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OBSERVER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015 • hometownlife.com



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SPORTS, B3

Merritt replaces Meissen at helm of P-C district

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

After months of speculation, gossip and rumor, Plymouth-Canton Assistant Superintendent Monica Merritt has been named as interim superintendent, replacing Michael Meissen, who joined the district as superintendent in March 2013. In a special meeting Tuesday night – preceded by a closed

session with the district’s attorney – the school board approved by unanimous vote an administrative transition plan resolution that removes Meissen from leading day-to-day operations, but requires him to fulfill his contract



Merritt



Meissen

Meissen is the ninth superintendent the Plymouth-Canton district has had since 1994. The 21-year roster of superintendents began with

Charles Little, who served for five years beginning in 1994. Other superintendents have included Kenneth Wolcott, Kathleen Booher, James Ryan, Kenneth Jacobs, who served twice as superintendent pro tem, Craig Fiegel and Jeremy Hughes, who served as an interim for two years before Meissen was hired in 2013.

Simply announcing the administrative transition plan as

an agenda item, board President John Barrett asked Nick Brandon, district community relations director, to read a statement announcing the changing of the guard. Brandon has worked closely with Meissen since his appointment to the community relations position earlier this year. There was no discussion

See DISTRICT, Page A7

ANNUAL
CANDLELIGHT
VIGIL HONORS
CHILDREN LOST
TOO SOON

LIGHT
FROM
DARKNESS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kellogg Park is the setting for the Worldwide Candle Lighting, sponsored by the Livonia Chapter of Compassionate Friends.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gail Lafferty reads the names of the children.

Brad Kadrach
Staff Writer

For a long time after losing her son in a tragic car accident, Claire Cross didn’t feel like talking to anyone, much less brave the big crowds that always turn out for the Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil every year. This year, almost exactly two years since losing Ryan in the accident, there she was in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, with others who’ve lost sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, friends or family too soon. It was the 19th annual vigil and Cross, a Canton resident, was among hundreds of folks who know exactly what she’s going through. “For a long time, I didn’t want to have that commonality with people,” Cross said. “Now, I’m ready to reach out more and get some hugs from people.” That commonality is something most people who attend the vigil, and join Compassionate Friends, are looking for — support from other folks who know what they’re going through. The candlelight vigil is designed to honor children who’ve died too soon. The vigils are held in every time zone



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leona McKinnon is from Belleville.

worldwide, the idea being to form a ring of light around the globe and try to “bring light out of darkness.” At the Plymouth vigil, poems were heard, music was played and more than 600 names were ready as locals honored their loved ones. Catherine Walker of Walled Lake lost her brother, Kevin Kalahar, in November 2010, then lost her son, Brandon, eight months later. “We have a special bond,” said Walker, one of the chapter leaders of the Livonia Compassionate Friends, who sponsored Sunday’s vigil. “People find someone who knows what you’re going through ... they’re not afraid to talk about their children.” Westland resident Amy George lost her infant granddaughter, Morgan Adele, nine years ago. She lost another granddaughter, Alice Annebelle, just nine weeks ago. On Sunday, George read a poem in their honor. She said the sheer size of the group attending the vigil used to be intimidating; now, it’s comforting. “When I first came here, it took my breath away to see that large of a group,” George said. “Each time I come ... your heart just breaks for everyone in that

See VIGIL, Page A7

Man arraigned on sex charges

A 41-year-old Sterling Heights man has been arraigned and pleaded not guilty to felony sexual charges involving a minor in 35th District Court. The Canton police investigation that led to the Dec. 11 arraignment on multiple charges began with a report of a missing minor. The victim allegedly met the suspect on a social media website, according to police. Joseph A. Apato, whose bond was set at \$500,000, faces two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, a felony that involves a minor and is punishable by a mandatory minimum of 25 years in prison. His preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled for Dec. 28 in 35th District Court in Plymouth.



Apato

See CHARGES, Page A2

Running event to aid cancer victim

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Runners, take your mark – and in addition, help support a Canton man battling a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer for the second time. The Canton Road Runners store is teaming up with Northville-based Kona Running Co. to sponsor a 5K run/walk event from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, in Canton in an effort to raise funds for resident Alex Berlin, 24. Berlin, a 2009 graduate of Canton High School, was diagnosed with a Ewing sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, less than one week after graduating from Michigan State University with a master’s degree in accounting. A former player with Canton High’s hockey team, Berlin was playing hockey in a char-

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PRICE: \$1

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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Volume 41 • Number 52

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 | Return Address: 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi MI 48377

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Circus tickets selling fast for New Year's Eve performance

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

As of Monday, only 60 tickets were still available to the Detroit Circus on New Year's Eve at the Cherry Hill Theater in Canton.

The tickets have been going fast, said Jennifer Tobin, Canton arts coordinator at the theater. "It

will be a blast. They were at the Liberty Fest."

The Detroit Circus will not feature animals in its performance. In recent years, animal advocates have protested circus events that have used animals.

While the Detroit Circus performance New Year's Eve is close to being sold out, Tobin has

lined up a Vegas Magic show by magician Aaron Radatz. The family-friendly show of magic and humor debuts at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 26 at the theater. Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$20 for youths. Go to www.cantonvillage-theater.org for tickets. The circus has been

popular with Canton-area audiences. Ticket holders will witness high-flying aerial antics on fabric and the trapeze; fire dancing and eating; stilt walking and stilt acrobatics; and feats of mind-bending strength.

In addition to the performance on stage, audience members can enjoy a special preshow event

starting at 6 p.m., featuring on-site face-painting artists and strolling circus entertainers.

The Detroit Circus has been dazzling audiences for the past several years with its acrobatic skills and gravity-defying acts. Watch as members of the aerial acrobatics troupe tie themselves into ornate poses utilizing silks

hung from the rafters and captivate audience members with grace, poise and incredible strength.

Circus tickets are available for \$20 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

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Radio students offer gift wrapping

If you need help wrapping gifts, count on a hand from student staff members of radio station WSDP-FM (88.1), known as The Park, at the Plymouth-Canton high schools.

The Park staffers will wrap gifts 5-10 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 1711 Haggerty, in Northville.

The service is part

of a fundraising effort that began with a pledge drive in November. To date, the station has raised about \$8,000, just short of its \$8,810 goal.

Twenty-five students work on various facets involved with the station that airs daily with news, talk shows and musical programming.

RUNNING

Continued from Page A1

ity fundraiser at MSU in 2014 when he first noticed a pain in his leg. An MRI revealed a cancerous tumor, said Canton resident Wendy Juback, a longtime friend of Berlin and head of marketing for the Canton Road Runners store.

"Alex underwent surgery at the University of Michigan Hospital to remove remnants of the tumor in his leg and also started chemotherapy and radiation right away," Juback said.

Berlin was declared cancer-free this past March.

Unfortunately, a recent biopsy on his lungs revealed that the cancer had returned and he began a second round of chemotherapy in November, Juback said.

"Alex really is an amazing young man. He has remained positive and is committed to fighting this cancer," she said.

According to the American Cancer Society, Ewing sarcoma affects approximately 225 children and young



Alex Berlin of Canton is on his second bout with a rare form of cancer.

adults in North America annually. Most Ewing tumors occur in teens, but they can also affect younger children, as well as adults (mainly in their 20s and 30s). The most common places for Ewing tumors are the pelvis, the chest wall (such as the ribs or shoulder blades) and the legs; the most common symptom is pain. The tumor may also show up as a lump or swelling on an arm, leg or the trunk. Ewing tumors can also cause

general symptoms like fever or not feeling well.

Ewing sarcoma also presents another difficulty, Juback said.

"This is a type of cancer that is very expensive to combat. The medical bills are overwhelming," she said.

Alan and Jill Whitehead, owners of the Canton Road Runners store, and Kona Running Co. teamed up in this effort to help offset medical bills, as well as give back to the community, Ju-

back said.

Although registration for the event is free, raffle tickets are on sale for a 14-person suite a suite at the Joe Louis Arena for the Jan. 17 game against the Philadelphia Flyers donated by Ernst and Young.

In addition, 10 percent of proceeds from sales at the Canton Road Runners store Dec. 19 will be donated to the fundraiser.

"Alex is just an all-American, hard-working young man - so genuine - who has the world at his feet," Juback said. "Now he is battling this tough disease and is still working and trying to live life to fullest. He is doing all he can. We are really hopeful that the community will come out and help support him in his battle."

The Lift for Berlin: Round 2 Cancer Battle 5K is scheduled to be at noon Dec. 19 at the Canton Road Runners store, 42743 Ford Road, in Canton.

For more information on the event or to make a donation, call 734-355-3962 or go to www.crowdrise.com/liftforberlinround2/fundraiser/chandlerberlin.

CANTON OBSERVER

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Community Office:

29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
hometownlife.com

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734-469-4128
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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.00 Thursday and \$1.50 Sunday
\$8.25 EZ pay per month
\$52.00 six months
\$104.00 per year
\$91.00 six months mail delivery
\$182.00 per year mail delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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CHARGES

Continued from Page A1

He was also arraigned on a 20-year felony on one count of child sexually abusive activity and

one count of computer Internet use for communication with another to commit a crime, a 20-year felony.

Apato was also arraigned on two counts of criminal sexual conduct second degree (a person

under 13 years of age), a 15-year felony. He also faces one count of accosting children for immoral purposes, a four-year felony.

Canton police remind parents to stay vigilant with their children and

their safe use of the Internet.

Conversations, education and monitoring are all recommended methods to help prevent children from becoming involved in the dangers of social media.

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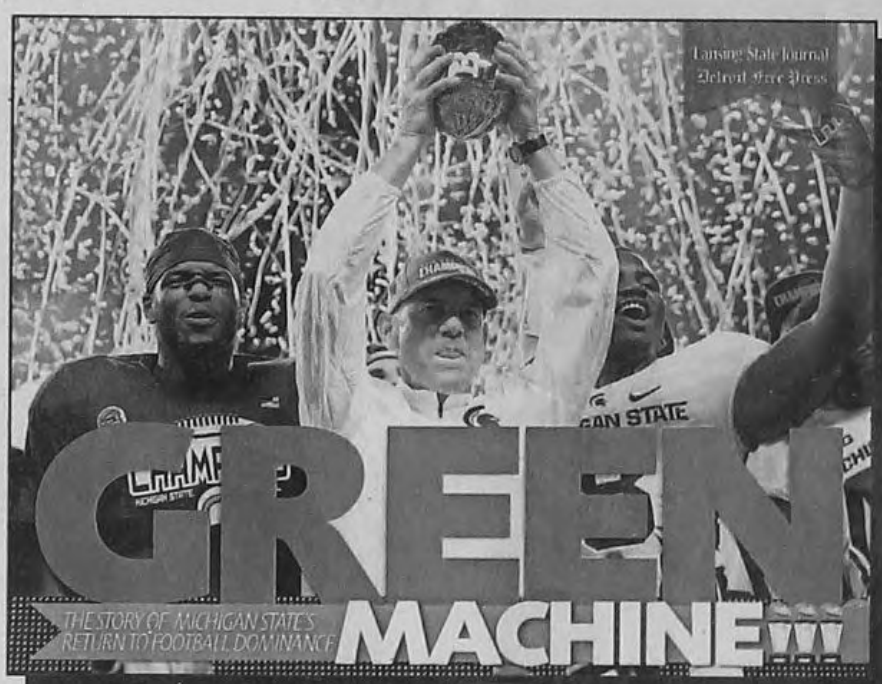
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Church's Nativity scene missing its Joseph

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Police in Canton Township are searching for a missing member of the Holy Family from St. John Neumann Catholic Church.

The statue of Joseph, in the Nativity display outside the church on Warren west of Sheldon, was stolen the night of Dec. 1, said the pastor, the Rev. Ron Richards.

The parish filed a police report when the staff discovered, the morning of Dec. 2, that the statue was gone, but it hadn't turned up as of Tuesday.

"We told the parishioners and they were a little bit upset about it," Richards said. "There's just no reason to do that."

The near-life-sized statue is about 5 feet tall, Richards



St. John Neumann Catholic Church is on Warren in Canton.

FILE PHOTO

said, and, though bulky, could be carried by one person.

A crib awaiting the baby Jesus, not belonging to the church's Nativity scene, was left at the display around the

same time Joseph was taken, Richards said.

"I would assume the two events are related," Richards said.

The extra crib was turned

over to police; Richards said he has not heard of another area Nativity display that's missing its crib.

In order to complete the family, St. John's outdoor dis-

play was recently replaced by another display that the church had used indoors.

The fact that the Joseph statue was taken while a piece from another display was left behind led Richards to hope that someone was just moving Nativity pieces around in the area and that Joseph would soon be found somewhere else.

Two weeks later, no luck. "My guess is it didn't show up on someone else's lawn," he said.

Richards doesn't see the incident as a prank.

"I don't know what the purpose is of doing it," he said. "I don't see this as a joke. It's theft."

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Pistol brandished in Northville Road incident

A man brandished a pistol at the Plymouth Township-Northville Township border Dec. 10 after another driver confronted him about a near-crash.

The incident occurred about 2:40 p.m. on Northville Road, near Five Mile, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. No one was hurt.

The complainant told police the incident began as he traveled in his Jeep east on Five Mile toward Northville Road. At a point where two eastbound lanes merge into one, he said, a Cadillac SRX nearly clipped the Jeep's rear bumper.

Both vehicles continued south on Northville Road, with the Cadillac's driver speeding up to pass the Jeep, the complainant said. The complainant then pulled alongside the Cadillac, he said, to ask the driver what he was doing and that the man brandished a pistol.

The Cadillac's driver turned east on Five Mile, the com-

plainant said. The complainant did not want to press charges, police said.

Shoplifting

A 53-year-old woman was arrested on a shoplifting charge Dec. 8 after being found at a cash register at a local drug store with more than \$150 of merchandise for which she hadn't paid.

Personal care items like bottles of ointment and lotion made up the majority of the items, a police report said.

The report said the incident occurred at the CVS on Sheldon Road. The woman paid for several items, a clerk told police, but the clerk noticed a box of chocolates for which the woman hadn't paid.

When the clerk asked if she should ring up the chocolates, the woman asked what chocolates she meant, the report said, and the clerk stepped around the counter and picked up the box, she told police. The chocolates were sitting atop a black duffel bag with more

merchandise in it.

The suspect at first claimed she had bought the items at another CVS, but she had no receipt. A store employee called a local CVS and was told that store had sold none of those items that day. Police were called.

Questioned by an officer, the woman admitted the attempted shoplifting, police said.

No license

An 18-year-old man was arrested for driving without a license after a traffic stop in the area of Judson and South Main early Dec. 9.

A police report said the Pontiac Sunfire the man was driving on Judson shortly before 5 a.m. had a heavily rusted license plate that was unreadable, plus a defective license plate light.

Once he was pulled over, police learned the man had never had a license.

— By Matt Jachman

Canton hires new police officer

The Canton Police Department has welcomed its newest police officer, Lacey Polderdyke, who took the oath of office by Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett, with friends in attendance.

All new police officers in Canton are required to successfully complete a 16-week instructor-led field training program, prior to working on their own. This program is designed to orientate and develop recruit officers, maximizing their potential and providing them with the tools necessary to successfully make the transition into their new position as a Canton police officer.



CANTON POLICE

Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler stands next to new Officer Lacey Polderdyke.

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Madelyn Powers, 8, of Canton has fun being a crafty elf Sunday at the Plymouth Historical Museum. She's a Miller Elementary third-grader.

Kids, crafts a great Sunday combo at Plymouth museum

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Some "Crafty Elves" showed artistic flair and had fun at the same time Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Friends Madelyn Powers and Ava Buffa, both 8, were together at the afternoon workshop. "The reindeer," Ava said of her favorite craft, among several children enjoyed at the museum.

"They came last year and they loved it," said Angela Buffa of Plymouth Township, mom of Ava. "I was glad to see they brought it back."

Madelyn's a third-grader at Miller Elementary School in Canton, and Ava is a third-grader at Plymouth Christian Academy. Wendy Powers had three kids at the museum that day: Madelyn and siblings, Aidan, 6, a Miller Elementary first-grader, and Lily, a Miller kindergarten.

"It's really nice," Canton's Wendy Powers said of the craft session, offered at two times that afternoon. "They just absolutely love crafts. It's nice to get out of the house."

Asked about upcoming winter break, both moms acknowledged the need to keep their kids occupied. Aidan's birthday is New Year's Eve, which will help.

"Movies, timeouts," Powers said of her break-time parenting plans. She said with a smile of school vacation, "About 18 days, yeah."

Madelyn's in an art club at Abakadoodle in Canton. Mom Angela Buffa noted the help of grandparents and Dad in keeping the kids occupied when school's out.

Volunteer Pam Piendel of Plymouth Township was hard at work helping kids. She's a museum gift shop volunteer and also helps as a docent and in education. "A little bit of everything," she said.

Leslie Ryder of Livonia's the education coordinator for the museum. "We are doing all kinds of different crafts," Ryder said Sunday. Kids made a festive snowman using soup cans.

"Over here, they're decorating stockings," Ryder said. The museum's many retired male volunteers cut wood for kids to make Rudolph designs complete with the red nose.

"Oh, absolutely," Ryder said of the fun, noting about 14 children were at the noon session. She'd hoped for a bigger turnout for the later afternoon one, and hoped for some walk-ins.

"They're having a great time making all these things," Ryder said. She pointed to the scrub brushes dipped in green paint for one craft.

"It turns out looking like a little wreath," she said of that paper craft. Kids also made gift tags.

For more information about the museum, go to www.plymouthhistory.org or call 734-455-8940, ext. 0.



Aidan Powers, 6, and sister, Lily, 5 in background enjoy the craft. They're students at Miller Elementary in Canton.

Retired P-C educator honored by local DAR

Energetic, dedicated, willing to step in leadership or supporting roles and is everywhere lending a hand and her heart. That's why Sharon Belobraidich is this year's recipient of the DAR Community Service Award, presented recently by the Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter, Plymouth.

She is a retired Plymouth-Canton Community Schools teacher who has given her time and efforts not only to the educational community, including serving on the Education Excellence Foundation Board of Trustees, but teaches piano and serves as a docent at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

"In my tenure, Sharon served six years as our board chair, served at least 10 years as the chairperson of our annual golf outing and served as our secretary," said Stephanie Goecke, attorney and current board chair of the the EEF. "Sharon's energy is enviable. She pitches into every project and is willing to do the work that is needed, whether in a leadership role or supporting role."

Belobraidich taught first grade in the Plymouth-Canton district, first at Miller, then Bird and Hoben elementary schools. She has taught drama to children ages 5-13, directing plays that have been performed at Cherry Hill Theater in Canton.

"Sharon is reliable,



Sharon Belobraidich is honored by the Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter, Plymouth, of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Member Patti Glasgow is at the right.

dedicated and always upbeat," said Leslie Ryder, education coordinator at the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum. "She is able to lead large groups of children with enthusiasm. Some of the classes she teaches are Native Americans, Victorian Living and the Timeline of Plymouth. Her dramatic ability helps transport the children back in time and encourages them to remember her stories."

"Our programs at the Plymouth Museum would not be as successful without Sharon," Ryder added.

The award was estab-

lished by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in April 1995 as an opportunity for the chapters and states to recognize worthy individuals and organizations for outstanding unpaid voluntary achievements in cultural, educational, humanitarian, patriotic, historical, citizenship or environmental conservation endeavors.

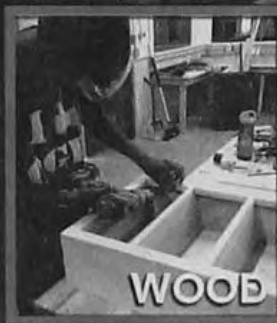
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DEAR SANTA

Bentley Elementary first-graders write their wish letters

Every year, first-graders at Bentley Elementary write to Santa, who has asked the *Observer* to print them. Here is a first group of letters. A second batch will run in the Sunday, Dec. 20 edition. The letters are printed as written by the kids:

I was very good this year. I would wot a zomre kidey for Crhis-mas.
Sincerely,
Jackie Taelman
Happy Christmas. I want a doll.
Love,
Dalia Wong

I reley want a tartlla and pie face.
Love,
Caeley Edward
Love, Merry Christmas. I love you Santa. I wot you to play
Sincerely,
Audrey Milliman
I hope I can sit on your lap. I reallay want a PS4 for Christmas. I want a osime for Christmas and I want a 3D creater. Santa, I will see you on Christmas.
Sincerely,
Ben Adis

What I want for Christmas is a new tea-selt or a real phone. Pleas can I have this Santa.
Sincerely,
Stella McCown
Despicable Me toys, dear Santa
Love,
Conley Ault

Santa, I wot a now bitkiucr for Christmas.
Love,
Tyler Stafiej
Dear Santa, I want any toy that you have. I love your hat. I like your elfs. I dote have a elf. Merry Christmas.
Haram Tanveer

Dear Santa: Im a good. Sincerely. Love, Merry Christmas. Skyro. Santa gnnat draw.
Justin Owens
Dear Santa, I have a silladrs Sobjrjrs.
Colton Turner

Dear Santa, Can I ples have more Lego star wars ples. With sume Ewaks!
Merry Christmas, Love,
Chris Campbell

Dear Santa, I want a toy graf. Do you have one?
Love,
Avery VanWashenova
Dear Santa, I bin rile good theis wht. I rite wot ar fuowel ligo bna scintion.
Sincerely,
Jacob Hack

Dear Santa, I want for chirmas I want a sled.
From
Youssef Nasser
Dear Santa, Can I have a big halo plan. I have more halo deds.



GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

Merry Christmas.
By **Caleb Cabauatan**
Dear Santa, I wish for miney. A Halo pens. Halo car too. More Halo. Merry Christmas
Joshua Hunter

Dear Santa, from Mia. I want some shopkins for Christmas and I have been good this year and I want dolls, Pokeman, gift card for Toy r us, and game stop gift card, Bawnsy ball, waggln, money, penit boed. But I have a rentl home not now. The monster high, water bottle, books lego, friends, shopkins posters, ice crem.
Mia Shrader
To Santa, a forwelr a Ipad and a Manetre
Sincerely, Love,
Byron Lyons.

Dear Santa, I want a calindr and a Lego Batman set and a tlasgop.
Sincerely, bye,
Joel Dewberry
Dear Santa, Love,
Maria Baquera-Mendoza

Dear Santa, Sincerely, Love, Merry Christmas. I wat scitondrs and a Gocot and scilqanp soop and huge, huge hippo.
Rayan Moin

Dear Santa, Hello Santa! How have you been doing? I have been a very very good boy this year.
Santa on Christmas can you bring a computer for my mom. Can you bring some glasses for my can. Can you bring my bruthr a light up toy. I want a tranformer lego.
From
Daksh Singh

Dear Santa, How have you been doing? How have your reindeer been doing? How the reindeer been getting reley for the big day in a couple of weeks?
Please bring my mom some new lipstick pleas. Please bring my dad some new mint gum pleas. Please bring my big sister a new computr pleas. Please bring my twin broter a new pair of fancy socks pleas. Please bring my dog Chewy a new chewtoy. Please bring me a new microphone.

I will keep some cookies in the kichin.
Your friend
Sofia Martinez

Dear Santa hello how have you been doing? Please bring my mom a new Ipod. My mom would like it a lot. My Dad would like a big tv for his room. My sisters would like a toy cat that moves. My big sister would like a Beanie Boo. I would like a wii-u.
I hope you have a safe trip!
Love,
Maxwell Martinez

Dear Santa. Hello Santa. Could you please bring my mom a reklining bed? Could you please bring my Dad ten \$1,000 bills? Julia wants a lot of pet cats! Elena would really like a real puppy! I rily rily want 100 Pokemon EX mega primo cards!
Have a good flight.
From
Luke Allen

Dear Santa, Hello Santa! How have you been doing? This year I was a very very good boy!

Could you please bring my mom a new sparkly blue dress. And my dad wants a new watch. My sistrs wants shoes and dresses.

I hope you have a nice flight and I will leave milk and cookies. So could you please bring me 100 pokemon.

From your friend,
Vincent Blust

Dear Santa, Hello Santa! Are the reindeers flying deer feeling good? My mom would like a new t.v. for Christmas. My dad wants a new red car. My twin sister wants an America Doll. I would want a new toy truck that goes really fast.

Santa I hope you have a good landing on my house.

From
Joshua Raooof

Dear Santa, Hello Santa. How have you been doing? Have the reindeer been getting ready for the big day?

My mom wants a new bed for Christmas. My dad wants a new tv to

watch movies. My brother, Tyler would like Moncrdt Legos. I have been a good girl. Could you please bring me a newborn baby doll. I have to play mom. Have a safe trip.
From
Lilly Dehring

Dear Santa, hello how are you? You are so nice! I would like to visit you one day. You are the best!

What my mom would like for Christmas is a sparkly dress. Could you please bring my dad a Michigan hat. My sistr would like a baby toy, maybe a littl giraffe.

I have been a good first grader! I would like Lego Minecraft Ender Set for Christmas.

I hope you have a safe trip.
Love,
Colin Reidenbach

Dear Santa, Hi Santa! How have you been doing? This year I have been a good boy! Could you please bring my mom a book to read? Can you give my dad new ties for Christmas. I would like a Star Wars lunch box that makes noise.
Have a great trip!
From
Andrew Wilson

Dear Santa, Santa have you been busy giving reindeer some food?

I am always a good friend. Could you bring a beautiful polka dot dress for my mom? Could you bring my dad a bow tie? Please bring my big sister some Amarian dolls. Could you bring my baby sister a stufd animal.

Please could you bring me an Amarian Doll and an elf on the Shelf?

P.S. Please (bring) my grandma and grandpa books.

From
Kady He

Dear Santa, I like your elves. and I like your workshop. Please bring my mom a mochine to make breakfast in bed. My dad wants a batch of cards. My sister wants a cat. My brother wants a real car. My cat wants toys. I would like a Barbie Doll.

I will leave chocolitchip cookies in the kitchen for you.
Love,
Elena Allen

Dear Santa, Hi Santa! How are you doing? This year I am a very very good boy! Could you bring my mom pink bangals? My dad would like a new toolbox. I have been a good 1st grader. Can you plase bring me a nice soccer ball? Can you bring my grandpa a book? Coud you bring my grandma a book also? They love to read.

From your friend
Aditya Ambarisha

Dear Santa, How have you been? I have been a good boy. Plees Santa get my mom a big makop set. Plees Santa get my dad a big box of tols. My littel brother Antonio would like Minecraft toys in a big box. I want all of the wrestlemaya wrestling toys.

I think you will get lots of milk, cookies and carrots for the reindeer.
Love,
Adam Nasser

Dear Santa. Hi Santa. How are you? I have been a very good girl this years. Can you please my mom a new nail polish. Please bring dad new nails. For Christmas I would like a new trampoline.
Have a safe trip.
Love,
Kennedy Sebok

Dear Santa, How are the reindeer? Please get my mom a new lamp. Please get my dad some new sox and underwear. Pleas get my dog a new ball. Please bring me a Mindcraft dog.

I will leave milke and cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer.
Love,
Dylan Kosik

Dear Santa, Hello Santa! How are you? How is Rudolph? How are your elfs? My mom wants some bras. My dad wants tool holder. My little sister wants beados gems. I have been very good this year so pleess can I get kalo rens three bladed light saber?

I will have cookies for you. Have a good trip!
Love,
Alex Anglinas

Dear Santa, Hello SAnta! I have been a very, very good girl. Have you bee busy? Are the reindeers working hard?

Could you please bring my mom a pretty dress with dots? Could you please bring my dad a Tv? Could you please bring my brother Joshua a toy car that goes fast? Could you bring me a Amerukin doll?

I have cookies for you!
From
Valentina Raooof

Dear Santa, I like when you give other kids presents. Please give my mom a big kitchen. Please give my Dad cards to play 21. My sis-

ter Stella want vegas cards. Please give my brother a Apple lap top. My sister Santia wants a brown puppy.

I hope your presents are ready. I hope you have a good Christmas.
Love,
Sorina Deda

Dear Santa, Hello Santa! How have you been. I have been a very very good girl. My mom will like a makeup set. My Dad will like a transformer. My brother will like a lego set. I will like a new lego set. I will like a toy Santa. I would also love a microphone because I love to sing. You are the best in my heart.
Love,
Mary Clay

Dear Santa, Hi Santa! Thanks for the present you gave me last year. Could you give my mom a pair of white slippers? Could you give my dad a new snowblower? Could you please give my little brother a transformer? Could you please give me a skilanders trap mate?
Have a nice trip.
From
Aiden Fong

Dear Santa, Hellow Santa! How have you been doing? This year I have been a very very good girl! Could you please bring my mom a pair of bras. Plase bring my dad a new pair of pajamas. Please bring both my bruthrs a video hockey game because they love hockey. They think toys are awesome. Please bring my big sister a new Iphone becasue she loves to talk. Please bring elf on the shelf.

I have milk and cookies for you.
Love,
Jillian Neal

Dear Santa, Thanks for the Elf at home but otherwise Hi Santa! I have been a very very good girl! Do you know that my mom would like a new sparkly dress. My dad would llike a new golf set. My big sissy would like a derotherash for her room. My baby berother would like a new toy.

I would like a lot of things too and the golf set. I might take lessons with my dad.

I love the elf that you sent last year. I love love love it so much.

I will give you cookies and milk and give your reindeer carrots so you and them wount be hungry.

Love from
Ryann McCoubrey

Dear Santa Thank you for the present you gave me last year. Please bring flowers and a Edge for my mom and a truck for my dad. My sister wants a Barbie Doll and a American Girl doll. I would like a motorized truck that kids can drive.

I will leave cookies and milk in the kitchen for you.

Merry Christmas!
From
Quentin Lloyd

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TICKETS FOR THESE AND OTHER PERFORMANCES AVAILABLE AT WWW.CANTONVILLAGETHEATER.ORG

VIGIL

Continued from Page A1

crowd.”
Leona McKinnon of Belleville lost her son, Sean, nine years ago. There she was Sunday, helping people light their candles in advance of the vigil.

She said she finds solace in the spirituality of the evening.

“This is probably the most spiritual place you could be,” McKinnon said. “There’s more compassion, more unity, more love and more joining of spirits than anywhere you could ever be.”

To find out more about the Compassionate Friends Livonia Chapter, go to tcflivonia.org or call 734-778-0800.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seven-year-old Jacy Walker of Saline sits on Mary Ann Grant’s lap. Grant is from Taylor.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A warm December evening in Plymouth’s Kellogg Park is the setting for the Compassionate Friends annual remembrance ceremony.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emotion and connection at the Compassionate Friends candle lighting.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rachael Kallis signs at the candlelight vigil.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tara and Keith Kohler, with 5-year-old daughter Kendall, remember Tracey Rony, Tara’s sister. The Kohlers are from Northville.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Anthony Nelson is known for his wheelchair hockey skills.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jettowynne Barnes of Livonia honors the memory of her son, Idones Barnes.

DISTRICT

Continued from Page A1

Tuesday night of the transition plan nor of Merritt taking Meissen’s place at the helm of the school district. Board members did not provide reasons for the action, only to say in the resolution adopted that he was deemed an “effective superintendent.”

In addition to thanking Meissen for his work the past two years, the statement called Merritt “a great administrator who can seamlessly take over the day-to-day operations of the district. In addition, Ms. Merritt is a resident and parent in the district and she is clearly committed to the overall success and future of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.”

“The board also feels very fortunate to have so many quality employees at all levels working within the district who will undoubtedly do an excellent job to ensure the administrative transition is as unified as possible. We thank all of you for your endless hard work and dedication to our students,” the statement continued.

At the end of the meeting, Merritt said, “Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to working with the team to ensure a smooth transition.”

Meissen, who was not at Tuesday’s meeting, also issued a statement that read: “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. I will work collaboratively with the (Board of Education) and educational team to transition the district to new leadership and build upon the successful work that has been completed during our partnership together.”

“I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this exceptional school district and to serve these outstanding students,

teachers, staff, principals, parents and community. It is my desire to pursue other educational leadership positions in public education that are compatible with family needs and priorities,” Meissen’s statement read.

Following adoption of the transition plan resolution, a few board members publicly thanked Meissen and wished him well.

“A lot of dynamic progress has taken place,” Barrett said, concluding the meeting, which was followed by the evening’s second closed session.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

USA Hockey eyes large events, training camps

Tell us about your business, including the types of services and or products you feature:

USA Hockey Arena encompasses a number of programs, including USA Hockey's NTDP, Compuware youth hockey organization, Detroit Catholic Central, figure skating, Learn to Play and Learn to Skate programs, junior- and senior-level men's and women's international events, United States Hockey League and NCAA collegiate hockey contests, other sporting and entertainment events such as concerts and graduations and even has a full-service restaurant on-site.

How did you first decide to open your business?

The acquisition of USA Hockey Arena and subsequent improvements, upgrades and additions to the facility offered USA Hockey and the NTDP more opportunities to attract large-scale international events and showcases

such as training camps, men's and women's Under-18 world championships, women's world championships and ice sledge world championships, among others. In addition, the NTDP would be afforded more space for on- and off-ice training, classroom area for school studies and a new locker room.

Why did you choose the Plymouth-Canton area?

The community surrounding USA Hockey Arena possesses an amazing opportunity for USA Hockey to communicate its family-friendly brand and affordable entertainment options.

What makes your business unique?

The NTDP is composed of two squads – the U.S. National Under-17 and Under-18 teams. These players represent some of the most talented teenagers in the country. Games are played against the United States Hockey League, NCAA Division I and III opponents and interna-



USA Hockey Arena opened in March 2015.

FILE PHOTO

tional rivals. On any given night, you may be witness to the future Jimmy Howard, Patrick Kane, Phil Kessel or Dylan Larkin — all alumni of the NTDP.

How has it changed since you opened?

The USA Hockey

Foundation and USA Hockey, Inc., have undertaken renovations to improve the arena as a training facility for top-level athletes; the arena is currently undergoing re-branding, as well as a 20,000-square-foot build out to house NTDP and building staff, which

includes a 10,000-square-foot gym for training.

What's in store for the future of your business?

The future of this business is very bright. USA Hockey and the NTDP hopes to draw more large-scale interna-

DETAILS

Name: USA Hockey's NTDP and USA Hockey Arena
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Name and title: Brendan Ryan, corporate ticket sales

Hometown: Livonia

Opened: March 2015

Employees: 100

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Specialty:

» NTDP: Preparing student-athletes under the age of 18 for participation on U.S. National teams and success in their future hockey careers.

» USA Hockey Arena: Hosting numerous events, from competitive ice hockey and figure skating at nearly every level to sellout concerts to local graduations.

Contact: 734-453-6400; USAHockeyArena.com; USA-HockeyNTDP.com

tional events and showcases. These one-in-a-kind events would make this community a very attractive place for residents and visitors alike.

Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro serves up holiday beverage options

If you're looking to change up your beverages this holiday season, which may include wanting a new option to the ever popular, generations-old sherbet punch made with 7-Up, Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, located at the Clock Tower Building of the Novi Town Center, has some creative and delicious ideas.

Lori Horton of Westland, a bartender and server marking 20 years at Diamond Jim's Brady's Bistro, shared some of her recommendations. Punch has been making a comeback and bartenders are creatively combining herbs, spices, juices and blends of alcohol (optional). The sharable nature of punch makes it the perfect

addition to spice up your holiday party.

Horton gave insight on a twist to the classic holiday offering that includes a recipe that is a lightly sweet, effervescent gin-based punch made with chamomile tea and sparkling wine.

"You can also mix it up a bit, depending on your individual tastes," she said. "Maybe garnish



Bartender and server Lori Horton (left) prepares a martini, while bartender Maddy Freeman pours wine.

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Sparkling light punch.

with apples, pears and cinnamon sticks or citrus slices and pomegranate."

She also has a new drink at the restaurant called the Blushing Lady.

"It's made with a refreshing grapefruit juice, pomegranate liquor and Gypsy Vodka in a sugar-rimmed martini glass," Horton said.

This drink is a nice alternative to the more common martini cocktails, such as the cosmopolitan. She added that the Hazelnut Heater

SPARKLING LIGHT PUNCH

serves 6-8

For the Citrus Sugar
1 lemon, zested
1 orange, zested
1/2 cup superfine sugar

For the Cocktail
4 tbsp. citrus sugar
6 oz. lemon juice
6 oz. gin
3 oz. St. Germain elderflower liqueur
3 oz. triple sec
10 oz. cold chamomile tea
8 oz. sparkling wine
Lemon and orange wheels,

for garnish
Pomegranate seeds, for garnish

Instructions

Make the citrus sugar: Combine zests and sugar in a food processor; pulse until combined. Makes 1/2 cup. Dissolve the sugar in the lemon juice in a punch bowl. Add gin, St. Germain, and triple sec. Add the tea, ice block, and top with sparkling wine. Garnish with lemon and orange wheels and the pomegranate seeds.

coffee drink has a devoted following. Made with Cappuccino or coffee, Frangelico Hazelnut Liqueur, Bailey's and Kahlua, it's a great drink for cold winter days, "If we ever get one," Horton said, laughing.

Giving nod to Michigan, Bell's Brewery in Kalamazoo has some delicious seasonal brews. "Right now, Bell's Winter White Ale and their

Christmas Ale, a Scottish Ale style beer, have both been big hits with our guests," Horton said.

In time for the holidays, Horton mentioned a drink that is now fermenting at the bistro that includes spiced rum, apple, orange, lemon and cinnamon sticks. When it's ready to be served, hot cider will be added. "One sip and you'll be hooked," Horton said.

Public studio, Art Formed, moves to PARC facility

Art Formed at the PARC, a nonprofit 501(c)3 public art studio, recently joined the growing number of tenants at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex in Plymouth.

The studio's goal is to enrich lives through visual and digital arts and strengthen the community by a means of common interests in creating art, learning about art and interacting in an artistic environment.

Art Formed provides a creative and social work environment, a wide selection of supplies, tools, digital media, classes, workshops and



Art Formed opened in November in the PARC, in the former Central Middle School in Plymouth.

demonstrations.

The studio has added the Student Architecture Club, Mommy/Daddy & Me groups, senior groups, Friday Teen Night, Saturday Girls Night Out and Sunday

Family Day. It offers space for me-time, friend-time, family-time, learning, exploring, teaching, recycling/up-cycling, exchanging ideas, passing on knowledge and traditions.

Retired deputy facing gun charges after dispute

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A retired Oakland County Sheriff's deputy is facing charges, including carrying a concealed weapon and impersonating an officer, after he reportedly had a dispute with a woman he contacted online for sex.

Canton resident Robert Joseph, 58, is scheduled for Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment Dec. 17 on the two charges along with a count of forging licensing documents.

The charges stem from an Oct. 16 incident in 1800 block of North Walton in Westland. Police were called to a home when a woman reported that a man, armed with a handgun, had threatened her and her live-in boyfriend.

The woman told police that approximately a week earlier, she had met the man at a Mexican restaurant with plans for "hanging out and partying." The two had connected through Craigslist, she said, with the man giving her \$100 for a babysitter and to purchase marijuana.

In her version of the situation, the woman said she was robbed while attempting to buy marijuana, but the man didn't believe her. When the man subsequently texted her, the woman said she invited him to her home, where he turned up angry and armed with a handgun.

The woman told police the man pointed a gun at her, demanding her cellphone and money. She said she told her boyfriend what had hap-

pened, then he went outside armed with a BB gun.

The two men were yelling, she said, as the suspect pointed a gun at her boyfriend ordering him to get on the ground. Eventually, the man got back into his vehicle, the woman said, and headed south on Walton, which dead ends. When the man doubled back, the woman said he drove onto the lawn in an effort to strike the boyfriend, who threw a landscaping brick at the car, smashing the windshield.

An officer responding to the home on Walton spotted the suspect's vehicle with a smashed windshield on southbound Carlson, then turning west on Marquette. The officer reported the vehicle turned into the parking

lot at Taylor Towers as he turned on his overhead lights for a traffic stop.

The vehicle, which had a license plate altered with blue tape, began circling the parking lot refusing to stop, the officer said. The driver eventually tossed a gun out of the driver's side window before coming to a stop, the officer said.

The officer reported the man refused commands to stop and get on the ground, having gotten out of the car and walked toward the patrol car. The man, later identified as Joseph, was eventually taken into custody.

The man identified himself as an off-duty police officer and told the officer that he threw the gun out of the win-

dow so that he would be unarmed when he stopped, police said.

In a subsequent statement to police, Joseph reportedly told police he had been in contact with the woman, whom he described as a prostitute, back in August. He said he had paid her \$100 for sex, but she had directed him to a phony address.

Angry at being ripped off, Joseph told police that woman had texted him to meet Oct. 17, clearly not aware that she was texting him. Taking the opportunity to confront her, Joseph told police he had a loaded .22-caliber handgun on the passenger seat of his vehicle, but denied pointing it at anyone.

Joseph originally was charged with two counts of armed robbery, three counts of felonious as-

sault and felony firearm. Those charges were dropped by the prosecution after the woman and her boyfriend refused to testify in the case.

The remaining charges — stemming from Joseph carrying a concealed weapon with a lapsed CPL and the gun being registered to a deceased relative, telling police he was an officer and the altered license plate — moved forward after Joseph waived his preliminary examination in 18th District Court.

Joseph, for whom a not-guilty plea was entered at arraignment, is free on \$100,000/10-percent bond.

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TLC Productions continues experimental theater production

TLC Productions, known for originating and showcasing new plays and musicals, is continuing its experimental theater production called StageLab24, with two new elements for 2016.

Taking place overnight Jan. 8-9, 2016, StageLab24 is TLC's version of the 24-hour-theater project. This is an around-the-clock collaboration during which ideas go from page to stage in 24 hours at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

During that time, a group of authors writes several one-act scripts, directors audition and cast, actors rehearse and, at the end of that 24-hour period, performances are staged for the public. This is an intense, theatrical experience.

The public is invited to drop in at any time

during the 24-hour period to see this orchestration in motion. Up to six one-act (10-minute) plays will be performed to an audience at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, on the Main Stage of The Village Theater with a \$15 ticket price.

The authors come from five different cities throughout Michigan. Confirmed authors writing their play in a nine-hour period from 10 p.m. Friday until 7 a.m. Saturday include: Brian Cox of Ypsilanti, Brion Scheidel of Canton, Nicole L.V. Mullis of Battle Creek, Lylanne Musselman of Ypsilanti, Jarrod Vanzo of Auburn Hills, Patrick Wears of Canton and Jeff Wears of Plymouth.

Some of these authors are no strangers to the Village Theater. Several of them have had their works produced in previous Canton One Acts Festivals and the inaugu-

ral StageLab24 in 2014.

Auditions

StageLab24 will need about 24 actors and actresses to fill the roles of the shows being written Friday night into Saturday morning during the January dates.

"Acting in StageLab24 is only a 12-hour commitment, which is ideal for individuals who cannot commit to months of rehearsals for a typical show," said Christopher Tremblay, co-founder of TLC Productions.

To audition, actors/actresses are recommended to register online in advance at tlcproductions.org. Auditions will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, and will continue until 11 a.m. Auditions will take place at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Individuals planning to audition should enter

through the backstage door. Actors/actresses are required to pay a \$10 participation fee if cast. The \$10 fee covers lunch, snacks and dinner. Rehearsals will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Actors/actresses must bring an all-black outfit to wear if cast.

Confirmed directors who will immediately inherit a one-act play to stage include: Lylanne Musselman (who will be directing her own play) of Ypsilanti, Alexander Trice of Bloomfield Hills, Karen Pritchard of Dearborn, Peter Huschilt of Grand Rapids, Joe Arcel of Plymouth, Kennikki Jones of Hamtramck and Timothy Majzlik of Canton.

"I love that TLC Productions is a champion for playwrights and new theatrical works," said Jennifer Tobin, arts coordinator at the theater. "This project is very

exciting to me and will push some boundaries as they speed up a process that sometimes takes months and years. The public should take this opportunity to visit a couple of times during the 24-hour period and then come to the final performance. It will be amazing!"

TeenLab365

TeenLab365 is a subset of TLC Productions and StageLab24. It comprises teenagers who have been working one year on the development of script and rehearsals and they will present their original work during StageLab24.

TeenLab365 is produced by director Kristin Heitmeier of Northville. TeenLab365 is a unique opportunity for area teens to work as a tight-knit ensemble by writing their own script, owning the audition and rehears-

al process and seeing their hard work and creativity come to life on stage as part of TLC Productions' StageLab24.

TLC original play

TLC Productions will stage an original script that has been written, but never has been performed, on the Main Stage of The Village Theater. This gives TLC Productions an opportunity to showcase a play it authored. This show, however, has been pre-written.

StageLab24 was launched by TLC Productions in 2014 with a grant from the Partnership for the Arts and the Humanities. StageLab24 is staged every other year, opposite of the Canton One Acts Festival, which TLC Productions also organizes.

The 2016 StageLab24 event will be solely funded by TLC Productions.



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OUR VIEW

FOIA charges from school district show need for drastic change in state law

The recent experience of Salem High School journalism student Chris Robbins and the more than \$8,000 bill he would face leaves a distinctly chilling effect on the people's right to know and casts doubt on government's claims of transparency.

The incident provides an example of the daily grinding away of democracy. It also indicates a problem with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

Three actions are necessary to ensure government transparency. The first is a major change in Michigan FOIA that not only makes the law user-friendly, but allows members of the public to request and receive information, including emails, from public bodies without having to mortgage their lives.

The second effort is an education campaign that provides the tools and knowledge for the public to know their rights and how to obtain information to which they are entitled. And finally, letting public bodies—state, county, cities, townships and schools—know that they are, indeed, being watched by educated citizens who are on the lookout for any attempts to diminish the transparency of government.

In Plymouth-Canton, Robbins made a FOIA request before Thanksgiving for information regarding the district's blocking of some websites, in particular the innocuous Pinterest. Part of his request was for emails from teachers who had requested appeals of blocked sites.

After receiving a bill of \$8,806—an increase over an estimate first provided at \$7,917.15—the student was told by district officials that if he dropped his request for the emails, the other information would be provided free.

School district officials said they followed FOIA to the letter. And by all accounts, they did.

FOIA, however, does not require public bodies to charge for information. What allows public bodies to

charge, as P-CCS planned to do, is a portion of the law that states: "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."

School district officials argued that the search for emails of the 85 appeals of blocked websites would require the district technology director to review content and then redact information that was considered sensitive or private. In other words, Robbins would be charged based on the director's hourly wage of \$49.95 for the 175 hours to complete the tasks to fulfill his FOIA request.

FOIA does allow a public body to 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 ..."

Thankfully, a year or so ago, the law was positively changed to force public bodies to keep the cost of printing to 10 cents a page. Unfortunately, the state Legislature—by the way, immune from FOIA—some years back included the language about the hourly wage of the lowest paid employee capable of doing the work. This provision is wide open to interpretation and is the spot in which public bodies may create a scenario with dollars charged to make a member of the public hesitate using FOIA.

That's the rub. Plymouth-Canton school officials claim clerical employees cannot do the FOIA work for Robbins' request because they do not have access to emails. Robbins had no choice but to take school officials' at their word.

As Jane Briggs Bunting of the Michigan Coalition for Open Government has noted: "FOIA was never intended to be revenue making for a public body."

What left doubt in Robbins' mind is the fact that the district has a committee that reviews websites and whether they should be blocked or not. This is the committee that would receive the appeals from teachers to unblock websites. Surely, committee members would have copies of these emails, hence reducing Robbins' costs.

But the real point in this issue is the diminishing transparency in government, which includes school districts, cities and townships. Information is free. But getting that information is another matter—FOIA or not.

What lesson did this incident teach Robbins? The obvious answer is that should anyone want information from a public body, they better hope they can afford it.

That's not the purpose on which the Michigan FOIA was enacted. According to the most recent survey by the Center for Public Integrity, a national organization, Michigan came in 50th of all states for government transparency. In 2012, it ranked 44th.

That should be a clear warning to public bodies in Michigan, especially those whose members are essentially ignorant in not only FOIA, but the state's Open Meetings Act. Inevitably, public officials look to their lawyers for help. Let's just remember that attorneys hired by public bodies have one goal: to protect their clients. They don't get paid for ensuring government transparency.

Clearly, it's time for a change in Michigan FOIA. And it's time for the public to stand in unison and demand those changes and to demand transparency in government.

LETTERS

Do the right thing

As a Plymouth-Canton taxpayer and a stake-

holder in the school district, I'm absolutely outraged that this student (Christopher Robbins)

was treated like this by district bureaucrats. Who was responsible for this decision? Is this how the district treats students and other public stakeholders who seek public information that they have paid for?

I urge you and the board to take very strong public action on this and order the district to immediately waive these punitive, subjective and arbitrary fees (for FOIA request). I would also ask

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that you immediately terminate the administrator who made this kind of arrogant and

publicly irresponsible decision. Whoever this person was, he or she should not be in a public

position.

All the district had to do was answer the student's very simple and very fair questions. It is incredible that he even had to file a FOIA.

I am eager to hear how you and the board respond to this. Please do the right thing in the name of public accountability and transparency.

Phil Nussel
Canton

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Jam-ming at Schoolcraft

Salem grad Wilson already making impact with Lady Ocelots

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Making big plays in crunch time is something Jamyra Wilson did a whole lot of during her basketball career at Salem High School. And the 18-year-old is continuing that trend in her first season with the Schoolcraft College women's basketball

team. Consider the Dec. 5 home game against Owens Community College, when Wilson came through with two huge plays — one on defense and one on offense — to stop the rallying Express just in time. She got in the face of an Owens player and emphatically blocked a jump shot from the corner. Then she wheeled down the court for an important layup. "I saw she was going to shoot it, I saw her eyes, so I was like 'Got to get this one,'" Wilson said following that game. "We needed a stop, be-

cause they were on a run. That block helped and then the layup, that was just all focus. I hit it."

Same feeling

Wilson said she felt right at home making those plays with the game on the line. "We had big crowds at Salem, so that just transferred to here," Wilson said. "It was nothing different, really. It's just intensity; girls in college play with more intensity." Proudly watching Wilson's clutch performance against



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Driving past an opponent during a recent game is Schoolcraft College freshman guard and Salem alum Jamyra Wilson (left).

See WILSON, Page B2

USA HOCKEY



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Kieffer Bellows of the NTDP U18s is looking to join teammates as part of Team USA in the upcoming World Junior Championship.

TRIO HAVE 'WORLD' VISION

NTDP U18 players prepping for chance to play in WJC

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Every day is "living the dream" for Kieffer Bellows, Clayton Keller and Chad Krys — chiefly because they wear USA colors every time they step on the ice. And this week, all three members of USA Hockey's National Team Development Program Under-18 team are competing for the chance to

go global with their patriotic zest.

Bellows, Keller and Krys are vying this week in Boston for roster spots for the 2016 Ice Hockey World Championship World Junior Championship, an Under-20 tournament which takes place in Finland.

Should any or all players make the cut at the end of

See WORLD, Page B2

GEARING UP FOR WORLD JUNIORS

Camps: Three players from USA Hockey's National Team Development Program are participating at this week's selection camp for the 2016 IIHF World Junior Championship. The camp is Dec. 15-18 at Agganis Arena in Boston, Mass. **Who's there:** Among players looking to make it to the next round of the WJC selection process (the final training camp is Dec. 19-23 in Vierumaki, Finland) are NTDP Under-18 players Kieffer Bellows, Clayton Keller (both forwards) and defenseman Chad Krys. One of the coaches is Danton Cole, head coach of the NTDP U18s. Also competing for spots are goalie Alex Nedeljkovic and forward Sonny Milano, both former Plymouth Whalers currently playing in the Ontario Hockey League and American Hockey League, respectively. **U18s:** Keller is the top scorer in the United States Hockey League with 17 goals and 38 assists; Bellows has 24 goals and 16 assists. **World Juniors:** Players who make the final roster for the Under-20 tournament will play Canada Dec. 26 in Helsinki, Finland, in Team USA's opener.

BOYS HOCKEY

Wildcats' late surge falls short

Plymouth stymied in bid for equalizer, loses 3-2

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The pressure kept mounting for Northville goalie Brett Miller as Plymouth forwards jammed the goal crease late in Saturday's KLAA varsity boys hockey tilt.

But Miller kept his pad flush to the Arctic Arena ice and denied the host Wildcats — with the help of the referee, who lost sight of the puck and waved off an apparent game-tying goal with one minute remaining.

Plymouth poured it on again in the final seconds, but could not get the puck past the junior goaltender as the Mustangs earned a hard-fought 3-2 victory. "It came around the goal line, I made a save on the side of the post," Miller said. "I had it, but they kept jabbing at it. I think the ref lost sight of it. Ref made a good call."

Miller's clutch goalkeeping ensured that the goal scored by senior forward Riley Brass at 6:26 of the third period would hold up as the winner. The puck bounced in front to Brass, who spun and rifled a blast that Plymouth senior goalie Trevor McManus (21



Chumley

See WILDCATS, Page B2

FRIDAY FOOD DRIVE

What: Salem and Plymouth square off at 8:30 p.m. Friday at Plymouth Cultural Center in a KLAA South boys hockey contest.

Canned food: Fans coming to the game are encouraged to bring a canned or non-perishable food item. Those who do will receive \$1 off admission and be entered into a raffle for a gift card. The raffle will take place between the first and second periods.

BOYS SWIM PREVIEW — PART 1

Lynn eager to lead Rocks

Ex-Salem swimmer takes over from mentor Olson

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Longtime Salem varsity boys swim coach Chuck Olson is stepping down and handing the reins to one of his former swimmers.

And that swimmer, Eric Lynn, is pumped up about the opportunity to guide the Rocks. Salem opens the 2015-16 season with a Thursday dual meet at Brighton.

"My siblings and I swam for Chuck at Salem (between) 1988-2002, so I have been very



SALEM SWIMMING

Salem boys swim tri-captains are (from left) junior Phil Collingwood, senior Matthew Croop and senior Colin Urbaczewski.

close with Chuck almost my whole life," Lynn wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "It is an incredible honor to fill in for him in his retirement."

Lynn isn't coming in cold. He was an assistant for Olson during 2014-15, when the Rocks were winless in the

ultra-competitive KLAA Central Division.

"I'm still observing the team and making my decision on where the guys will be swimming," he noted. "For now, there's a good mix of

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats unable to stop Novi's Mackay

Sluggish offense in first half costs Plymouth

Tom Morelli
Correspondent

In the battle of youth against experience, it isn't often that the up-and-comers end up victorious.

But for the Novi girls basketball team, youth worked to its advantage Tuesday as it rolled to a 38-22 victory over Plymouth.

Boasting a roster with a half-dozen sophomores, Novi kept its foot on the gas pedal essentially all night, with point guard Ellie Mackay (20 points) emerging as the focal point of the offense.

Most of Mackay's damage came in the first half, as she accounted for 14 of the team's 24 points against a Plymouth squad that produced just nine points.

Plymouth head coach Ryan Ballard was astounded by how Mackay took control of the game against a team featuring six seniors and four juniors.

"We shot a low percentage in the first half and had some good looks," Ballard said. "Ellie Mackay is a great player. She's a sophomore with a great floater and hit some big shots. That was the game and how it flowed — it was the Ellie Mackay Show. She

See PLYMOUTH, Page B2



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

The fact that U18s forward Clayton Keller is tearing it up against older competition in the United States Hockey League is a pretty impressive chip as he looks to make the World Juniors roster.

WORLD

Continued from Page B1

USA Hockey's selection camp Dec. 15-18, they will move on to a final training session Dec. 19-23 in Vierumaki, Finland. Team USA's first WJC game is Dec. 26 against Canada.

"Going to this camp, it's a privilege in itself," said Bellows, a forward with 24 goals and 16 assists this season for the U18s. "Clayton, Chad and I are all excited to go, but we're there for something more."

"We want to make that team as badly as anybody else does. We may be young guys, but we have the drive and determination to work hard all the time there."

According to Keller, another prolific forward for the U18s, playing for the NTDP and in previous international tournaments prepares them to get the job done should they make the team.

"We played on an Olympic sheet not too long ago at the Five Nations Tournament," Keller said. "I like the big ice; there's a lot of space for me and I think it fits my game really well. The big ice is good."

"It's an honor for all of us," said Kryz, a defenseman. "Every day we're putting on the USA jersey in practice and games, especially in international competition. It's a special two years that you get to do that."

Players in the NTDP compete for two seasons, starting with the Under-17 team and moving up to the U18s. In that sense, it is like high school athletes moving up from junior varsity to varsity.

Ready to represent

Traveling with them is U18 head coach Danton Cole, one

of Team USA's assistant coaches for the WJC.

Cole is more than optimistic that his players will make it to the second round of the selection process and hopefully reach the final WJC roster.

"It's a tournament I've wanted to get involved with as a coach for a long time," Cole said. "Having the opportunity to do that is a big honor. We get to represent the United States all the time, but this is a different stage and a bigger stage."

"It will be a lot of fun and I'm excited to see how the young guys do with the older players at camp."

Cole stressed that the players "have played very well within our league (United States Hockey League) and in our international games. With the Division I (college) tests that we've had, they've stood out in those games. That's a lot older, a lot stronger guys. That's really where the Under-18 players have to prove themselves and they've done that. They've been exceptional and they've got a great shot."

All season, Bellows has skated on a high-scoring line along with Keller (the top scorer in the USHL with 55 points) and Joey Henderson, who is not at the camp.

Both Bellows and Keller said they would love the chance to continue being linemates in the international showcase.

"Playing with Clayton is something special," Bellows said. "He's a great player, great person off the ice, too. Let's say it does happen, we both make the team, let's say we're both on the same line — it would be something special."

Kryz said going through the demanding rigors of the NTDP will give them confidence as they vie to make

Team USA.

"I think so. I think we're very prepared in terms of Keller and Bellows and me, we've gotten college games in," Kryz said. "We've played against some of that older competition that these guys are used to playing in all the time."

"We've been on the ice since the end of August, unlike some of the college teams that aren't practicing as a team as long, so I think that's an advantage for us."

Play right way

All of the players concurred that Cole's pre-camp advice was as direct as a cross-crease feed from Keller to Bellows.

"(Cole) told us to just play our game and not try to make a highlight out of every play," Keller said. "And just things will turn out the right way."

Cole also advised that they be responsible players on both ends of the bigger, Olympic-sized ice.

"The thing I've stressed with the guys is the reason you're going there is the type of player you are," Cole said. "You don't want to get too far away from that. Both Clayton and Kieffer, offensively, are outstanding."

"But really, where they can kind of separate themselves is how they play away from the puck defensively, making sure they're doing the right things, playing hockey the right way."

Kryz also needs to attend to business in the Team USA end first, then worry about offense second.

"Chad's really the same way back on the back end," Cole said. "You really have to take care of the whole 200 feet of ice. If they do that it will work out fine for them."

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out senior class including Shara Long (Madonna University), Maranda Armstead (Lourdes University), Hayley Rogers and Katie Latack.

"I love it, because I went from high school to college, too, and you like to see them continue on and play their passion and move forward and get better," said Klemmer, who was a standout both at Salem (for coaching legend Fred Thomann) and Madonna University. "I only had those kids a couple years, but I knew they had so much more in them. I was happy to see all of them go somewhere and do something with it."

"You learn a lot in high school, but as you're growing and getting older, you're taking all these different things from basketball that you'll carry with you for the rest of your life."

"It's something I still talk about to this day with friends and family, so I'm so excited to experience the kind of stuff that I was able to. That basically molded me into who I am today."

Stepping up

Also impressed with Wilson is Schoolcraft women's coach Kara Kinzer.

"Jam has done an amazing job throughout the start of the season," Kinzer said. "She's learning things. She was a typical freshman, but these last four games, she's really grown up tremendously. I'm just excited about the rest of the season with her."

Wilson smiled about Klemmer being in the stands to watch the victory over Owens.

"I saw (Klemmer) while

she was walking in," Wilson said. "We talked yesterday; she told me she was going to come. Yeah, I know she's always going to be there for me. She's like family to me now."

"So any support from her is good. I know in my head that I got to keep playing strong for her, too."

And so far, being part of a junior college basketball program not far from her Canton home is pretty good, too.

"I think that's a good thing," Wilson said. "I think it's great to start in your own backyard, because you know everyone, you know the support's going to be there."

"Going away is more pressure, because you don't know people, you got to try harder. But it's great for me to play in my backyard, so I'm OK with it."

With the flow

Schoolcraft could prove to be a springboard to a four-year college, particularly if Wilson keeps excelling and sparking the Lady Ocelots to success. The team started this season 7-0.

But she won't worry about the future too much just yet.

"Right now, college is great. I love it," Wilson said. "Basketball is really good. After Schoolcraft? I don't try to think too far (ahead), I just come and go with the flow."

"But if I do happen to go to a four-year college, then I'll just continue what I'm doing here and at Salem. Nothing's going to change with my game."

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PREP WRESTLING

Salem takes first place at Mott invite

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Sparked by sophomore Nate Gaubatz's perfect day, Salem slammed all comers at Saturday's Waterford Mott Invitational.

The Rocks went 5-0 as a team, defeating Livonia Churchill, 53-27, in the final to take home a first-place trophy along with some gold medals. Earlier, Salem bested Pontiac (44-27), the Bandits (68-12), Mott (53-24) and Bloomfield Hills (64-18).

"It was a great day," Salem coach Jeremy Henderson said. "Our guys really stepped up when we needed them to and (their) movement and intensity ... was awesome. They were going after people and moving better."

At the top of the list of standouts was Gaubatz, who won all five of his matches. But he wasn't alone, as teammates Akash Raj, Cam Shaughnessy, Bruce Haslitt, Demetrius Fields, Tyler Moore and Russell Gaubatz also went 5-0.

Several others only lost once, including Ali Kobeissi

(2-1), Drew Lindsay (4-1), Seth Dunn (3-1) and Ahmad Mehsen (3-1).

Meanwhile, Salem's junior varsity had plenty of success Saturday at Ann Arbor Pioneer. Max Hirvela of the Rocks was a first-place finisher, with D.J. McGhee and Jaquan Baker tied for second.

Plymouth third

The Plymouth varsity wrestling team went 4-1 to finish third at Saturday's Todd Schoenheide Memorial Challenge in Northville.

A number of Wildcats were undefeated at the tourney, including Isiah Berry, Spencer Schiftar, Darwin Filey and Tim Armstrong.

The host Mustangs remain in spirit and continue to pay tribute to their fallen teammate, Schoenheide, who was killed April 10, 2005, by a drunken driver, just one month after the junior had wrestled in the MHSAA regional tournament.

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WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

saves) had no chance on.

"That was a tough break (on the Brass goal)," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "You get a bad bounce and the puck's in your net."

"It came off the wall. I don't know if it hit something on the wall and popped out in the slot, but those things happen."

Northville head coach Jon Gates said the game was yet another example of how competitive the KLAA is.

"It's funny, you get a little bounce like that," Gates said. "A game like today, we got a bounce, they didn't."

"They had a scrum there at the end that the referee lost sight of the puck. It's so close; every game's close."

Taking care of the other end for Northville was Miller, who stopped 27 shots and was a key reason why Plymouth's power play went 1-for-6 despite strong pressure at times.

"(Miller) was outstanding. Honestly, I thought he was the difference in that third period," Vento said. "We held them to three shots (in the third) and you do that, you think you're going to win a hockey game, but it doesn't always work that way."

Northville (4-2) broke out to a 2-0 lead on goals by junior Daniel McKee and senior Ian Welsch — the second on a nifty deflection of a point shot taken by junior defenseman Shane Bryans.

The Wildcats started playing better after the Welsch goal, scored with 9:53 to go in the middle period.

Jake Silvester wheeled on a centering pass by linemate Ricky Covault only to be denied by Miller. Moments later, the puck bounced to Silvester all alone in the slot, but he fired the puck over the crossbar.

Chumley gets first

Finally, the Wildcats got on the board thanks to a fine play started by senior defenseman Kyle Kozler and finished by junior forward Jack Chumley.

The goal, Chumley's first on varsity, came with 2:13 left in the second period to slice Northville's lead to 2-1.

Kozler threaded an outlet pass to Chumley in the neutral zone. Chumley churned into Northville's zone and went forehand-backhand before slipping the puck behind Miller.

"Obviously, our primary goal is to win the game," Chumley said. "But scoring a goal like that was a lot of fun."

"I don't take too much credit for it. Our defenseman, Kyle Kozler, won the battle in the corner (in Plymouth's zone) and got it out to me. He gave me a good pass and I just found the puck and threw it on net. I got lucky."

Vento said Chumley is rounding into form after missing time due to injury.

"He's a talented player. I've been waiting for him to break through," Vento said. "He's had a slow start to the season because he was injured and didn't get in the lineup for a couple weeks. It's just starting to come together for him."

Just 33 seconds later, the Wildcats knotted the game 2-2 on a power-play goal by Covault. Kozler sent a point-to-point pass to junior defenseman Joe Fontana, who then snapped a shot toward Miller.

Covault, providing a net-front presence despite his diminutive frame, tipped Fontana's drive into the Northville canetge.

The loss was Plymouth's third in four days, following defeats at the hands of Livonia Franklin and Birmingham Brother Rice. Yet Vento doesn't think his team (3-3 overall) is struggling, at least not since the first part of the 6-4 loss to the Patriots on Dec. 9.

"Our first two periods against Franklin weren't very strong, but after that we've been playing some good hockey," Vento said. "I told the boys, if you learn from it come February, you're going to forget about this, it's not going to matter. It all depends on how they respond."

(GIRLS) PCS 6, SKYRON 0: The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team blanked Skyron (combined Skyline/Huron team) despite being shorthanded Saturday due to injury and illness. Earning the shutout was Savina Osanni, with defensive support from Gabby Godre, Grace Balch, Bryanna Lanzilotti and Morgan Gagnon. Scoring two goals each for PCS were Michelle Cirino and Catherine VandenBosch, with single goals by Brooke Gauthier (from Brianna Waggoner) and Megan Brace (from Gagnon). VandenBosch, Serena Eadeh and Godre also assisted.

ger led Plymouth with six points (6-of-10 free throws), followed by a five-point outing from classmate Bailey Brown.

Plymouth is still looking to find its groove in the early part of the season.

"I'm proud of our kids because they don't give up, play hard and are relentless," Ballard said. "We're a greedy group and we're going to embrace the process. We talk about embracing the process and getting better every day and we will."

"Right now, we're not where we need to be, but we will be in a little bit. We're going to keep working and getting better every day."

Aside from Mackay, other offensive standouts for Novi were senior Allie Lipson (six points) and sophomore Julia Lalain (five points).

PLYMOUTH

Continued from Page B1

looked really good."

Novi (3-0 overall) parlayed that momentum into the second half, with junior Cara Ninkovich splitting between two defenders for the easy lay-in, followed by a baseline jumper from Mackay.

After trading baskets at both ends, a free throw by Plymouth sophomore Gabby Chouinard with 4:02 remaining made it a 30-13 affair before Novi closed out the quarter by going on a five-point run.

Closing strong

The best showing for Plymouth (1-3) came in the fourth quarter, when it outscored Novi 9-3, thanks in part to employing a full-court trap.

Senior guard Hannah Bad-

WILSON

Continued from Page B1

Owens was her coach last season at Salem, Lindsay Klemmer.

Sitting next to her was Jamyra's mom and her younger sister, freshman forward Lyniah, who already is asserting herself on this year's Salem squad.

"Obviously, we knew she had a lot of potential," Klemmer said about Wilson. "But they're definitely pulling it out of her here at Schoolcraft. I didn't think she could get any faster and smarter and you can tell that she already is."

"She was always one of our top defenders on the guard and that's basically what they did; they put her on one of their top players and she shut her down pretty hard."

Fun to watch

Klemmer then talked about the blocked shot.

"You saw the block in the corner," Klemmer said. "Jam takes a lot of pride in her defense. She definitely made some big plays down the stretch."

"She's playing really well. I love watching her right now."

Those kind of plays were a regular occurrence during 2014-15, when the Rocks started 0-4 only to pretty much run the table.

Salem won the KLAA Central, Kensington Conference, association and Class A district titles before losing in the regional semifinals.

Wilson was part of a stand-

Soccer stalwarts all over the pitch



FIRST TEAM
Hunter Olson, forward, Canton: The Chiefs nearly captured back-to-back Division 1 state championships and the play of senior Olson was a major factor in that sustained success.

Olson, who plans on playing collegiately at Calvin College near Grand Rapids, sparked Canton with 26 goals and 12 assists to finish his three-year varsity career with 47 goals. He registered eight goals during the team's impressive postseason run all the way to the D1 state final.

The co-captain's efforts were rewarded with selection to the Division 1 all-state first team as well as all-KLAA, all-district and all-conference.

"Hunter is a great player who used his speed, work (ethic) and one-v-one skills to lead the team in scoring," coach Mark Zemanski said. "Hunter was a great team leader who led the team both on and off the field with his hard work and effort. I know he will be successful in whatever he pursues."

Nick Massey, forward, Salem: The senior was a standout for the Rocks with 23 goals and 10 assists, earning him D1 first team all-state honors (as well as selection to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams).

"Nick is one of the most dynamic players in the state," coach Scott Duhl said. "He has the ability to go past anyone and score a goal. His desire to win and compete allows him to thrive in the game's biggest moments."

Massey will play collegiately at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Columbus, Ohio.

Mike Blake, forward, Plymouth: The senior captain and four-year varsity player paced the Wildcats' attack with 17 goals and six assists, good for D1 first team all-state and all-KLAA honors.

"Mike was just one of the hardest-working kids I've ever coached," coach Jeff Neschich said. "We're going to miss him. He was just a tough, tough kid."

Blake plans on playing college soccer, but has not yet decided on a destination, Neschich noted.

Josh Posuniak, forward, Canton: It was a sensational final season for the senior, who registered six goals and 11 assists while pushing the attack for the D1 finalists.

Posuniak earned D1 second team all-state honors, while also making the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams.

"Josh was a three-year varsity starter and one of the most dynamic soccer players I have coached with his great speed, quickness and ability to beat defenders one-v-one," Zemanski said. "Stats only tell half the story, because Josh's great attacking ability was one of the biggest reasons for our team's offensive success."

Hunter Gibbons, defense, Salem: Gibbons' senior season was one to remember, spearheading the Rocks' strong defense and chipping in six goals — impressive for a center-back.

He was named to the D1 all-state second team, along with receiving recognition on the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region squads.

"Hunter led the team from the back all season," Duhl said. "He was instrumental in the 12 shutouts our team recorded. He is a relentless competitor and a great one-v-one defender."

Austin Kaczmarek, goalkeeper, Stevenson: The senior covered the opening of the net like a force field, turning away shots with diving saves and incredible instincts. A team captain, Kaczmarek has been the starter at Stevenson since his sophomore year. He registered eight shutouts this season, earning a repeat on the all-state second team. He earned all-KLAA honors as a junior and this season. Kaczmarek is an extraordinary student as well, having chiseled out a 4.2 grade-point average.

"Austin has been a key member of the team for three seasons," coach Ken Shingledecker said. "He's one of the best and most decorated goalkeepers to play at Stevenson High School. He has a tremendous work ethic in training and it carries over into the classroom, where he really excels."

Dominick Payne, midfielder, Farmington: Payne had an outstanding senior season in which he scored 19 goals and made 17 assists. He was a tremendous playmaker for the Falcons and was named to the Division 2 all-state second team. Payne is a regional ODP player and a repeat member of the all-area first team.

"Dom is a fierce competitor," coach Matt Gasparot said. "He finds multiple ways to beat defenders. He can score from the run of play and from set pieces. Dom has scored some great goals in the two years I've coached him. I am sure he will be as impactful at the next level."

Jordan Whitt, forward, Franklin: The senior was often the fuse that lit the Patriots' productive offense. Fast and highly-skilled with the ball at his feet, Whitt found creative ways to score himself (13 goals) and get his teammates involved (double-digit assists). Although he was far from the biggest player on the pitch, he was tough and absorbed

the physicality his opponents threw at him.

"I can't say enough good things about Jordan," Franklin coach Victor Rodopoulos said. "Both on and off the field, he is a leader and a winner. He's one of the most humble people I know. He has an aura about him that gets his teammates motivated."

Jason Ren, midfielder, Canton: The senior captain came through in all situations from his midfield spot as the Chiefs nearly won their second straight D1 championship.

Ren, a third-year starter and four-year letterman, was recognized for his performance by being named to the D1 all-state team as an honorable mention pick. He also was named to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams.

"Jason, who is a very dynamic offensive player due to his unbelievable foot skills, sacrificed his personal goals for the sake of the team," Zemanski said. "His unselfish play, soccer intelligence and ball-winning skills (keyed) our team's solid defensive play and often was the starting point of our offensive attack."

Ren plans on playing college soccer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Matt Rockafellow, defense, Canton: Just a junior, Rockafellow made his presence known again in his second varsity season as he routinely stymied rivals' top offensive players.

He made the D1 all-state team as an honorable mention pick and also was named to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams.

"Matt is a great ball winner and anchored our defense in the middle of the field," Zemanski said. "He's a very athletic player who has a great feel for the game. He utilized his exceptional speed and defensive one-v-one skills to shut down some of the best forwards in the state."

"Matt is a very versatile and good enough player to play pretty much any position on the field."

Jordan Salhani, midfielder, Salem: Salhani's all-around consistent play was one of the reasons the Rocks enjoyed a 17-5-1 season and gave eventual D1 finalist Canton a scare in the district final at Westland John Glenn.

The senior midfielder tallied one goal and nine assists while earning D1 all-state honorable mention honors along with selection to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams.

"Jordan was fantastic for us all year," Duhl said. "He is a true ... guy that you want on the ball making decisions for the team. He took the majority of our

ALL-AREA BOYS SOCCER

2015 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER FIRST TEAM

Hunter Olson, sr. F, Canton
Nick Massey, sr. F, Salem
Mike Blake, sr. F, Plymouth
Josh Posuniak, sr. F, Canton
Hunter Gibbons, sr. D, Salem
Austin Kaczmarek, sr. G, Stevenson
Dominick Payne, sr. M, Farmington
Jordan Whitt, sr. F, Franklin
Jason Ren, sr. M, Canton
Matt Rockafellow, sr. D, Canton
Jordan Salhani, sr. M, Salem
Jayden Huxtable, sr. F, Plymouth
Van Nguyen, jr. D, Plymouth
Tyler Gregory, sr. M, Stevenson
Ari Hollander, sr. D, Harrison
Ryan Theisen, sr. M, Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

Jimmy Walkinshaw, sr. M, Canton
Conor Kindred, sr. G, Harrison
Jordan Percy, sr. D, Canton
Christian Olson, jr. M, North Farm.
Vinnie Bakerian, sr. D, Garden City
Max Kummer, sr. F, Salem
Callum Ashmore, soph. F, Farmington
Austin Andres, jr. M, Ply. Christian
Luke Nolte, sr. F, Salem

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mark Zemanski, Canton

HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Ryan O'Meara, Trevor Turko, Avery Olson, David McGrath;
Salem: Jay Lee, Mike Schwartz;
Plymouth: Andrew Liakos, Dylan Dwyer, Bennett Brooks, Anthony Iacopelli, Adam Saunders; Ply. Christian: Luke Yakuber, Ben Fuller, Brian Schleintz; Farmington: Noah Whitton, Kris Camaj, Amar Kijestorac;
Harrison: Julian Blindu, Humam Sagman, Randy Perkins, Justin Honer; N. Farmington: Jacob Bahm, Paul Thornton, David Castelvetere; Clarenceville: Gerardo Arzate, Dante Marzolo, Jayson Fitzpatrick.

his game betrayed any weakness.

"He shot and passed well with both feet; his field vision was optimal, especially for a central midfielder. He took pride in helping his teammates to be better and that was a major contributor to our overall success."

"When you lose a player like Ari, it is not easy to decipher whether it will be harder losing his skills and abilities or his team leadership. For me, it was a joy to have a free assistant coach wrapped up in a complete and potent player."

Ryan Theisen, midfielder, Stevenson: A three-year varsity player, Theisen notched eight goals and six assists, with the majority of the goals coming at key junctures in pivotal games. Fast, smart and gritty, Theisen earned all-KLAA honorable mention laurels and all-state honorable mention recognition.

"Ryan had so much value to our team," Shingledecker said. "He could score goals, set up goals or lock down the other team's right-sided attack if need be. We were just a better team in general when he was on the field. It is really incredible what he has done in the classroom (4.6 GPA)."

CO-COACHES OF YEAR
Mark Zemanski, Canton: In 2014, Zemanski coached the Chiefs to a D1 state championship and he nearly did it again this fall, guiding the squad to the championship game.

Canton downed Rochester Adams in the semifinals before ultimately losing a hard-fought title game to Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central.

With a 20-6-3 record, Canton outscored opponents 84-26 en route to KLAA South Division, district and regional championships. It was the sixth division crown in a row for the Chiefs, who finished 9-0-1 in the KLAA South.

Zemanski would rather

defer any Coach of the Year credit to assistant coaches Alex Walton, Brent Clodigio, Jeannine Reddy and Kai Walters, as well as "our outstanding senior captain quartet of Jordan Percy, Jason Ren, Jimmy Walkinshaw and Hunter Olson."

He also cited other seniors for their strong leadership, naming Trevor Turko, Alex Yokely, Josh Posuniak, Pri Yank Patel, Sam DeLoy, Beaumont Hoffman and Patrick Ruhala.

Juniors making big contributions were Matt Rockafellow, Ryeen O'Meara and goalkeeper Steven Page, while Luke Kurili, Caleb Moraw, Matt Tengelien, Cam Waller, Matt Eastman, Collin O'Keefe and Joey Chung were other juniors helping the cause. Also solid were sophomores Avery Olson and goalie David McGrath.

"The team really turned it on at the end," Zemanski said. "Utilizing their excellent passing, team play and determination, they won their first six playoff games."

Victor Rodopoulos, Franklin: The former star Patriots soccer player led Franklin to its first regional final ever and its first district championship in 20 years. This past season was his 15th at Franklin and 14th as the boys varsity head coach.

"From the first day of practice this season, this team has been all about 21 guys not wanting what has occurred in the past — Franklin always losing to this team and that team — re-occur again, especially our seniors, who provided great leadership," Rodopoulos said. "The key to our success was that everyone believed in and trusted one another. We had five guys score at least five goals, so we spread the ball around."

"I'd say our biggest game of the year was the district championship win over Dearborn but, honestly, they were all huge for us."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Malcolm's big game lifts PCA; Chiefs win

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

A 24-point night by Plymouth Christian Academy sophomore Matt Malcolm sparked the Eagles to an 86-42 boys basketball romp Monday over visiting Huron Valley Lutheran.

Malcolm (10-of-16 from the floor) was joined in double figures by PCA's Levi Yakuber (13 points) and Max Okolo (10 points, 12 rebounds), while Layne

Pries chipped in two treys among his eight points.

"Matt did a heck of a job tonight attacking the rim and hitting his jump shots in rhythm," said PCA head coach Matt Windle, whose team improved to 2-0.

Adding eight points and seven rebounds was Jayme Fadden. Others contributing to the lopsided win in PCA's home opener were Phillip Morby (six points), Brian Schlientz (five

points) and Luke Yakuber (five points).

"It was great to see the guys clicking within our offense," Windle said. "Every one of them followed the game plan from an offense standpoint very well."

"Defensively, there is still a lot to work on."

CANTON 60, SOUTH LYON 46: A 23-7 second quarter Tuesday propelled the host Chiefs.

Obi Okoli (13 points, six rebounds), Logan Ryan (12 points), Hamoudy Turle (11 points) and Jaalen Cochran (10 points) led the Chiefs to their third straight win to open the season. South Lyon fell to 1-2.

NOVI 51, PLYMOUTH 36: The visitors won the battle of the Wildcats on Tuesday, giving Plymouth (2-1) its first loss. Armani Tate scored nine points for Plymouth, while Frank Brown hauled down nine boards.

It was 12-12 after one quarter, but Novi then outscored Plymouth 14-6 to take control of the contest.

CHURCHILL 62, SALEM 49: The Rocks could not overcome hot shooting (10 treys) Tuesday by the host Chargers. Churchill led wire-to-wire, aided by Salem's 22 turnovers.

Leading the Rocks with 16 points, 18 rebounds and five assists was senior center Kenny Topolovec, while Cameron Grace scored 12 points.

Salem (0-2) trailed 20-12 after one quarter and 36-23 at halftime.

"We had a lot of turnovers," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "That cost us a little bit."

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

everything. (I'm) letting them compete for the top spot in each event."

"I am trying to breed some good, healthy competition in the events among the team members."

Helping steer the Salem ship toward an improved season are co-captains Matt Croop, Colin Urbaczewski and Phil Collingwood. Croop (100 free, 200 free) and Urbaczewski (100 fly) are seniors, while Collingwood (500 free) is a junior.

"We've got a great core group of returning guys," Lynn added. "In addition to the captains, we have divers Brendan Sibel, Michael Falzon and Jon Vary. In the pool, some of our big returners are Nick Landon, Abe Soto, Ben Lukasiewicz, Lucas Sheedy, Miles Angel, Teddy Dowswell and Tim Gumbel."

Lynn listed a handful of promising freshmen, namely Caleb Johnson, Eugene Li, Nate Budnick, Ryo Hirose and Henry Zhao.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

Firefighters urge safety with Christmas trees, holiday cooking

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. The National Fire Protection Association offers advice on fire safety with Christmas trees:

Picking the tree

» Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

» Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk.

» Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

» Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

» Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

» Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.

» Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

» Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

» Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

» Get rid of the tree after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

In terms of holiday cooking, the NFPA notes Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christ-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Christmas holiday living room with tree and fireplace in lights

mas Eve.

Cooking equipment was involved in 18 percent of home decoration fires. This can happen when a decoration is left on or too close to a stove or other cooking equipment.

What you should know

» Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stove top.

» Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.

» If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

» Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stove top.

If you have a cooking fire

» Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

» Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.

» If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.

» Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stove top. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

» For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Safety considerations for cooking with oil

» Oil is a key ingredient found in the majority of today's kitchens. Whether a recipe calls for frying or sauteing, we include oil in almost all of our daily cooking. When using any of the many oils to prepare your meals like olive, canola, corn or soybean, consider the following safety tips when cooking:

» Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stove top.

» Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells, immediately turn off the burner and/or carefully remove the pan from the burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.

» Heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying or sauteing.

» Add food gently to the pot or pan so the oil does not splatter.

» Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If you have a fire, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time. Never throw water or use a fire extinguisher on the fire.

» If the fire does not go out or you don't feel comfortable sliding a lid over the pan, get everyone out of your home. Call the fire department from outside.

The NFPA also urges caution with candle use, during the holiday season and all year.

Court of Appeals rules on private structures on park lands

Q: Our subdivision owners have an irrevocable easement over certain subdivision property in a parkland area. Now the board wants to grant some of that subdivision property to a private person to erect a private structure on the parkland. What do you think?

A: I think that your association is abusing its rights and privileges and you need to take affirmative action as quickly as possible to do so. In the particular

case I am thinking about, the Court of Appeals of Michigan ruled that the association did not have the authority

to grant permission to allow subdivision lot owners to erect private structures upon the private park lands of the subdivision unless it is for education, recreational or community activities for the use and enjoyment of all subdivision lot owners which the deed restrictions required. I would suggest that your association seek legal advice and/or that the members of the subdivision gather together to retain counsel to stop this purported action.

Q: We just purchased a townhouse subject to covenants with a provision allowing for subsequent amendments to the covenants by a two-thirds vote. I entered into a short term vacation rental, but after a number of complaints, the lot owners voted to amend the covenants for rentals for less than six months and to require Board approval of rental documents and advertisement. Now the board is threatening litigation against me. What do you think?

A: Although there is a split of authority among the states, courts generally adopt a case by case approach for determining whether the addition of new restrictions on rental activities is reasonable under a general amendment provision. Some states hold that a new restriction is *per se* unreasonable and some courts say that some amendments may go too far and change the nature of the original restrictions. Sometimes it depends upon whether it produces an unconscionable result, but some courts say you buy subject to having certain rights later restricted by amendment. You are best to consult with a knowledgeable community association attorney.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Meet and greet

Several Realtor members of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, a local trade association for real estate professionals, gathered at the ConCorde Inn of Clinton Township on Dec. 4 to meet with Macomb County legislators.

Legislators in attendance included Rep. Derek Miller, Rep. Jeff Farrington, Rep. Andrea LaFontaine, Rep. Ken Goike, Sen. Steve Bieda, Rep. Anthony Forlini, Commissioner Kathy Vosburg, Rep. Peter Lucido, and Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh. This annual meet and greet is a GMAR staple that helps maintain the relationships between Realtors and politicians.

The Legislative Breakfast affords them time and place to discuss matters pertinent to protecting home ownership and real estate. The GMAR Government Affairs Committee plans to meet to discuss the possibility of similar undertakings in Oakland and Wayne counties.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 27-31, 2015, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

15843 Buckingham Ave \$130,000
19126 Devonshire St \$562,000
20655 Glenhill Ct \$350,000
18828 Hillcrest St \$250,000
17178 Kirkshire Ave \$187,000
31471 Lahser Rd \$284,000
18137 Riverside Dr \$535,000
20761 W 13 Mile Rd \$297,000

BIRMINGHAM

420 Berwyn St \$390,000
1568 Haynes St \$246,000
528 Pilgrim Ave \$700,000
1647 Shipman Blvd \$1,380,000
587 Stanley Blvd \$675,000
1246 Washington Blvd \$875,000
672 Wellesley St \$955,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

1709 Orchard Ln \$355,000
4137 Tanglewood Ct \$200,000
1725 Tiverton Rd Unit 7 \$150,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

2847 Aspen Ln \$189,000
4470 Barchester Dr \$588,000
3666 Burning Bush Rd \$425,000
4875 Charing Cross Rd \$1,237,000
5180 Franklin Rd \$510,000
244 Hadsell Dr \$180,000
1928 Klingensmith Rd Unit 66 \$125,000
86 Manor Rd \$1,700,000
220 N Glenngarry Rd \$587,000

5741 Snowshoe Cir \$275,000
2233 Somerset Rd \$239,000
4113 Telegraph Rd # B-218 \$83,000
1020 Waddington St \$1,300,000
7201 Wing Lake Rd \$405,000
5326 Woodview Dr \$450,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

1721 Applebrook Dr \$440,000
2421 Baltimore Ct \$298,000
1535 Grishaw St \$150,000
5571 Huron Hills Dr \$338,000
1596 Huron Springs Ln \$350,000
4137 Lake Pointe Ln \$410,000
2701 Lauryl Dr \$273,000
3137 Mapledale St \$83,000
3422 Pinehaven Rd \$200,000
3328 Royal Blvd \$180,000
3223 Silverberry St \$60,000
5687 Strawberry Cir \$485,000
1998 Tiley Cir \$215,000
1516 Trace Hollow Dr \$295,000
1550 Union Lake Rd \$230,000
1840 Wexport Ln \$395,000

FARMINGTON

32718 Grand River Ave Unit D7 \$54,000
22830 Lakeview St \$120,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

30290 Eastfield St \$193,000
29175 Eldon St \$140,000
34239 Glouster Cir \$282,000
28118 Golf Pointe Blvd \$342,000
25129 Harcourt St \$213,000
24423 Kensington \$245,000
28553 Lake Park Dr W \$236,000
28024 Larson Ln \$490,000
28815 Leamington Dr \$275,000
35937 Old Homestead Dr \$228,000
21332 Parklane St \$262,000
30332 Patricia St \$83,000
30472 Ramblewood Club Dr \$246,000
26630 Rose Hill Dr \$265,000

38293 Saratoga Cir \$194,000
28541 Shawassee Rd \$65,000
29618 Sylvan Cir \$333,000
32326 W 12 Mile Rd \$360,000
28428 W 8 Mile Rd Unit C8 \$27,000
31868 Wayburn St \$205,000
37357 Wellsley \$445,000

HIGHLAND

4560 Chevron Dr \$410,000
2283 Dean Dr \$180,000
130 Eleanor Rd \$60,000
2351 Foxmore Cir \$284,000
1469 Kingsway Dr \$245,000
3964 Strathcona \$240,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

18941 Eldorado Pl \$215,000
27214 Evergreen Rd \$75,000
18141 Roseland Blvd \$180,000

MILFORD

720 Manordale Ct \$160,000
861 Mill St \$259,000
1210 Stone Rowe \$461,000

NORTHVILLE

54409 9 Mile Rd \$365,000
119 Ely Dr S \$205,000
21335 Gale Dr \$75,000

NOVI

43100 12 Oaks Crescent Dr # 6011 \$225,000
24974 Acorn Trl \$488,000
22210 Chase Dr \$540,000
31096 Columbia Dr \$175,000
44745 Ellery Ln \$140,000
45418 Emerald Forest Dr \$390,000
41127 Fenmore \$240,000
23847 Greening Dr \$320,000
25750 Groveand \$413,000
24474 Kings Pointe \$265,000
31190 Kingsley Ct \$358,000
45227 Roundview Dr \$400,000
47309 Scarlet Dr N \$290,000
50008 Streamwood Dr \$368,000

23920 Willowbrook \$194,000
SOUTH LYON
26957 Bluegrass Ct \$387,000
25835 Coach Ln \$398,000
23565 Millwood \$425,000
61365 Mustang Dr \$394,000
212 Oakbrooke Dr Unit 8 \$52,000
53572 Valleywood Dr \$325,000

SOUTHFIELD

21252 8 1/2 Mile Rd \$58,000
19410 Cherry Hill St \$159,000
19225 Eldridge Ln \$190,000
19330 Eldridge Ln \$209,000
17015 George Washington Dr \$185,000
15988 Harden Cir \$268,000
22710 Kenwyck Dr \$211,000
20422 Lacrosse Ave \$169,000
25440 Lois Ln \$135,000
17240 Madison St \$141,000
27045 Marshall St \$21,000
18162 Melrose Ave \$145,000
18357 Midway Ave \$108,000
17355 Mount Vernon St \$59,000
29228 Murray Crescent Dr \$140,000
30758 Northgate Dr \$170,000
24808 Pierce St \$190,000
15801 Providence Dr # O1f \$40,000
15588 Stratford Dr \$177,000

WHITE LAKE

616 E Oxhill Dr \$170,000
1500 Midwood Dr \$180,000
10398 Riverwood Ct \$55,000
356 Rosario Ln \$260,000
8115 Sequoia Ln \$218,000
9563 Shelby Dr \$265,000
367 Shotwell Ct \$205,000
8814 Tackles Dr \$212,000
11136 Windhurst St \$215,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 17-21, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

CANTON

7482 Admiralty Dr \$249,000
44189 Arlington Rd \$220,000
4193 Berkeley Ave \$133,000
47013 Bing Dr \$417,000
2082 Briarfield St \$170,000
7411 Briargate Dr \$435,000
46749 Camelia Dr \$285,000
7190 Camelot Dr \$244,000
7790 Capri Dr \$270,000
48251 Chesterfield Dr S \$420,000
203 Coronation Ct \$199,000
1508 Crowndale Ln \$375,000
48183 Deer Trail Dr \$368,000
47230 Fairlawn Ct \$278,000
44229 Franciscan Dr \$220,000
43575 Geff Dr \$155,000
44270 Harsdale Dr \$250,000
49035 Hawksbury Rd \$201,000
49138 Hawksbury Rd \$194,000
1250 Heritage Ct \$166,000
42271 Highgate Ct \$199,000
1833 Maple Park Dr E \$185,000
595 McKinley Cir \$455,000
45668 Morningstar Dr \$295,000
46456 Morningside Rd \$356,000
1591 Mulberry Ln \$200,000
6551 Paul Ryvere Ln \$153,000
41524 Pleasant Creek Dr \$250,000
42452 Proctor St \$189,000
1626 Ranier Blvd \$209,000
44210 Richmond Ct \$213,000
4560 S Willard Rd \$13,000
47728 Scenic Ct \$288,000
346 Shania St \$163,000
208 Sheffield Ct \$205,000
47115 Sherwood Ct \$257,000

2130 Stonebridge Way \$380,000
7452 Stonebrook Dr \$528,000
45030 Tillotson Dr \$245,000
42141 Tonquish Ct \$185,000
1300 Wagon Wheel Rd \$226,000
44666 Westminster Way \$232,000
42392 White Hart Blvd \$318,000
992 Wildwood Ln \$230,000
3998 Wrenwood Ln \$280,000
4084 Wrenwood Ln \$277,000

GARDEN CITY

33604 Alta St \$83,000
6611 Arcolia St \$90,000
28538 Block St \$40,000
27725 Bock St \$80,000
577 Brandt St \$29,000
577 Brandt St \$53,000
31311 Burnly St \$119,000
6821 Burnly St \$63,000
28920 Cambridge St \$57,000
1241 Farmington Rd \$110,000
5710 Helen St \$88,000
32944 John Hawk St \$36,000
33451 Leona St \$100,000
28331 Maplewold St \$98,000
212 Ross St \$97,000
32106 Rush St \$170,000

LIVONIA

34475 G Mile Rd \$180,000
44271 G Mile Rd \$149,000
19346 Angling St \$82,000
20417 Angling St \$125,000
32536 Barkley St \$197,000
29472 Bobrich St \$42,000
8948 Deering St \$76,000
36269 Dover St \$180,000
36281 Dover St \$179,000
36645 Dowling St \$180,000
36156 Downing Dr \$315,000
11071 Flamingo St \$153,000
30040 Grandon St \$124,000
8868 Hillcrest St \$138,000
14176 Hillcrest St \$110,000
20271 Hugh St \$128,000
11799 Hunters Park Ct \$286,000
29253 Lyndon St \$154,000
18904 Maplewood St \$114,000

33070 Martin St \$177,000
10000 Mayfield St \$148,000
9111 Melrose St \$123,000
15161 Melrose St \$116,000
9907 Merriman Rd \$112,000
18115 Middlebelt Rd \$164,000
29950 Minton St \$150,000
28014 N Clements Cir \$138,000
37561 Newburgh Park Cir \$273,000
37570 Oakdale St \$245,000
14467 Parklane St \$239,000
8900 Perrin St \$132,000
19614 Purlingbrook St \$126,000
9829 Roseland St \$150,000
17524 Starwich St \$177,000
38383 Summers St \$100,000
34142 Trillium Ct \$265,000
17557 Vacri Ln \$340,000
35202 Vargo St \$380,000
35524 W Chicago St \$168,000
11335 W Clements Cir \$100,000
18244 Westmore St \$135,000
18910 Woodring St \$127,000

NORTHVILLE

19485 Eddington Pl \$138,000
49116 Freestone Dr \$481,000
17410 Lake View Cir \$384,000
39550 Legend Ct \$450,000
17725 Parkshore Dr \$903,000
18213 Parkshore Dr \$700,000
46060 Pickford Ct \$611,000
49030 Rainbow Ln N \$362,000
39674 Southwind Ln \$126,000
128 Walnut St \$262,000
19911 Woodhill Dr \$390,000

PLYMOUTH

48007 Ann Arbor Rd W \$500,000
8911 Brookline Ave \$160,000
540 Byron St \$270,000
736 Church St \$528,000
42551 Clemmons Ct \$188,000
46772 Darwood Ct \$485,000
770 Deer St \$120,000
265 Maple St \$297,000
1590 Nantucket Rd \$245,000
40637 Newport Dr \$105,000
49517 Pointe Xing \$130,000

9643 Russell Ave \$185,000
101 S Union St \$293,000
50045 Standish Ct \$508,000
14080 Terrace Ct \$281,000

REDFORD

19530 Brady \$30,000
25331 Cathedral \$72,000
12125 Columbia \$90,000
12267 Columbia \$80,000
26740 Joy Rd \$26,000
19171 Macanthur \$74,000
20096 Olympia \$94,000
24525 Orangelaan \$91,000
13985 Sarasota \$46,000
27350 W Chicago \$415,000
15455 Wakenden \$65,000

WAYNE

4055 4th St \$110,000
34923 Chestnut St \$119,000
31670 Madison St \$63,000
31619 Stellwagen St \$65,000
4834 Woodward St \$90,000

WESTLAND

37567 Barkridge Cir \$40,000
370 Carson Dr \$160,000
6675 Chirrewa St \$130,000
34422 Deborah Ct \$220,000
36060 Farragut Ave \$70,000
33663 Fernwood St \$74,000
298 Fischer Dr \$211,000
39100 Florence Ave \$235,000
31112 Geraldine St \$110,000
29921 Gladys Ave \$144,000
32530 Grandview Ave \$103,000
30624 Mackenzie Dr \$141,000
6166 N Karle St \$75,000
6115 N Livville St \$48,000
6010 N Newburgh Rd \$127,000
6086 N Parent St \$85,000
1990 S John Hix St \$160,000
1511 S Walton St \$70,000
1168 Selma St \$133,000
34729 Somerset St \$100,000
1862 Stieber St \$27,000
684 Superior Pkwy \$98,000
1353 Windham St \$75,000

Sing along with the Salvation Army band in Plymouth

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Warm up those vocal chords and get ready to belt out a few holiday tunes Sunday, Dec. 20, at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

The third annual Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along will take caroling up a notch with the addition of The Salvation Army Dearborn Heights Citadel Band, which will play a few solo pieces in addition to accompanying singers.

"Our band has played for Noel Nights in Detroit for about 40 years," said Charles McDougall, who directs the 30-member group. "Our band has been around for quite some time."

Jerry Smith, director of music ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth contacted McDougall last

summer.

"He said, 'we'd love to do this with you.' Of course there is no better brass band around than the Salvation Army," Smith said.

The sing-along drew approximately 100 singers its first year and doubled in size last year, according to Smith. Heartbeat of Plymouth, a consortium of 11 local churches created and supports the event.

Lyric sheets for a mix of 20 carols and secular seasonal tunes will help singers get through the first verse of each song. Singers from Praise Baptist Church, Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth will help lead the crowd. Smith expects the event to run approximately 45 minutes. Refreshments will be served afterward at First

Presbyterian Church, located just a few blocks from the park.

"This is exciting, and I know Sunday the temperature is forecast in the 30s, after being in the 60s the past few weeks.

Hopefully some people will see this as a chance to get in the chill and enjoy singing Christmas carols and secular songs," Smith said. "They'll be given a chance to warm up after-

ward with hot chocolate, coffee and goodies.

"Come one, come all. Dress warmly."

The Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along will start at 4 p.m. Dec. 20 at the park, locat-

ed at Main and Ann Arbor Trail, in downtown Plymouth. First Presbyterian Church is at 701 Church Street. For more information visit fpcp.net or Heartbeat of Plymouth on Facebook.



The Salvation Army Dearborn Heights Citadel Band will accompany the Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along in Plymouth.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 20

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

Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, team milk, juice and a visit with Santa; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: 734-425-4421

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 19 and 6 p.m. Dec. 20

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Christmas play about a military chaplain searching for the spirit of Christmas while settling into a new base overseas. He finds inspiration in the testimonies of historical figures, as well as the Bible. The program is free

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24, 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Family service is Christmas Eve

Contact: 313-532-8655

COMMUNITY CAROL SING

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20

Location: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

Details: Features The Salvation Army Dearborn Heights Citadel Band. Refreshments will be served after the concert at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth

Contact: Jerry Smith at 734-453-6464, ext. 119

LESSONS AND CAROLS

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

Location: Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Free concert features Ward's orchestra and choir

Contact: 248-374-7400

MOVIE NIGHT

Time/Date: 6:46 p.m. Dec. 18

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: Christmas with a Capital C is a film about a battle over the placement of a nativity set. Movie is free. A potluck dinner also will be held. Call the church to RSVP for the dinner

Contact: 248-553-3380

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 31

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Worship service

Contact: 313-532-8655

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 Bugleis 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.livonia-st-michael.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.

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

ANDES, LOUISE M.

Age 88, of Plymouth, passed away December 11, 2015. Daughter of Harry and Mary Gorman. Beloved wife of Robert Andes for 65 years. Louise is survived by her children: Robert (Cherie) Andes, Jim (Barb) Andes, Mary (Robert) Donald, Amy (Jason) Lindauer, her eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by her siblings John Gorman and Edith Harding and her grandson Nicholas Andes. Visitation is Friday, December 18, 2015, from 2-8 p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170. Her Funeral Service will be Saturday, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Friends may arrive at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. To leave a condolence and view full obituary please visit schradler-howell.com

ARMSTRONG, EARL

of Westland. Age 73. December 8, 2015. Beloved husband of Roberta. Loving father of Audra (Jim) Seaton, Robert (Kelly), and Sara. Dear grandfather of Garrett, Jessica, Autumn Leonard, Ashley Travers, Shelby McEwan, Kristina Seaton. Son of the late Joseph and Henrietta. Brother of Bertha (Jacob) Brady, the late Joseph (Ida) and John (Malinda). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday at the Uht Funeral Home 1-9pm with a service Saturday at 11:30am followed by a burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhth.com.



ETTENHOFER, DELORES "DOLLY" JEAN

Aged 71, died peacefully on December 11, 2015 at home surrounded by family, after a brief illness. She was born to the late Matt and Helen Malnar on September 29, 1944, in Escanaba, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Cheryl Lynn Ettenhofer, her sister Angeline Clemons, and her brother Matt Malnar. She is survived by her husband Michael Edward, her brothers Ivan Malnar, Raymond Malnar and her sister Judi (Len) Peterson, daughter Ann Marie (Richard) Wegrzyn and four grandchildren. She also leaves behind numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other loving relatives and friends. A memorial mass will be held Friday, December 18, at 10:30 a.m. at the Old St. Patrick Catholic Church, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105. There will be a memorial gathering on Thursday from 3-7 p.m. at the Nie Family Funeral Home, Carpenter Road Chapel, 2400 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Foundation or to Arbor Hospice.

GRODE, JOAN M. (MOODY)

77. December 13, 2015. Of Redford. Survived by six children; 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by her husband, Wayne.



HERRINGTON, JACK

born May 22, 1928 in Hastings, MI. Lived in Detroit until 1965. Resident of Farmington Hills from 1966-1999 resided in Highland 1999 until the present. Jack is survived by his sister Elaine Major, wife Rosemary, sons Steve (Helen), Tim (Stella), Tom (Julie), 7 grandchildren: Ryan, Sean, Tait, Nicole, Brittany, Natalie, Jake, and his beloved dog Shane. Jack met Rosemary while working for GM. He then drove trucks for Midwest Casket until a near fatal traffic accident. In 1964, he became partners with his brother-in-law Bud Keenan. Jack eventually bought out Bud and ran Keford Collision for 33 years with his three sons. He moved the business to Novi at its current location. Jack enjoyed his family, going up north to East Jordan, MI, trapshooting, boating, and building and flying 1/4 scale RC planes. His laugh was infectious and he was always smiling. Funeral Service was held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, of Milford on December 12, 2015. Memorial contributions encouraged to: Wounded Warriors Project. For further information, phone 248.684.6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com



KOCOLOSKI, ANDREW B.

Age 34, suddenly December 13, 2015. Beloved father of Preston Kocoloski. Dear son of Teresa (Doug) Young of Canton, Jim (Nancy) Kocoloski of New York. Dear brother of Timothy (Kimberly) Kocoloski of Livonia, Ellyn Kocoloski of Atlanta, Emily Kocoloski of Atlanta, Megan Young of Canton and Madelyn Kocoloski, Victor, New York. Loving grandson of Josephine Kocoloski, dear Uncle of Aidan and Kate Kocoloski. Also survived by many Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and loving friends. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, Thursday, December 17th 10:30 a.m. with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth on Wednesday, December 16th 2pm to 8pm. Memorials may be made to Preston Kocoloski Education Fund, checks payable to Timothy Kocoloski, c/o Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.



MAXWELL, BETTY J.

Age 92 of Northville passed away on December 1, 2015. Loving wife of the late Jack Simons, and the late Herbert. Beloved mother of Marlene (John) Birchmeier, Donald (Karen) Simons, the late Brian Simons, and Roseanne Simons. Proud grandmother of Libby & Lindsey Birchmeier. Dear friend of Patti (Mike) Cappuccitti and Katie & Sarah. Memorial Service Saturday, December 26, 2015 11:00 AM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. The family will gather for visitation with friends Saturday, December 26, 2015 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimers Association To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com. Following the service a luncheon to celebrate Betty's life will be held at the Courthouse Grille, 41661 Plymouth Road, (West of Haggerty), Plymouth.



PAGE, Ph.D., EDWIN R.

83, longtime Plymouth resident, passed away at home surrounded by immediate family on December 12, 2015. He was born May 24, 1932 in Battle Creek, MI, the son of Frank C. and Josephine M. (Giroux) Page. He served in the United States Navy, graduated from Western Michigan University in 1960 with a degree in Speech Pathology, then received a Master's degree and Ph.D. from Ohio University. A lifelong educator and advocate for people with special needs, he served as first Director of Special Education in the Plymouth-Canton School District. He was an active member of the Plymouth Lions Club for 50 years. Surviving are his wife, Michaelyn (Wheeler); daughter, Lisa (Jeff) Boettcher; son, Thomas Page; sister, Josephine (Frank) Mitchell; grandsons, Keelan, Jaret, and Ryan Boettcher; and many nieces and nephews. His parents and brothers, Frank and Reverend Father Charles, preceded him in death. The visitation hours will be Thursday from 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. with a Rosary Service at 7:00 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (between Sheldon and Beck). The Funeral Mass will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Dr. Page will lie in state at church on Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of Mass. Military honors will follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Plymouth Lions Foundation, P.O. Box 701159, Plymouth, MI 48170-0960, the PBJ Outreach at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church at 1052 Church Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, or the charitable organization of your choice. To share a tribute with the family, please visit www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

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RALEY, CHARLENE

Age 83, of Plymouth, passed away December 15, 2015. She was born February 8, 1932, in Maryville, Tennessee, to Clarence and Hazel Morgan. She was a member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church. She was also a server at the Botsford Inn, working on and off over the course of twenty years. She enjoyed bingo, casinos, and slot tournaments, and even participated in slot tournaments in Las Vegas. She is survived by her children, Linda (Jim) Olsafsky of Plymouth, and Sheryl Davis of Grand Rapids; her grandchildren, Steven (Lisa) Nickerson, Jason (Angela) Nickerson, Kimi Kereluk, Kate (Jeffrey) Easto, and Kristen (Tyler) DeBruler; her great grandchildren, Drew, Ellie, Matthew, Spencer, Lyla, Violet, and Maxwell Nickerson, and Charlene Mae DeBruler; and her sister, Sophie Miller. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, William, and her brother, Joseph Morgan. Funeral from St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, Saturday 10:30a.m. Friends may visit at church beginning at 10a.m. Visitation at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Friday 4-8p.m. Memorials may be made to the Salvation Army.



SATCHWELL CAROL LEE (nee BUXTON)

December 7, 2015. Age 58. Beloved wife of Jonathan Clayton, who preceded her in death September 19, 2015. Loving mother of Emily (Matt) Weiss, Pamela and Andrea. Survived by four siblings, and countless friends. Carol will be remembered by her unique outlook on life, her infectious laugh, and her witty intelligence. Memorial to be held at her home on December 27, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. Ashes to be spread at later date in Traverse City.



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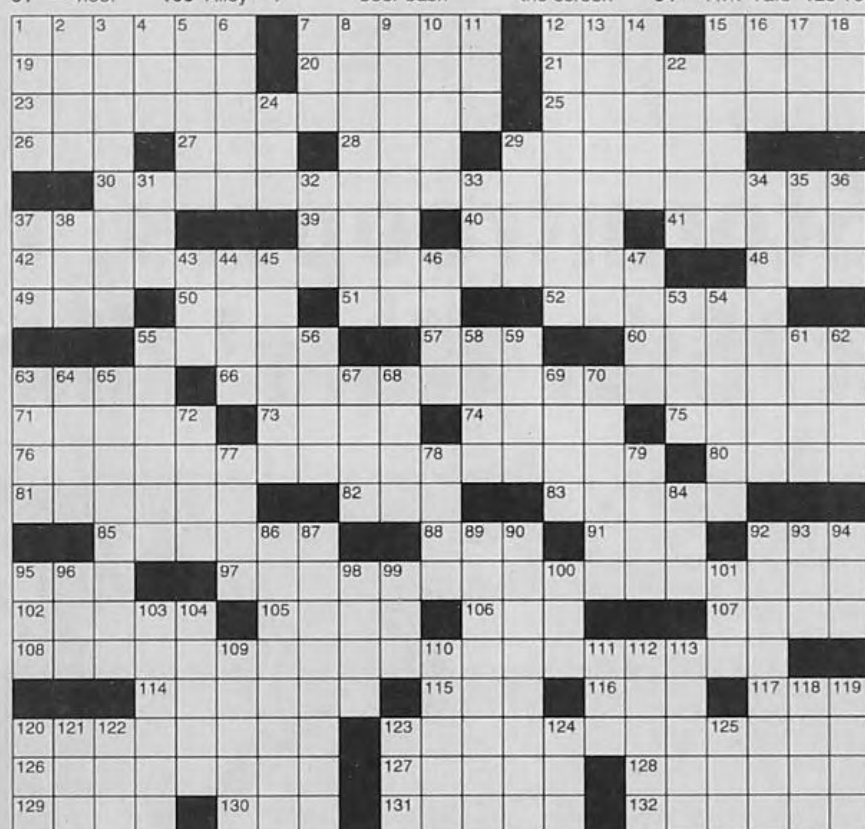
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21 Jump to clear
23 Start of a riddle
25 Making changes to
26 Precursor of tee
27 Pack animal
28 Pro-bono TV ad
29 Slanting
30 Riddle, part 2
37 "Now it's clear"
39 Big coffee container
40 Look lewdly
41 Gets dirty
42 Riddle, part 3
48 Rollaway bed
49 Tumdowns
50 "O Sole —"
51 "— hool!"
- 52 Fit for consumption
55 "Thwack!"
57 On the — (escaping)
60 Juneau locale
63 Bullfight bull
66 Riddle, part 4
71 Quite heavy
73 "The rest — to you"
74 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You —?"
75 Mobile, e.g.
76 Riddle, part 5
80 Princely school
81 At peace
82 "Gloria in Excelsis —"
83 Cleans up copy
85 Tabriz residents
88 To the rear
91 Masters peg
92 Awful
95 Eggs
97 Riddle, part 6
102 Actress Palmer or Soprano
105 Send out
106 "Alley —!"
- 107 Look lewdly
108 End of the riddle
114 Mojave, e.g.
115 IRS datum
116 Sculling need
117 Lofty poem
120 Sellers with cellars
123 Riddle's answer
126 Meet at a point
127 Inundate
128 Use mouthwash audibly
129 Really regrets
130 Ballpark amt.
131 Plants of the lily family
132 Prize greatly
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4 Summer mo.
5 Ship sinker
6 Outdated
7 Wd. of like meaning
8 Frat house beer bash
9 Depletes little by little
10 Hawke of "Hamlet"
11 Philosopher Lao- —
12 Fake peeper
13 Having good manners
14 Ulan —, Mongolia
15 Rita of "West Side Story"
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22 Distant Samuel
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44 Kelly of morning TV
45 Teasing knuckle rub
46 Silent film vamp Negri
47 Gonilla observer Fossey
53 Radar signal
54 Flogs
55 Suitable for a Seder table
56 "What — thinking?"
58 Work without — (act riskily)
59 Ovid's 1,506
61 Cousin of lotto
62 Yemeni port
63 T-bars, e.g.
64 Tony relative
65 Court do-overs
67 Newsman Roger
68 Duel sword
69 Clock part
70 "It was forced on me"
72 Sicilian peak
77 Egg sources
78 Wyle of "ER"
79 In — of
84 — Aviv-Yafo
86 Potential ship sinkers
87 Writer W. — Maugham
89 Trudge
90 Like four-person basketball
92 "I say!"
93 WWW giant
94 As yet unpaid
95 Dated
96 Compete
98 "Sonder" director Martin
99 Ending for ordinals
100 PC "brain"
101 DeLuise or DiMaggio
103 Many flat-screens
104 Cara of "Fame"
109 French river
110 "It's — bet"
111 Body digit
112 Sponge
113 Killer whales
118 Mete
119 K-6: Abbr. precursor
121 Debt memo
122 Vane dir.
123 Punting figs.
124 — and outs
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		3						
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	8		4		1			
						1		
5			2					6

Here's How It Works:

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

9	2	7	6	8	2	1	8	9
8	9	1	9	8	2	7	6	
8	2	6	1	9	7	9	8	2
1	8	2	2	9	8	6	9	7
9	9	2	7	6	1	8	2	8
7	6	8	8	2	9	1	2	9
2	7	8	8	2	6	9	9	1
6	1	9	9	7	8	8	2	2
2	8	9	2	1	9	7	6	8

NATIONAL PARK WORD SEARCH

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

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

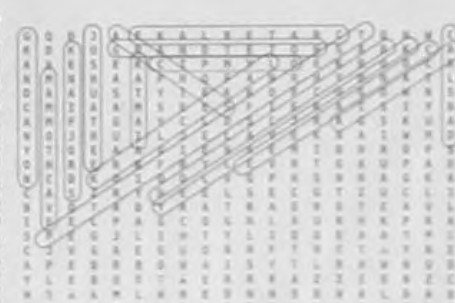
WORDS

ACADIA
ARCHES
BADLANDS
BISCAYNE
BRYCE CANYON
CARLSBAD
CONGAREE
CRATER LAKE
CUYAHOGA VALLEY
DENALI
DRY TORTUGAS
EVERGLADES
GLACIER BAY
GRAND CANYON
GRAND TETON
GREAT BASIN
HALEAKALA
HOT SPRINGS
ISLE ROYALE
JOSHUA TREE
KATMAI
KENAI FJORDS
KINGS CANYON
KOBUK VALLEY
LAKE CLARK
MAMMOTH CAVE
MOUNT RAINIER
OLYMPIC
PETRIFIED FOREST
SAGUARO
SEQUOIA
WRANGELL
YELLOWSTONE
ZION



Crossword Answers

Word Search Answers





Members of the Great Lakes Garrison attend an event at Westland Shopping Center.

SUBMITTED

Stormtroopers, rebels aid charity at 'Star Wars' film debut in Livonia

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Garden City couple Mike and Kristie Lica, are galaxies apart when it comes to their place in the *Star Wars* universe.

He sides with the Empire and she's a member of the Rebel Legion. He's an Imperial Stormtrooper and she's a Rebel Flight Pilot.

But the couple will work for a common cause when they and other members of the *Star Wars* costume group, the Great Lakes Garrison, 501st Legion, Michigan chapter, gather for a charity event at the opening of the new film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, Thursday, Dec. 17. They'll be on hand at the midnight opening at the Phoenix Theatre in Livonia.

"We asked the Phoenix Theatre if they were willing to do a charity at opening night and they were happy to do it. Our favorite charity to support is MAW, (Make-A-Wish)," said Mike, who is an executive officer in the Garrison, which he joined in 2010. "For each *Star Wars* popcorn tin sold, \$1 will be donated to the Make-A-Wish. We often attend MAW fundraisers and sometimes attend events where the kids learn that their wish will be granted."

The theater will begin showing the new film at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17 and will continue screenings every half-hour through midnight Friday, Dec. 18. The theater is located in Laurel Park Place, 17310 Laurel Park Drive North, in Livonia; 734-457-2398.



Mike Lica, in Stormtrooper costume, meets Wierd Al Yancovick. Lica and other members of the Great Lakes Garrison share the stage with Yancovick when he sings "The Saga Begins" whenever he's in town performing.

"We will be appearing there as long as we can stay awake," Mike said.

The State Wayne, also a Phoenix Theater, will follow a similar schedule Thursday-Friday. It's located at 35310 W. Michigan Ave., in Wayne; 734-384-1200.

Creating characters

Both Mike and Kyle Fisher, a member from Westland, are drawn to Stormtrooper costumes.

"The white armor caught my attention as a young boy and I've been fascinated with them ever since. When I decided to join the 501st le-

gion, there was no question that my first costume had to be a classic Stormtrooper," said Fisher, who will start his *Star Wars* movie night in Wayne and end it at the Phoenix in Livonia. "Technically, they were the bad guys in the film, but in real life we like to say that we're 'bad guys doing good.'"

Garrison members create detailed and authentic-looking character costumes and then wear them to charity functions and other events.

"As a Garrison member my favorite moments are the visits we do to various children's hospitals. Those kids are stuck in those rooms for

long periods of time. It's nice to see a smile appear out of nowhere when the kids see us walk into the room," Mike said. "And their parents are usually excited to see us as well."

Watching a blind boy smile "from ear to ear" was enough to make Fisher forget the frustration he experienced in building his Stormtrooper armor. The boy tried on a Stormtrooper helmet, got a visit from R2D2 and met Darth Vader during a Garrison appearance at the Henry Ford Museum.

Kristie enjoys inspiring other women when she dons her Rebel flight suit.

"As a female costumer who wears a pilot's flight suit, I cherish the opportunity to empower female *Star Wars* fans to embrace strong characteristics, leadership and endless possibilities as a female," she said. "My favorite *Star Wars* character is Princess Leia, a bold, strong woman standing up for what she believes. And Hera Syndulla, the Captain of 'The Ghost' in the new *Star Wars Rebels* cartoon on DisneyXD."

She's looking forward to the new film because it will "captivate a whole new generation" of viewers.

"Where I'd like to see the story go next? Good prevailing evil is always my favorite ending," Kristie said.

For more about screenings at the Phoenix Theatres visit phoenixmovies.net. For more about the Great Lakes Garrison, visit greatlakesgarrison.com.

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American Arson heats up Canton barn with free show

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Barn Ugly Sweater Christmas Show will be back for its 13th year Friday, Dec. 18 in Canton.

The free concert with six bands, also will include an EP release, a debut performance, and a celebration of ugly holiday sweaters, 6-11 p.m. at The Barn at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road.

Although the annual event is held in the church's youth center, it's not sponsored by the church.

"It's open to the public, all ages," said Evan Baker, who organized the show and is guitarist/vocalist for headliners American Arson. "Basically, it's rock band, punk bands, indie rock bands and it's always been free as long as we've been doing it."

Bands play a mix of original music and amped-up versions of traditional Christmas songs. The opening act is Me & The Dog, an acoustic artist, followed by Traveler, an indie rock band, Sink In, a pop/punk/emo band from Hershey, Pa, and Timbre of Cedar is an indie band with a female lead singer. Mountclair, consisting of musicians from a variety of bands that have played in the Detroit metro area, will debut at the show. All bands will attempt to wear ugly holiday



KATY MEININGER

Evan Baker on guitar and Jesse Gentry on drums are American Arson.

sweaters.

"Some bands don't make it through a whole set," said Baker, explaining that the sweaters get "hot and sweaty" on

stage. "The very first year we did it, the whole idea was, let's play rock and roll versions of Christmas songs. Then a couple of us wore my mom's ugly

sweaters."

Baker, a Wayne resident, said his mother's "massive collection" of ugly Christmas sweaters inspired the theme of the show about eight years ago. Originally, it was known as the Good Luck Varsity Christmas Show, after a band Baker played with for several years. When the band broke up, the annual Christmas show took a year hiatus. Baker brought it back last year.

"When we broke up I just wanted to do a solo project. I love playing acoustic music now and again, but my heart always been in rock and roll. I love playing loud, fast and aggressive rock and roll music."

Recordings

Baker, who is self-taught on guitar and classically trained on piano, formed American Arson in 2014 as a solo act and that same year released a four-song EP. It is the first in a trilogy about America Arson's origin and was followed by an acoustic EP in March. *The Blood & The Bones*, which will be released at the Christmas show, includes drummer Jesse Gentry of Sterling Heights, who joined Baker in April.

"This EP, being the finale of the trilogy, deals with the present and the future. The other two are more reflective and looking back. I felt this was a

process. To write them all at once, all of the songs would have had the same flavor," said Baker, explaining why he wrote the music as a trilogy.

Baker said the duo achieves a full rock band sound through instrument looping and multi-amp stacking — playing through two or more amps simultaneously — without the use of prerecorded tracks.

"I'll run through a guitar amp and bass amp to get a big, chunky sound. I'll play a lead part, stomp a pedal, it plays back and I play the rhythm part over that. People really appreciate the work that goes into putting together a set. Most people expect to see a rock band with five or six people on stage. We get a few heads to turn."

Baker attended Calvary Baptist Church when he was a kid growing up in Canton and played in his first band at age 13. He graduated from Canton High School and earned a bachelor's degree in history and English at Eastern Michigan University. He also coaches several soccer teams.

"I love soccer. I feel blessed being able to pursue soccer and music."

For more about American Arson and The Barn Ugly Sweater Christmas Show, visit americanarson.com.

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Superfood watercress adds flavor, vitamins to meals

For people who manage their health through nutrition or use food as a medicinal replacement, few products offer the power of "superfoods." Kale is one leafy green commonly recognized as a superfood, but watercress is a tastier superfood option worth considering.

Watercress has more flavor, is more versatile and is healthier than its leafy cousins. It's also easier to digest with a more pleasing texture. In fact, according to an independent research study published last spring by the Centers for Disease Control, it is the most nutrient-dense food available today.

For a high concentration of phytonutrients, antioxidants and vitamins, look to watercress, which delivers up to twice the vitamin C of an orange; more calcium than milk; and high levels of magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, iron, beta-carotene and vitamins A, B1, B6, K and E.

Watercress also has multiple uses as a medicinal herb. Some of these more popular applications include preventing eczema, as well as supporting digestive, urinary tract, eye and respiratory health.

Visit hollandiaproduce.com to find more recipes and learn more about this flavorful superfood.



Stacy and Dan Pillera make fresh salsa.

SUBMITTED

Couple sells salsa that is inspired by Greek gods

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Dan and Stacy Pillera knew they'd be up against tough competition when they started making and selling fresh salsa nearly two years ago.

"We're going up against the largest fresh salsa maker in the country," Dan said, "and they make it in Michigan and we know we have our work cut out for us."

It's a good thing they've got the gods on their side.

The couple makes four kinds of fresh salsa under the Olympus Fare label out of a dedicated kitchen in Holly. Each flavor and varying degree of heat is named after a Greek god or goddess. Aphrodite is mild, Zeus is medium, Hades is hot and Athena is a Salsa verde made from fire-roasted tomatillos.

All are award winners. Aphrodite won third place at ZestFest 2015, a fiery food challenge held in Las Colinas, Texas, and Zeus edged out Garden Fresh Gourmet, which Dan describes as a "giant and a beast" for the second place award in the medium category.

"We couldn't believe we had won and to come up against the leading brand was exciting," Stacy said. "Last year we had only been in business a few months."

The Hades flavor will reign as first place hot salsa winner for 2016 in the Scovie Awards in New Mexico. Athena took second place in the salsa verde category and Aphrodite won third place for mild heat.

"It's so important. We've always said if you want to go national you've got to rub elbows and meet people," Stacy said. "We'd love to be a part of those trade shows. It's expensive to get involved. Right now only our salsa gets to fly. Our salsa is well traveled."

Other careers

Dan and Stacy didn't set out to become salsa entrepreneurs when they entered the work force after school. Dan was raised by a single mother and lived in several communities while growing up, including Redford, Westland and Farmington Hills. He attended high school in Milford and classes at Oakland Community College in graphic design, but began a career in restaurant management. He managed Applebee's restaurants and an Olive Garden, also putting in a stint at Quicken Loans and finally, at Shore Mortgage. Stacy graduated from Henry Ford II High School in Sterling Heights,



SUBMITTED

Olympus Fare contains sea salt rather than table salt, and is sweetened with stevia, not cane sugar.

GET A TASTE

Sample Olympus Fare from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at Kroger, 425 Center St., Northville, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Busch's Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. For more information, visit www.olympussalsa.com

Quick start

They launched the business in 30 days, dipping into a 401(K) and producing the salsa at commercial kitchen in Holt, near Lansing.

"We did a lot of research in a short time. We were jumping in with both feet. We knew we needed to start making money right away," he said. "We moved quickly because we had to. I had nothing else to do and she had left her position."

Dan credits Stacy for getting the product onto grocery store shelves. Their salsas are available at approximately 40 grocery stores, including Busch's Fresh Food Markets, Hollywood Markets and Kroger. The Pilleras opened their own commercial kitchen in Holly to meet the demand for their product.

"We're about a dollar more than other fresh salsas. Ours has layers of flavors. And besides that, we don't add sugar. We use stevia," Stacy said. "Most salsas have 150 mg of table salt. Ours has 30 mg of sea salt."

They plan to release a fruit-based salsa this spring. They also hope to develop a tortilla chip to complement the salsa. Their motto is "inspired by the gods, and enjoyed by the mortals."

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"CRESS"TO PESTO SAUCE

3 cups Live Gourmet Living Upland Cress or Grower Pete's Living Watercress, root ball and bottom 1/2 stems removed, rinsed and patted dry
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 cup grape seed oil
1 teaspoon lemon zest
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt

In blender or food processor, combine cress and garlic and pulse until coarsely chopped. Add remaining ingredients and process until blended. Drizzle over pasta, risotto, fish, meat or eggs, or use as a spread.

SILKY EGG CRESS SALAD

Salad:
1 package Live Gourmet Living Upland Cress or Grower Pete's Living Watercress, root ball and stems removed, leaves rinsed and patted dry
2 medium eggs
3 purple potato chips (purple potatoes sliced thin, seasoned and sauteed until crisp)
3 slices fresh avocado
3 slices ripe pear
3 slices persimmon
2 pieces toasted brioche bread
2 tablespoons Orange Vinaigrette
Orange Vinaigrette:
2 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate
2 tablespoons grape seed oil
2 teaspoons rice wine vinegar
1 teaspoon honey
pinch cracked black pepper

In small bowl, whisk together vinaigrette ingredients and set aside. Prepare and artfully arrange cress and all ingredients, except eggs, on serving plate and set aside. Soft boil eggs 5 minutes in 1 quart of water. Remove from heat and cool 30 seconds under cold running water. Gently remove shells. While still warm, slice eggs in half and place atop the plated salad. Lightly drizzle with Orange Vinaigrette.



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