that coaching brings — especially to those who are incredibly competitive, and those who know me understand the high level of competitiveness that I possess.

"It is always essential to be self-aware, to know your limits and to avoid selfishness in the genuine attempt for the greater good. These are all factors that have led to this decision, which can be best summed up as that I just simply know I cannot do the job anymore to the level of energy and effort that it deserves."

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Nick Brandon, who resigned his position as Plymouth varsity girls basketball coach, poses with seniors from the 2014-15 team.

Family man

Brandon, who also thanked coaches, administrators and parents for their support over his five seasons with the program (he coached the JV before taking over the varsity in 2013-14), underscored the importance of needing to spend more quality time with his family.

"I also hope people understand that family needs to come before anything else in the world," Brandon said. "And I have two young daughters who need their dad to be around and available more than I have been able to be during the past few years."

Brandon, who is taking a marketing/public relations position in the district, perhaps viewed his players as family members, too, and obviously struggled with the decision to leave the team.

"I went into coaching to have a positive impact on student-athletes and help them learn important life lessons through the great game of basketball," Brandon said. "First and foremost, I want the players that I had the privilege to coach to know that I will never forget them, nor will I forget all they did to make Plymouth girls basketball the program it is today — one I hope that all involved are very proud to be a part of.

"Plymouth girls basketball is about players, not coaches. And I have full confidence that the players will carry on the strong tradition that I have worked so hard to help build during the past few years."

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PREP ROUNDUP

Trosper earns medalist honors at M&M invite

Canton finishes fourth among 24 teams

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The M&M Golf Invitational held Saturday at Hudson Mills Metropark was a sweet one for Canton senior co-captain Donnie Trosper.

Although the Chiefs finished fourth among 24 teams with 305 strokes (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central won with a team score of 288), Trosper was individual medalist with a 3-under par 68.

Trosper posted the lowest score out of 120 golfers.

Other outstanding performances by the Chiefs were turned in by Noah Lindlbauer (74) and Brian Oldani (78). Also solid were Josh Johnson (85) and Phillip Conrad (87).

Also taking part in the tourney was Salem, which finished 22nd with a team tally of 355.

Both Hayden Winch and Woodie Mashni had strong showings for Salem, each registering 85. Other finishers were Shawn Weldon (91), Adam Marcero (94) and Jake Stropes (96).

» In a KLAA Central dual match against Novi at Hudson Mills, Salem fell by a 155-178 score.

Winch and Mashni led Salem (44 each), while Weldon and Marcero both tallied 45. Contributing 48 for the Rocks was Stropes.

Medalist was Novi's Bryan Fegert, who scored 36.

» Canton and Salem competed in Monday tournaments.

The Chiefs shot 337 to place eighth out of 12 teams at the Huron Valley Invitational at Prestwick Village Golf Course. Conrad led with 80. Other scorers included Chris Dooley and Oldani (83 each), Dominic Dimaya (91), Brenden Chan (96) and Curt Yun (99).

The Rocks came in 18th at the Birmingham Invitational at Wyndgate Country Club. Marcero shot 87. Other Salem scorers included Matt Schaumburger (90), Weldon (91), Travis Stott (96) and Stropes (101).

» Canton edged Livonia Stevenson, 152-160, in a Tuesday dual match at Fox Hills. Medalist was Trosper, with an even-par 35, while other finishers were Lindlbauer (38), Hunter Schlampp (39), Oldani (40), Dooley (41) and Josh Johnson (44).

» Meanwhile, Salem dropped a 169-177 dual match Tuesday to Livonia Churchill at Whispering Willows. For the Rocks, Marcero and Weldon tallied 43 each. Other finishers included Winch (45), Jake Lenders (46), Mashni (48) and Schaumburger (52). Medalist was Churchill's Sam Spayd, who shot 38.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton's Donnie Trosper won Saturday's M&M Invitational.

Girls tennis

In the KLAA 'A' tournament Saturday at Brighton High School, Northville captured the crown with 33 points.

In fourth place with 13 points was Plymouth, led by freshman Kara Hug, a finalist at No. 4 singles before losing by default to Northville's Neha Chava. It was Hug's first defeat of the season.

The Mustangs won all but one flight, losing only No. 5 doubles to Novi.

Plymouth reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles (Amber Tseng lost 6-0, 6-0 to Northville's Shanoli Kumar), No. 1 doubles (Northville's Anika Mukherji-Reeshma Kumar defeated Teahn Horton-Alexa Earls, 6-0, 6-1), No. 2 doubles (Northville's Claudia Ma-Paige Baal swept Emma Mullenax-Justine Ko, 6-0, 6-0) and No. 4 doubles (Novi's Shakila Khan-Katie Telder earned a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Arwa Harawala-Kirya Shah).

SALEM 9, CANTON 0: In a Kensington Conference girls tennis crossover May 5, victorious in singles flights for the Rocks (6-3 overall) were Chelsea Yu, Bianca Ghita, Madison Kulik and Kylie Enright (flights Nos. 1-4, respectively).

Likewise, Salem won all the doubles flights, as follows: No. 1, Ashley Henderson-Grace Martin; No. 2, Alyssa Bucciarelli-Alayna Schwartz; No. 3, Emily The-Raegan Henderson; No. 4, Rachel Godfrey-Coring Ghita; and No. 5, Trina Pal-Sarah Martin.

Baseball

WILDCATS WIN TWO: The host Plymouth Wildcats swept a Saturday doubleheader against East Lansing, by identical 11-1 scores.

In Game 1, Andrew Hejka, Pete Carravallah and Andrew Jossey each had two hits, while Patrick Downing cracked his fourth homer of the season. Pitching four innings for the win was Taylor Burke.

The second game featured Evan Claggett's 3-for-4 day at the plate, with Kevin Anthony going 2-for-4. Kyle Wolter hit his first home run of the season to back the strong pitching of Owen Spryszak.

» On Tuesday, Plymouth lost 2-1 to Dearborn Divine Child to spoil five innings of one-hit baseball by Wildcats pitcher Josh Sulak.

Cameron Stella knocked in the Wildcats' only run, going 1-for-2. Also helping Plymouth's cause were Downing and Anthony, each going 1-for-3.

Anthony's single broke up a no-hit bid by Divine Child's pitcher

LAKERS

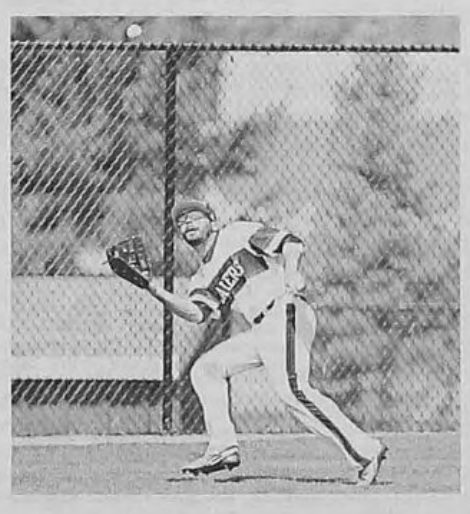
Continued from Page B1

ski said, chuckling, when asked about his lofty career rankings in those several key offensive categories. "I guess because I've been around for four years playing, I'd probably be up there somewhere."

Pressed to pick a category that means the most to him, he opted for stolen bases. GVSU assistant coach Cody Grice worked hard with Nadratowski to improve in that part of his game.

"When I got to college, probably the biggest learning curve for me was base-running," said Nadratowski, whose parents are John and Kim Nadratowski of Canton. "In high school, I could get away with a lot because of my speed. I made some mistakes that I got away with in high school that I can't get away with in college.

"So I feel like I wasn't a very good baserunner my freshman year, but fast-forward to my senior year I've learned a lot. Baserunning is something I really take pride in."



GVSU ATHLETICS
Reeling in a fly ball during a recent game is Grand Valley State center fielder Mike Nadratowski, who ranks in the top 10 in several of the school's all-time offensive categories.

Catalyst

Stats don't tell the whole story, of course. Take it from GVSU baseball head coach Jamie Detillion.

"Mike has been our lead-off hitter for four years," Detillion said. "It turns into a different kind of offense when Mike gets on base, due to the pressure he can add to a defense with his running ability."

And there's no denying how much of a catalyst Nadratowski has been with the Lakers.

"You can probably go back to a (box score) from any game in his career where the team scored a significant amount of runs," Detillion said. "In those games, it wouldn't take long to recognize he was in the middle of all the action offensively and/or a catalyst in the mix of a bunch of our big innings.

"He has been an excellent center fielder for four years for us. He is a very good defender. He has brought a lot to the table in his career here and I'm hopeful for a strong finish with him."

Full-circle

It's hard to believe the end is near when Nadratowski easily remembers the beginning of his Grand Valley journey.

"The two most important factors to me were having a chance to play right away and the education side of it," Nadratowski said. "There were other schools I had an opportunity to go to, but it didn't seem like they had faith in me, maybe red-shirt or walk on or maybe not playing until my junior year because they already had guys filled for the outfield positions.

"Grand Valley was the main place where I had an opportunity to play right away as a freshman and that's what I wanted to do."

He jumped right into the lineup as a freshman, leading the Lakers with a .414 average and winning NCBWA Midwest Region Freshman of the Year honors.

On top of that, he was comfortable with the academic aspect of the Allendale-based university and, with a 3.62 grade-point average, is a semester or so from wrapping up an economics degree.

"It's a good school, right up there with Michigan State for education, which is still very important to me," he said.

Mulling options

Baseball is, too.

The end of his Lakers career could mean Nadratowski won't record further hits, runs, stolen bases or nifty running catches.

Then again, he might find a way to keep playing one of two sports he loves (he also was a standout varsity basketball player at Plymouth).

"That's something I've been thinking about a ton lately," Nadratowski said. "Obviously, if I'm going to get picked up by somebody, one of the main options would be independent baseball, like the Frontier League. That option I've been balancing."

One gets the feeling Nadratowski is going to figure it all out just fine.

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OVERAITIS

Continued from Page B1

Overaitis stressed that her focus "will be to improve and get ready for college. I want to maintain my good grades, enjoy my school years and become a leader on and off the field."

Overaitis might be a ninth-grader, but she's no softball rookie.

She already has several seasons of high-level softball under her belt, even as she makes an important contribution to the 2015 Rocks.

In 2007, Overaitis joined the Michigan Pride and continued with that program until 2013.

At that time, she joined her current travel team, the Beverly Bandits (based in Columbus, Ohio).

"I travel three-and-a-half hours for practice during the (high school) off-season every Sunday," Overatitis noted. "I play with the Bandits in the fall, then play for high school in the spring and go back to the Bandits for the summer."

Meanwhile, Southerland said the U-M coaching staff can take solace knowing Overaitis is going to be well taken care of at Salem.

"She's going to help this team do some great things these next four years," Southerland said, "and we're going to keep her skills sharp so that she's ready for the next level."

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PREP TRACK AND FIELD RESULTS

KENSINGTON CONFERENCE MEET
May 8 at Livonia Churchill
BOYS RESULTS

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Churchill, 99.5 points; 2. Westland John Glenn, 84; 3. Northville, 76; 4. Canton, 75; 5. Salem, 72; 6. South Lyon, 54; 7. Plymouth, 45; 8. Livonia Franklin, 43; 9. Livonia Stevenson, 41.5; 10. Novi, 33; 11. Wayne Memorial, 21; 12. South Lyon East, 19.

SHOT PUT: 1. Nick Hitchcock (LS), 50 feet, 1 inch; 2. Hannik Schmitt (S), 49-8; 3. Michael Jordan (P), 48-7; 4. Deshawn Baker-Williams (WJG), 48-3.25; 5. Max DeDona (N), 47-11.5; 6. Michael Grabda (LC), 45-11; 7. Trevor Tank (SL), 45-8.5; 8. Demarco McKinney (LC), 45-3.5.

DISCUS: 1. Trent Willenborg (SLE), 166-5 (meet record); 2. Jordan (P), 154-3; 3. Baker-Williams (WJG), 151-4; 4. Hitchcock (LS), 146-8; 5. Collin Caflisch (C), 142-8; 6. Tank (SL), 137-3; 7. Schmitt (S), 136-0; 8. Austin Simpson (LC), 131-0.

POLE VAULT: 1. Nick Burkhalter (SL), 14-6; 2. Ethan Burke (LC), 13-6; 3. Caleb Guthard (LC), 13-0; 4. Andrew Koenigsknecht (C), 13-0; 5. Theodore Lang (C), 13-0; 6. Scott Sawyer (NOVI), 12-0; 7. Kyle Reppenhagen (LC), 12-0; 8. Derek Triebwasser (C), 11-6.

LONG JUMP: 1. Shakur Lockett (LC), 21-1.25; 2. Mike Licata (LS), 20-1.5; 3. Jacob Miller (S), 19-10.75; 4. Jamaraqui Reid (SL), 19-7.75; 5. (tie) Christian Sullivan (LS) and Lee Yetts (LC), 19-7.5; 7. Dhruv Patel (S), 19-7; 8. Miles Mason (S), 19-0.25.

HIGH JUMP: 1. Nathan Harris (P), 6-6; 2. Alec MacDonald (C), 6-0; 3. (tie) Patel and Allante Wheeler (S), 6-0; 5. Brett Lee (C), 6-0; 6. John Hamilton (NRV), 6-0; 7. Josh Travis (SL), 5-10; 8. Sawyer (NOVI), 5-10.

3,200-METER RELAY: 1. Churchill, 8:12.52; 2. Plymouth, 8:13.74; 3. Novi, 8:14.58; 4. Salem, 8:19.69; 5. Stevenson, 8:24.49; 6. Northville, 8:28.44; 7. Wayne, 8:36.45; 8. John Glenn, 8:41.56.

110 HURDLES: 1. Freddie Thompson (WJG), 15.44; 2. Kevin Schopa (SL), 15.63; 3. Jeremey Sheppard (LF), 15.67; 4. Tim Dulin (LC), 15.91; 5. Jemal Vaunado (C), 16.40; 6. Nathan Sudek (LS), 16.48; 7. Ryan Bragiel (LC), 16.72; 8. Steve Hartlep (SL), 17.37.

100 DASH: 1. Adam Ghabra (NRV), 11.21; 2. VerShawn Patrick (S), 11.32; 3. Montel Hood (WM), 11.33; 4. Darren Davis (C), 11.35; 5. David Graham (WJG), 11.38; 6. Jawon Thompson (WJG), 11.39; 7. Jacob Miller (S), 11.39; 8. Jacob Mallad (C), 11.41.

800 RELAY: 1. John Glenn, 1:29.46; 2. Churchill, 1:29.88; 3. Franklin, 1:31.36; 4. Salem, 1:32.06; 5. Canton, 1:32.79; 6. Stevenson, 1:34.45; 7. South Lyon, 1:34.91; 8. S.L. East, 1:35.90.

1,600 RUN: 1. Keenan Jones (LF), 4:30.59; 2. Chaz Jeffress (S), 4:33.31; 3. Jerod Allen (SL), 4:34.49; 4. Malik Jordan (WM), 4:35.47; 5. Scott MacPherson (NOVI), 4:37.74; 6. Matthew Pahl (P), 4:38.16; 7. Nathan Hall (NOVI), 4:42.55; 8. Sean McCullough (NRV), 4:43.61.

400 RELAY: 1. Salem, 43.28; 2. Churchill, 43.98; 3. John Glenn, 44.69; 4. Canton, 44.77; 5. Stevenson, 45.08; 6. S.L. East, 45.27; 7. Franklin, 45.40; 8. South Lyon, 45.41.

400 DASH: 1. Austin Hickerson (WJG), 50.27; 2. Jamal Allen (LC), 50.91; 3. Dirk Thornhill (C), 51.19; 4. Alec Przybocki (NRV), 51.76; 5. Sean Flanagan (NRV), 51.79; 6. DuJon Deacon-Brown (WM), 52.07; 7. Andrew Chant (WM), 52.08; 8. Josh Holcomb (NOVI), 52.38.

300 HURDLES: 1. Thompson (WJG), 39.09; 2. Vaunado (C), 40.64; 3. Dulin (LC), 40.69; 4. Schopa (SL), 40.78; 5. Bragiel (LC), 42.25; 6. Hartlep (SL), 42.97; 7. Jacob Waranauckas (SLE), 43.27; 8. Justin Days (NRV), 43.42.

800 RUN: 1. Jonny Dalton (P), 1:55.14; 2. Jason Ferrante (NRV), 1:55.20; 3. Jones (LF), 1:55.88; 4. Jacob Kamm (NRV), 1:57.74; 5. Matt Cohan (LC), 1:58.88; 6. Allen (SL), 2:01.45; 7. Josh Smith (SLE), 2:01.65; 8. Jeffrey Baxter (NRV), 2:03.84.

200 DASH: 1. Hickerson (WJG), 22.99; 2. Ghabra (NRV), 23.13; 3. Davis (C), 23.21; 4. Mallad (C), 23.23; 5. Carrington Smith (LC), 23.32; 6. Nathan Rodgers (LF), 23.35; 7. Ty Traylor (S), 24.09; 8. Johnathan Parker (WJG), 24.28.

3,200 RUN: 1. Joost Plaetinck (NOVI), 9:32.14; 2. Conor Naughton (NRV), 9:32.51; 3. Tony Floyd (LF), 10:00.50; 4. Ben Cracraft (NRV), 10:07.96; 5. Adam Ditri (NOVI), 10:09.22; 6. Jordan (WM), 10:09.68; 7. John Landy (NOVI), 10:10.98; 8. Adam Caruso (SLE), 10:19.52.

1,600 RELAY: 1. Northville, 3:24.39; 2. John Glenn, 3:26.12; 3. Churchill, 3:29.57; 4. Canton, 3:29.85; 5. Franklin, 3:32.48; 6. South Lyon, 3:34.95; 7. Salem, 3:35.55; 8. Stevenson, 3:38.56.

GIRLS RESULTS

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 141; 2. Salem, 99; 3. Livonia Churchill, 95; 4. Plymouth, 75; 5. Novi, 68; 6. Livonia Franklin, 40; 7. South Lyon, 37; 8. Canton, 31; 9. (tie) Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial, 22; 11. South Lyon East, 19; 12. Livonia Stevenson, 13.

SHOT PUT: 1. Emily Meier (C), 42-2.25; 2. Gabrielle Carter (LC), 38-7; 3. Shara Long (S), 33-6.5; 4. Sophia Modes (LF), 33-2.25; 5. Rebecca Falzon (S), 32-11.5; 6. Marissa Dunn (NOVI), 32-7; 7. Gabrielle Bird (SLE), 32-6.5; 8. Elisabeth Schenk (LC), 32-5.

DISCUS: 1. Meier (C), 134-2; 2. Falzon (S), 117-4; 3. Carter (LC), 116-11; 4. Long (S), 115-7; 5. Dunn (NOVI), 110-0; 6. Jessalyn Smith (SLE), 109-0; 7. Emma Hammelef (NOVI), 104-2; 8. Melissa Fular (LC), 99-6.

POLE VAULT: 1. Emma Bauer (SL), 11-0; 2. Olivia Rytarsyk (LC), 11-0; 3. Kayla Janevski (P), 4. Elisabeth Schenk (LC), 10-0; 5. Emily Caragay (P), 10-0; 6. Nicole Sokolosky (LS), 10-0; 7. Sommer Pappas (LS), 9-6; 8. Alexann Zahara (LC), 9-6.

LONG JUMP: 1. Gracie Goble (NRV), 16-1.5; 2. Carlie Fernandez (SL), 15-0; 3. Juliet Hope (LC), 15-9; 4. Kate Prisby (NOVI), 15-9; 5. Diane Senkowski (LS), 15-4.25; 6. Christy Hogue (SL), 14-11.75; 7. Emily Anderson (NRV), 14-10.25; 8. Mikaela Hille (LF), 14-8.75.

HIGH JUMP: 1. Katherine Harris (P), 5-1; 2. Bailey Brown (P), 5-0; 3. Hannah Hood-Blaxill (NOVI), 5-0; 4. Hallie Holllister (SLE), 5-0; 5. Ryan Sparks (C), 4-11; 6. Jillian Betts (P), 4-10; 7. Prisby (NOVI), 4-10; 8. (tie) Maggie Law (LS), Jessica Hogan (NRV) and Julie Wonch (LF), 4-8.

3,200 RELAY: 1. Northville, 9:45.66; 2. Churchill, 9:59.62; 3. Salem, 10:15.05; 4. Franklin, 10:32.87; 5. Stevenson, 10:38.59; 6. Novi, 10:53.47; 7. Plymouth, 11:11.05; 8. Canton, 11:15.43.

100 HURDLES: 1. Lauren Rodriguez (NRV), 15.03; 2. Aubrey Mavin (LF), 16.51; 3. Karenna Roest (NOVI), 16.65; 4. DeAnna Martynenko (NOVI), 16.66; 5. Brianna Essien (S), 17.57; 6. Kourtney Strong (LC), 17.62; 7. (tie) Aleah Rogalski (P) and Kirsty McInnes (P), 17.66.

100 DASH: 1. Anavia Battle (WM), 12.6; 2. Asia Gardner (WJG), 12.66; 3. Bryah White (LF), 12.73; 4. Shekinah Johnson (S), 12.87; 5. Odilichukwu Onwudiwe (LC), 13.12; 6. Kristen Bailey (NOVI), 13.24; 7. Madeline Kernahan (S), 13.44; 8. Erin McCallum (NRV), 13.65.

800 RELAY: 1. Northville, 1:42.63; 2. Plymouth, 1:43.37; 3. John Glenn, 1:47.66; 4. Salem, 1:47.94; 5. South Lyon, 1:47.97; 6. Canton, 1:49.46; 7. Churchill, 1:49.49; 8. Novi, 1:52.39.

1,600 RUN: 1. Lexa Barrott (NRV), 5:08.16; 2. Ana Barrott (NRV), 5:14.79; 3. Lauren Arquette (S), 5:15.85; 4. Hannah Lonergan (NOVI), 5:22.87; 5. Rachel Zimmer (NRV), 5:36.70; 6. Christina Murphy (LC), 5:38.95; 7. Kathleen George (LC), 5:40.89; 8. Madalyn Simko (S), 5:42.32.

400 RELAY: 1. Salem, 51.20; 2. Wayne, 51.31; 3. South Lyon, 51.56; 4. John Glenn, 51.64; 5. Churchill, 51.76; 6. Northville, 52.38; 7. Novi, 52.52; 8. S.L. East, 52.61.

400 DASH: 1. Shekinah Johnson (S), 58.11; 2. Lindsay Walters (NRV), 58.79; 3. Chanel Gardner (LC), 1:00.23; 4. Jewel Davis (P), 1:00.32; 5. Wonch (LF), 1:00.38; 6. Ryen Draper (P), 1:01.26; 7. Madison Swiatlowski (SL), 1:01.48; 8. Vickie Hartlep (SL), 1:02.24.

300 HURDLES: 1. Rodriguez (NRV), 46.41; 2. Roest (NOVI), 48.42; 3. Mavin (LF), 48.97; 4. Waranauckas (SLE), 50.28; 5. Strong (LC), 50.92; 6. McInnes (P), 51.08; 7. Sparks (C), 51.83; 8. Rogalski (P), 51.48.

800 RUN: 1. Kaya Knake (S), 2:16.58; 2. Lonergan (NOVI), 2:21.54; 3. Megan Gendjar (LC), 2:23.91; 4. Gabrielle Swider (LC), 2:24.25; 5. Ana Barrott (NRV), 2:24.51; 6. Emma Smith (NRV), 2:25.35; 7. Addison Mussen (LC), 2:28.73; 8. Erin O'Donnel (SLE), 2:29.24.

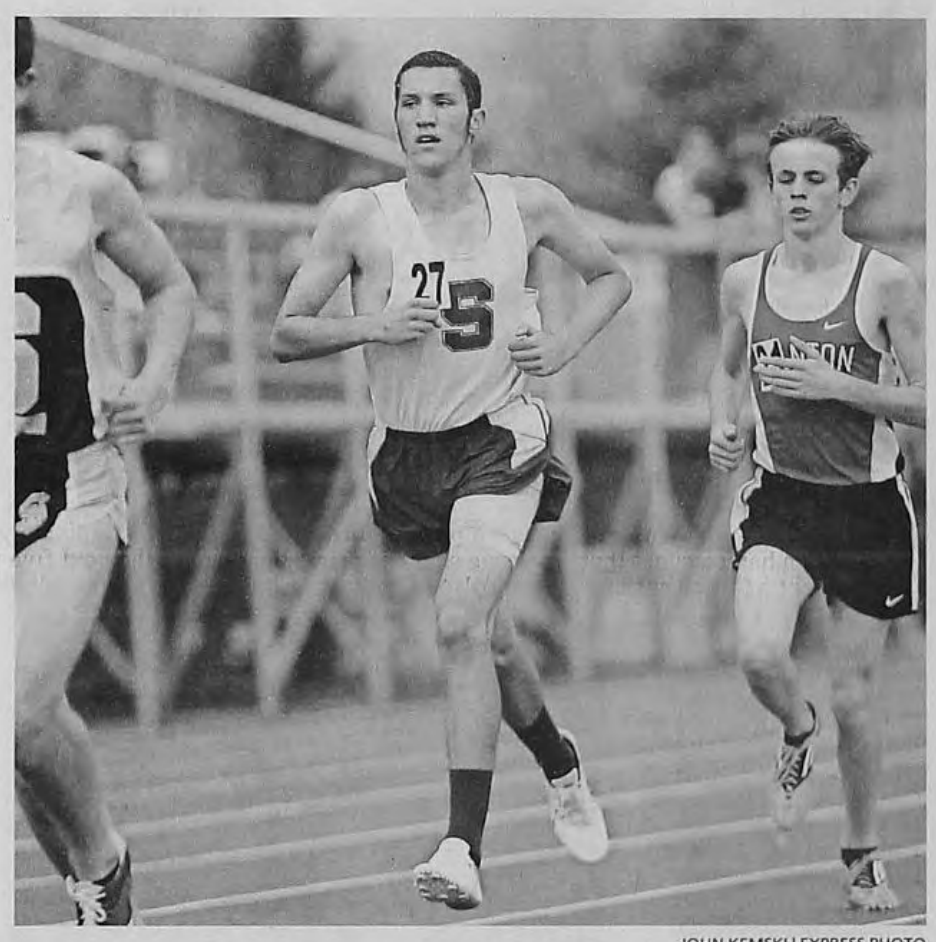
200 DASH: 1. Chloe Abbott (NRV), 25.27; 2. Davis (P), 25.94; 3. Goble (NRV), 26.05; 4. Draper (P), 26.11; 5. Battle (WM), 26.32; 6. Gardner (WJG), 26.89; 7. Onwudiwe (LC), 27.47; 8. Brynna Samuels (S), 27.55.

3,200 RUN: 1. Lexa Barrott (NRV), 11:05.95; 2. Cayla Eckenroth (NRV), 11:08.01; 3. Lauren Arquette (S), 11:25.07; 4. Kathleen George (LC), 11:41.64; 5. Emma Herrmann (NRV), 11:45.06; 6. Murphy (LC), 12:33.16; 7. Madalyn Simko (S), 12:38.04; 8. Amanda Pokryfky (LF), 12:41.34.

1,600 RELAY: 1. Northville, 3:57.05; 2. Salem, 4:10.50; 3. Plymouth, 4:12.63; 4. Novi, 4:12.94; 5. Franklin, 4:16.28; 6. South Lyon, 4:20.15; 7. S.L. East, 4:22.57; 8. Canton, 4:26.06.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

A group of runners makes its way around the bend during the May 8 Kensington Conference meet at Livonia Churchill.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem junior Griffin Skaff looks to stay a step in front of a Canton runner during the Kensington Conference meet.

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SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

"Other people have to step up and fill in," Wildcats head coach Jeff Neschich said. "We got the job done tonight. We knew they were going to pack the box and play a lot of people back on defense and they did."

In addition to Sheffield, the only active senior Tuesday was midfielder Alyssa Swanson.

"They did a great job, Hope and Alyssa," Neschich said.

Meanwhile, if not for a strong effort from Franklin senior goalkeeper Kathryn MacRae, the game would have been decided by halftime.

MacRae acrobatically denied the Wildcats time after time in the first half, which ended with Plymouth up only 1-0.

The Wildcats scored with 9:25 to go before halftime, when junior defender Cassidy Lewis headed in a corner kick from junior forward Katie Chipman.

"We were pounding them the whole first half," Neschich said. "We outshot them probably 20-0 in the first half and just couldn't get one.

"So we just kept the pressure up, kept trying to get rebounds and anything we could to keep the pressure on their net."

Plymouth's attack paid off again less than two minutes into the second half. Freshman forward Lindsay Badger's attempt was blocked, but Chipman got to the rebound and knocked it in.

Upping the lead to 3-0 with 15 minutes to go was freshman midfielder Hailey Melnick. She weaved around defenders into the middle of the field just above the 18-yard box and drove a high shot past MacRae.

The Wildcats closed out the scoring with 5:16 remaining.

A second effort from junior midfielder Anna DeBiasi was rewarded when she booted her own rebound into the Franklin net from about 10 yards in front.

Earning the shutout for Plymouth was junior Julia LaFlair, who wasn't tested often, but still had to come up with a few timely stops.

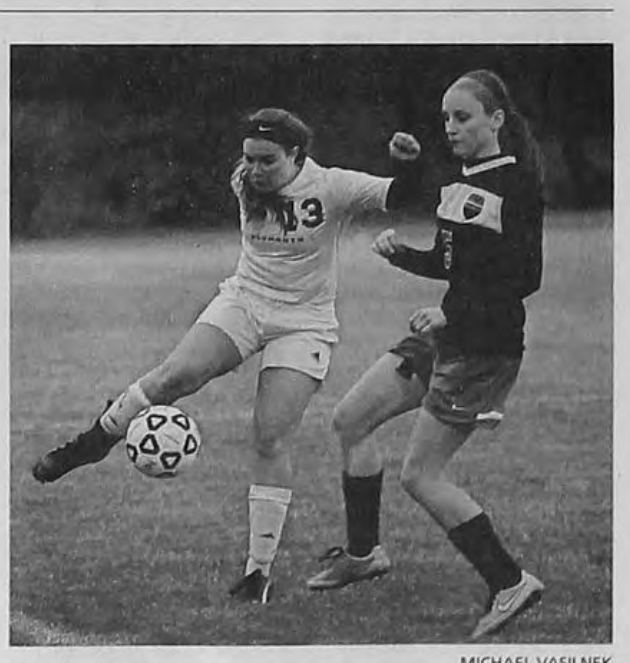
SALEM 5, STEVENSON 5: In what Salem head coach George Tomasso described as a "barn burner," the Rocks scored three late goals — including the equalizer with 30 seconds to go — to earn a KLAA Central tie Tuesday against visiting Livonia Stevenson.

Appropriately enough for Salem's senior night, it was senior co-captain Hayley Rogers who carried the comeback. She scored three goals.

With the tie, Salem improved to 3-6-2 overall and 3-4-3 in the division.

"It was a shootout and a goal-scoring fest," Tomasso said. "I've never seen a game like this and I give a lot of credit to my team, showing their passion and their heart out on the field."

Also contributing to the Salem offense were senior Bridget Nicol (goal, two assists), sophomore Nikki Pilon (goal, assist) and freshman Katie Coleman (goal).



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Vying for a 50/50 ball Tuesday night are Plymouth's Addisyn Lewis (left) and Livonia Franklin's Rachel Dudek.

REAL ESTATE

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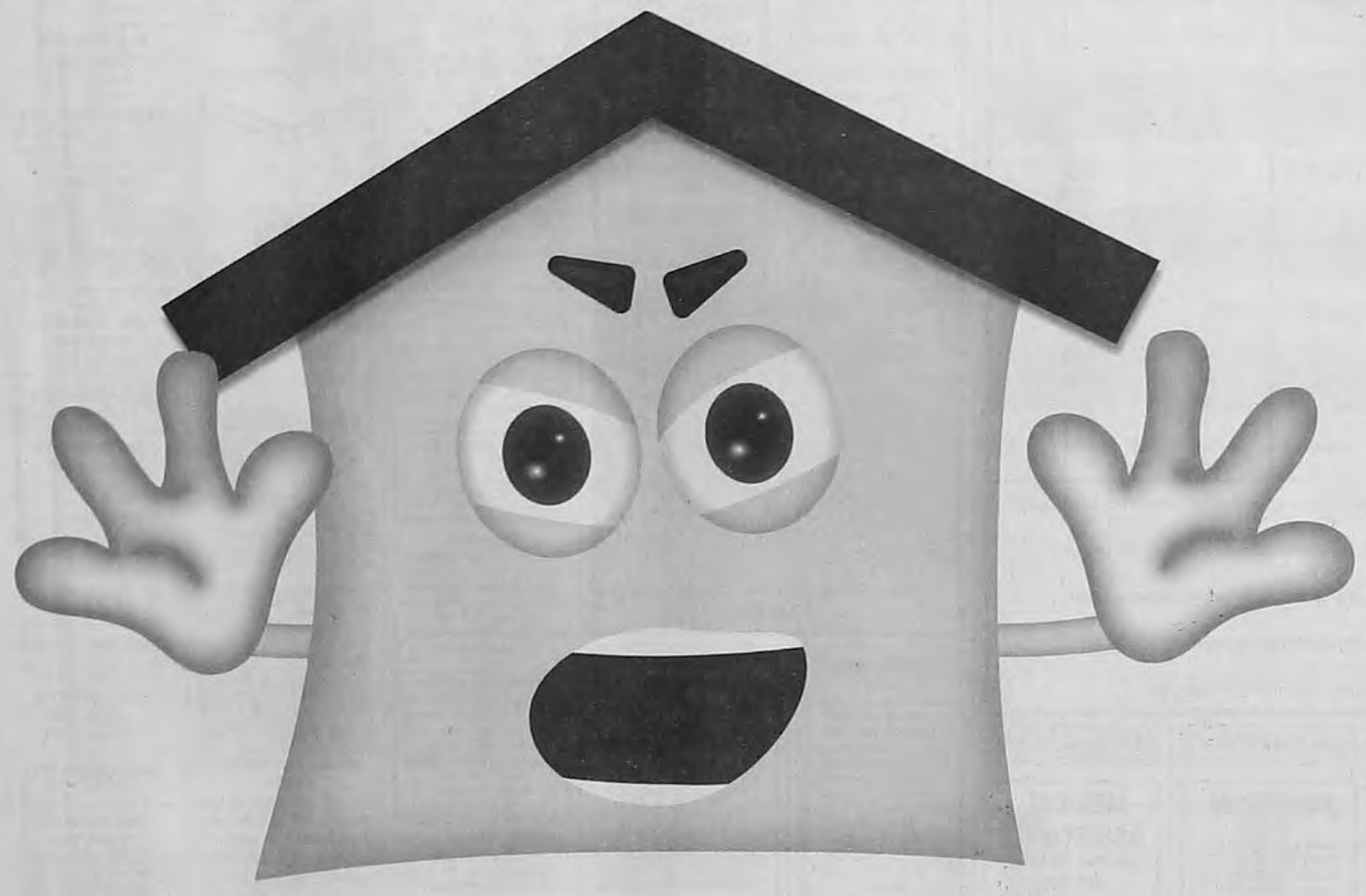

CREDIT ISSUES REMAIN FOR HOME PURCHASERS

Nearly a decade since the start of the foreclosure crisis, formerly distressed homeowners with restored credit are re-entering the housing market, but damaged credit profiles and lender overlays will greatly restrict the overall share of those eligible to buy, according to new research from the National Association of Realtors. California, Florida and Arizona are expected to see the largest share of return buyers within the next decade.

NAR analyzed the nearly 9.3 million homeowners that underwent a foreclosure, received a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, or short sold between 2006 and 2014 to estimate the amount of creditworthy borrowers expected to re-enter the housing market as a return buyer in upcoming years.

The findings reveal nearly a million of these former owners have likely already purchased a home again, and an additional 1.5 million are likely to become eligible and purchase over the next five years, representing an additional source of buyer demand for the housing market. However, because of low credit quality, millions more will not be able to re-enter in the coming decade.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says there were two waves of defaults during the housing crisis: from subprime and then prime borrowers. "While loose lending standards in the mid-2000s led to the rise in subprime buyers who ultimately became distressed owners, falling home prices and rising unemployment resulted in a large share of prime borrowers also defaulting or going through a short sale," he said. "Now fueled by a gradually improving economy and the strong rebound in home prices, some of these former distressed owners have returned to the market, and more will likely become eligible in coming years."

Several important factors were taken into account in NAR's study, including the time necessary to repair a distressed seller's credit, whether the distressed seller's credit profile (at the time of purchase) fell below historic standards, if it met sound underwriting standards and whether they would meet credit overlays in the current stringent environment.

The findings show that roughly 950,000 former distressed owners of prime quality have become re-eligible for Federal Housing Administration or similar financing programs and have likely purchased again by restoring their credit to pre-distress levels. Furthermore, 1.5 million formerly distressed owners will likely buy again over the next five years as they become eligible, with California, Florida and Arizona seeing the largest share of return buyers.

Despite the new source of housing demand from these return buyers, Yun says the considerable impact a distressed sale has on a borrower's credit score will severely limit the overall number of those returning. "The extended time needed to repair credit scores or save for a down payment, combined with other overlapping post-distress factors on credit quality such as missed auto loan or credit card payments, will limit the ability for many to buy in the current credit environment," he said.

Looking ahead, because of the time that has elapsed and the fact that many distressed owners likely rented and paid utility bills in recent years, Yun says the use of new credit scoring models such as Vantage Score 3.0 and FICO 9 can help improve the ability of these buyers to become homeowners again while helping lenders further examine their credit risk to ensure safety and soundness in the market.

"The deep wounds inflicted on the housing market during the downturn are finally beginning to heal as distressed sales continue to decline and home prices in some parts of the country have bounced back to their near-peak levels," added Yun. "Borrowers with restored credit will likely have the ability and desire to own again, encouraged by the long-term benefits homeownership provides in a stronger economy and more stable job market."

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 15-19, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
16300 Birwood Ave	$105,000
20700 Breezewood Ct	$306,000
15830 Kirkshire Ave	$186,000
30440 Vernon Dr	$450,000
BIRMINGHAM	
150 Bird Ave # 19	$98,000
1179 E Maple Rd	$440,000
1420 Fairfax St	$1,175,000
1363 Humphrey Ave	$543,000
482 Park St # 484	$575,000
970 Poppleton St	$1,250,000
220 Ravine Rd	$395,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
244 Eileen Dr	$390,000
3630 Larkwood Ct	$565,000
4025 Fairlane Dr	$833,000
2015 Klingensmith Rd Unit 71	$57,000
931 W Harsdale Rd	$650,000
6215 Worlington Rd	$475,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
727 Briar Hill Ln	$320,000
1936 Brookview Ct	$256,000
4749 Hedgewood Dr	$340,000
4057 Hidden Woods Dr	$383,000
2863 Meadowood Ln	$600,000
3135 Pebble Ln	$315,000
5548 Pine Brooke Ct	$505,000
1509 S Hill Blvd	$126,000
1116 Woburn Grn	$1,025,000
42160 Woodward Ave Unit 50	$140,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
241 Arabelle St	$52,000
6155 Ashland St	$142,000
4556 Driftwood Dr	$720,000
2731 Trillium Hills Dr	$65,000
FARMINGTON	
23060 Lilac St	$125,000
32249 Valley View Cir	$217,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
27945 Alycekay St	$173,000
22953 Ashley St	$150,000
34643 Berkshire Ct	$825,000
35896 Charter Crest Rd	$249,000
27918 Copper Creek Ln	$450,000
38844 Country Cir	$110,000
24647 Farmington Rd	$335,000
32417 Hearthstone Rd	$215,000
29845 Highmeadow Rd	$195,000
37089 Kirkshire Ct	$163,000
24726 Lakeland St	$125,000
37452 Legends Trail Dr	$218,000
21151 Parklane St	$250,000
30152 Southampton Ln	$250,000
37300 Tina Dr	$317,000
30146 Woodbrook Ct	$230,000
FRANKLIN	
30333 La Brea Ct	$622,000
HIGHLAND	
2155 Lake Ct	$409,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18814 San Jose Blvd	$193,000
MILFORD	
321 Bennett St	$183,000
928 Meadowbrook Ct	$267,000
640 Mill Pointe Dr	$260,000
1159 S Tennyson Dr	$320,000
678 Summit Ridge Dr	$165,000
NORTHVILLE	
982 Coldspring Dr	$515,000
37620 E Meadowhill Dr	$210,000
21160 Eastfarm Ln	$253,000
37626 Rhonswood Dr	$223,000
42177 Roscommon St	$120,000
NOVI	
22655 Cranbrooke Dr	$105,000
21149 Dundee Dr	$460,000
41693 Kenilworth Ln	$200,000
27903 Middleton Dr	$215,000
28010 Middleton Dr	$232,000
41513 Oconnor Ln	$252,000
24661 Olde Orchard St	$45,000
22272 Pondview	$129,000
21603 Sunrise Blvd	$204,000
24620 Taft Rd	$230,000
41300 Todd Ln	$252,000
24330 Willowbrook	$319,000
23485 Winthrop Ct	$265,000
28296 Wolcott Dr	$403,000
SOUTH LYON	
23883 Bayberry Ct	$397,000
23015 Cheyenne Dr	$498,000
23032 Cheyenne Dr	$441,000
52002 Copperwood Dr N	$348,000
1184 Paddock Ct	$275,000
23533 Spy Glass Hl N	$350,000
25315 Stanley Ln	$385,000
954 Westbrooke Dr	$222,000
SOUTHFIELD	
22629 Avon Ln	$137,000
29726 Guy St	$92,000
18817 Jeanette St	$164,000
25066 Pendleton Dr # 2b	$65,000
29659 Rock Creek Dr	$108,000
30535 Rock Creek Dr	$142,000
17409 Westhampton Rd	$130,000
WHITE LAKE	
9661 Elizabeth Lake Rd	$171,000
8917 Glasgow Dr	$107,000
8080 High Point Trl	$285,000
9480 Lone Pine St	$179,000
8109 Springdale Dr	$155,000
815 Sugden Lake Rd	$50,000
8916 Tackles Dr	$238,000
9470 Thames Blvd	$200,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Jan. 12-16, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
7470 Andover Dr	$465,000
39910 Coronation Rd	$175,000
49733 Courtyard Ln	$250,000
45441 Holmes Dr	$270,000
6782 Longwood Rd	$245,000
46125 Maben Rd	$274,000
710 Prospect Hill St	$50,000
8120 Steven Ct	$300,000
51188 Upland View St	$50,000
GARDEN CITY	
30550 Marquette St	$152,000
32231 Pierce St	$103,000
32240 Rush St	$63,000
LIVONIA	
11310 Auburndale St	$265,000
30797 Bobrich St	$210,000
32949 Brookside Cir	$238,000
34420 Fargo St	$375,000
18703 Gill Rd	$220,000
31571 Grennada St	$225,000
38195 Lyndon St	$170,000
18839 Mayfield St	$255,000
9907 Melrose St	$170,000
14289 Norman St	$165,000
19529 Shadyside St	$224,000
NORTHVILLE	
46910 6 Mile Rd	$80,000
42320 Bradner Rd	$300,000
309 Saint Lawrence Blvd	$340,000
41738 Waterfall Rd	$294,000
PLYMOUTH	
11696 Brownell Ave	$224,000
325 Burroughs St	$195,000
798 Irvin St	$243,000
623 Jener Pl	$305,000
690 Ross St	$310,000
1199 S Sheldon Rd	$58,000
REDFORD	
25880 Dover	$75,000
24567 Orangelawn	$65,000
9059 Robindale	$80,000
11429 Royal Grand	$65,000
WAYNE	
4222 Winifred St	$20,000
WESTLAND	
30533 Bradford St	$89,000
1209 Shoemaker Dr	$25,000
7754 Terri Dr	$127,000
6037 Wilmer St	$50,000

Winter weather takes its toll

Q: What should condominium associations do to avoid damage and problems each year from winter weather?

A: Prepare for winter weather ahead of time. Make sure attic space is properly insulated and ventilated to minimize the risk and damage of ice dams. Make sure an adequate snow removal contract is in place, and make sure it covers all sidewalks and mailbox areas.

Robert Meisner

Once winter weather arrives, make sure the snow removal contractor does not pile snow around storm drains, culverts and downspouts. Redirect the flow of water from any downspout that is draining onto pavement to avoid an ice hazard and possible liability. If ice dams develop, they should be quickly removed by a professional contractor, and once removed, heat tape or cable should be installed to help prevent or minimize future ice dams.

When spring arrives, repair damaged landscaping, cracked and/or heaving pavement, broken fencing, and damage to balconies and other wood surfaces. Every fall, repeat the advanced preparations recommended above and listen to the advice of your insurance consultant and your lawyer regarding potential areas of liability.

Q: I am on the Board of a condo where kids are riding their bikes and skateboards in the parking lot in contravention of the association's rules and creating obvious safety and liability concerns. The violations involve adults too, parking violations, sitting out on the steps and drinking beer late at night, etc. The association wants to begin having its staff persons carry cameras and document the behaviors. Do you see any problem with that?

A: Probably not. The only issue you may have is the potential fair housing issue, but if you treat everyone the same and the rules are reasonable, you should not have a problem, but I would get an opinion from your legal counsel. You may also worry about whether you can photograph minors, but I don't see an invasion of privacy there either, if it's in a common area open to all residents.

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.*

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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 Wayde Koehler at 313-819-0919.

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Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3	0
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Auction Sales

ESTATE AUCTION **Sat - May 9th - 7pm** Plymouth Community Center 525 Farmer, Plymouth, MI Antiques & Collectibles Furniture; Glassware Norman Rockwell Figurines Out Door Items Household Items Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm **Joe Carli,** Professional Auction Service **734.451.7444** www.jcauctionservices.com

Rummage Sales & Flea Markets

NOVI - Faith Community Presbyterian Church 44400 W. 10 Mile Rd. Thurs. 5/14 9am-6pm Fri 5/15. 9am-12pm On Friday $3 a bag or $5 for 2 bags. For more info call: 248-349-2345

Estates Sales

ESTATE ANTIQUE Auction Friday May 15th 6 p.m. 11580 Ozga Rd, Romulus Large antique furniture group, clocks, large advertising collection, separate antique toy auction, primitives, cookie jars, ladies items and more! See photos and list at DougDaltonAuctioneer.com **800-801-6452**

ESTATE SALE **Everything must go!** Inside and out May 14,15,16 open 9:30-5:00 39115 Stacey Dr. Livonia, MI 48154

Garden City Estate Sale 211 Arcola. May 14-16th. 9-5pm. Household, clothes, appliances, clothing, furniture, jewelry, purses & MORE!

REDFORD Fri. 5/15, Sat. 5/16 9am-4pm, Sunday 5/18 10am-2pm. Details at estatesales.net 17418 MacArthur 48240

Garage/Moving Sales

BIRMINGHAM Fri. 5/15 & Sat. 5/16 9am-3pm. Designer clothes & shoes, rugs, furniture, books and much more! 480 Madison St. (Maple/Woodward area)

BIRMINGHAM - Great gar sale, Thurs-Fri., 9:30-4pm. Sat. 9:30am. **130 Argyle.** SW corner of Maple Rd.

Birmingham Multi Family Garage Sale 2242 & 2275 Fairway Dr. May 15-16th. 9-4pm. Lots of Great Stuff. Something for Everyone!

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Sat. 5/16 9am-4pm.Antiques, furniture, patio furniture, linens, household, Christmas dishes & lots more! 5160 Dianna

Bloomfield Twp. Birmingham Farms Sub Sale, Fri. May 15 & Sat. May 16. 9-4 Located at the S.W. corner of Telegraph & Maple, behind the Bloomfield Plaza

CANTON 47232 Larchmont Dr., N. of Ford, E. of Beck. Sunflower Sub. May 14-16th. Selling out collectibles, Elvis, Goofy, Dept 56 Dickens & North Pole. Ladies & Mens clothing, small size fancy dresses, 2 large men's suits, household items, tools, and 2 TV's.

CANTON: 8377 Forrest Dr., Holiday Park Sub, off Joy, btwn Hix & Haggerty. May 14-15, 9-4pm. old rocker, table, more.

CANTON: CENTURY FARMS ANNUAL SUB SALE May 14-May 17, 9-5pm. N/Palmer, W/Haggerty. Household, tools, clothes, baby items, furniture, New sales every day!

Canton: Community Garage Sale - 190 Cherry Grove Cherry Grove Condominium Assoc. May 14, 15 & 16 9-5 p.m. (248) 6 55-1500

Canton: estate sale Saturday, May 16, 9-4 5920 Beaufort Canton. pump organ, melodian, chests, clothes, kitchen items, china, beds, custom corner cabinets. (248) 459-2151

CANTON: MAYFAIR VILLAGE SUB-WIDE SALE! Thurs-Sun., May 14-17, 9am-5pm. S. of Joy, E. of Sheldon, E & W of Morton Taylor.

CANTON-Multi Sub Sale Cherry Hill & Orchard Oakvale Stonegate, S. of Cherry Hill, E & W of Lilly. **May 14-17 Dawn-Dusk.**

CANTON PINEWOOD SUB SALE May 14-16, 9-4pm. E. of Beck, S. of Cherry Hill. Come for great stuff!

Canton: Sunflower Sub, 45800 Hanford. May 14, 15 and 16, 9 am - ? West of Canton Center and North and South of Warren. Look for signs and yellow balloons.

CANTON: Windmere Sub-Wide Garage Sale. Thurs-Sat., May 14-16, 9am-?. Off Warren, btwn. Sheldon & Canton Center.

O&E Media Classifieds Just a quick call away... 800-579-7355

Garage/Moving Sales

Farmington Hills EXTREME Yard Sale! To Support the Costa Rica Mission's Team Farmington Hills Church of God; 25717 Power Rd. Btwn 10 & 11 Mile. May 14-15, 9-5pm. May 16, 9-2pm. Whole community of items including '96 Harley Sportster. On site Car wash & Knife Sharpening

Farmington Hills - Moving Sale Huge variety of Items, including appliances furniture & everything inbetween. May 14th-16th Thurs- Sat. 9a - 5p **33980 Colfax, 48335**

FARMINGTON HILLS **Sub sale** - May 14, 15, & 16. 9am-5pm., Meadow Hills Estates. W. of Halstead, S. of 9 Mile, Variety of items.

FARMINGTON HILLS Thurs. 5/14- Sat. 5/16 9am-4pm. Cameras, household goods, printers, antique desk, scrapbook supplies, Coach purses, Boyda Bears & much more! 25526 Hunt Club E. of Hasted/S. of 11 Mile.

GARAGE SALE Garage Sale Cruisin' Is Coming! It's starting to warm up, which means everyone will be looking for **GARAGE SALES!!** Now is the time to Get your ad into: **MICHIGAN.COM** Observer & Eccentric and ***"they will come"*** Ask about our special garage sale ad rates! Contact us at: **1-800-5797355**

GARDEN CITY - Huge Gar Sale Thurs-Sun. 9-7pm. lots of misc & household items, stackable wash/dryer **32259 SHERIDAN**

Garden City: HUGE Sale. 6336 Henry Ruff, Thurs and Fri. 10a-7p & Sat. 9a-2p Every Penny goes to American Cancer Society - statewide donations. too Much list.

Highland: MULTI FAMILY GARAGE - TENT SALE 3371 Woodruff Meadows Ct. MAY 14, 15 and 16, 9-4 pm Baby, toddler, household items. Furniture, jewelry John Deere, child Gator, more!

Livonia: 5/14-5/16. High Quality Household Goods, Tools, Books, Paint Samples, Much More. 18643 Comstock, S of 7, E of Newburgh. 9-4 pm

LIVONIA: Burton Hollow Sub Sale. Over 50 homes. May 16-17, Sat-Sun. 9am-5pm. S. of 6 Mile, W/ Farmington Rd.

LIVONIA - Moving sale. Car Seats, baby/kids toys, household items, outdoor christmas metal desk, hedge & lawn trimmers, some tools, solid 6 panel interior doors, craft items & much more, Thurs-Sat. 9-5pm. **30880 FARGO.**

LIVONIA ONE DAY MOVING SALE SAT, 5/16 9am-4pm. 9828 Loveland St. Tons of stuff! 5/17 RAIN DATE

LIVONIA REAL MOVING SALE Furniture, snow blower, lawn mowers, tools, household items. 28084 N Clements Cir.

LIVONIA Thurs 5/14 & Fri. 5/15 9a-5p Sat. 5/16 9a-12p Household, clothes, collector's items & more. 14212 Hubbell E. of Merriman, N. of 96

LIVONIA Thurs.5/14-Sat. 5/16 9-4pm. Small appliances, folk art, cedar chest, tables, collectibles (albums & 78's), books & more! 14520 Garden

NORTHVILLE - Connemara Hills Sub Sale. 5/14 - 5/16, 8:00a-4:00p. SE of 9 Mile and Taft and W of Center.

Northville: Gas Lawn Mower, Radial Table Saw, Snow Blower, Drill Press, KidsToys, Childrens (Infant to Toddler) Clothes, Dolls, Kitchen/Home Misc, Dog Bedding/Toys. Sat. 9-5, 44446 Chedworth Drive

NORTHVILLE Moving Sale- 17482 Stonebrook Drive. Fri-Sat. May 15-16th; 9-5. Sun. May 17th 10-3. Furn, china, Barbies, American Girl, Clothing, artwork, household, more!

Northville: Multi-Sub Garage Sale. Friday and Saturday **May 15th and 16th** from 9 am to 5 pm. Neighborhoods include: Maple Hill, Lakes of Northville, Northville Trails, Northville Commons and Northville Colony Estates, Whisper Wood. Subdivisions extend along 6 Mile West of Haggerty, East of Northville Road.

NORTHVILLE TWP. Villas of Northville Hills Condo Sub Sale. Sat., May 16, 9am-3pm. 5 Mile & Sheldon. Many participants, 185 Units. Furniture, Antiques, Household, etc.

NORTHVILLE Woodside Village Community Garage Sale, May 14th-16th 8:30a-6p. Located North of 5 Mile and West off Haggerty.

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Garage/Moving Sales

NOVI: Children's, household, clothing & more. Bradford of Novi & Lexington Green Sub Sale. S. of 9 Mile, W of Taft Rd. Fri-Sat, May 15-16, 9-3pm.

NOVI Fri. 5/15 & Sat. 5/16 9am-4pm. Stroller, toys, kids chair w/ ottoman, exercise bike, kitchenware, Queen air mattress, air filter, tools & more! 40269 Sandpoint Way, at corner of Ladene

NOVI: Fri-Sat. May 15-16 8am-2pm. Big Garage Sale! Lots of good stuff! 46790 W. 11 Mile Rd. (between Taft and Beck), Long driveway.

NOVI - JAMESTOWN GREEN SUBDIVISION SALE. 44596 Mansfield Dr. Clothes, toys, antiques, tools, sports equipment, furniture & more. **May 14, 15 & 16, 9-5 daily**

Novi: Miscellaneous 25911 Abbey Dr. Xmas items including 8ft tree & lots of nutcrackers. Graduation stuff, bed spreads, yarn, much more.

Plymouth: 5/14-5/16 10-5p 42556 Apple Creek Dr. Collectables (N-gage Trains), Furn., Tools, Clothing, Decorations and more!

Plymouth Garage Sale 15589 Forestview Dr. 5 Mile & Winchester. May 15-16th. 9-4pm. Fishing & hunting clothing & access, RV items.

PLYMOUTH Lakepointe Village Subdivision, Between 5 Mi. Rd. & Wilcox, West of Haggerty & East of Bradner. Thursday, May 14th-Saturday, May 16th. **Stop By and Browse for the Best Stuff Around!**

Plymouth: May 14-17th 9-5p LIVING ESTATE SALE. Fine china, oriental rugs, crystal, quilts, antiques, dolls, costume jewelry, Xmas, collectables, Dressy clothes size 8. No junk. 41430 Ivywood Ln, (5 Mile/ Haggerty)

PLYMOUTH - Multi family, Fri. May 15 & Sat. May 16 8-4 pm. **Proceeds go to the 3-Day 41078 GREYSTONE BLVD** Btw AnnArbor Rd/Ann Arbor Trl

PLYMOUTH TWP. May 14-16, 9-4PM. RIDGEWOOD HILLS ANNUAL ALL SUB SALE The RIGHT STUFF at GREAT prices. N. side of Ann Arbor Rd., ½ mile W. of Beck.

Redford Moving/Estate Sale May 15-17th; 10-4pm. 17418 MacArthur, furn, kitchenware, fabric, craft supplies.

SOUTH LYON - COLLECTORS DREAM SALE, lots of smalls, not garage sale prices, Rail Road lanterns, tobacco collectors tins, all sizes cigarette machine from the 50's, cigarette slot machine store displays, signs and cards, hunting & fishing, Olympia stadium balcony seat signed by Johnny Wilson, lots of Petrolania, taxidermy, toys cars & trucks, Struckto, Hubley, Tootsie toys, & Matchbox. Lots of 50's cowboy Autry punch out book, 3x5 cards, Lone Ranger sets, lots more and don't miss. 2 other garage sales. Reproduction signs, sports memorabilia, **Absolutely no early birds Thurs.,** Fri & Sat. 10-6p. **13512 10 Mile Rd.**

South Lyon Multi - Family Garage Sale Thur, May 14th -Sat, May 16th. 8-2pm. Lakeside Estates off Rushton btwn 9-10 Mile. Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware, crystal, housewares, small furn, high end clothes, sports equip, & so much more!

West Bloomfield - HUGE GARAGE SALE! May 15th-16th Fri. & Sat. 9am - 5pm. Furniture, appliances, antiques, clothing and lots more.

Westland: Sub Wide yard sale in Millpointe. Everything you need is here. May . 14th-17th. 9 am-5 pm. 1961 Stockmeyer for mapping.

Clothing

Clothing Senior Ladies & Square Dance Outfits. reasonable rates **248.476.1276**

Household Goods

5pc Ethan Allen Complete Maple/Birch Bedroom Set includes 4 poster full bed, end table, bookcase, dresser, corner desk & mirror. Very good condition! $500 w/ possible delivery. 248-320-4234

BEDROOM Furn- king oak Lexington, headboard, 2 dressers, 2 night stands mirror, 2 metal frames. $599. ALSO Dorm size Fridge $20. 734-420.3270

Children's Broyhill 4pc Bedroom set. Includes bunk beds, dresser, chest, & night stand. Like new. Walnut color. $450. 865-354-4701

Edenpure portable heater $180 price firm. Cash only Call 734-218-2820

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CAL SPA Hot tub - 6 person, 2 motors. High and low, many jets. $4500 248.330.1407

Bargain Buys

If you're selling an item for $100 or less RUN YOUR AD UNDER BARGAIN BUY CLASS 7200 AT A SPECIAL RATE **Michigan.com Observer & Eccentric Call 800-579-7355!** *Some restrictions may apply

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****** The Coin Shop ******** We buy Coins, Silver and Gold TOP DOLLAR PAID HUGE INVENTORY 21885 Pontiac Trail South Lyon (248) 446-1445

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LAWN TRACTOR - TORO MODEL 12-38HXL Approx. 20 yrs. old. Well maintained, runs but does require minor work. $50. ***SOLD!!!!!!!***

TRACTOR: 1956 861 Ford Good condition, $2750 Call: (248) 887-3963

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CASH PAID or CONSIGNMENT for Vintage, Antique and Other Valuable Items. Single items to storage units to entire estates and estate sales. Professional, courteous, fair, honest, discreet older gentleman. I drive to you. Coins, costume and fine jewelry, knick knacks, military, collections, books, toys, stereos, instruments, ephemera, clothing, Christmas, more. References. Richard, BSE, MBA: (248)795-0362 richard.preston48@yahoo.com

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*4 line minimum ($2.00 for each additional line).

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2000 Harley Davidson Road King Classic Model# FLHRC1 1450 CC 18k Original miles , cobalt blue; $8000 734-422-8117 or 734-748-2966

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1978 LEPRECHAUN Class C motor home, runs & drives good, $2500 or best offer. **248-339-6594.**

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04' Ford F150 Heritage XLT Super cab, 4x4, 150k. Miles, one owner, runs great! $6,400 Call 248-437-2188

Chevy 2000 2500 Crew Cab, 2 whl dr, manual wind & locks, 85k, little rust, great shape. 1 owner. $5900. 734-664-3553

CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 2013 Crew cab, short box, 4 wheel drive, LT: $29,989 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

RAM 2012 4x4, crew cab, 5.7ft box ST, air, ABS, priv. glass. $26,000 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

Vans

ACCESSIBLE Wheel Chair Vans Bought and Sold 248-624-1533

HONDA 2008 ODYSSEY seats 8, 53,500 mi, excel cond, lthr seats, moonroof $16,500. **248-596-9796**

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Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM 2012 FWD, leather, heated seats, Navigation System. $25,425 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

BUICK LaCROSSE 2013 AWD, leather 27K miles rear view camera. $23,590 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

CHEVY EQUINOX 2013 FWD 1LT, rear view camera, power sunroof, tinted windows, 15K miles. $21,394 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC ACADIA 2011 AWD, 4 door, SLT1, leather, rear view camera, Loaded! $18,986 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC ACADIA 2012 AWD, 4 dr. Denali, Rear view camera & monitor. $27,795 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC ACADIA 2012 FWD, 4 Dr. SL, 3rd row seat, air, 1 owner. $19,426 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC SIERRA 1500 2013 Crew Cab, short box, 4x4 SLT, lether. $28,995 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 door, SLE-1, 42K, one owner, extra clean! $17,995 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2012 FWD, 4 dr SLT-1, 42K, lther, rear view camera. $19,980 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2012 AWD, 4 door, 1500 Denali, lther, Nav. system. $37,204 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

Sports & Imported

MERCEDES C-CLASS 2011 C300 4matic Sport sedan, black, leather. $22,025 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

Buick

LaCrosse 2012 FWD, leather, ABS, pwr sunroof, 20K miles $19,984 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

REGAL 2014 Premium 1, FWD, 1500 mi. rear view camera, monitor. $23,995 **BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

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The Newspaper reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. The Newspaper reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time. All ads are subject to approval before publication.

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

Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears & reporting any errors immediately. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, only the first incorrect insertion will be credited. The Newspaper shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refunds for early cancellation of order.

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

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

03-2015

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- Printable Price Stickers
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- Coupon for a FREE 4-square Buddy's Pizza
- Buddy's Pizza food discount card

Here's additional savings from our sponsor.

$ 3.00 OFF Any 8 Square Pizza

Not valid with any other coupon or discount. One coupon per person, per pizza, per table. No cash value. Offer Expires: 12-31-15

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Farmington Hills - 248.855.4600
Livonia - 734.261.3550
Dearborn - 313.562.5900
Auburn Hills - 248.276.9040
Shelby Twp. - 568.566.1233
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FWD, 2k miles! Parking sensors, crumple zones, leather. $28,995
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4 dr sedan, back up and rear view camera, ABS, 2K miles. $17,995
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Cadillac

CTS 2009
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STS 2006
4 dr. sedan, V8, parking sensors, leather. $10,995
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Chevrolet

09' IMPALA LT 98K MI. Well maintained. Newer tires, brakes, battery & oil. $9,500 313-533-8266

CAMARO 2015
2 door Convertible LT w/1LT, 16K miles. Power roof, rear parking sensors. $27,687.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CRUZE SEDAN 2012
1LT, air, power sunroof, 18K miles, 1 owner. $14,949
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734-453-2500

Chevrolet

MALIBU 2014
1LT, 1400 miles, 1 owner, loaded. Just like new except the price! $17,795
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
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MALIBU LS 2013
24K miles, Bluetooth 1 owner, ABS, $15,995
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Ford

03' TAURUS SES Beige, 103K Mi., runs great, sunroof, new tires-brakes-batt, lil ' rust. $3,200. 248-380-5153

TAURUS 2011
4 dr. sedan, SEL FWD, crash sensors, leather, ABS. $16,752
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734-453-2500

Honda

★ **2007 ODDYSEY LX,** 1 owner, new tires, Runs great! 148k Miles $7,000 248-207-6794

CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/Nav. Leather, moonroof. $15,899
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★ **HONDA 2007 FIT S** auto, air, 33MPG, adult owned, excellent, $5950. **734-722-8375**

Kia

ENHANCE YOUR AD WITH A PHOTO
You can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run, under the classification you choose. The cost for the photo will be $10, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used. Email or mail your 3x5 or 4x6 photos. Call for addresses. Photos will not be returned. Prepayment required/no refunds. To place your ad & get more info call : **MICHIGAN.COM Observer & Eccentric 800-579-7355** Mon. thru Fri., 8:30-5pm Some restrictions may apply

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Kia

RIO 2013
4 door Sedan, auto Ex, ABS, MP3 player, extras! $12,995.
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Jeep

LIBERTY 2012
4x4, 4WD, 4 door Sport, 1 owner, 31K mi., $18,984
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Pontiac

G6 2007
2 door Convertible GT, leather, air, power top. $13,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Pontiac

G6 2007
2 dr convertible GT, black, leather, power top. $10,605
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Volvo

XC90 2010
AWD, 4 dr, I6, power sunroof, 3rd row seat, roof rail. $20,986
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

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Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

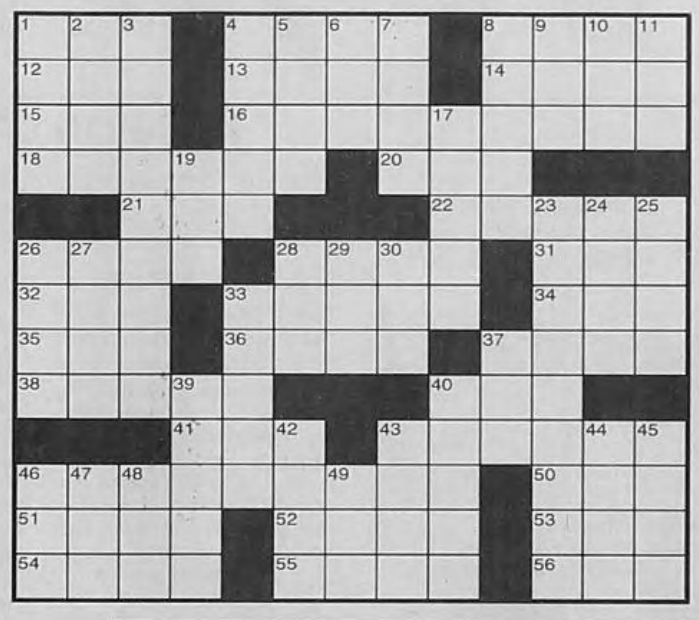
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Outperform
4 Treated a sprain
8 Herr's wife
12 Call in sick
13 Winning margin
14 Lower limbs
15 Spiral molecule
16 Some ranges (2 wds.)
18 Better than the bleachers
20 Murmur
21 Have a snack
22 June honorees
26 Alan or Cheryl
28 Customs request
31 Prospect for gold
32 Kind of system
33 Hocus- —
34 Paid performer
35 Sitcom ET
36 Never tell — —
37 Develop, as a storm
38 Wisps of smoke
40 Large green parrot
41 Happy sighs
43 Making mention
46 Not on the agenda
50 Total
51 Calendar abbr.
52 Bear constellation
53 LAX info
54 Mrs. Shakespeare
55 Soak up the sun
56 Nine-digit no.

DOWN

1 Tiny amounts
2 Ape a pig
3 Broke a tie (2 wds.)
4 Silver bar
5 Wheedle
6 Double curve
7 Fam. tree member
8 Absolutely astound
9 Gun the engine
10 Historical period
11 — Enterprise
17 Forum wear
19 Dog-scolding word
23 Sizes up
24 Challenge
25 Fast-talk
26 Bound
27 Freedom org.
28 TV knob
29 Here, to Pierre
30 "A Boy Named —"
33 Turkish official
37 Make a wager
39 Quiz guess
40 Eastman invention
42 Cold-shoulder
43 Promontory
44 Squirrel food
45 FBI agent (hyph.)
46 Ms. Hagen
47 Convent dweller
48 Permanent marker
49 Firearms lobby



Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CLIMATE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ANOMALY
ARID
AUTUMN
CLIMATE
CONVECTION
DIURNAL
DROUGHT
FLOODING
FORECAST
FRONT
GREENHOUSE
HUMIDITY
HURRICANE
LATITUDE
LONGITUDE
LOW
MAP
METEOROLOGY
MONSOON
NORMAL
OZONE
PATTERN
PERCENTAGE
PRECIPITATION
PREDICTION
PRESSURE
SEASONS
SPRING
SUMMER
TEMPERATURE
TIDE
TORNADO
WEATHER
WET
WINDY
WINTER

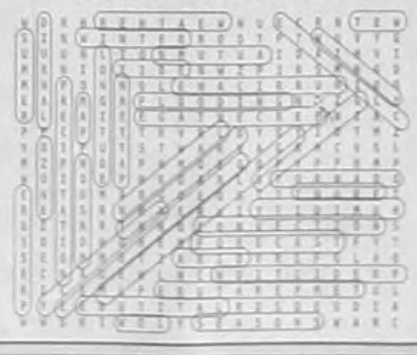
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search



The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Honor Guard participates in the Jubilarian Mass at St. Aidan in Livonia.

The longest married couples — with 60 years each — at St. Aidan Catholic Church's Jubilarian Mass are Stan and Sylvia Garner, left, Ted and Jane Potok, and Betty and Gunnar Bjarnesen. The Rev. Kevin Thomas blessed all of the participants and led a renewal of wedding vows.

Married couples renew wedding vows at Jubilarian Mass

St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia recently celebrated its annual Jubilarian Mass, honoring married couples.

Nineteen couples participated in the Mass, which included The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Honor Guard. During the Mass, the Rev. Kevin Thomas, St. Aidan pastor, gave the couples a blessing and led them in a renewal of their wedding vows.

Participants and their years of marriage: Gunnar and Betty Bjarnesen, 60; Sylvia and Stan Garner, 60; Ted and Jane Potok, 60; Tom and Evelyn Evasic, 50; Paul and Fran Mallie, 50; Bill and Veronica Braidech, 45; Walt and Ginny Gerstner, 45; Ken and Rita Kushlak, 45; Allan and Kathy Gale, 40; Paul and Sarah Jagenow, 40; Tom and Christine Steffen, 40; John and Aimee Wiktor, 40; Martin and Theresa Blasko, 35; Jerry and Livia Franchina, 35; Ronald and Erika Merlino, 35; Randy and Lisa Myshock, 30; Ken and Mary Vella, 30; Danny and Janine Louzon, 25; John and Rita Marzec, 25; Leonard and Maureen Wilkie, 20; and Ryan and Jeanine Lithgow, 15.

RELIGION CALENDAR

MAY

ASCENSION SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 14

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The service will be followed by a free ice cream social at 8 p.m.

Contact: 734-968-3523, 313-532-8655

BIBLE COLLECTION

Time/Date: Through May 31

Location: Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The church is collecting Bibles for Africa through Helping Hands Touching Hearts, a nonprofit organization founded by church members Wayne and Sidney Bonvallet of Farmington Hills. Drop offs may be made any time at the collection box at the main entrance to the church. Follow the Bonvallets at helpinghandstouchinghearts.blogspot.com

Contact: 248-476-8222.

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 17

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Pancakes, French toast, ham, applesauce, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, tea, milk, juice; $3 for adults and $1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: 734-425-4421

CARD PARTY

Time/Date: 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, May 15

Location: SS Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland

Details: Play cards and games of your choice. Includes door and table prizes, along with 50/50 drawing, light meal and snacks. Admission is $8

Contact: 734-722-1343

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, May 15

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Mitch McVicker Concert will support Kids Against Hunger. Free will offering. A food packaging event will be held 9:30 p.m. May 16 for Kids Against Hunger

Contact: 734-459-3333; connectingwithGod.org

DEMENTIA SERIES

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 27

Location: St. Colette Parish, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: "Aging in Place Successfully" looks at the cognitive symptoms of dementia-related diseases, treatment options and staying in one's home. The program is part of an ongoing series, featuring a team of dementia care specialists and ministry facilitators. Each session is held at a different church in the Northwest Wayne Vicariate

Contact: Nancy at 734-464-4436

FILM SERIES

Time/Date: 11:45 a.m. May 20

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield

Details: The film, *China Blue*, takes a look inside a blue jean factory in China, where teenage employees work around the clock.

Contact: 248-354-4488; northwestuu.org

LIVING ROSARY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: In this candlelit service, a person or small group represents a bead of the rosary and leads the prayer that bead represents

Contact: 734-261-1455

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, May 17

Location: Prentis Apartment Community Room, located on 10 Mile east of Greenfield in Oak Park

Details: Nadine Eder will lead a workshop in making a quilted challah cover

Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 15, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16

Location: Atonement Lutheran Church, 6961 Mead, one block south of Warren, east of Greenfield, Dearborn

Details: Clothes, shoes, linens, toys, household items. $2 bag sale on Saturday

Contact: 734-855-4477

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Location: School gym at St. Valentine, 25875 Hope, west of Beech -Daly, south of Five Mile, Redford

Details: Drop off items from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, May 15. Bag sale runs 1-2 p.m. on Saturday

Contact: Cecilia Gallagher, 313-531-3220

WIDOWED

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17

Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth Township

Details: Mass, fellowship, light lunch. Helpers needed to assist with the Mass and lunch.

Contact: Pat at 734-895-6246 or Liz at 734-452-9149

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

FAITH COMMUNITY WESLEYAN

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

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

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is $5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

Passages

View Online www.hometownlife.com

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

ALLEN, BOBBIE L.

Formerly of Westland, Michigan passed away in Punta Gorda, Florida on Saturday, April 25th at the age of 90. Bobbie was born in Denver, Colorado on June 24th, 1924 to Claude and Vivian Allen. He is the co-founder of R & B Manufacturing in Hamburg, Michigan. Bobbie is survived by his loving wife, Lucille of 40 years. He was the devoted father to his two children, Lucille (Michael) Smith and Georgette (Jimmie) Oliver, very proud Grandfather of many Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren and loving brother of Paul (Oleda) Allen and to his sister, Ruth Roe. Bobbie is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth, Michigan. To leave a condolence
www.schrader-howell.com

Schrader-Howe
FUNERAL HOME

BARNA, RT. REV. MICHAEL E. ARCHIMANDRITE ILYA

Born July 2, 1918 in Benld, Illinois. Died May 8, 2015 in Livonia, Michigan. Beloved husband of the late Matushka Jane Barna. Loving father of Michael E. Jr. (Gail), Rt. Rev. Mitered Archpriest Timothy M. Barna (Sherelynn) and Suzanne Y. (Edward) Veres. Dearest grandfather of Natasha (Brian), Michael E. III (Dana), Tatiana, Genevieve, Larissa and Blaise. Dearest great-grandfather of Michael IV, Brooke and Zachery. Rt. Rev. Barna was the rector of St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Redford, MI from 1975 – 2004. Visitation 4-9 p.m. Wednesday with a 7:30 p.m. Parastas Service, 4-9 p.m. Thursday with a 7 p.m. Funeral Service and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy on Friday at St. Michael Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago Rd. (between Beech Daly and Inkster Rd.) in Redford. Burial Services will continue in Reading, Pennsylvania at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church on Monday with Interment in St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Cemetery. Memorials suggested to the church in memory Rt. Rev. Michael E. Barna Memory Eternal! Arrangements entrusted to Professional Mortuary Services Detroit, Michigan
(313) 894-1334

KUEHN, DELLA

May 9, 2015, age 55. Beloved wife of David. Loving mother of Edward and Amanda. Dear grandmother of Kathryn, Edward Jr., Challis Jr., and Richard. Sister of Pete (Debbie) Lefler, Henrylee Lefler, Ronnie (Chris) Lefler, the late Mag Vail, and the late Richard Lefler. Sister-in-law of Debbie Lefler and Debra Wilson. Visitation Monday 3-9 p.m. at the Uht Funeral Home with a service Tuesday 1 p.m. Please visit and sign a tribute at:
www.uhtfh.com

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Midge Ellis memorial concert celebrates life of jazz advocate

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Holly Ellis promises a fun and freewheeling afternoon of live jazz, good food, laughter, mingling and conversation Sunday, May 17, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"John Trudell and his band will play at 1 p.m. and we'll have access to a piano and drum kit all day long. If anyone wants to come and jam they can ... whatever people feel like doing we'll do. If they want to play or sing they can. If they want to get up and say something they can. There is nothing set in stone. We're kind of improvising this whole thing.

"We hope people come and talk and remember and laugh and listen and eat."

That's just what her mother, Midge Ellis, would have wanted, Ellis said.

A Celebration of Life for Midge "Mama Jazz" Ellis will give friends, family members, jazz lovers, jazz students and musicians a chance to honor and remember the late jazz advocate and promoter. Midge Ellis, a Livonia resident, died in January at age 91.

Trudell and his band will kick off the memorial concert at 1 p.m. in the DiPonio room at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia. Ellis said the event could run as late as 8 p.m. It's open to the public.

"John told me he has a bunch of people who want to sing. That should be fun," Ellis said.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Midge Ellis music scholarship fund. Checks may be made out to the Schoolcraft College Foundation, with Midge Ellis written in the memo area. Donations also are accepted online at scf.schoolcraft.edu/.

"That was her big thing, the preservation of the art form of jazz," Ellis said. "The only way to keep it alive is to have kids learn about it."

"Mama Jazz" ran a big band jazz series for years in the Clarenceville School District, worked at Schoolcraft College from the 1970s-1990s, founded and produced the Michigan Jazz Festival at Schoolcraft and co-founded the Montreux (Detroit) Jazz Festival. She was an inductee into the Livonia Hall of Fame in 2011 and was friends with jazz musicians from around the world.

Ellis, who lives in Seattle, Wash., said she and her siblings, Gary, Tim and Helen, set the concert in the spring, several months after their mother's death, because they wanted mild weather for travel.

"We picked May because we have to drive down to the hills," Ellis said. "Mom wanted to have her ashes spread in Cumberland Falls."

They'll gather this week to spread her ashes and then travel to Michigan for the concert.

"There is a place called Echo Point and there is a bridge across a gap in the mountains where they used to park their cars and turn radios on and jitterbug on that bridge," said Ellis, adding that she has photographs of her mother on the bridge. She said the family plans to scatter her mother's ashes from the bridge, while saying goodbye.

"She's going to say goodbye back to us," Ellis said, referring to the echo. "She'll be home."

John Trudell and Midge Ellis

SUBMITTED

Drive-in returns with new name, sneak peek at movies

Summer Drive-In, formerly known as Compuware Arena Drive-In, opens for a sneak peek Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, at 14900 Beck, between Five Mile and Beck, in Plymouth Township.

Double features will be *Insurgent* and *The Longest Ride*, both rated PG-13, *Home* and *Cinderella*, both rated PG, and *Furious 7*, rated PG-13 and *Unfriended*, rated R.

Gates will open at 7:30 p.m. with movies starting at dusk, around 9:20 p.m. Admission is $10 for adults, $8 for children 4-12, and free for kids 3 and under.

Another sneak peek weekend is May 22-24. The drive-in will be open every night from June 5 through Sept. 6. Attendees listen through car or portable radios and may sit on lawn chairs or in their cars. A concession stand sells movie snacks, hot dogs, pizza, pop and more. Movie goers also can order from CJ's Brewing Company for delivery to their car.

For more information, call 734-927-3284 or visit summerdrivein.com/.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is $14 for adults 15-61, $10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is $5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Sunset at the Zoo: The annual fundraiser for ages 21 and over will run 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, June 12 and will include a strolling supper, specialty drinks, dancing, live entertainment and access to some of the habitats at twilight. The theme, Summer Chill, will celebrate the Polk Penguin Conservation Center. Tickets are $150-$300, availble at detroitzoo.org

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through May 31; Artist reception, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, May 14

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Music & Play," is a collaborative exhibit by artists Michele M. Crimi and Jesse Brandel. Crimi creates sculptures from recycled musical instruments and Brandel makes 3-D contour sculptures from wire

Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillagetheater.org

JANICE CHARACH GALLERY

Time/Date: Opening reception 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 17. The exhibition runs through July 16

Location: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: 68th annual Michigan Water Color Society Annual Exhibition

Contact: 248-661-1000

LIBERTY STREET BREWING

Time/Date: Through May 30

Location: Upper Hall Gallery at the Brew Pub, 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth

Details: Works by Lanny Henderson

Contact: 734-207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through May 16.

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: 16th annual Student Art Show features works by middle and high school students in Northville

Coming up: West of Center, and all-media show, opens with a reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, June 5, and runs through June 27

10-year celebration: Includes "Art from the Attic" tag sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16, and a variety of activities, including live entertainment, face painting, poetry, ice cream and more, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Contact: 248-344-0497

Ursula Walker will sing with the Buddy Budson Trio May 26, at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge in Plymouth.

FILM

LENORE MARWIL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Time/Date: Through May 21

Location: Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Tickets are $12 per film or $360 for two patron passes which includes entrance to every film, along with the patron night reception on May 17. Thirty films will be screened, including a portrait of musician Marvin Hamlisch and *Starfish Throwers*, which looks at three individuals who feed families in need. Check online for complete list of films and screening times

Contact: 248-661-1900; theberman.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 15-16; 4:20 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 17; 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Insurgent*; admission $3

Coming up: *Cinderella*, 7 p.m. Friday, May 22, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, May 23-24; *Woman in Gold*, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 28 and June 4; 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 29-30; and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 31

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, May 29 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 30.

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: *Titanic*; $5

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 5-July 26

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: "Rocks, Paper, Memory: Wendy Artin's Watercolor Paintings of Ancient Sculptures" features paintings of ancient Greek and Roman sculptures along with objects from the Kelsey's collection

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Creative Hands: Busy Hands" runs through June 14. Admission is $5 for adults, $2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show runs 7-9:30 p.m., third Saturday of the month through May

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The final show of the season will feature acoustic music from open mic performers from throughout southeastern Michigan. Tony Tocco, BaseLine Folk Society member from Westland, will host. Proceeds will be donated to the Plymouth Community Arts Council. $5 at the door.

Contact: BFSpresident@aol.com

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills

Details: Brentano String Quartet performs music of Haydn and Beethoven, along with the Midwest premiere of a new work for piano and string quartet by composer and jazz pianist Vijay Iyer. Tickets are $30-$60 for adults and $15-$30 for students

Contact: 248-855-6070; ChamberMusicDetroit.org

GAELIC LEAGUE/IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, May 29

Location: 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit

Details: Concert and Ceili with Paddy O'Brien on accordian and Nathan Gourley on fiddle. They'll be joined by local musicians. Suggested donation is $15 for adults and $10 for students. Children under 12 admitted free

Contact: Mick Gavin at 313-537-3489

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Ursula Walker and Buddy Budson Trio perform May 26. $10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Location: "The Garage" at Steppingstone School, 30250 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills

Details: "Sci-phonic" features music from video games, sci-fi and adventure films. Tickets are $30 general admission, $25 for seniors, 62 and over, and $10 for students with ID

Contact: 734-451-2112; michiganphil.org

TOKEN LOUNGE

Time/Date: Doors open at 6 p.m., show starts 6:45 p.m. Thursday, May 14

Details: Psychostick, touring in support of its latest album *Revenge of The Vengeance*, performs. Tickets are $12 in advance and $15 the day of the show. For ages 18 and over or all ages with a parent

Contact: 734-513-5030; psychostick.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Open stage, May 19 and June 2; Mike Vial and Peyton Tochterman, May 29; Dr. Swing featuring Joel Palmer, June 5; Christopher Williams, June 6. Most tickets $15, and $12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted

Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

SPOKEN WORD

STORYTELLING

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, May 15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17

Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti

Details: Storytellers, including La'Ron Williams, Steve Daut, Jane Fink, Laura Lee Hayes, Lyn Davidge, Jeff Doyle, Satori Shakoor, and Mark Sweetman, perform two benefit concerts for Emergent Arts. All seats are $15. Call 734-985-0875 for information or to make unpaid reservations that will be held until 10 minutes before the show

Contact: emergentarts.com

THEATER

BAREFOOT PRODUCTIONS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. May 15-16 and 2 p.m. May 17

Location: 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: In *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* a charming rogue manages to receive a sentence in a mental institution rather than a prison. Directed by Craig Hane. Tickets are $15

Contact: 734-404-6889; justgobarefoot.com

FOOD

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START WITH HOMEMADE SAUCE

Getting your family together around a delicious, home-cooked meal is easier when your kitchen is stocked with better-for-you ingredients. Home cooks looking to delight taste buds and satisfy appetites should start with the sauce.

"Knowing how to prepare basic, simple sauces is an important culinary skill," said registered dietitian Sarah-Jane Bedwell, author of *Schedule Me Skinny*. "While you probably can find store-bought versions, homemade sauces will taste better, cost less and be better for you, especially when made with high-quality ingredients like fresh herbs and canola oil."

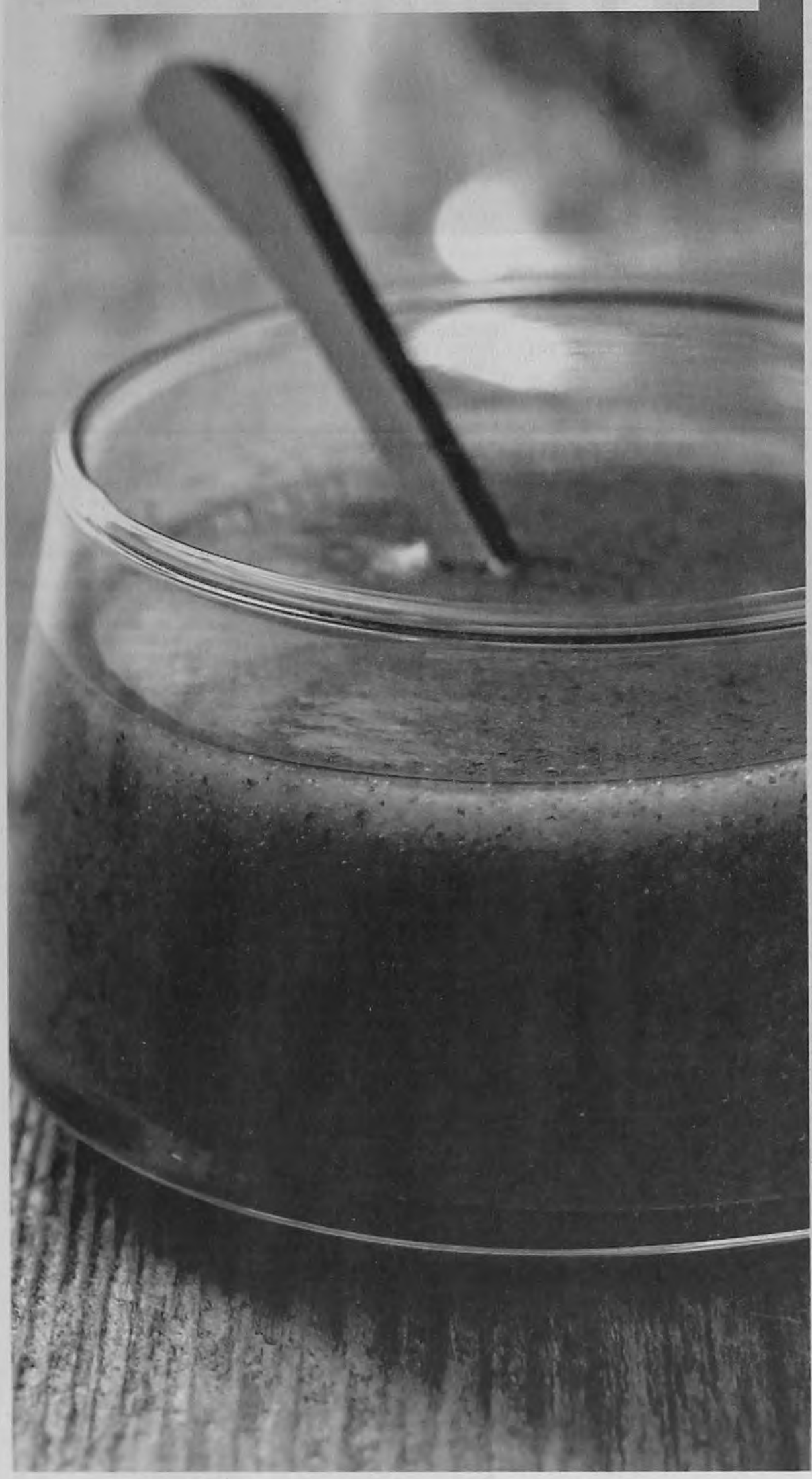
Knowing how to create basic sauces allows you to whip up a dinner you'll feel good about serving.

A kid- and adult-friendly Creamy Mac and Cheese is the ultimate in comfort dishes, featuring classic bechamel "white sauce," one of five traditional French "mother sauces" that have spread to other cuisines. The use of heart-smart canola oil instead of butter to make the roux, however, significantly reduces the sauce's saturated fat content.

Classic Pesto is another healthy recipe that will become a staple in your kitchen repertoire. With origins that trace back to Genoa, Italy, it's perfect served alongside cooked whole wheat noodles, stuffed vegetables, soups, stews, salads or sandwiches.

Whether in a pesto, or a marinade and sauce, like Honolulu Barbeque Marinade, canola oil provides a mild taste that lets the flavors of herbs and spices shine. It also stays free-flowing in the refrigerator because of its low saturated fat content.

Introduce basic sauces to your family meal routine and reap the palate-pleasing results. For these and other recipes, visit www.canolainfo.org.



CREAMY MAC AND CHEESE

Yield: 8 servings
Serving size: 1 cup

2 cups elbow macaroni
3 tablespoons canola oil
¼ cup all-purpose flour
2 ½cups milk
1 ½ cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 ½ cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon dry mustard
2 tablespoons canola oil
½ cup Italian bread crumbs

In pot of boiling water, lightly salt water and add macaroni; cook until tender. Drain and set aside.
In saucepan, heat 3 tablespoons canola oil over medium heat. Stir in enough flour to make roux. Add milk to roux slowly, stirring constantly. Stir in cheeses, garlic powder, paprika and dry mustard. Cook over low heat until cheese is melted and sauce has thickened. Pour sauce over macaroni, mix and add to large casserole dish.
In skillet, add 2 tablespoons canola oil over medium heat. Add bread crumbs and brown. Spread over macaroni and cheese. Bake at 350°F about 30 minutes. Serve.

Nutrition per serving: 540 calories, 31g fat, 14g saturated fat, 32g protein, 36g carbohydrates, 1g fiber, 70mg cholesterol,1,080mg sodium

PORCINI MUSHROOM GRAVY

Yield: 2 cups
Serving size: ¼ cup

½ ounce dried porcini mushrooms
2 tablespoons warm water
1 ½ tablespoons canola oil
6 tablespoons white whole-wheat flour
2 cups fat-free, low-sodium chicken broth
¾ teaspoon salt (optional)
1 teaspoon onion powder
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper or to taste

Soak mushrooms in warm water for 5 minutes.
In 2-quart saucepan, heat canola oil over medium heat. Whisk in flour until blended and continue stirring until roux is lightly browned and develops nutty aroma.
Whisk in broth, optional salt and onion powder. Bring to a gentle boil until just thickened, stirring. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Remove from heat and season with pepper. Add softened mushrooms and any soaking liquid.
Purée gravy in food processor or food mill. Return mixture to saucepan. Heat just to a simmer.

Nutrition per serving: 50 calories, 3g total fat, 0g saturated fat, 0mg cholesterol, 5g carbohydrates, 2g fiber, 1g protein, 115mg sodium

HONOLULU BARBEQUE MARINADE

Yield: Approximately 2 cups
Serving size: 2 teaspoons

1 knob fresh ginger (about 4-inches)
1 ½ cups pineapple juice
½ cup low sodium soy sauce
2 tablespoons dark brown sugar, packed
2 tablespoons canola oil
¼ teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste

Grate unpeeled ginger on large holes of a grater. Gather grated ginger and squeeze juice into a small bowl. Measure out 1 tablespoon ginger juice. Discard grated pulp.
In a medium bowl, whisk together measured ginger juice, pineapple juice, soy sauce, brown sugar, canola oil and salt. Boil half of mixture for 5 minutes to use as sauce; use remaining mixture to marinate chicken, pork or beef overnight and meaty fish such as tuna, salmon and swordfish for 1 hour. Discard marinade after using.
Grill over medium heat. Drizzle with sauce before serving.

Nutrition per serving: 15 calories, 0.5g total fat, 0g saturated fat, 0mg cholesterol, 2g carbohydrates, 0g fiber, 0g protein, 65mg

CLASSIC PESTO

Yield: 1 ¾cups total
Serving size: 1 tablespoon

1 cup sweet basil leaves, washed and dried completely
1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
½ cup pine nuts
5 garlic cloves, peeled
¾ cup canola oil
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

In food processor combine basil, Parmesan, pine nuts, garlic and 2 tablespoons canola oil; blend. As blending continues, slowly add remaining oil so sauce emulsifies. Add salt and pepper to taste.
Label with date and keep refrigerated. Use within 1-2 days.

Nutrition per serving: 90 calories, 9g fat, 1.5g saturated fat, 2g protein, 1g carbohydrate, 0g fiber, 5mg cholesterol, 115mg sodium

Proceed with caution: Food safety class set for June 5 in Livonia

Michigan State University Extension will offer offer ServSafe Training, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 5, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia.

The ServSafe program was developed by the National Restaurant Association. The course will cover the updated changes to the 2009 FDA Food Code, purchasing and receiving from approved services, storage, preventing food-borne illnesses, employee personal hygiene, and hazard analysis and critical control points. The fee is $70 and includes the review and test.

To register for the class, visit www.msue.anr.msu.edu/events and search by date for the event. Questions? Call 810-667-0341.