

CANTON OBSERVER

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ALL-AREA GIRLS GOLF TEAM

SPORTS, B3

Salem journalism student 'shocked' with \$8,000 bill for FOIA request

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton journalism student Chris Robbins has learned a hard lesson about the price of information.

The Salem High School senior is writing a story for the Dec. 18 issue of *The Perspective* student newspaper about blocked websites dis-

trict teachers or students may want to use. To gather information, he filed a Freedom of Information request with the school district. And then he received a bill from the school district for \$8,806.



Robbins

"I was shocked. I didn't know why they would send a student of their district a bill," Robbins said. "This information should be free for a student, particularly."

Among a number of items, Robbins wanted copies of emails in which staff appealed to district officials on certain blocked websites. That, according to Nick Brandon, P-

CCS community relations director, would account for about 90 percent of the FOIA bill.

To fill that specific request requires searching – a labor-intensive process – the district's Google-based email system, analyzing the emails and redacting exempt, private and sensitive information, Brandon said.

Before filing the FOIA request, Robbins checked with First Amendment experts, press associations and censorship lawyers, including Jane Briggs-Bunting, head of the Michigan Coalition of Open Government. "They were of great importance in this process," Robbins said.

See FOIA, Page A6

'Tis the season



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Four-year-old Isabella Jaczynski shows Santa her reindeer craft.

Tree-lighting event kicks off holiday season in Canton

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Gracie Gerhard, who turns 4 years old Christmas Day, couldn't resist dipping her finger in the sugary frosting she was using to decorate a holiday cookie.

Jackson Roberts, 2, danced alongside Frosty the Snowman.

Isabella Jaczynski, 4, was among the children who lined up to sit on Santa's lap to share Christmas wishes.

A large crowd turned out Wednesday night for Canton's 37th annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony at the Summit on the Park recreation center.

Jennifer Girard, Canton recreation specialist, said 278 families — many with multiple children — joined the festivities.

See SEASON, Page A2

Lotz Road work begins, at last

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton motorists wondering if the long-awaited Lotz Road improvement project would ever begin can take comfort in two simple words.

"We're underway," Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said Thursday.

Work crews have begun clearing trees and relocating utilities amid the project's early phases, but the dirt-and-gravel stretch of Lotz between Ford and Cherry Hill roads will not be paved until next construction season.

Still, significant work is expected to occur in coming weeks. Storm sewer work is projected to begin next Thursday, shutting down Lotz to through traffic for two to four days, Faas said.

The temporary closing is necessary for work crews to perform storm sewer work that requires crossing Lotz midway between Ford and Cherry Hill, he said.

Next up, water main installation along the still-rural stretch of Lotz is expected to begin as early as January. The actual paving by Wixom-based Toebe Construction Co. could begin by April, Faas said.

See LOTZ, Page A2

P-C Marching Band preps for California trip

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

In less than a month, television across the country will tune in New Year's Day and see the award-winning Plymouth-Canton Marching Band perform in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Twenty-five parents and staff members will accompany the 176 musicians to Pasadena, Calif., for the famous parade. About a dozen band members, however, will not attend because of the cost, said Chris Zygmunt, president of the marching band booster club.

Not long after the marching band was invited to the parade earlier this year, fundraising began in earnest. At the time, it was estimated the cost to send the band, including travel, accommodations, other expenses and a semi-truck to haul the musical instruments and uniforms, topped \$500,000.

"We are now done with fundraising," Zygmunt said. "We raised near \$100,000, which helps defray the costs." The band also received business sponsorships. "I wish we could have raised more, but

See BAND, Page A11

Send us your letters to Santa!

It's that time of year kids! Santa is waiting to hear from all of you. He wants the *Canton Observer* to print your hopes for Christmas this year. So please email us your letters to Santa as soon as possible. If you have a photo of yourself, please send it to us. You can

send your letter to the editor at jmaliszewski@hometownlife.com.

You can send your letter to us anytime. But be sure it gets to us before Dec. 18. Santa needs time to read your letters and prepare for his journey around the world.



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Man gets prison for sex with underage Canton girl

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Troy man will spend one to 15 years in prison for having sex with an underage Canton girl he met through a social networking site.

Brett Christopher Lloyd, 42, was sentenced Wednesday by Wayne County Circuit Judge Richard Skutt after

pleading guilty to one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Authorities say the prison sentence should send a message that online sex-crime offenders, if caught, will



Lloyd

face penalties for illegal sex acts.

"Those types of actions are against the law and there are repercussions for doing things of that nature," Canton police Lt. Craig Wilsher said Wednesday.

Wilsher reiterated his warning that parents should monitor their children's Internet activity and the people

they're meeting online. He also said youngsters should avoid strangers and would-be predators who can often disguise themselves — and their criminal intentions — online.

"Anybody can (pretend to be anybody)," he said. "Be wary and take precautions."

Lloyd's decision to plead guilty to one count

of third-degree criminal sexual conduct avoided a jury trial that had been scheduled for mid-November. Authorities, in return, dismissed five similar counts against him.

Lloyd was charged in April after Canton police say he was accused of befriending an underage teen girl through an undisclosed social media

site and arranging to meet with her for sex.

Police have declined to reveal certain information, including where Lloyd and the girl met. Authorities began an investigation after the victim reported the situation to police.

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SEASON

Continued from Page A1

"It was wonderful," Girard said. "Everything went off without a hitch."

Santa arrived, as he usually does, in a fire truck and joined township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who simply waved a magic wand to

light up the holiday tree outside the Summit.

"It was a great event," he said.

For LaJoy, it marked the last tree-lighting ceremony of his time as township supervisor, after his announcement he is stepping down next year after two four-year terms. A proclamation honoring LaJoy was read aloud Wednesday night by Canton Leisure

Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz.

Even the rain that fell as the event began couldn't dampen the crowd's spirits or halt the work performed by ice carvers. And inside the Summit, children and their parents enjoyed numerous activities such as a winter market, cookie-making, sand art, dance performances and arts and

crafts.

"I think each year it just continues to get bigger and bigger," Girard said. "We offer opportunities for the entire family. It's not just for kids. People use this event to kick off their own holiday traditions."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Gracie Gerhard tastes the frosting she used to decorate her cookie. Gracie will turn 4 years old Christmas Day.

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LOTZ

Continued from Page A1

The project, years in the works, will transform a rugged section of Lotz into a three-lane, paved road on Canton's far east side, giving motorists an improved north-south artery, pulling some traffic off Ford Road and easing area traffic congestion.

"After all these years of trying to make it happen, I feel really good about that," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "I'm extremely happy because I think it's going to be huge for the community. It's going to make a significant impact."

Although it's a county project, it was boosted by \$5 million approved in late 2013 by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

LaJoy said the project is expected to improve property values along



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A long-awaited project to improve Lotz Road in Canton has begun. The bumpy road is shown here during warmer weather.

Lotz Road.

Faas said the project also "will be a catalyst for development on the south side of Ford Road."

Local officials had hoped much of the project would be finished this year, but the paving portion was delayed until next year after earlier

projections fell behind schedule. Work crews also intend to smooth out curves along Lotz.

The project could last through much of next year's construction season, officials have said.

The project comes after the Michigan Department of Transporta-

tion has improved Ford Road in the I-275 and Haggerty area by adding a continuous third lane from Lotz to Lilley, lengthening turn lanes and improving ramps.

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Veteran, 85, gets medal for service in Korea

Matt Jachman

Staff Writer

Some memories are painful for George St. Pierre.

Like the Korean War, in which he served with the U.S. Army in the 1950s while his wife and baby daughter stayed in Detroit.

More than 60 years later, his eyes well up as he talks about his war experiences.

"You hate to see guys' heads blown off," he said sadly during a visit Tuesday.

"He gets emotional," said his youngest son, George St. Pierre Jr.

But the elder St. Pierre, 85, was also smiling last week when he was awarded the Ambassador for Peace Medal from the government of South Korea. Two officials from the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs bestowed the honor.

The medals are South Korea's way of showing extra appreciation, decades later, to the fighting men from foreign nations who came to the country's aid in its war against communism. To be eligible, veterans must have served during the conflict, which took place from June 1950 to July 1953, or as part of United Nations peace-keeping operations through the end of 1955.

"It's a way to say, 'Thanks for serving,' I guess," the elder St. Pierre said. He also received several honors at the time, including a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

St. Pierre was drafted into the Army while in his early 20s, a new father who worked in an automobile upholstery plant, according to George St. Pierre Jr., who lives in Plymouth Township. He had been born in Dearborn and raised in southwest Detroit, where he and his



George St. Pierre holds his new Ambassador for Peace Medal.

late wife Ann made their home until 1989.

'Didn't want to be there'

He trained at Camp Atterbury in Indiana, and was then assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, nicknamed Tropic Lightning, based in Hawaii.

He was deployed in Korea for nearly two full years.

"Didn't want to be there, that's for damn sure. But I was there," he said.

The memories are tough — and remembering is made tougher, said his son, because of the beginnings of dementia. St. Pierre has lived in Cheboygan since 1989, but has been in the Detroit area, staying with family members, including George Jr., since January because of health issues and other factors.

St. Pierre lost several friends in the war. He described being in a trench and using periscope binoculars to watch the enemy, across no man's land, in its own trenches.

"We were in our trench. They were in their trench. That's what we did," he said.

The soldiers were told



FAMILY PHOTO
George St. Pierre in a 1950s portrait in his dress uniform.

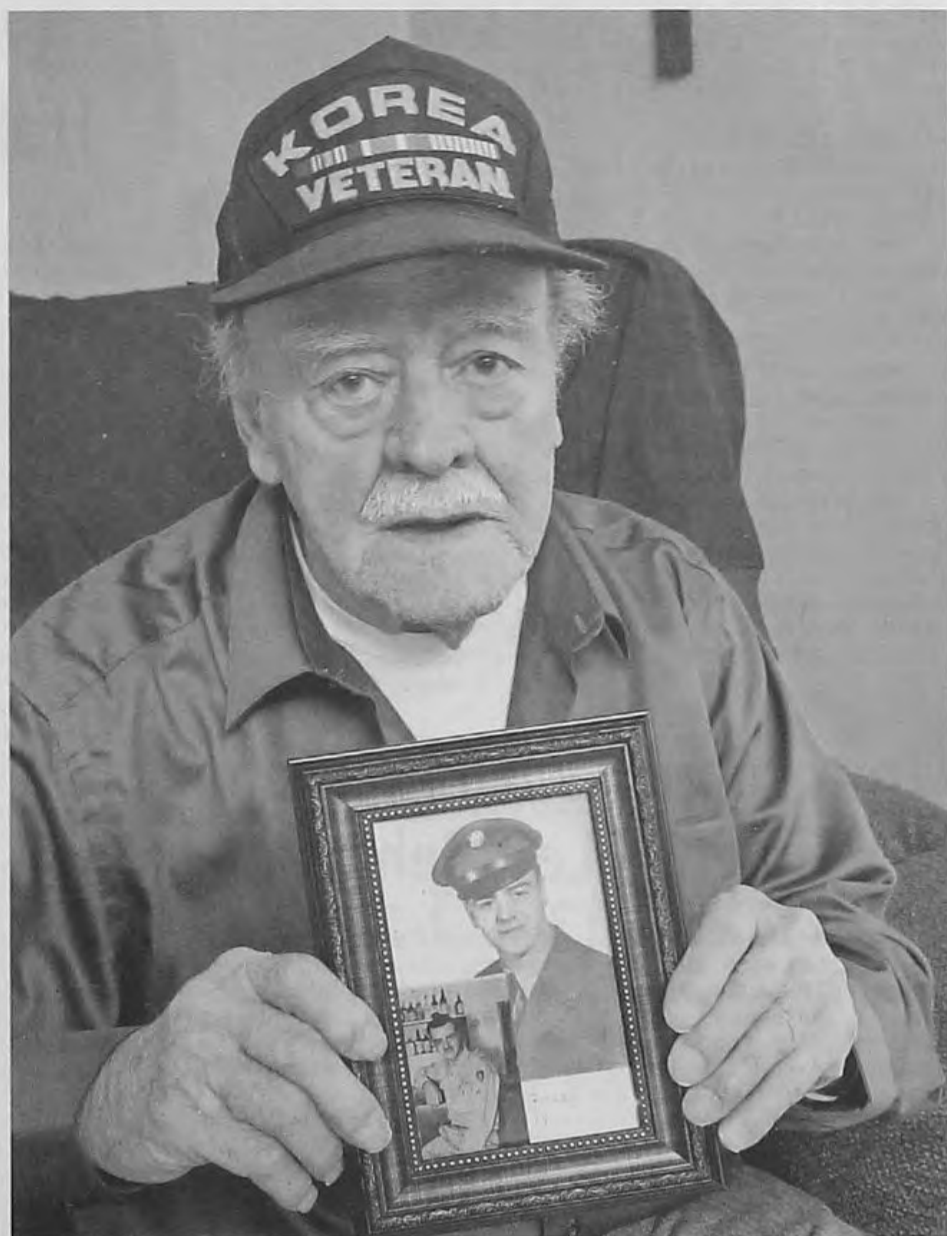
constantly to keep down. "We all knew ... don't put your head up too far," he said. A close friend who put his head up a bit too far paid with his life, he said.

St. Pierre left active duty as a corporal and was in the Army reserves for several years.

'It's been tough'

George and Ann St. Pierre went on to raise eight children in Detroit. He worked for Ford Motor Co. for more than 30 years, retiring from a plant in Ypsilanti in 1985.

Ann St. Pierre died this August, less than two months before their 64th



George St. Pierre with two photos of himself in uniform. He spent nearly two years in Korea during the Korean War, with his wife and their baby daughter at home in Detroit.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

wedding anniversary.

"It's been kind of tough for my father," George St. Pierre Jr. said.

George Jr., their second-youngest child and one of just two boys, remembers a lot of the wartime stories he heard during his growing-up years.

"I would pal around with him and he would tell me all kinds of stories," he said. George St.

Pierre Jr. is the director of engineering at EWI Worldwide (formerly Exhibit Works) in Livonia.

"He'd work on cars or something," he added of his father. "He'd tell me stories. He'd tell me things."

The two had read about the Ambassador for Peace Medal a few months back and George Sr. seemed eligible. But it took some back-and-forth

communication between George Jr. and the South Korean consulate in Chicago, the South Korean embassy in Washington and Michigan's veterans affairs department before the medal came through.

"I've been on the hot pursuit for several months," George Jr. said.

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FINALLY - Straight talk About Sciatica

Are you suffering from back pain or sciatica? Then it's likely your biggest problem is pain. But there's another major problem: bad information.

To end sciatica misery you must have the right information. Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy sciatica myths and give you the facts.

MYTH: Sciatica will just "go away" with some rest.

FACT: If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a sciatica specialist *immediately*. Left untreated, sciatica can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

MYTH: Pain is the only problem associated with sciatica.

FACT: In severe cases, sciatica can lead to the inability to control your bowels or bladder - leading to embarrassing situations.

MYTH: You must take pain medications to deal with sciatica.

FACT: Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure the root cause of sciatica.

MYTH: "I must have done something wrong to get sciatica."

FACT: Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to sciatica. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprit. Pregnancy can cause sciatica. Sciatica can affect anyone - including super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

MYTH: Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to overcome sciatica.

FACT: Staying active can help to relieve sciatic pain and prevent the pain getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

MYTH: Sciatica requires surgery.

FACT: NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain. It's a new procedure called Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results from this treatment have been

published in major medical journals. Success rates are up to 90%.

MYTH: "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

FACT: With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in sciatica, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

MYTH: Getting Sciatica properly diagnosed is expensive.

FACT: Not true. Greg Kramer of Kramer Chiropractic in Livonia, is currently offering an initial consultation for **Just \$43**.

Dr. Greg Kramer - Sciatica Expert in Michigan.

Greg Kramer is Livonia's leading sciatica experts. Greg and his team of fully-trained spinal care specialists have helped over hundreds of patients find relief from agonising back pain and sciatica. He's one of the first professionals in the Michigan to use Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

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You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answering machine to secure your spot and they promise to return all calls. During the week staff can be very busy helping patients so if they don't pick up right away, do leave a message.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Emily Scott
Age/Grade/School: 13 years old; seventh grade at West Middle School

Nominating staff member: Rania Hammond

Emily's favorite teacher: Renee Priest

Favorite subject: Math

What would like to be when older: Makeup artist

My hero: My grandpa because he's always been a positive role model

My goals: To get good grades this school year; to graduate high school and go to college

When not in school, I like to do: Hang out with friends and do make up tutorials on

friends and family members (my mom and sister)

Favorite TV show: The Fosters

Nominating teacher's comments: Emily

encountered some challenges last school year, but made the right decision to make positive changes for the 2015-16 school year. Her attitude about school has completely changed. Having a positive mindset leads to positive results and that's exactly what Emily accomplished. She is now an honor roll student.



Emily Scott

Trott supports bill replacing
'No Child Left Behind'

U.S. Rep. Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, voted Dec. 2 in support of legislation to improve public education in southeast Michigan by reducing federal mandates, restoring local control and empowering parents and education leaders to hold schools accountable for effectively teaching students.



Trott

"Our kids in southeast Michigan deserve the best possible education and that starts by giving control back to our local communities and school districts," Trott said. "What I have been hearing from school administrators, teachers, and parents is that we need to empower local school districts to decide how best to educate our kids, not Washington bureaucrats. This bill doesn't fix every problem, but it makes important steps toward ending the top-down, Washington-knows-best approach that has failed to improve America's education system."

The legislation, known as

the Every Child Succeeds Act, replaces the No Child Left Behind education initiative and reduces the federal government's involvement in America's K-12 schools. The legislation will:

» Return responsibility for accountability and school improvement to state and local leaders by eliminating the federal accountability system, known as adequate yearly progress or AYP.

» Reduce the influence of Washington and help school leaders better address local priorities by repealing 49 federal programs.

» Protect the rights of states and school districts to determine what standards are best for their students by prohibiting any agent of the federal government from mandating, promoting or incentivizing a particular set of standards such as Common Core.

» Provide states and schools new funding flexibility. The agreement establishes a block grant with existing federal dollars that states and school districts can use to fund priorities set at the local level.

A+After School students lend a helping hand to families in need

Right in the heart of downtown Plymouth, some very busy kids kicked off the holiday season with hearts full and help in hand for P.B.J. Outreach, a local organization committed to creating awareness for and serving those in need in the Detroit metropolitan area.

The A+After School students, led by teacher Russ Gale, began their first community service project in September. Over the course of two months, they cleaned out and sorted through their own belongings, made fliers and personally asked for food and clothing for the charity.

Just before Thanksgiving, the students delivered their generous donation to Our Lady of Good Council, where they took a tour of the collection area, learned more about P.B.J. Outreach and how their hard work would help others in need.

"We do hands on projects like these because it empowers our students to help others in the community who are struggling," Gale said. "It's projects like these that give kids a better sense of what others are facing every day."

Maya, one of the children in the program, couldn't agree more. Just 7 years old, she stands a little taller and becomes very serious when she says, "It felt really good helping all the people who don't have homes, food or shoes. I was happy we could share the things we collected with them."

The A+After School Enrichment program, which runs weekdays after school, is founded on the idea that kids can continue to learn valuable lessons after the school day is complete.

Students participate in character-building projects to develop leadership skills, all while working together, learning and having fun. For more information, go to www.midwestafterschool.com or call Midwest Tae Kwon Do at 734-459-4183.



A member of the A+After School kids hauls donations for families in need.



Contributions for P.B.J. Outreach, a local organization committed to creating awareness for and serving those in need in the Detroit area.

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Reindeer, elves coming to Canton library

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

One reindeer and two elves appear to have split from Santa to take their own show on the road.

The reindeer — clearly not Rudolph, because its nose isn't red — and elves are coming to the Canton Public Library.

Presumably arriving from the North Pole, their visit happens 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, during what is billed as Winter Snow Spree, said Laurie Golden, the library's community relations department head.

"This is the first time we've done this," she said.

The event comes after Santa already made an appearance in Canton when he arrived Wednesday by fire truck for a tree-lighting ceremony at the Summit on the Park.

Nichole Welz, program librarian, said the reindeer is actually coming

from Carousel Acres, a South Lyon-based petting farm that also takes animals to visit area communities.

"It's going to be fun," she said.

Carousel Acres owner Tammy Iaconelli confirmed that Rudolph will not be attending. However, she said the visiting reindeer is expected to be either Rudolph's mate, Clarice, or their daughter, Silverbell.

"It's really popular with the children. They love it," Iaconelli said. "I think the adults love it as much as the kids do."

The reindeer, accompanied by two handlers, will be near the front entrance to the library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Welz said.

Iaconelli said children will be able to pose for pictures with the reindeer.

Not far away, Dan Dan the Choo Choo Man plans

to offer rides on a children's train that will be set up on the circular drive in front of the library.

Inside the library, patrons can warm up with hot chocolate and enjoy stories and winter-themed crafts. All ages are welcome and registration isn't necessary.

Golden urged attendees to dress in warm clothing for the outdoor activities.

She said Winter Snow Spree comes partly in response to a community survey that helped define what types of events patrons want.

"They wanted larger-scale, all-ages events," she said, adding that Winter Snow Spree "crosses all kinds of cultures. It's another way to connect the community."

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A reindeer is coming to a Winter Snow Spree at the Canton Public Library.

Spotlight on Youth to stage 'A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol'

A *Fairy Tale Christmas Carol*, The Musical performed by Spotlight on Youth will have performances Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 10-13, at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton.

Humor, song and cheer fills the aisles at this youth production of Dickens' holiday classic story told with a new twist and featuring beloved fairytale characters.

"All your favorite fairytale characters, including the Big Bad Wolf, the Fairy Godmother and the Queen of Hearts, take on new roles to retell this adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* that's surprisingly true to the original, yet unlike anything you've ever seen it before!" director Barbara Bloom said.



The cast of the Spotlight on Youth Christmas show.

Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased by

calling 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater.

Spotlight on Youth exists to create an ex-

traordinary youth-centered theater experience and to advance theater as a means of educating, challenging and inspiring young people. Spotlight on Youth at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill



Micah Belanger, Eliah Gold, Grace Squachic, Kylie Kwiatkowski, Emily Liedel, Rohan Ghantasala rehearse for their upcoming show.

center for youth and families, where programs and activities will celebrate diverse art forms, ideas and cultures.

For more information

about Spotlight on Youth productions, call at 248-719-3637. Facebook: Spotlight on Youth or website at spotlightonyouth-mi.com or e-mail: soy@mi.rr.com.

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Barone announces office hours for constituents

Wayne County Commissioner Joe Barone will meet with his constituents during office hours 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, in the clerk's conference room at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road.

Barone, R-Plymouth Township, is inviting constituents to meet with him to discuss matters of concern within the 10th District community, which includes Canton and Plymouth townships and the city of Plymouth. "We have been facing



Barone

significant issues in Wayne County and I am looking forward to getting feedback from residents of my district regarding issues affecting our neighborhoods," Barone said in a statement issued by his office. "This continues to be a very important time in the history of Wayne County."

Colbeck joins religious liberty rally in Lansing

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, joined with other legislators, pastors, church groups and concerned citizens at the steps of the Capitol for a rally Wednesday in support of religious liberty.

The rally was organized by Salt and Light Global in part to seek support for a resolution calling on the governor, attorney general and other government officials to uphold and protect the fundamental rights of religious people.

Colbeck spoke to those gathered about the

importance of remaining vigilant about the rights to free speech and religion.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech," Colbeck said.

"That is the First Amendment found in our United States Constitution and the reason why we are all gathered here



Colbeck

today.

"Many of us are led to believe that religious persecution is something that only happens overseas. I regret to inform you that many of us have been lulled to sleep resting upon the assurance of our First Amendment.

"The fact is that our religious freedom and freedom of speech are both under assault in America ... before our very own sleepy eyes.

"I am here to tell you that there are over 1,200 documented — documented cases — of religious persecution in America over just the

past decade. These are only the documented cases. You can find them listed at www.religious-hostilities.org."

"It is time to wake up. It is time to take a stand to defend our religious liberty," Colbeck said. "Thomas Jefferson put it this way: 'Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?'"

A video of Colbeck's entire speech can be found at www.Senator-PatrickColbeck.com.

FOIA

Continued from Page A1

His initial FOIA request contained seven specific components, two of which dealt with staff emails. According to the state Freedom of Information Act, a public body may charge for "actual mailing costs, and to the actual incremental cost of duplication or publication including labor, the cost of search, examination, review, and the deletion and separation of exempt from non-exempt information ..."

The bill

When Robbins approached Brandon, he was initially presented with an estimate of \$7,917.15. Based on what he felt was a highly excessive bill, Robbins then appealed the estimate to Superintendent Michael Meissen. Robbins then got the \$8,806 bill.

As a public body, the district is allowed to charge for the labor involved in searching for the emails, analyzing them to meet the request and redacting information that would be exempt. What shocks Robbins is the labor charge

based on an hourly wage of \$49.95 and the 175 hours to complete the tasks.

"If my parents made \$49.95 an hour, I would not be living in the house I am living in," Robbins said.

He takes issue with that charge because the state FOIA declares that "the public body shall not charge more than the hourly wage of its lowest-paid employee capable of separating and deleting exempt information from non-exempt information in the particular instance as provided in section 14, regardless of whether that person is available or who actually performs the labor."

Brandon defended the hourly rate. "Our department of technology has different levels in it," he said, adding that a clerical worker would not be asked to complete the email task. "An administrator has the role and the responsibility and the access to search emails."

Some public organizations, Brandon said, would have attorneys search and analyze and, finally, redact sensitive information.

"Our number one priority as a school is the education of our students and student FOIA re-

quests can be an excellent learning opportunity for the leaders of tomorrow whom we are educating today. The FOIA process is often not well-understood by those who have not previously used it, and it is understandable that pupils may not be aware that Section 4 of the Act provides the structure for fees associated with producing records," according to a district statement.

"When it becomes apparent that producing a thorough response to a request may require significant labor, and hence potentially significant costs, the district may engage with the requestor to explain the forecasted fees, and work to provide as much information as possible without incurring those fees," the statement continued.

It was Elson Liu, P-CCS director of technology, who was charged with the email request. "The search part is not the difficult part," Liu said. "It is the analysis and the redacting. Of the 1,000 requests to unblock certain websites, only about 85 were from staff members."

So Liu would have to analyze all the emails of the 85 staff members.

"We were trying to work with him," Liu said, referring to Robbins. "But that is how we interpreted the FOIA."

Amending request

Finally, Brandon told Robbins that if he eliminated the requests for emails, the district would provide all the other information he requested for free. So Robbins removed those requests.

"To keep the educational process intact, we wanted to find a plan so he did not have to pay," Brandon said. "Our number one emphasis as a district as far as FOIA is to follow the law. We completely understand the response to the fee was surprising. Our calculations totally are consistent with the FOIA law."

But Robbins isn't giving up. "We are currently reviewing our request for options Nos. 5 and 6 (staff emails)," he said.

Brandon admits that he and the students have learned a lot about the FOIA process. "When it comes to lessons on the Freedom of Information, the lesson is that information is not free," he said. "This is an important issue that the students are bringing up. I admire what the students are doing to impact that issue."

Blocked websites — for students and staff — remain important to Robbins and *The Perspective* student editor Genevieve St. Jean. "A lot of teachers utilize technology to teach. A lot of teachers want Pinterest for ideas," St. Jean said.

According to St. Jean and Robbins, sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are not

FOIA REQUEST AND P-CCS RESPONSE

To access information, *The Perspective* reporter Chris Robbins filed the following requests under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act:

» A copy of any procedures/guidelines/rules/rubrics used in determining which websites the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools website will block from student and/or faculty use.
Response: 5 min: There is (to our knowledge) only 1 document

» Copies of minutes from meeting at which those decision were made (Aug. 1-Nov. 2, 2015).
Response: 0 min: There were (to our knowledge) no actual meetings, so no minutes.

» A list of blocked websites that were appealed and subsequently unblocked.
Response: 15 min: There are 3 different lists to compile: one in the appeals form, one in the District on-site web filter, and one in the off-site Chromebook web filter.

» A list of blocked websites that were appeals and still remain blocked.
Response: 0 min: Same 3 sources as #3 above.

» Copies of any documents/email shared with Teaching & Learning group members (who determined which websites are and are not blocked) that related to blocking/unblocking websites (Aug. 1-Nov. 2, 2015).
Response: 360 minutes: Teaching & Learning group members involved with blocking/unblocking websites during this time frame consist of Kay Elaster, Carlos Lopez, and Anthony Ruela. 120 minutes x 3 staff = 360 minutes.

Robbins' original FOIA included two other requests that he deleted. These are the requests that district officials said would cost about 90 percent of the FOIA bill Robbins received:
» When websites are unblocked following appeals, which staff/faculty members requested those websites be unblocked? Copies of the emails in which staff/faculty members made their appeals
Response: 10,200 minutes: A cursory look at the appeals form shows 85 staff/faculty requests to unblock websites since the appeals process was in effect. Searching the relevant emails of each staff member will take ~120 minutes per staff member, based on past FOIA email requests. 120 minutes x 85 staff = 10,200 minutes.

» When websites remained blocked following appeals, which staff/faculty members' requests were denied. Copies of emails in which they made their appeals.
Response: 0 minutes: Essentially same search as above.

blocked, yet Pinterest is. But Liu said blocked sites are district-wide. For example, if a certain site is blocked at the high school, it is also blocked for the other schools and the administration building. Facebook, for example, is not blocked because the district's community relations department

uses the site to inform the public and to promote the district.

The district's Internet system does not allow blocking of websites in only certain areas, Liu said.

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Livonia native helps launch food pantry for Eastern Michigan students

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

It wasn't until Haley Moraniec had taken several classes in her social work program at Eastern Michigan University that she came up with the idea to begin a student food pantry.

The Livonia native and EMU senior began working on the concept last year, working to get approval from the school's Board of Regents and gathering the proper items to begin. Her concept became a reality earlier this semester, when Swoop's Pantry opened at the Ypsilanti campus after a food drive held by the College of Health and Human Services helped provide start-up food.

"I thought we were behind the times, especially since Eastern has such a diverse student population," said Moraniec, who graduated from Stevenson High School in 2011. "Michigan State started the first (college) food pantry back in 1993."

Since it's opened, the pantry has given more than 3,800 pounds of food to more than 300 students in need from its location in the Marshall Building on the Ypsilanti campus.

Julie Harkema, a lecturer at the university who has assisted Moraniec, said there has been massive support, not only from the faculty in the social work department, but from many students as well. The range of students it's helped, she said, has also varied.

"Even though the School of Social Work has helped Haley get it off the ground, it's students who are using the pantry all across campus," she said. "We've had people

visit the pantry and visit with some of their friends."

Support has come from across campus and the community as well, with donations coming from Jiffy Mix Co., the Drakes Batter Mix Co. and Eden Foods.

"Swoop's Student Food Pantry came about because of determined student leadership and it's expanding because of contributions from across the university community," Lynn Nybell, professor and director of the School of Social Work, wrote in a statement. "The food pantry is an example of how we can work together to assure that talented EMU students are not held back by limited means."

Holiday baskets

It's a concept that has gotten some attention through university news alerts and articles in the student newspaper, *The Eastern Echo*, but Moraniec said the way most students appear to know about the pantry is from talking to other students. "We held a couple of events at the beginning of the school year," she said. "The biggest way (was) word-of-mouth."

There's currently no plans to make available a pantry at EMU's satellite campuses, such as the one in Livonia, but Moraniec said any student enrolled through EMU is eligible to come to the pantry if they are in need of food.

Even with the semester winding down, she and other students are still working to help. The pantry organized Thanksgiving baskets for 20 students to take home over the break and students are currently gathering items for holiday



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Kim Schatzel (left), EMU's interim president and executive vice president of academic and student affairs, and Haley Moraniec, a social work major from Livonia, who started the pantry with help from social work students and faculty.

baskets for students to have after the semester ends.

Donations are being accepted until Monday for food items such as turkey, ham, cheese, oranges, rolls and roaster pans, to name a few.

Those interested in donating financially can also do so via Swoop's Pantry website.

Harkema said some may question why students enrolled in a public university, where tuition costs thousands of dollars

annually, need a food pantry. She said the reality is a lot of students take out substantial loans for school and the need is real for some of them.

"These students are graduating with \$30,000 to \$60,000 in debt. We're

just trying to bridge that gap a little bit," she said. "This is a real thing, students are hungry."

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'Tis the season to give, which is better than to receive

Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and other religious and secular holidays seem to be surrounding us at this time of year. One common denominator to these events seems to be the activity of giving. We might ask, in what way is this helpful to us?

Halloween was experienced as the time and opportunity when one could be whatever or whomever you want and go into the world at large and receive free sweets. The long tradition of giving candy to our trick-



Len McCulloch
OUR MENTAL HEALTH

or-treaters continues to be an enjoyable activity for the givers of the snacks to our joyful trick-or-treaters.

Thanksgiving is celebrated by giving. We give thanks. This can further our preparation for Christmas, New Year's Day and other timely holidays. The focus continues to be that of the activity of giving to others. Giving celebrations

into the new year combines the giving of joy and the giving of thanks for the past year's blessings.

Giving to others and the giving of thanks for what we have seems to be an important ingredient of resilience. Resilience is highly important, along with hope and empathy, which are conducive to mental health and the treatment of anxiety and depression associated with emotional distress.

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity, losses, etc. Giving thanks joins up

with its' neighbors of optimism, tolerance and benevolence toward ourselves and others. One of the major tools to build resilience comes from the ability and practice of giving to others and the giving of thanks for what one has.

There is the story of the person complaining because he had no shoes. His lamentations stopped when he met a man who had no feet. It seems that the only thing worse than having a tragedy is having a bad attitude about it. At this time of year, this idea is further exemplified in our timeless

story of Scrooge. Not until, and with, the help and the resilient attitude of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cratchett and their special-needs son Tiny Tim, was Scrooge able to give to others and to give thanks for his good fortunes. As the story goes, this transformed him favorably, forever.

As we find ourselves amidst this holiday season in our community and throughout the world, it is hoped that we can wish the best for others and give thanks for our fortunes, however small or large they may be.

The acceptance of gifts has its own unique importance in that the giver is sharing a part of themselves which is best responded to with a bona fide thank you, rather than a "Oh, you shouldn't have." In doing so, we are contributing to the building of resilience for ourselves and, also, sharing it with others.

Happy holidays from the staff of Our Mental Health.

Len McCulloch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He can be reached for a courtesy consultation at 248-474-2763, ext. 222.

Detroit first responders lauded, Canton native among them

The Detroit Public Safety Foundation hosted the 2015 Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Cobo Hall. The ceremony recognized Detroit police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel for going "above and beyond" the call of duty, as well as community partners for their exemplary services in the city of Detroit.

Among the honorees was Canton native and Detroit Police Officer Kevin Schaefer.

All honorees received one of four major awards, one of which included the Medal of Valor. The Medal of Valor is an award given to first responders when their acts of service extend beyond the normal demands of service. Additional awards presented were the Purple Heart Award, City Change Maker Award and the Public Safety Partner Award. Detroit Police Chief James E. Craig and Detroit Fire Commissioner Eric Jones bestowed

the awards, along with local presenters.

Alonzo Bodden, an American comedian and actor who is best known for winning the grand prize on season three of the *Last Comic Standing*, returned as the master of ceremonies.

In attendance were first responders from across the city, business and community leaders, as well as public safety officials. The friends, families and colleagues of honorees were also present.

"Humility, integrity, honor, selfless service and sacrifice are just a few words that can be used to describe the men and women of Detroit Police Department, who strive to carry out the mission and vision of this department. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we are able to honor the meritorious efforts of those men and women who have so graciously committed themselves to this profession," Craig said.

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

When it comes to dealing with active shooters in the workplace, Ken Wolf said how they are handled has changed and employers need to be aware of it.

"There's been a real change in the mindset of law enforcement after Columbine," he said. "They're realizing these aren't hostage negotiation situations like a guy gets caught robbing a bank."

"Police have changed their tactics and you, the employers, may have to change your tactics too, to try and figure how to survive these situations."

Wolf, who has done several seminars across the United States on violence prevention and threat assessment spoke to a crowd of several hundred Tuesday morning in Livonia City Hall



DAVID VESELENAK

Ken Wolf talks about keeping employees safe during an active shooting situation at a seminar held Tuesday morning in Livonia.

during an event focusing on tactics and ideas employers can pass on to their employees. The event, cosponsored by the City of Livonia, MIOSHA, the Center for Workplace Violence Prevention and the Incident Management Team, went over ways employers can better equip employees with knowledge of how to handle potential shooters in the workplace.

One of those tactics, Wolf said, was "run, hide and fight," informing the participants that employees should attempt to flee the building if safe, hide from a potential assailant and, as a last resort, fight off the assailant, sometimes using makeshift weapons such as chairs or pop cans, a tactic shown in a video he played from the Houston area demonstrating best practices.

Reactions

Garden City resident Darrell Monday, who has worked in the corrections field, said he's learned a lot of the tactics discussed during Tuesday's event, but said it was good for companies who don't specialize in security like he has.

"I thought it was informative. A lot of good thoughts, a lot of things people don't think of," he said. "With the general public, there's a lot of

things you just don't think of."

The talk had several guests come in from out of the area, Wolf said, with attendees driving from as far away as Lansing, Grand Rapids and even Sault Ste. Marie to attend the talk in Livonia.

Wolf said the discussions were done to help make people more aware and to encourage them to discuss this issue before a situation like Sandy Hook or the Aurora movie theater shooting can happen.

Talking about the ideas and making them part of regular company training, he said, is the goal of his presentation. "We didn't bring you here to depress you," he said. "We brought you here to empower you."

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Canton kids perform with Michigan Opera chorus

Canton children will perform Sunday, Dec. 13, with the Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus in "A Winter Fantasy," the chorus' first concert of the season on the main stage of the Detroit Opera House.

The MOTCC is an elite program of Michigan Opera Theatre which teaches advanced technique and theory to children while exposing young performers to a professional performance environment. Of the 76 children in the 2015-16 chorus, three are from Canton and Saline: Neah Bloch, Owen Pichla, and Amber Ohlsson.

Head chorister Rachel Miltimore, a 10th-grader from Bloomfield Hills, has been in the MOTCC for six seasons. "Through this program, I have

learned about music theory, I have sung in four different languages and I have been able to cultivate my voice in a very classical way that will set me up for any musical career I may see for myself in the future. I am so grateful for this program, it has changed my life. I wish I could keep doing it forever!"

The whole family will enjoy a cultural experience in support of fostering arts appreciation in a new generation. The program features a variety of music, including folk songs, opera, and traditional holiday favorites.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. A silent auction and raffle begins at 3 p.m. with proceeds benefiting the chorus, as well as enhancing the schol-



The Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus.

arship program, so any youngster with a dream to be in this chorus in metro Detroit will have the opportunity. The auction features numerous sought-after items,

including tickets to Michigan Opera Theatre performances, Red Wings and Pistons tickets, a raffle for a Detroit Tigers suite and more. Make the MOTCC a part

of your holiday tradition.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for ages 17 and under and free for children 4 and younger. Tickets include the concert, strolling hors

d'oeuvres and dessert and may be purchased in advance at www.michiganopera.org or by calling 313-237-7464. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Horses from Salem stable prance through annual Thanksgiving parade

Twenty-three years ago, horses from Harmony Acres in Salem Township first rode in America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. Last week, they returned for the 13th time.

Riders included Nancy Harm of Salem Township, who is the stable owner, breeder and trainer. She was dressed in white leather western fringe and beaded costume to match her white horse, Tarifa.

Claire Daugherty of Birmingham and Doreen Beauchamp of Livonia shared a ride on Harmony Diamond. They were dressed in red leather fringed western jackets, hat and gloves. Elizabeth



Salem horse breeder and trainer Nancy Harm leads the Harmony Acres equestrian unit in America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit last week.

Richards of Salem and Caitlin Muirhead of Whitmore Lake rode together on Harmony Sadefa wearing red leather costumes.

The Harmony Acres banner carriers were Sara Yokus of Northville, as well as Jillian Sweetman and Coleen Sweetman, both of Livonia. Kristie Van Dam Rautenberg of Lyon Township and Anne Daughterly of Birmingham served as the group's photographers. Susan Sweetman of Livonia was the escort.

Harmony Acres was No. 8 in this year's lineup, behind grand marshal Tim Allen and his family. Harmony Acres was seen in the first hour's nationally broadcast portion that reached more than 100 million viewers.

The parade can be seen on clickondetroit.com and Harmony Acres Arabian Parade Horses Facebook page.

America's Thanksgiving Day Parade is seeking more equine units. Call Harm at 248-437-5672 for more information.

SEMCOG, MDOT examining I-96 traffic improvements

James Mitchell
Correspondent

Commuters are well aware that drive times on Interstate 96 rank among the worst in southeast Michigan. While there are no plans to widen the freeway, Carmine Palombo, deputy executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, said a new proposal could make the existing lanes more efficient.

"There isn't enough money to widen every road, but there's a wide inside shoulder along most of that corridor," Palombo said of the stretch running through Novi, Wixom and Lyon Township. "For a relatively minimal cost, we can add a lane to what's there now."

Plans to improve commuter flow on I-96 from the Livingston County border to the Interstate-275/Interstate-696 interchange are among several initiatives that will be presented early next month. SEMCOG will welcome public comments on proposed amendments to the current 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program and the far-reaching 2040 Regional Transportation Plan.

Among the initiatives would be implementation of an Active Traffic Management approach to I-96, an MDOT-managed project that Palombo said would make use of monitored signage to open an additional lane when needed. A series of signs would direct commuters to use the inside shoulder as a drive lane during morning and afternoon commutes.

"This is a concept being used in a number of states," Palombo said. A similar system has been proposed for U.S. 23 between Washtenaw



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Interstate 96 near Novi's Beck Road intersection. Officials said using the existing shoulders on the Oakland County stretch of road could ease traffic congestion.

and Livingston counties. Preliminary engineering studies would begin in fiscal year 2017 if the proposed amendments are approved. The project has a target completion date of 2019.

Funding is key

Scheduling for the projects relies, in part, on the road-funding legislation recently signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder. Now officials will determine costs and time lines and some initiatives could be accelerated when the funding gains final approval.

"We'll analyze how much it will cost, when the funds will show up and what it means in terms of existing programs," Palombo said. Oladayo Akinyemi, manager of the Southeast Michigan Transportation Operations Center for the Michigan Department of Transportation, said that congestion along I-96 will likely increase if left unmanaged.

"Day-to-day traffic volume fluctuations and incidents make travel along this corridor highly unpredictable," Akinyemi said. "Future traffic growth projected is expected to further exacerbate these issues. Addressing this congestion with permanent roadway expansion is not practical due to

financial limitations."

Active Traffic Management would, Akinyemi said, include speed management, use of shoulders as travel lanes, lane management and queue warning systems through overhead or side-mounted signage that would advise drivers of lane choices.

Overall the amendments would add 31 projects to MDOT's short- and long-term improvement strategies, modify the scope of 23 projects and delete 39 projects to be implemented by cities, villages, county road agencies and MDOT.

SEMCOG and MDOT officials welcome public comment either in writing – sent to SEMCOG Information Center, 1001 Woodward Ave., Suite 1400, Detroit, MI 48226 – by email to infocenter@semcog.org or in person at one of two public meetings. The amendments will be considered by the Transportation Coordinating Council meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 2 and the Executive Committee meeting beginning at 1 p.m. Dec. 4. Both meetings will be held at SEMCOG's offices at 1001 Woodward Ave.

For information on project details, go to www.semco.org or call the information center at 313-324-3330.

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Regular Meeting**

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting December 15, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

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Compassionate Friends hosting candle-lighting ceremony

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, which unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who left too soon, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

As candles are lit at 7 p.m., hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the 19th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time

zone.

Started in the United States in 1997 as a small Internet observance, the event has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance.

Hundreds of formal candle-lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle-lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Starting in New Zealand, candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are started in another, creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world.

The local chapter of The

Compassionate Friends sponsors the Kellogg Park ceremony. The event will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, a PowerPoint presentation of the children's names, poetry and songs.

Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of the children who have died too soon.

Friends and families are invited to the remembrance. For more information or to register a child's name to be included, call 734-778-0800 or email tfcandlelight@yahoo.com.

Candles will be provided and an ornament will be placed on the memory trees in the park when you register a child's name.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jamie Fidler signed "Calling All Angels" by Train at last year's ceremony. This year's candlelight vigil takes place Sunday, Dec. 13, in Kellogg Park in Plymouth.

BAND

Continued from Page A1

we want to thank the community and the businesses. The support was amazing."

Still, the trip and everything that's involved will cost about \$2,200 per person. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools does not financially support the marching band's involvement in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

The marching band and its entourage of parents and staff will leave early, like 4:30 a.m., Dec. 27 on two planes to Pasadena. While there, the band will perform in the 5½-mile parade, as well as give a performance at Disneyland and a band festival Dec. 30.

"I don't know how the kids do it, marching that distance and carrying instruments and playing," Zygmunt said.

The Tournament of Roses Parade this year sports the theme "Find Your Adventure." So the band will perform the theme of the *Back to the Future* film, just as the parade makes a turn and heads toward the TV cameras. *Back to the Future* will also be in the band's performance at Disneyland. But it will perform its 2015 show, "E.X.O.," described as a musical journey into alien worlds, during the



KRISTAN RODWELL

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band performing its winning show, "E.X.O." at the Michigan Competing Bands Association competition in November.

band festival.

The band's performance of "E.X.O." in November earned the musicians top scores as Flight I state champions at the Michigan Competing Band Association competition at Ford Field in Detroit. With a

score of 94.975, the band also swept the special awards: Outstanding Musical Performance, Outstanding Visual Performance and Outstanding General Effect.

The trip to Pasadena will no doubt be hard work, but there

will be time for play. A dinner cruise has been planned for band members, as well as the trip to Disneyland, others to Santa Monica Pier and Universal Studios and shopping in West Hollywood, to name a few items on the itinerary

"The kids are so excited," Zygmunt said.

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BRET HARTMAN | CBS

A Novi resident will appear Monday on the game show "Let's Make a Deal."

Novi man to appear on 'Let's Make a Deal'

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

For fans of *Let's Make a Deal* on CBS, there will be a local connection next week.

Chase Kreger of Novi is one of the contestants on the popular game

show, set to air Monday. Kreger said being on the show was "a lot of fun."

Let's Make a Deal, hosted by comedian Wayne Brady, features audience members who dress up in outlandish costumes to get the host's attention in an attempt to

make deals for either trips, prizes, cars, cash or the dreaded Zonks.

The show is in its seventh season and premiered Oct. 5, 2009, on CBS.

The show airs locally at 10 a.m. on CBS affiliate WWJ-TV (Channel 62).

LPS buses involved in accident

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Two students were taken to a hospital and a bus driver has been placed on administrative leave after two Livonia Public Schools buses were involved in a minor accident Wednesday near Ann Arbor Trail and Meriman.

The accident happened shortly before 4 p.m., when a bus that had just left Cooper Upper Elementary on Ann Arbor Trail accidentally rear-ended another Cooper bus that was stopped at the Middlebelt intersection.

According to school officials, one student was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment of a minor laceration, while the second student was

taken to the hospital by her parents as a precaution after bumping her head during the accident.

Stacy Jenkins, administrator of district communications, said the driver was immediately taken for drug testing and was placed on paid administrative leave pending the investigation. Both are standard operating procedures when there is an injury accident, Jenkins said.

All parents were notified immediately by the LPS Transportation Department and were personally contacted by the principal and assistant principal, who were among the staff members on the scene shortly after the incident. The majority of the students were picked up by their parents and some were

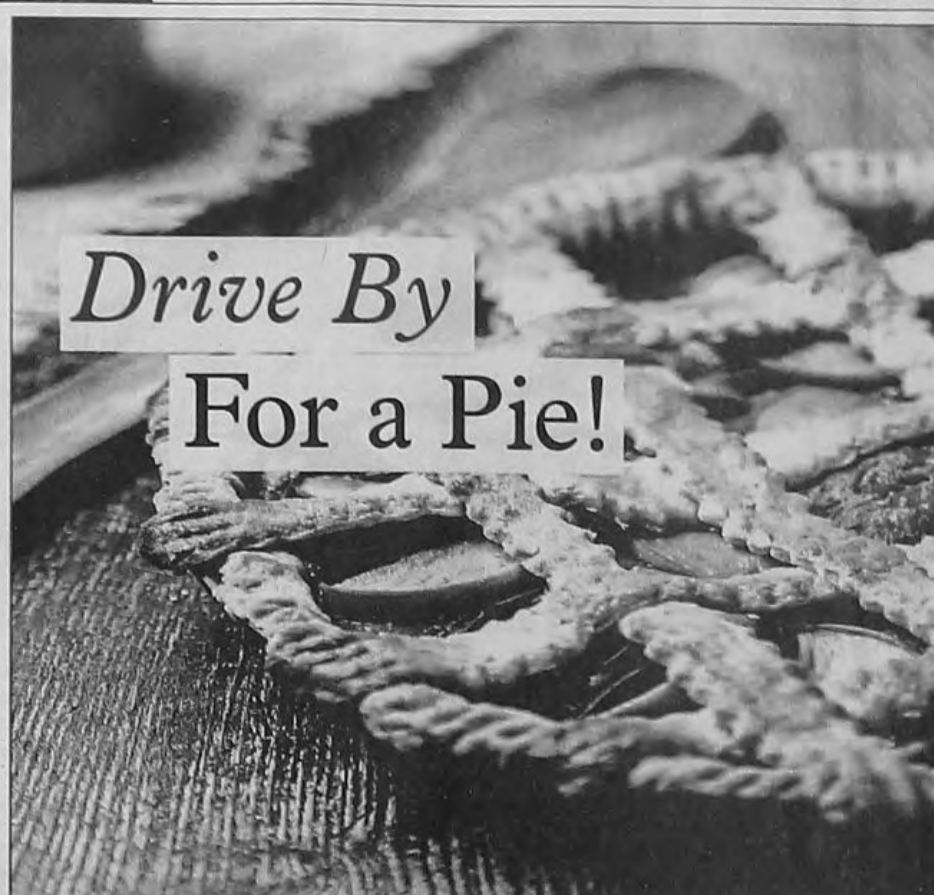
transferred to another bus, officials said.

In an email to Cooper parents, Principal Sarah Aherne wrote, "Our students did a wonderful job being patient and cooperative." She also commended the staff members and emergency crews for their quick response.

"Our bus drivers do a tremendous job, day in and day out, transporting thousands of our students to and from our schools," Jenkins said. "While this was obviously an unfortunate incident, we're very grateful that the injuries were few and that they were minor."

Jenkins said district officials are looking into the cause of the accident.

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Coaching styles differ, but Rod and Matt Windle bring passion for hoops to Plymouth Christian gym

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Two Windles are better than one in Plymouth Christian Academy's basketball world.

But don't expect Rod and Matt Windle to go about their coaching duties in the same manner. Rod — the patriarch of the family — brings "old school" sensibilities to his job as head coach of PCA's varsity girls basketball team.

As for 22-year-old Matt, who played varsity basketball at Livonia Churchill and has a few years of prep coaching

experience, he'll keep a keen eye on social media in his new role as head coach of the Eagles boys hoop program.

That doesn't mean their coaching canvasses solely will be black or white; expect a little gray to creep in.

Seems like that's already starting to happen.

"I am really proud of Matt and he is finding ways to use social media to engage his players and the community," said Rod Windle, who teaches a faith class at Churchill. "To some ex-

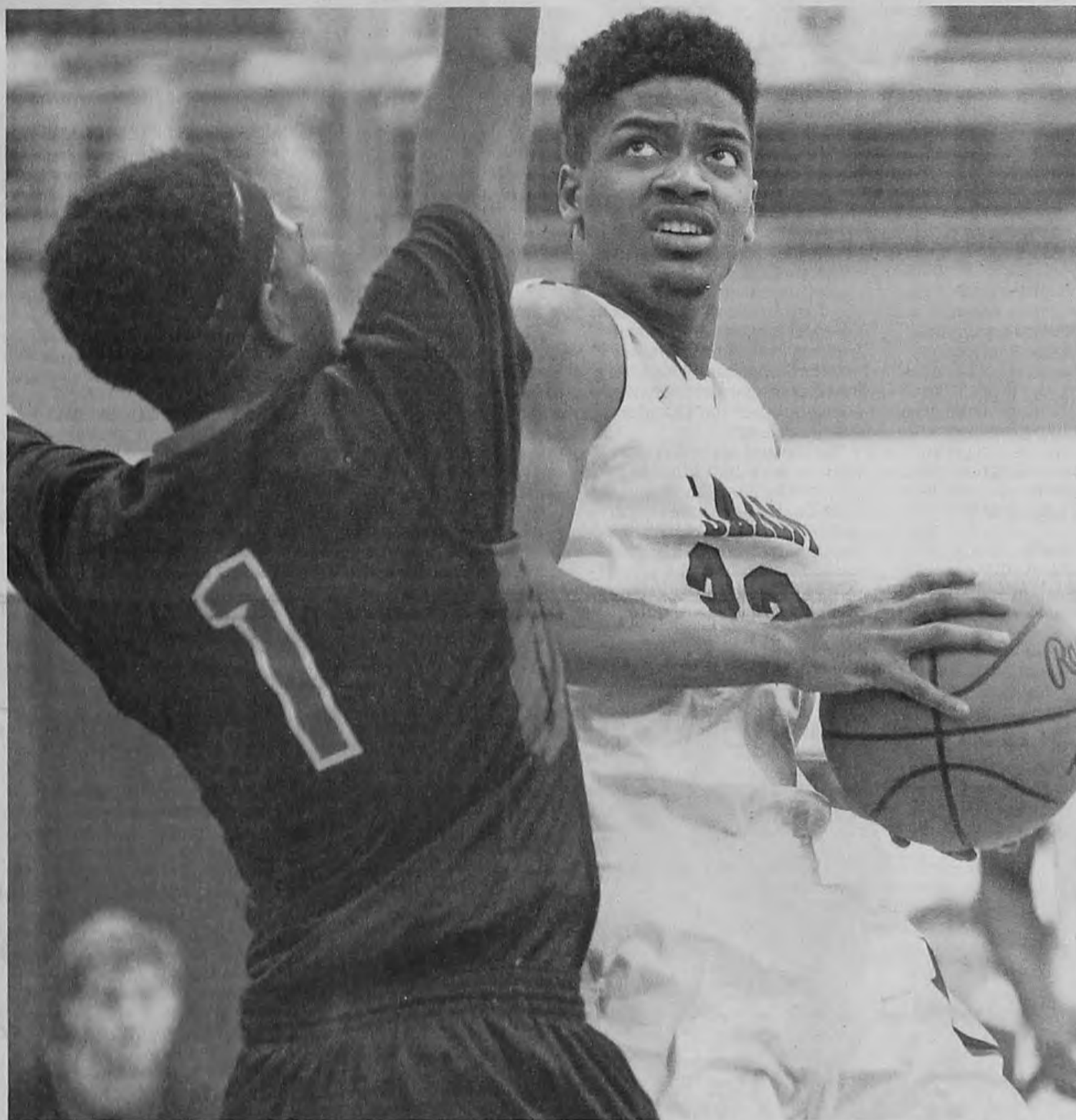
See WINDLES, Page B5



PCA ATHLETICS
Rod Windle (left) and son Matt bring different coaching styles to their respective basketball teams at Plymouth Christian.

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

ROCKS FORMATION



BRIAN QUINTOS

Salem junior forward Cameron Grace (right), shown from last season, is part of what should be a deep rotation in 2015-16.

New-look lineup aside, Salem looks to again be KLAA Central contender

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Change is in the air at Salem, but veteran head coach Bob Brodie is ready.

Four starters from last year's varsity boys basketball team graduated, potentially putting a big dent into the Rocks — who in 2014-15 went 16-6 and captured the KLAA Central Division title with a 9-1 mark before falling to Plymouth in the conference title tilt.

The first test for the Rocks will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, at home against Ann Arbor Skyline.

"The only guy we really got coming back as a true starter is Kenny Topolovec inside, a big guy," Brodie said. "We've got a pretty diversified team in terms of playing time."

Brodie and assistant coach Ryan Nimmerguth

will be leaning on the 6-6, 200-pound senior center to make things happen at both ends of the court.

Go-to player

"He's great on the glass, he can be very dominant offensively and defensively," Brodie said about Topolovec. "He's a great shot-blocker and he has the ability to score inside."

"The key is to be able to give him the basketball inside. He's going to be a go-to player, but he's only going to be a go-to player if our outside players can do their job" and get him the ball.

Yet Brodie doesn't have an inexperienced team, with several returning players who played various roles last season.

See SALEM, Page B4

BOYS BASKETBALL

Canton ready for life without Williams

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Rivals of the Canton Chiefs no longer have to worry about Greg Williams, the high-scoring guard who graduated last year.

That doesn't mean they should take head coach Jimmy Reddy's team lightly as it gears up for the 2015-16 varsity boys basketball season.

"(Williams) did a lot for us, there's no question about that," said Reddy, starting his seventh season at the Canton helm. "People are going to think since he's gone, we could be down."

"They may be right, but I like the group we have. We're bringing back a lot of experience."

With Williams averaging nearly 23 points per game in 2014-15, Canton finished 16-6 and won the KLAA South Division.

In order for similar success this time around, last year's second-leading scorer — 6-7 senior forward Logan Ryan (12 points per game) — will be called upon to take his game to the next level.

The team's first game is at 7 p.m. Tuesday at home against Detroit Country Day, followed by a home contest Dec. 11 against Southfield-Lathrup.

Be consistent

"He wasn't as consistent as we'd have liked last year as a junior and he understands that," Reddy said about Ryan. "But he had a great summer. He was the hardest worker we had in the fall, with conditioning and weights and four-player workouts."

See CANTON, Page B4



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Showing his determination around the rim last season is Canton's Logan Ryan, who is an integral piece of the team's 2015-16 roster.

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USA HOCKEY

NTDP U17s can't quiet Thunder

Bloomington rolls into USA Hockey Arena and leaves with 3-2 win

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Hockey is a game of inches, even on a night when one team outplays the other — which was the case Thursday night at USA Hockey Arena.

Most of the night, the visiting Bloomington Thunder outplayed the U.S. National Team Development Program Under-17 hockey team yet only led 3-2 entering the final minute thanks to outstanding net-minding by Northville native Dylan St. Cyr.

With St. Cyr on the bench for an extra attacker, a Bloomington penalty gave the U17s a 6-on-4 advantage for the final moments. With time running out, Team USA defenseman David Farrance ripped a shot from the left point through traffic.

Flashing out his right toe to kick the puck out of danger was Thunder goalie Logan Halladay, preserving the United States Hockey League victory.

"It would have been nice, there's absolutely no question on that," NTDP U17 head coach. Don Granato said. "But the game was a great challenge for us. They pressured us hard, they played hard."

"Obviously we played a tight game with them last week (a 3-2 Bloomington win Nov. 27) so they came in here and I thought they pushed the pace, they elevated the pace to a tempo that was a challenge for us."

St. Cyr stopped 40 of 43 shots to keep his team within striking distance, and when U17 forward Jacob Tortora scored with 2:19 to go in the third, hopes rose for the home team and its fans that the game might have a chance to go into overtime.

On the second U17 goal, linemate Grant Mismash sent a shot toward the front of the Bloomington goal and Tortora — parked on the edge of the blue paint — redirected it over Halladay's glove.

"He is in the zone right now,



RENA LAVERTY | EXPRESS PHOTO
NTDP Under-17 forward Jacob Tortora (left), Bloomington goalie Logan Halladay and defenseman Jeremy Davies watch the puck nestle into the Thunder net Thursday night at USA Hockey Arena.



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY
Bloomington Thunder forward Jake Slaker (No. 13) has a point-blank shot turned aside by NTDP Under-17 goalie Dylan St. Cyr Thursday night.

Dylan is," Granato said. "Scheelzie (goalie Adam Scheel) gave us a good game last week in Bloomington."

"Both goaltenders have really risen, and that's what you want. He made some great saves, just like great scorers make great plays and great defensemen make great plays. Without question, he was able to keep that game tight."

On the board

Team USA (8-10-4) did get off to a quick start, taking a 1-0 lead just 2:46 into the game.

Netting the power-play goal was forward Scott Reedy, from defenseman Max Gildon and forward Josh Norris (Oxford).

The U17s actually enjoyed a 5-0 edge in shots in the early going, but then the Thunder started rolling.

By the end of the first, the visitors were up 2-1 thanks to markers by Jake Slater and Jake Durlflinger while taking control of the shot clock (16-9). For the night, Bloomington outshot the U17s 43-26.

St. Cyr held Bloomington off the board in the middle

frame, stopping all 14 shots, to maintain the 2-1 score.

He robbed one player with a glove save and later stymied a breakaway by Logan Lambdin to help the U17s kill off a penalty.

Bloomington (10-8-2-1) then tallied what turned out to be the winning goal at 12:56 of the third.

The puck came out into the slot in front of St. Cyr, and Durlflinger rifled it home.

"They (Thunder) pressured us hard, they played hard," Granato noted. "Obviously we

played a tight game with them last week so they came in here and I thought they pushed the pace, they elevated the pace to a tempo that was a challenge for us.

"And specifically in the third I thought we were able to elevate and rise, I thought that was our better period of the three, which was a good sign."

NTDP U18s 5, SIOUX CITY 2: A four-goal third period, two by Zach Walker, sparked the NTDP Under-18 team to a Friday night home victory. Also scoring down the stretch were Kieffer Bellows and Joey Anderson. Scoring in the second period for the U18s was Luke Martin, while goalie Jake Oettinger made 32 saves for the victory.

PREP HOCKEY

Plymouth wins battle of the 'Cats with overtime victory

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Plymouth rallied to defeat host Novi, 6-5, Wednesday night in a KLAA varsity boys hockey game.

It was a crazy ending to the contest at Novi Ice Arena as Novi broke a 4-4 deadlock with only 1:05 left in regulation on Cam Czapski's goal from Ryan Rabinowitz.

But Plymouth got the game-tying goal from James Baldwin just 33 seconds later after pulling goalie Trevor McManus and went on to win thanks to C.J. Mullenax's goal with 3:48 remaining in the eight-minute overtime period.

Plymouth improved to 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the KLAA's South Division, while the loss dropped Novi to 1-3 overall and 0-2 in the KLAA Central.

Plymouth dominated the opening period, outshooting the Wildcats, 12-1, as Jake Silvester's goal from Keaton Courtney and Baldwin made it 1-0.

Novi then outscored Plymouth 3-1 in the second period to take a 4-2 advantage, getting goals from Tyler Camposano at 0:29 (from Jake Cyr and Anthony Luongo); Andy Mizerowski at 2:02 (from Alex Scarozza); and Brandon Kour at 4:03 (from Rabinowitz).

Plymouth countered with a Ricky Covault goal from Silvester at 3:59.

At 1:50 of the final period, Zack Perpich scored from



Plymouth senior forward Jake Silvester, shown from a recent game, had a goal and an assist Wednesday against Novi.

Kour to put Novi up 5-2, but Plymouth pulled to within one, 5-4, on goals by Derek Szczepanik, a power-play effort from Josh Weber and Zack Wiener at 7:41, followed by Nick Yankee's goal at 10:52 from Wiener.

Novi goaltender Josh Richardson made 30 saves, while McManus had 20 for Plymouth.

Shamrocks roll

Top-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central (4-0, 3-0) exploded for three second-period goals Wednesday and held on for a Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League crossover triumph over the visiting Trenton Trojans (2-1-1, 1-1-1) at USA Hockey Arena.

CC took at 1-0 first-period lead on Sheldon Wasik's goal from Brendan Cleary at 7:08.

The Shamrocks then added three more in the second to go up 4-0 — Glynn Robitaille at 2:03 (from Brendan West); Cody Borke at 13:02 (from Austin Roell); and Brian Kearns on a short-handed tally with only 52 seconds left in the

period from J.P. Lafferty.

Trenton tried to make things interesting in the third period, as Griffin Sawyer scored a pair of power-play efforts, the first from Kenny Styles at 2:40, followed by an unassisted effort with only 1:13 remaining.

CC senior goalie Alec Calvaruso made 17 saves, while Trenton's Anthony Lemerand, who played 48 of 51 minutes, made 33 stops.

Penguins blanked

On Tuesday at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins varsity girls hockey team could not solve Livonia Ladywood's defense and goaltending and suffered a 3-0 loss.

PCS stayed close, however, behind a strong performance from goalie Natalie Nowicki, who faced more than 30 Blazers shots.

"As a team, we were unable to establish enough shots on net to challenge Ladywood," Penguins head coach Jenna Donnelly said. "Our biggest issue of late has been zone entry, just had a hard time getting into Ladywood's end."

"We had four power-play opportunities and couldn't do much with them. It's pretty hard to win a game with only 12 shots on net."

The Penguins fell to 1-2 on the season.

Staff writer Tim Smith contributed to this report.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

First loss for SC men

It had to happen at some time. Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team, ranked No. 1 in NJCAA Division I since before the season began, lost 90-80 in overtime Wednesday night to host Lansing Community College.

Schoolcraft fell to 6-1 despite 21 points by Tyron Hamby and 18 by Anthony Wartley-Fritz.

Chipping in six points each were Davon Taylor (Canton) and Dre Black (John Glenn).

The Ocelots enjoyed a 40-33 halftime lead, but Lansing responded to make it 75-75 at the end of regulation and force OT.

Lansing went off in the extra session, outscoring Schoolcraft 18-6 to pull away.

Schoolcraft was scheduled to host Owens Community College on Saturday in hopes

of getting back on the winning track.

Lacrosse meeting

The Canton Chiefs boys lacrosse program is hosting an informational meeting for interested players and parents at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

It will take place in Room 127 at Canton High School. For more information, email cantonboyslacrossevarsity@pccsk12.com.

Rec-king It

Are you a "weekend warrior" with a story to tell?

The Observer is looking for adult recreation athletes who would be interested in sharing their stories as part of the Rec-king It series.

Any Canton or Plymouth residents age 21 or older are invited to email sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife.com) and make the

case as to why he or she should be featured in the newspaper and Hometownlife.com website.

It could be about pursuits in bowling, golf, soccer, bicycling, hockey, softball or flag football among many other possibilities.

Rec-king It features have run occasionally since earlier this year, but we know there are many more out there to be told.

ALL-AREA GIRLS GOLF

All-state talent abounds on girls golf team

FIRST TEAM

Katie Chipman, sr., Plymouth: Chipman came as close to perfection as possible during her senior season with the Wildcats, being named to the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Super Team.

Averaging 38 strokes per nine holes and 74 for 18, Chipman earned selection to the KLAA Kensington Conference team, along with being a Miss Golf finalist.

Slated to golf at Grand Valley State University, she medaled at the Hudson Mills Invitational (71), KLAA final (71) and MHSAA Division 1 regional (69).

"She hits it as long as anybody in the state and she improved her irons and short game this season with a lot of hard work," coach Dan Young said. "Best of all, she's a great teammate."

Alana Jones, soph., F.H. Unified: Jones made the Division 1 all-state first team after a season in which she averaged 76 strokes in tournaments and 38.8 for nine holes.

She was the No. 1 player in the OAA White Division, was the medalist in both league meets, placed among the top four in five of six invites, finished seventh in the state meet and was named team MVP.

"Alana is such a pleasure to coach," coach Bruce Sutton said. "In her two years on the team, she has established herself as the best women's golfer of all time here at North Farmington-Harrison with a 38.2 season average."

"She currently holds every

2015 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS GOLF FIRST TEAM

Katie Chipman, sr., Plymouth
Alana Jones, soph., F.H. Unified
Julia Shaw, sr., Mercy
Darby Scott, jr., Salem
Mia Sooch, fr., Mercy
Ariana Strzalka, sr., Plymouth
Hope Warkoczski, sr., Salem
Kristen Szabelski, jr., Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

Elle Greenlee, jr., Farmington
Alaina Strzalka, sr., Plymouth
Lilly Blake, sr., Mercy
Marissa Lobbia, jr., Mercy
Erin Johnson, soph., Plymouth
Kiley Flynn, sr., Salem
Nicole Dawson, fr., Canton
Kendall Payne, sr., Franklin
Jordan Rioux, jr., Ladywood

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ryan Nimmerguth, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION
Canton: Manasa Potluri, Madelyn Mans, Meghan Meredith; Plymouth: Heather Muir, Rachel Kristian; Salem: Grace Grelak; Farmington: Rachel Newton; F.H. Unified: Sydney Cohn; Mercy: Sophie VanderWeele.

team record but one. Her accomplishments are many, particularly this past season. I would hope for even more next season as her work ethic is second to none."

Julia Shaw, sr., Mercy: Shaw earned a full-ride scholarship to the University of Detroit Mercy after an outstanding high school career. Shaw, who averaged 39 strokes in dual

matches and 80 in tournaments, is a Division 1 all-state honorable mention and led the Marlins to a seventh-place finish in the state meet.

She made the all-tournament team in seven events, including the Oakland County, Catholic League and regional meets.

"Julia wanted success for herself and the team in her senior season," coach Vicky Kowalski said. "She spent many hours every day at the golf course during the summer to achieve personal goals. She served as team captain and helped new and returning players to achieve team goals."

Darby Scott, jr., Salem: The Rocks enjoyed their best season in recent memory and Scott's strong, consistent play was a major reason as she averaged 39.4 per nine holes



and 79.2 per 18.

The all-conference performer shot a 79 at the MHSAA D1 regionals at Fox Hills, good for sixth place and a berth in the state finals as an individual qualifier. At The Meadows in Grand Rapids, Scott registered a two-day total of 174 (29th place) and earned D1 first-team all-state honors.

"Darby was no question the top player on our team this season and one of the top juniors in the state," coach Ryan Nimmerguth said. "Darby placed in the top-10 in every tournament she competed in (and) she was the low scorer for the team on a consistent basis. Darby always expects the best from herself and she rarely settles for anything less than exceptional."

Mia Sooch, fr., Mercy: Sooch had an excellent rookie season, averaging 86 strokes in tournaments and 42 in dual meets.



She earned a place on the Oakland County and Catholic League all-tournament teams, shooting 81 and 79, respectively.

"As a freshman, Mia scored well at tryouts and made the varsity team," Kowalski said. "She had some tournament experience and moved into the starting lineup immediately."

"In the first three tournaments, Mia scored 92, 88 and 83. I knew Mercy had its next four-year varsity starter. Her 83 at the regional helped Mercy return to the state final, and she

was our No. 2 golfer by the end of the season.

"We look forward to Mia earning many honors the next three seasons."

Ariana Strzalka, sr., Plymouth: One of the key pieces in Plymouth's standout lineup, Strzalka averaged 43 per nine and 87 per 18, good for all-conference honors.

"She had an outstanding senior year," Young said. "She was our second-lowest average for 18-hole tournaments (and) was very consistent and reliable. She's a great teammate and leader in our program."

Strzalka, whose twin sister Alaina made the all-Observer second team, is drawing interest from college coaches, Young said.

Hope Warkoczski, sr., Salem: Capping off an excellent prep career, Warkoczski not only made the KLAA all-conference team for the second consecutive year but she qualified for the D1 state finals.

The four-year varsity player averaged 44 per nine and 87.3 per 18 and came in 11th at the D1 regional with a score of 86 to qualify for the finals. At Grand Valley State University's The Meadows, she registered a two-day score of 175 (32nd place).

"Hope was one of our top scorers again this season and has many accomplishments in her career that she should be very proud of," Nimmerguth said. "At state finals Hope showed great determination and focus."

Kristen Szabelski, jr., Stevenson: Szabelski got her junior season off to a stellar start by earning medalist honors at



the Livonia City Meet by firing a 41 at Fox Creek Golf Course. She finished the fall in grand style by shooting a team-low 18-hole score of 85 in a Division 1 regional tournament at Twin Lakes Golf Course. Szabelski narrowly missed earning an individual qualifying spot in the D1 state meet, missing the mark by just three shots.

COACH OF YEAR

Ryan Nimmerguth, Salem: It was an important season for the Salem Rocks,



with the steady leadership of Nimmerguth helping the team make strides in the KLAA and state tournament.

At the KLAA championships in October, the Rocks finished fourth out of 24 teams — just 10 strokes behind champion Plymouth.

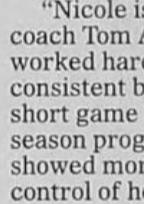
Then, at the Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth Twp., Salem nearly qualified for state finals in the team standings. The top three squads made the cut, and the Rocks came in fourth with a 359 tally (19 strokes back).

Yet Salem still enjoyed regional success because senior Hope Warkoczski and junior Darby Scott won individual qualifiers for the finals.

"Receiving this honor would not have been possible without having great players on the team," Nimmerguth said. "Any title I am given is a direct result of the players performance and improvement through out the season."

"The girls worked very hard preparing themselves for the season and their results showed. I am proud and honored to have been the coach of such a hard-working, dedicated team."

"Nicole is a gifted athlete," coach Tom Alles said. "She has worked hard to become a more consistent ball striker. Her short game improved as the season progressed and she showed more skill in distance control of her chips and putts."



averages of 47 per nine holes and 90 per 18. Dawson medaled three dual matches, shot a 90 at the KLAA

ALL-AREA GIRLS GOLF

SECOND TEAM

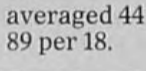
Alaina Strzalka, sr., Plymouth: With an average of 41 strokes per nine holes and 89 per 18, Alaina Strzalka was one of several big-time performers for the Division 1 regional champion Wildcats.

"Could always count on her in the biggest matches," coach Dan Young said. "Great competitor and contributed to

many Plymouth victories. Very positive leader in our program."

Strzalka has a chance to continue her golf career at the collegiate level, Young noted.

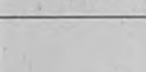
Erin Johnson, soph., Plymouth: Just a sophomore, the future remains bright for the Wildcats with Johnson back for two more seasons. She averaged 44 per nine holes and 89 per 18.



"Erin had a breakout season," Young said. "Works as hard as anybody on her game and it started to pay off as the season went on. Very good short game and consistent swing under pressure."

Kiley Flynn, sr., Salem: The senior's fourth season in the Rocks' varsity lineup was outstanding as she averaged 44 per nine holes and 89.3 per 18.

Flynn was overall medalist



at the Northville Invitational with a 76, finished 11th at the KLAA tournament at Pontiac Country Club with a 85 and placed 19th at the Division 1 regionals at Fox Hills with a 92.

"Kiley should be very proud of her accomplishments on the course and the impact she made on the Salem Golf Program," coach Ryan Nimmerguth said.

Nicole Dawson, fr., Canton: Bursting onto the KLAA scene as a freshman, Dawson was the Chiefs' best performer with

BOYS BASKETBALL

Eagles will have room to grow with new head coach

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Matt Windle is looking forward to putting his stamp on the Plymouth Christian Academy varsity boys basketball program.

But the new coach knows the 2015-16 season will be a work in progress, as Windle learns his players and vice versa.

"It feels great (to be in charge)," said the 22-year-old Windle, a former player at Livonia Churchill who was an assistant coach last year on the PCA boys team. "I definitely feel prepared and ready to be able to do it. It's something that I've always wanted to do and I'm ready to do it."

"Hopefully, the guys are ready to take on the process with that."

The Eagles will jump into the fray of the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference season with only a few players with previous varsity experience.

At the top of the list is senior captain and point guard Luke Yakuber and sophomore guard/forward Matt Malcolm (15 points per game in 2014-15).

The only other returnees are senior forward Josh Slater and junior guard Ian Hay.

"We have a lot of guys," said Windle, who



PCA's Matt Malcolm (left) is only a sophomore, but he brings varsity experience and a scoring touch.

is the third head coach in three years following Dino Mattei (2014-15) and Dominique Washington.

Those newcomers include: senior guard-forward Brendan Wright; junior guards Andrew Fernandes, Brian Schleintz, Adam Albert and Josh DeVries; sophomore forwards Jayne Fadden, Max Okon and Phillip Morby; and sophomore guards

Levi Yakuber. "We are definitely a young team with a lot of talent and little experience," Windle said. "It has been great to see this group have a real desire to be successful."

"We are preparing as a team to use that to be competitive in our league right away."

MU's Moore mourned



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Madonna University students, student-athletes, faculty, staff, family and friends gathered Tuesday evening for a candlelight vigil to honor the late Patrick Moore, Madonna's sports information director. The crowd marched to the gymnasium, where individuals spoke about their experiences with Moore.

فرصة عمل دولية

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BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Plymouth getting ready to follow stellar campaign

Wildcats set record for wins, won first division title

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The last time the bright lights were shining down on the Plymouth Wildcats, they were taking it to the limit against Holly in a Class A boys basketball regional semifinal.

Plymouth's seventh-year head coach Mike Soukup last week said he still hasn't seen the film from that heartbreaking 68-64 loss sustained in March.

Not that it matters all that much now that it's a new season, a new team, a new mission. The Wildcats open with a game at 7 p.m. Monday against visiting Redford Union, the high school Soukup formerly coached at.

"We'll reference last year when we need to reference last year to prove a point, to reinforce teaching when it needs to be," Soukup said. "But last year is last year; it's over."

"This is a new year, this is a new journey for these guys. It's these guys' turn to see what their story can be. That's the neat part about starting over every year."

The Wildcats, still, are coming off a season to remember. Plymouth finished 16-7 (the most victories in school history) and closed it out strong by winning the Kensington Conference and district crowns — also program firsts.

It was special

"Last year was one of those special years," Soukup said before Monday's practice. "That being said, we lost a big core group of guys who were a big part of that, with Randall Aikins, who's playing at Tiffin, and Josh Reynolds, who's playing at Wayne State, and Deji Adebisi, who's playing football at Ohio Wesleyan."

"But we have some good returning guys as well. It's a good core of guys who were contributors last year to that run, (but) not the mainstays. They'll have to grow into new roles this year, as bigger contributors."

One of top returnees is 6-3 senior guard Brent Davis, who last season showed he can be a

prolific scorer. Davis is one of the players who will start against the Panthers.

"Brent Davis was third of the 'Three Amigos,' with Randall and Josh leading the way most of the time," Soukup said. "But Brent certainly would take his turn as well. But this year it will be a lot of him every game that we'll depend on him to score heavily."

Three other players expected to lead the way in starting roles are 6-1 seniors Armani Tate and Frank Brown and 6-0 senior Pete Carravallah. Where they slot in on the floor remains in flux, as Soukup considers them interchangeable parts.

"Armani Tate, another player who contributed a lot last year, he will be depended on to score," Soukup said. "Armani has worked really hard over the summer time to try and grow into that role."

"Another guy, Frank Brown, who was a backup to Deji last year, he'll be depended on to score, as well as Pete Carravallah, who was a gritty guy we depended on for toughness last year. He'll have to be able to score."

They'll scrap

According to Soukup, setting the tone with their scrappy play will be Carravallah and Brown.

"Frank Brown last year was an undersized bigger guy and he certainly makes up for it with his work ethic and heart on the boards," Soukup said. "He's one of the most ferocious kids as far as rebounding's concerned, the ball just seems to find him."

"He's one of those guys who has a nose for it. He certainly pursues it with a great deal of passion."

Soukup emphasized that several other returnees have the opportunity to make bigger impacts, including seniors Brennan Brooks (6-4), Julian LeDoux (6-6) and Jeremy Abraham (6-0).

"We have a cast of guys who were with us last year, but maybe didn't play as much down the stretch as they would have liked," he said. "Brennan Brooks, he was part

guard positions.

"We got Calin Crawford and Freddie McGee, two seniors you got to go with at the guards," Brodie said. "See what they can do for us, lead the floor as seniors."

Another senior who will be counted on is 6-1 forward White.

"Matt will come off the bench for us right away," Brodie said. "He can play either inside or at the wing. He's a fairly good-sized kid who can shoot the ball well."

"He'll give us some experience, since we only have four seniors."

Another key piece to the Salem puzzle is 6-1 junior forward Cameron Grace, who sparked last season before an injury sidelined him.

"He played as a sophomore quite a bit," Brodie said. "He was just coming into his own last year and he got hurt. He missed some games. He'll be a guard-forward type of player."



Showing his athleticism during a game last season is Plymouth's Brent Davis.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

"We're going to have to be a very technique-sound, boxing out group. We're not going to win any reaching or jumping contests."

MIKE SOUKUP

Plymouth boys basketball coach

of the football program, and Julian LeDoux and Jeremy Abraham.

"We're looking at those guys to see when the dust settles who's the last man standing."

The Wildcats "don't need" a true point guard because of the team's motion offense. But Soukup said Davis and LeDoux (a backup last season) are

strong in areas such as ball-handling and dishing it to open teammates.

"Obviously, we need someone with the ball in their hands who can make really good decisions," he said. "And we think those two guys (Davis, LeDoux) are a good start for that."

Soukup said "all hands on deck" will be needed if the

smallish Wildcats have much success in the rebounding department. The tallest player is LeDoux.

"We're going to have to be a very technique-sound, boxing out group," Soukup said. "We're not going to win any reaching or jumping contests."

Stepping in

Intriguing newcomers include 5-9 junior Darius Timmons, 6-4 junior Robert Florence, 6-3 junior Justin Nicholson, 5-11 sophomore A.J. Neal and 6-6, 210-pound sophomore Tariq Woody.

There is a football-basketball flavor on the roster. Timmons — who did play as a junior — and Florence are talented, physical athletes that Soukup expects to contribute on the court.

"From the football squad is Darius Timmons, one of the running backs," Soukup said. "He came out again, he was part of the (basketball) program his freshman year ... happy to have him back."

"(Senior) Chris Walls is currently injured and hopefully he'll be back. But we have Robert Florence, another football kid, who was part of our program as a freshman and sophomore. Big body and rebounding help."

Justin Nicholson, who played on last year's JV, is a "long, athletic young man" who will come in off the bench.

The additions of young Neal and Woody could prove to be important as the Wildcats mesh.

"A.J. Neal is one of the most competitive kids I've ever been around," he said. "And Tariq Woody, who is probably the biggest kid in our program, is very, very skilled."

"We're hoping he grows into being a big-time contributor here at this level."

The ingredients are ready to be thrown into the bowl, beginning with the Redford Union game.

"It's a place that's near and dear to my heart from coaching with Brett (Steele) over there for many, many years," Soukup said. "Still enjoy playing them."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

SALEM

Continued from Page B1

"Last year, Calin Crawford got a lot of minutes," Brodie said. "Jeremy Armstead got a lot of minutes. Freddie McGee came in and Matt White. Some of those guys have some playing time under their belts, but not a lot. They weren't starters."

Brodie said 6-4 Armstead, just a sophomore, will start up front along with Topolovec.

"Kenny's already been a starter. I'm sure he'll come back to the post and anchor that for us," he said. "And Jeremy, I think, will handle the other inside position because he played a lot for us last year at the four. He started a few times."

Back court vets

Crawford and McGee likely will nail down two of the

guard positions.

"We got Calin Crawford and Freddie McGee, two seniors you got to go with at the guards," Brodie said. "See what they can do for us, lead the floor as seniors."

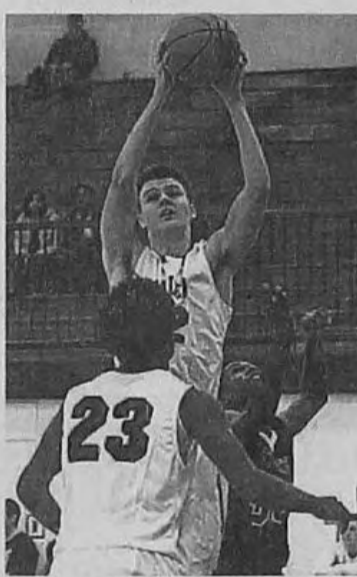
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Firing a shot during a 2014-15 contest is Salem's Kenny Topolovec.

ED WRIGHT

Versatility key

Brodie said he probably

won't have a player specifically slotted in at point guard.

"In our offense, we don't have a true point guard," he said. "We try to make everybody handle the basketball. Versatility is very important. I see Freddie McGee probably trying to take that."

Two other guards who could chip in include junior Cam Barden and sophomore Trevor Genaw.

"We got guys coming off the bench," Brodie said. "Cam Barden, he's a player off the JV who's got a nice shooting touch. He handles the ball fairly well."

"And Trevor Genaw, we'll ask him to handle the point a little bit as a sophomore."

Another sophomore who Brodie could use in the paint is 6-4, 260-pound center Alex Howie.

Other newcomers with the potential to infuse the lineup with physicality include 6-4 junior forwards Kyle Winfrey

and Jeff Whalen.

More of a wing player is 6-1 junior forward Lukas Jira.

Need to mesh

Throughout December, which will include a Salem Holiday Tournament Dec. 22-23, Brodie and Nimmerguth will be monitoring how players grow into various roles.

Then, if all goes well, the Rocks would be ready to roll when KLA Central play begins in January.

"Right now it depends on how well these guys jell as a team, having a mixture of classes, sophomores, juniors and seniors," Brodie said. "You got to develop that camaraderie and chemistry with each other, that will be critical."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

CANTON

Continued from Page B1

"I think Logan's going to have an outstanding senior season."

Reddy said Williams gave Ryan a pep talk at the end of last season, words that seemingly were heeded.

"Greg talked to him at the end of the year and said, 'This is it for you,'" Reddy said. "I think he took that to heart, that someone like Greg was going to say that to him."

"I think that helped him. He's definitely more focused and he's worked harder."

Of course, whether the Chiefs have a good season or not does not rest on the shoulders of the lanky Ryan, who led last year's team in rebounds.

Reddy is looking forward to how well 6-2 sophomore wing Noah Brown and freshman guard B.Artis White might play given additional minutes and responsibilities.

"Noah is versatile for us, he can play on the wing, he can play on the perimeter anywhere," Reddy said. "He can play in the high post a little



Canton's Noah Brown (left) is one of the top returnees from last year's division champions.

ED WRIGHT

bit."

The coach added that Brown can impact the game in different ways, "with his long arms, defensively getting deflections and getting blocked shots."

White isn't on the roster as a ninth-grader to sit on the bench. He'll be a backup option at point guard to open the season.

"He has a unique ability to

help our team with the way he handles the basketball," Reddy said. "He's got really good ball-handling skills, throws it to the open player on time. He's the best pure ball-handler we've had since Dietrich Lever and he reminds me a little bit of him."

"He's a really good outside shooter. He's small though; he's about 5-6."

Back court tandem

Canton's back court will include seniors Hamoudy Turfe and Obi Okoli.

Turfe was a reserve last year and in limited action showed he could finish despite his size (5-11).

"He's very, very tough, around the rim especially," Reddy said. "He can score around the rim for a guard. ... He can shoot it. He does a nice job distributing it, he just needs to use his voice more."

Also starting at guard is third-year varsity player Okoli, entering his senior season.

"Obi was a solid contributor for us last year, at both ends of the floor," Reddy said. "Right now, he's our best leader. He's had a greater sense of urgency this year knowing that this is his last go-around."

"The first two weeks of practice, he's been outstanding with communicating and making sure people are in their spots. Just being a really positive example for the team."

It would help to get healthy, too. Senior forward and third-year player Jalen Cochran (6-4, 235) is healing after getting banged up during Canton's long and successful football season.

"Jalen's resting right now and we'll get him into the mix when he's completely healthy," Reddy said. "He can guard one through five. He can guard any position for us, he's that kind of athlete."

"He did it last year for us, he guarded guards, he guarded post players. He brings energy and urgency. He really just changes our dynamic of toughness."

Chance to shine

With Cochran out to open the season, extra playing time could go to sophomore wing Colin Troup, senior forward Zhending Hu and senior guard Chris English.

"Colin's a really good athlete, as you've seen on the football field," Reddy said. "He's fast; we haven't seen

anybody that fast on our court in a while, in terms of just straight-line speed."

"He wouldn't be on the varsity if he wasn't going to play as a sophomore, so he's going to help."

As for Hu and English, they bring different strengths.

The former "brings another big guy that can help us" in the post. English, is a perimeter shooter who "can score in bunches."

Rounding out the roster are senior forward and first-year player Lorenzo Sigmon (6-3) and junior guards Jake Cesarz, Jake Donnelly and Omar Ali.

As always, how well the Chiefs fare will be linked to the fundamentals stressed annually by Reddy.

"With this group, with some inexperience mixed in with the experience, we're trying to get that cohesiveness on the defensive end," Reddy said. "I think rebounding is going to be about effort with these guys."

"We've got the athleticism, but we've got to go get the ball now."

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hot-hand Hult: Canton forward nails game winner

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Throughout the first half Friday night, Canton's offense against Grosse Pointe South amounted to outside jumpers by junior Erin Hult and Brianna Finn.

It was fitting that when the non-conference varsity girls basketball game came down to the final minute, it was Hult who delivered a triple from the right flank with 11 seconds left to give the host Chiefs a 38-35 victory over the fifth-ranked Blue Devils.

On the winning shot, which gave Hult a 20-point night, senior point guard Natalie Winters patiently dribbled in the back court to wait for the moment to dish to the lanky forward.

Then, it was Hult to get a hand on a South player's desperation

long-range bid to send the game to overtime.

"Erin Hult loves the pressure moments," said Canton head coach Rob Heitmeyer, whose team improved to 1-1. "She actually lives for those."

Hult called it "an unexplainable feeling" to come through with the difference-maker.

"I've never had a game-winning shot before, so it felt great to get the first one of my career," Hult said. "I'm just glad my team got the W."

In the first quarter, Canton looked like it might win a laugh. Opening the game with a trey was junior forward Finn, who scored eight points. Jumpers by Hult and Finn made it 7-0 midway through the quarter.

South started chipping away in the second, aided by some missed layups by Canton players.



Eyeing the basket during Friday night's girls basketball game is Canton junior forward Erin Hult. She scored 20 points.

When Hult sank a shot from the right corner, the Chiefs led 16-10. But then the Blue Devils closed out the half with a seven-point run to go up 17-16 at

halftime.

The contest was tight the rest of the way, with Winters (five points) putting Canton back in front 26-24 late in the

third.

With four minutes left in the fourth, South went up 32-31, but Canton junior forward Shamya Butler knocked down a go-ahead jumper from the right corner.

Butler was rewarded for her hustle earlier in the sequence. She batted a ball out of mid-air to keep it from going out of bounds and the ball eventually came back to her for the clutch shot.

Two foul shots by Finn put the Chiefs up 35-32, but Natalie Engel's trey tied it back up at 35-35 with 90 seconds left. That set the stage for Hult's long gun for the victory. "I knew I had to knock it down, I knew it would come down to that," she said.

PCA 39, HURON VALLEY 15: On Thursday night at Plymouth Christian Academy, the Eagles scored early and often en route to a MIAC girls basketball victory over Huron Valley Lutheran.

PCA led the season opener 10-6 after one quarter before blitzing the Hawks 10-0 in

the second for a commanding 20-6 edge. The Eagles never looked back.

"I was happy to see the team defense each player committed herself to tonight," PCA coach Rod Windle said. "All nine players had a rebound tonight. It was a good team win."

Chapel scored 12 points to lead the way. Adding nine was Horne, with Albert tallying eight. Aliyah Pries chipped in with four points and six boards.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
PCA's Robin Albert brings the ball up the floor Thursday.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mercy triumphs in low-scoring game with Salem, 26-22

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Believe it or not, neither team held the ball or deliberately tried to slow down the game Friday night.

It just ended up being a low-scoring affair as Mercy eked out a 26-22 win over host Salem in

girls basketball.

"It was a hard-fought game," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "Both teams were playing hard defensively. Offensively, both teams struggled shooting the basketball and with turnovers."

Salem led 5-3 after one quarter and 11-9 at halftime. Mercy pulled ahead

at the end of three, 19-16, and won the second half, 17-11.

With less than a minute to play, Mercy's Lauryn Hauncher made a baseline runner for a 24-22 lead.

Teammate Jordyn Schluter got the rebound from a Salem miss and called a timeout. Jackie

Bauer was fouled on the inbound pass and sank two free throws with 14 seconds remaining.

Bauer finished with a game-high 10 points; Schluter had five, Claire Murray and Katie Bryce four apiece for Mercy.

Murray also had 11 rebounds, Bauer three assists and Bryce three

steals.

Lyniah Wilson scored eight points and Lasha Petree seven for the Rocks. Each team sank seven free throws; Salem shot 15 and Mercy 14. Both teams are 1-1.

"We kind of gutted it out," Morris said. "We were really struggling with turnovers and

missed shots, but we kept playing hard on defense and really competed for the second straight game.

"I was pleased with the effort. We said that has to be a constant for us, to play with effort and really compete and everything else with take care of itself."

WINDLES

Continued from Page B1

tent, I am going to try and follow his example and learn from him and get plugged in."

According to the younger Windle — who actually was coached by his father during his formative years in a Plymouth-Canton Educational Park basketball league and at Frost Middle School in the Livonia district — he and his dad "kind of have the same sense of style" in terms of X's and O's.

"I definitely have established a newer age of coaching, in terms of implementing social

media and things like that," Matt said. "He's old school in that part of it, but we've split up a Twitter page and we've done these different things."

Cool combo

Rod and Matt are the same, too, in that they eat, drink, sleep and constantly talk basketball.

They'll be splitting gym time at PCA, too, which should up the ante on those discussions.

The family connection at PCA isn't some trial balloon. Matt already has coached together with his dad at PCA, in 2013-14.

"I don't see it as something unusual or differ-

ent because, when I was the JV girls coach I was coaching with him at the same time," Matt said. "The varsity combination is kind of cool, being in charge of two programs and being able to represent the Eagles in that way."

Matt also was an assistant coach with the Eagles boys program, first on the staff of Dominique Washington and last winter for Dino Mattei.

"I really enjoyed coaching side by side with Matt two years ago, as he was my girls JV coach and assisted me with varsity, as well," the elder Windle said. "I was also happy for his success as a JV boys coach last season."

"Matt is committed to developing and strengthening his athletes. He has run summer camps the past two years to develop and encourage the younger players in our program. He has great leadership skills and will do a great job of preparing his team each week for competition."

Winning approach

Of course, Rod intends on favoring the tried and true as he now begins his 11th season as a PCA girls varsity basketball coach.

"The more I learn about the game of basketball, the more I come to believe in the basics of dribbling, passing, shooting, defensive stance and rebounding," he said. "The basics of team

building include hard work, leadership from within the team and loving your neighbor or teammate as yourself.

"Practice the basics, the basics, the basics. In life, like in basketball, we need to be grounded in a solid foundation. So I guess I am about as 'old school' as they come."

Old school or new school, labels don't really matter much to Rod and Matt Windle. They'd like to see a new label at PCA — winning school.

And this could be the year for that, especially since the boys soccer and volleyball teams are coming off long postseason runs that boosted the level of positive energy among multi-sport athletes at the small, Christian school on Joy Road.

"Definitely, (success in other sports) could transfer to basketball," Matt said. "With the soccer boys playing basketball and the volleyball girls that are playing basketball, the winning mentality that is brought from the other sports carries through, for sure. "Understanding how to win, what it takes to win, winning with humility, being confident instead of cocky coming into games. It comes through."

There's a good chance in that positive buzz continuing all winter, thanks to a father and son on the PCA basketball scene.

Call it The Windle Way.

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Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2015

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2015 and payable through February 28, 2016 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page—www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Thursday, December 24, 2015 and Friday, December 25, 2015 also Thursday, December 31, 2015 and Friday, January 1, 2016.

During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be **OPEN** on Monday, December 21, 2015, Tuesday, December 22, 2015, Wednesday, December 23, 2015 also Monday, December 28, 2015, Tuesday, December 29, 2015 and Wednesday, December 30, 2015 for our taxpayers' convenience.

Teresa Cischke, MICPT CPFA
City Treasurer

Published: December 3 & 6, 2015

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Achieve Charter Academy
3250 Denton Rd Canton, MI 48188-2110
734-397-0960 PHONE | 734-397-0968 FAX

Canton Charter Academy
49100 Ford Rd Canton, MI 48187-5415
734-453-9517 PHONE | 734-453-9551 FAX

Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy
48484 N Territorial Road Plymouth, MI 48170-2850
734-459-6149 PHONE | 734-864-0341 FAX

South Canton Scholars Charter Academy
3085 S. Canton Center Rd Canton, MI 48188-2452
734-398-5658 PHONE | 734-547-3077 FAX

South Pointe Scholars Charter Academy
10550 Geddes Road Ypsilanti, MI 48198-9442
734-484-0118 PHONE | 734-864-0353 FAX

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2016-2017 academic school year ends on 2/29/2016 at 5:00 p.m. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHAschools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held at the respective school on the following date:

- Achieve - 3/8/2016 at 4:00 p.m.
- Canton - 3/9/2016 at 4:30 p.m.
- Plymouth - 3/9/2016 at 4:30 p.m.
- South Canton - 3/9/2016 at 4:30 p.m.
- South Pointe - 3/9/2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

National Heritage Academies admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Published: December 6, 2015

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PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 6, consisting of **District-Wide Remodeling Projects**

will be received at the office of Ms. Pamela Anstey, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until **1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, December 17, 2015** at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

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

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

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

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 103: Selective Demolition | 106: Masonry |
| 108: Carpentry / General Trades | 109: Roofing / Sheetmetal |
| 114: Aluminum Entrances / Storefront / Glass & Glazing | 115: Metal Studs / Drywall / EIFS |
| 117: Acoustical Ceilings | 118: Carpet / Resilient Flooring |
| 120: Painting | 125: Toilet Partitions |
| 128: Plastic Laminate Casework | 130: Window Treatments |
| 140: Plumbing | 142: HVAC |
| 143: Electrical | |

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

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 via the following:

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

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

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 2:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

END OF SECTION

Published: December 6 & 10, 2015

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***Enter online at CityofWestland.com!**

Artists raise funds for Michigan AIDS Coalition

Julie Yolles

Social Scene Columnist

Supporters marked World AIDS Day, Tuesday, Dec. 1, with forums, educational programs, and fundraisers. In Detroit a benefit concert at The Garden Theatre featured some of the top American Idols.

Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) is one of the state's oldest non-profits dedicated to HIV/AIDS education, outreach and prevention. One major fundraiser for MAC, ArtWorks Detroit, founded by Barbara Bunting of

Southfield, celebrated its 20th Anniversary earlier this fall and raised nearly \$37,000 for Michigan AIDS Coalition.

"ArtWorks Detroit features very giving artists that donate their work and ask for nothing in return," said sculptor Ted Hadfield, a Farmington Hills resident who served as a co-chair, along with Bunting, for his fifth year. "They're very selfless."

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



SUBMITTED
Farmington Hills residents Kathy Banker and sculptor Ted Hadfield, ArtPack Services owner and ArtWorks Detroit co-chair; Jacklyn Arnest of Grosse Ile and Kristie Arnst of Ypsilanti, enjoy ArtWorks Detroit.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER

ADVENT CANTATA

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. worship services, Dec. 13
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Adult and children's choirs, handbells, brass and string instruments, along with scripture

Contact: christoursavior.org; 734-522-6830

ADVENT SERIES

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 and 16

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

Details: On Dec. 9, Rev. William H. Tindall will use vestments, vessels, prayers and sacred books to explain the Liturgy of the Mass. On Dec. 16, Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, will explain the Sacrifice of the Mass and its meaning

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200; livoniastmichael.org

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 9, 16

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The theme for meditations is "Advent Means Coming"

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 16

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: This service is for individuals who struggle with the holidays, including those who are grieving or dealing with a job loss. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service

Contact: 734-422-1470

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Time/Date: Check-in, 5 p.m., incense ceremony, 5:30 p.m., reception, 6-7 p.m., candlelight program, 7:15-9:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12

Location: Michigan Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Theme is "One Light, Many Flames, Bringing Hope." Includes music, food and fellowship at this Tao temple. RSVP by Dec. 8 to reserve for dinner

Contact: michigantemple@yahoo.com; 734-890-2307

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Time/Date: Blue Christmas service, 7 p.m. Dec. 21, Christmas Eve services, 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Contact: 734-427-3660

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12, early bird sale at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Christmas cookies cost \$7.50 per pound. Other baked goods are individually priced. \$2 admission for early bird sale

Contact: 734-427-2290

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11

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

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers sing selections from the Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saens, The Magnificat by Finzi, and other seasonal music.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and students over 12, available at the door or in advance online

Contact: detroitluthersingers.com

HYMN FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 W. Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The choirs of Holy Trinity and St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington present a Christmas hymn festival, "Holy Light." Directors Ann Buland and Troy Nelson will lead the mass choir, supported by Dale Love and Lisa Hartge, accompanists. A free will offering will be

accepted and a reception will follow the concert

Contact: 734-464-0211

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

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

Details: The service, which follows a format popularized by King's College of the University of Cambridge, England, alternates readings from scripture with the singing of songs and carols. Features Youth choir, Handbell Choir, Grace and Amazing Grace choirs, and House Band, under the direction of Julie Ford. Donations will be accepted Admission is free, although donations will be accepted for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan

Contact: 734-453-0190; stjohnsplmouth.org

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

Location: St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Features the adult and children of the music ensembles of St. Aidan. Admission is a \$5 donation or two canned food goods for Christmas food baskets for the needy

Contact: 734-425-5950

WINTER SOLSTICE

Time/Date: 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19

Location: The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills

Details: Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi leads a color-themed solstice ritual that celebrates "the longest night." The story theme is "Silver-Blue Solstice: A Walk in Nature Across Time." The celebration includes soloists, story, meditation, ritual, dance and visuals

Contact: 248-478-7272; uuFarmington.org

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

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

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livoniastmichael.org.

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

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

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



Detroit Lutheran Singers performs Dec. 11 at St. Michael Lutheran Church, Canton.



Members of the music ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth will perform at the Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 6.

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@tbsm.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: Ethanief 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

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

RECYCLING

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A twice-monthly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous

Contact: 248-559-7722; www.oa.org for additional information

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts), Thursday

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through May

Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives.

Contact: 734-637-7618

Passages

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mideathnotices.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

DeCHALK, NICK GERARD

53, of Concord, Michigan passed away Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015 after a yearlong battle with lymphoma. He was born June 9, 1962 in Detroit and was the son of Nick and Nancy (Champion) DeChalk. Nick faithfully served our country in the U.S. Army and retired as Sergeant First Class after 24 years of honorable service. Nick is survived by his wife Kara, his children from his first marriage, Nick DeChalk and Amanda DeChalk; siblings, Stephanie DeChalk and Rocco (Sonwha) DeChalk; sister-in-law, Jennifer DeChalk; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Chris DeChalk. Nick's family will celebrate his life on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015 at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 27101 W. Chicago St., Redford, Michigan where he will lie in state at 10 a.m. until Mass at 10:30 a.m. with Father Richard Leliaert officiating. The family will receive friends for visitation on Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 from 4-8 p.m. with a Rosary at 7 p.m. followed by a memorial service at J. Kevin Tidd funeral Home, 811 Finley Dr., in Albion. Burial will take place on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 at noon at Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, The Ronald McDonald House or a charity of the donor's choice. To leave messages of condolence for the family, please visit www.kevintiddfuneralhome.com

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

HELPING HANDS

LOCAL BUSINESSES COLLECT FOOD, HOUSES FOR OUTDOOR DOGS

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Animal Care Network volunteers will hit the streets of Pontiac and Inkster this weekend, bringing pet food, shelter and hope to outdoor dogs.



PET PROJECTS

Animal Care Network (MAAN), the nonprofit organization that runs the Animal Care street teams.

"Our biggest thing is educating and taking care of the animals that they (pet owners) tell us they love, but they keep them outside."

Volunteers work with some households for years on improving living conditions for an outdoor pet. Help may come in the form of a free new dog house — raised on a pallet to keep it from flooding — bowls, collars, fresh water, free pet food, free straw delivery, a tidier backyard and care for fly bites. Volunteers make regular wellness and welfare checks, respond to emergency calls and check vacant houses for abandoned animals.

Food, shelter drives

They'll get some help this month supplying houses, bowls and foods from two local businesses: Pet Supplies "Plus" in Bloomfield Hills and Aleta Sill's Bowling World in Farmington Hills.

MAAN supporters can buy a large doghouse and two steel bowls for \$60 at Pet Supplies "Plus," 2057 S. Telegraph. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Purchases can be made in person or by telephone with a credit card by calling 248-333-7545.

The doghouse and bowls will remain at the store for pickup by MAAN volunteers.

Aleta Sill's Bowling World, 30250 W. Nine Mile, is accepting pet food donations from 1-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. The bowling center informally collects pet food all year for MAAN, but makes an extra effort at the holidays with a food drive.

"They do amazing work. Volunteers are out there making sure these animals are OK. The least we can do is be a hub to collect food for them," said Michelle Mullen, co-owner of Aleta Sill's Bowling World. Mullen and Sill also have organized an annual summer bowling event for the past 10 years that benefits both MAAN and Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter. The event is MAAN's biggest fundraiser.

Mullen said she also will accept cash donations to buy pet food this month for the organization.

"MAAN operates on a shoestring budget and they need supplies to do what they do. They are angels. They are warriors."

Spay, neuter

While offering assistance, MAAN



Marie Skladd, Michigan Animal Adoption Network president, sits atop a mound of pet food bags collected in August at Aleta Sill's Bowling World in Farmington Hills. SUBMITTED



The next best thing to a comfy indoor bed is a warm doghouse and straw from Michigan Animal Adoption Network. SUBMITTED



Outdoor dogs in a fenced yard get a visit from the Michigan Animal Adoption Network. SUBMITTED

encourages pet owners to spay or neuter their animals.

"People need assistance, we work with them. We want them to get their animal fixed," Warren said. "We make a deal first. We're big on low-cost spay and neuter."

Some families bring their animals indoors, but can't afford to buy pet

food. Persistent rechecks on outdoor dogs sometimes pay off in an owner surrendering an animal for adoption. Volunteers have no authority to confiscate or unchain dogs, but work closely with animal control and sheriff departments in reporting cruelty.

"A lot of people are good with animals but they need help. Those are the

people who are receptive to spay and neuter," Warren said. "If you can get them spayed and neutered, there won't be unwanted ones."

Visit MAAN at michigananimaladoptionnetwork.org.

sdargay@hometownlife.com | Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

Author makes light of short height in new book

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Norene Fritz of Canton knows she's short.

She's 4-feet, 8-inches tall and has heard her share of height jokes and comments through the years.

"In the beginning I would get really offended. I would think, how dare you. You don't know me," said Fritz, a grandmother and retired counselor.

"I did a lot of praying about this and my kids did a lot of 'Oh, Mom!' Over the years you learn to live with it and I have enough self-esteem to know who I am."

Now she's laughing at the comments and hopes others will, too. She compiled them into a book, *You Know You Are Short When...* The 49-page softcover book, published by Westbow Press, is illustrated by Danise Abbott and includes comments about height with comebacks, observations on being short, a few Bible verses and other quotes, along with a mention of fam-

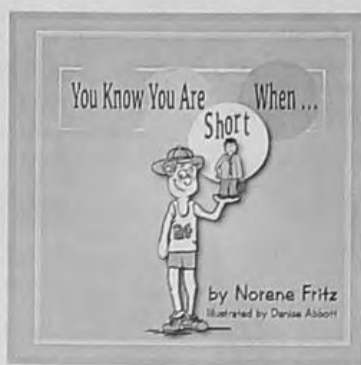


Norene Fritz is author of "You Know You Are Short When..." SUBMITTED

ous short celebrities, including Dolly Parton and Michael J. Fox. It's available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

"They say you should write about what you know. I wrote about what I know — being short," said Fritz, an aspiring writer who hopes to some day pen a novel. "After talking to short people and using my experiences, it took off."

Fritz said she was inspired by comedian Jeff Foxworthy's



The 49-page softcover book is illustrated by Danise Abbott. SUBMITTED

style while writing the book. The comments are short, simple and lighthearted.

"I know a lot of short people. My whole family is short. I went on Facebook one time and said I would like comments from short people. I'd look things up online to see other people's comments on being short. They are all basically the same issues. I've heard all of them growing up. 'I'd have to say a lot of the

bullying comments I've heard are from adults. Hopefully, the book will make people think before they speak."

Missionary work

Height has never held Fritz back. She learned Spanish and worked as a missionary for seven years in Mexico with her now ex-husband and four children. After returning to Michigan, the single mom worked nights at a restaurant and attended college classes during the day, while also raising her children. It took 15 years, but she earned a bachelor's degree in human resources from Concordia University in Ann Arbor.

While between jobs, she volunteered for Mercy Ships, a medical program that assists residents in developing countries with health needs. Her volunteer service was cut short when she returned home to become a caregiver for her ailing mother.

Fritz earned a master's degree in counseling in 2011 from Spring Arbor College

and worked for Primacare, a mental health service in Westland, before retiring in September.

She hopes sales from her book, which retails for \$20.95, will help support her mission work next year in Honduras and India. She'll sign books from 3-5 p.m. Jan. 9, 2016 at Barnes & Noble Bookseller, 17111 Haggerty, Northville.

So, how do you know your short? Here's a sampling from *You Know You Are Short When...*

» You have to use a garden tool to get the laundry out of the washing machine.

» "Friends" nickname you Hobbit.

» Someone bends down to talk to you.

» Someone bumps into you and says, "Oh, I didn't see you down there."

» Clothes (even petites) drag.

sdargay@hometownlife.com
Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

Learn to love your front-load washer again

In the many years of writing this column, I don't think there is one issue I haven't brought to the attention of our readers. Most of these problems are the very things that consumers have passed on to me and some came directly from my darling Valorie who didn't have any love for her Maytag front loader. I'm pleased to say that with the purchase of a new washing machine last Christmas, all is quiet on the homefront.

I have received permission from Mary Beth to share her email with readers to show how she turned a negative into a positive.

She writes: "I hope that this email finds you well. Over the years you have helped me fix my



Joe Gagnon
THE APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

refrigerator and ice maker as well as my dryer, allowing me to save considerable money. I am hoping that maybe my solution can save your readers some money and help them to love their front load washer again.

"I have a Maytag 2000 Series front load washer. It's about three years old. About a year ago it started to get that musty smell. I used the tablets but the smell quickly came back. I did some research and here's my solution. First, use the tablets to reduce any built up bacteria/mold.

Then going forward when I fill the laundry detergent cup with liquid detergent up to the proper line, I then fill the cup the rest of the way with water and then add it to the dispenser drawer. I do the same thing with fabric softener. Fill the softener lid up to the correct line with softener and fill to the top of the cap with water. Then add to the dispenser drawer. I noticed that this eliminates the detergent and softener residue that was building up in the drawer. After I am done washing clothes for the week, I take out the drawer turn it upside down over the sink and let the excess water drip out. I then pour a splash of vinegar into the drawer opening and pour another

splash of vinegar into the drum cavity. (A splash like I'm cooking with wine). The vinegar is acidic enough to stop any bacteria/mold from growing. I've been doing this since last February and the musty smell has not returned. The result is that I love my Maytag front load washer all over again."

Bad bearing

Dear Mary Beth, I thank you and so will many readers who will prove your system of washing may solve their odor problems. As for this guy who experienced this odor problem for seven years, you could have saved me the cost of a new washer. I can't say that really, because the tub bearing was going

bad, so the washer was ready for the scrap metal yard anyway. As you mentioned, I have saved you money in the past and it is always my intent to do the same in the future, so here is a tip for you and all owners of the Maytag front loaders: When that washer starts to make a screeching screaming noise you can pretty well rest assured that the rear bearing is going bad. It will run for some time before it locks up on you and know that the cost of repairs will exceed \$600. Should this occur, it's time to put on some lip gloss and kiss your love goodbye.

When a consumer purchases a new washer today they will want it to look good in the laundry room and there is no

doubt that a front loader fits the bill. My darling Valorie thought the same way eight years ago when shown a new shape in the cabinet and all the colored lights on the consul. It didn't take her long to realize how much she missed her 35-year-old Maytag top loader.

Longevity must be kept in mind and you should find out who makes the best washing machine today or you could spend an extra \$1,000 after a 10-year period of ownership. Know what you're buying and don't be afraid to ask me.

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

Women To Work program offers helps with job searching

Southfield-based JVS will offer the Women To Work Program at two locations starting in January 2016.

The program will be held in Southfield for five weeks, twice per week from 9 a.m. to noon and starts with an information meeting Thursday, Jan. 14. The program begins Tuesday, Jan. 19. The program also will be held at JVS in Detroit and begins with an information meeting Jan. 26. The Detroit program includes basic computer training and will take place three mornings per week, also for five weeks.

"JVS does this in order to help women enter or re-enter the workforce often after many years," said Judy

Richmond, Women To Work coordinator for JVS. Often, women have been at home caring for children or other family members, and find themselves in need of paid employment due to a change in life circumstances.

The goal, Richmond said, is to give women the skills to find and keep employment. The Women To Work program is also open to men.

Sessions include information on resume writing, interviewing, job search skills, decision-making, goal setting, stress management and more. If you are interested, contact Richmond at 248-233-4232 or jrichmond@jvsdet.org.

By Julie Brown

Seedlings Braille Books for Children sells holiday card

If you're looking for a holiday card that sends a message in braille and print, check out Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

The Livonia-based organization is selling a package of 12 cards and envelopes for \$16. The cards sport a photo of a paper Christmas tree made by a 9-year-old braille reader who learned the craft of paper folding while in the hospital. The message inside the card, in both braille and print, says Happy Holidays and Best Wishes.

Order cards by calling 800-777-8552. Shipping is available at \$6 for up to three packages and \$13 for four to 18 packages.



SUBMITTED
Seedlings Braille Books for Children in Livonia is selling holiday cards with print and braille messages.

Visit seedlings.org for more information.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Livonia Garden Club

Jennifer Shockling, who served as community forester at the Greening of Detroit, will give a PowerPoint presentation about the Greening of Detroit organization, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016, at the Civic Park Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information, visit livoniagardenclub.org or email lccpresident@yahoo.com.

Wreaths

Create a grapevine wreath or holiday gifts using materials found in nature, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Nature Center in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, between 11 Mile and 10 Mile, Farmington Hills. The program is open to all ages and costs \$10 per person or \$30 per family of four. Children's nature crafts also will be available. Register online at <https://register.fhgov.gov> or at the Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call Ashlie Smith at 248-477-1135 or email asmith@fhgov.com.

English Gardens

» Make a candle centerpiece, 7



SUBMITTED
Make a terrarium snow scene at English Gardens stores.

p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. Cost is \$24.99 and includes all materials. » Make a terrarium snow scene, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$24.99.

Pre-registration is required for all workshops. Visit EnglishGardens.com. Classes are held at all locations, including these stores: 155 Maple at Jackson, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

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