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Clerks: We'll be ready for voting changes

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Local municipal clerks criticized the Michigan Legislature's move to eliminate straight-ticket voting, but said they'll find ways to mitigate what are expected to be longer waits at some polling places should the measure become law.

The Legislature voted Wednesday to end a voters' ability to cast a straight-party ballot by simply making one mark for a political party preference. Should Gov. Rick Snyder sign the bill, voters will be forced to vote for candidates individually in order to complete their ballots.

Snyder has indicated he will study the bill before deciding whether to sign it. "It's very difficult for a clerk to try to figure out what the impact is going to be,"

Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett said. "We just know it's going to be more time and longer lines."

"It really shortens the process to be able to vote a straight-party ticket," Plymouth Township Clerk Nancy Conzelman said.

Both Conzelman and Bennett said they would have preferred the Legislature have kept the so-called tie-bar between the legislation and another bill that would have allowed for no-reason absentee voting. Without straight-party voting, election-day wait times could increase and no-reason absentee voting was seen as a way to address that.

Looking to 2016
"That really would've helped us immensely with the potential lines that will happen in November of 2016," Bennett said.

The U.S. presidential election, which typically draws more voters than others, is next November. Plus, Bennett said, the possibility of several statewide ballot proposals in November could make for multi-page ballots, further lengthening the voting process.

In Plymouth, Clerk Linda Langmesser said she would

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Canton girl finds way to help both veterans, rescue dogs

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Ten-year-old Claire Kulas of Canton, looking for a charity project, narrowed down her list to war veterans and rescue dogs.

With a little help from her mother, Jodi Kulas, she found a way to help both through Stiggy's Dogs, which rescues shelter dogs, trains them and pairs them with veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries.

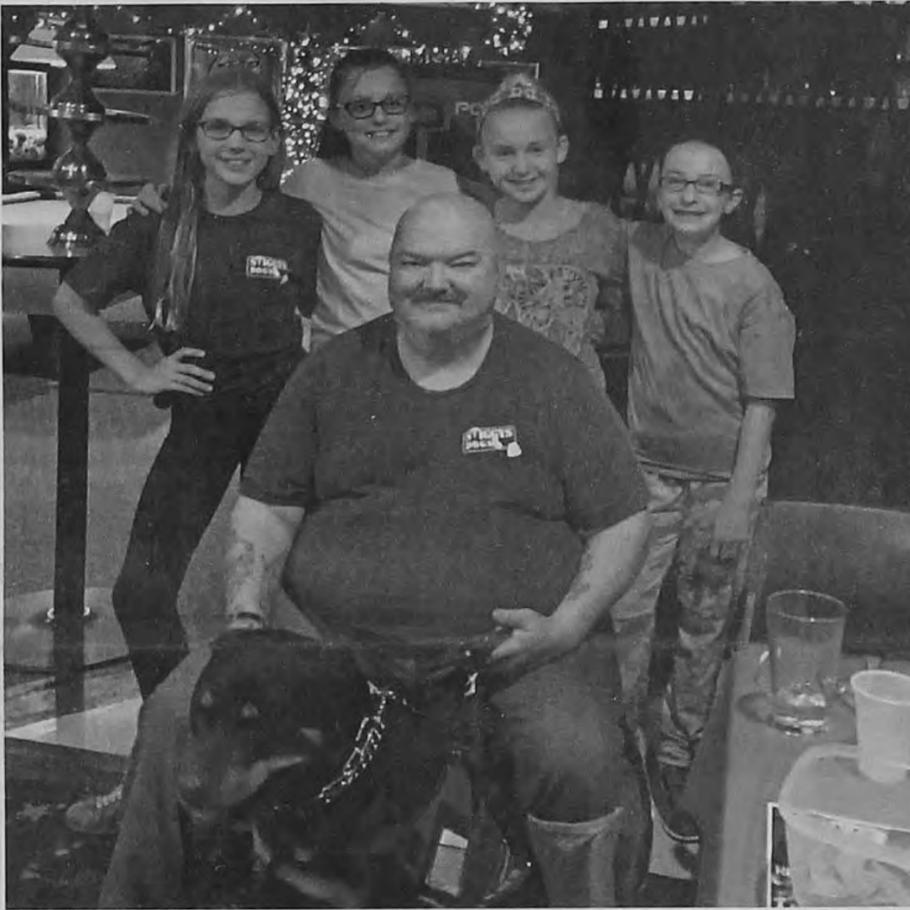
"I really wanted to help animals in shelters and veterans," Claire said. "When my mom found Stiggy's Dogs, I thought it would be a really cool organization to help."

Claire and other fifth-grade students in Michelle West's classroom at Bentley Elementary School led an effort to raise \$918 for Stiggy's Dogs by organizing a bowling fundraiser at Super Bowl in Canton. Students raised another \$243 during a school-based fundraiser, raising the total to \$1,168, and now the student council has decided to spearhead yet another project.

"It is spreading, which is nice," Jodi Kulas said.

During the Dec. 6 bowling fundraiser, a group of students and adults were joined by U.S. Army Specialist Jim Phipps and his German rottweiler Star, a canine companion he got just over a year ago from Stiggy's Dogs.

Phipps, who suffered from PTSD after he returned from the first Gulf War, went to Super Bowl to support the students and tell his story. His symptoms included having difficulty being among crowds in pub-



U.S. Army Specialist Jim Phipps and dog companion Star came to a bowling fundraiser for Stiggy's Dogs. Behind him are Claire Kulas, Brooke Basch, Kayla Hoffmeyer and Sydni Wolverton.



Working the table at the fundraiser are Claire Kulas, Brooke Basch, Kayla Hoffmeyer and Sydni Wolverton.

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Salvation Army seeks boost in fundraiser's last days

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

With less than a week left, the Plymouth Corps of the Salvation Army is looking to boost its Red Kettle campaign, the major part of its annual Christmastime fundraising effort.

Red Kettle donations are down about 24 percent compared to the same time last year, said Sandra Kollinger, the Plymouth Corps' volunteer and special events coordinator. The drive continues (excluding Sunday) through 2 p.m. Thursday, which is Christmas Eve.

Kollinger said Plymouth Corps officials are looking for ways to make up the deficit, including by seeking more volunteer bell-ringers to collect donations at strip malls and street corners.

"If that can't be made up, there's a risk of cutting pro-

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GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

Santa so busy, letters delayed to the Observer

Santa Claus has been so busy the past week getting ready for his deliveries that he has not had a chance to share the rest of the Bentley Elementary letters with the *Observer* newspaper. But don't worry, kids. Santa has already read your letters and knows each of your wish lists - by heart!

The jolly fellow told the *Observer* that he will deliver them in time for the paper to publish them in the Thursday, Dec. 25, edition. So be ready to read them.

See ARTS, Page A2

Village Arts Factory boosted by funds, grant, passion

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Dreams, like goals, take a bit of time to achieve. Ask Jill Engel how plans, fundraising and renovations - for what will become the Village Arts Factory in Canton's Cherry Hill area - are going and you will get responses like "great"

and "wonderful."

In 2012, the partnership bought the 14-acre site, formerly known as auto magnate Henry Ford's Village Industry. The site includes a dormitory, the Ford factory - both of which are on the National Historic Register - and an industrial warehouse.

The site is where Ford had

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

"Most people don't know about this," Engel said earlier

this year. "(Ford) wanted to respect the privacy of the veterans. Eighteen to 22 disabled veterans lived in the dormitory."

The arts and recreation complex has been a work in progress. But there's plenty of reasons why Engel, executive

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DOGS

Continued from Page A1

lic places. "Star makes my life a lot more comfortable," said Phipps, a Waterford resident. "I can go places now, whereas before I couldn't go to the grocery store unless it was 3 in the morning when nobody else was there. And when I get frustrated, I talk with the dog." He commended the Bentley students for helping Stiggy's Dogs. "It's unbelievable. I

mean, wow. It's special. It really is," Phipps said. Jodi Kulas set up a Facebook page to promote the bowling fundraiser. She said the charity event was a good experience for Bentley students, including Claire. "This is a good lesson for her in what it takes to reach people and tell them about a good idea," she said, adding that the fundraiser to help Stiggy's Dogs was "the perfect thing."

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This is the Henry Ford Village Factory following work and cleanup. The factory will be used as an arts and education center.

ARTS

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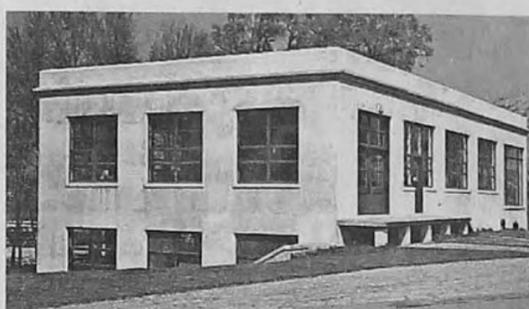
director of the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, responds so positively. Consider that interior demolition of the dormitory and partial interior demolition of the factory is complete. This month, the factory roof was re-stabilized – just in time for winter.

There's also the award of a \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant and continued fundraising with a goal of \$500,000 by June 2016, as well recent creation of a development committee, led by former state Sen. Bruce Patterson.

"We have some amazing people in this community who will do private fundraising," Engel said.

This month, the partnership has been deep into a fundraiser in which Pulte Homes is matching every donation made up to \$25,000. Plus in September, \$50,000 from Singh Development was used for the dormitory interior demolition.

December's fundraising so far has provided almost \$9,000, with \$16,000 to go to hit the \$25,000 that Pulte Homes will match, Engel said. These funds will be used for window restoration. The month of matching



This is former Henry Ford Village Factory.

"What we have in common is that we both have studio space. There are plenty of artists to use all the space."

JILL ENGEL
executive director,
Partnership for the
Arts & Humanities

ends Dec. 31.

Engel and the partnership have a number of fun things planned for the site as an arts and education center: Walking and bike trails, for starters, studios for artists and — with a number of inquiries already — the factory just could boast a brewery and eatery. Already, there are plans for an art and healing program, which will tie back to the history of the site and Ford's interest in helping veterans.

"We are also looking to have a college satellite in the factory," Engel said, adding she has spoken to some college officials.

When talk comes up about the partnership's plans, thoughts naturally consider the new Ply-

mouth Arts & Recreation Complex that is currently filling the old Central Middle School in Plymouth with tenants involved in a variety of arts. But it doesn't concern Engel or Don Soenen, one of the major PARC organizers.

"They will do more with the visual arts and we are more the performing arts," Soenen said. An example is the Michigan Philharmonic, which some months ago rented space for its headquarters in the PARC.

"What we have in common is that we both have studio space," Engel said. "There are plenty of artists to use all the space."

Competition between the arts factory and PARC? Competition be-

tween Canton and downtown Plymouth? No way, say Engel and Soenen. "It won't be one or the other. I just don't see any direction competition," Soenen said.

But both are amazed at the demand for space for the arts. The first floor at the PARC is almost full and the second floor is one-third full, Soenen said.

In Canton, Engel has already received interest from a potential arts client who is considering some 4,000 or more square feet.

"I think, if anything, we will complement each other," she added.

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RIDING THE AIRWAVES

Student-run 88.1 The Park radio station shines on national broadcasting stage

Joanne Maliszewski
 Staff Writer

WSDP-FM (88.1) — also known as The Park — the student-operated radio station in Plymouth-Canton, is making a name for itself not only locally, but around the country.

Probably not so well known in Plymouth-Canton is that 88.1 was one of five finalists for the 2015 Marconi Award, awarded by the National Association of Broadcasters. In fact, this was the second time the radio station, headquartered at Salem High School, has been named a finalist.

"It put us with the best of professional and college stations," said Bill Keith, station manager.

Keith took three students to the awards program in Atlanta. "It was kind of overwhelming," said Salem senior Caitlyn Flora, program manager, the highest student leadership position available at 88.1. "This has never happened to a (high school) radio station."

Is Keith proud? Unbelievably. "What we do here is well thought of," he added.

This year, about 25 students

are involved with the station in one capacity or another. Flora, for example, also co-hosts an alternative rock show, "All the Small Things," 6-7 p.m. each Monday.

While working on and with the station is plenty of fun, there's an educational side to what the students are doing. They take the introduction to radio class and train in various facets, such as news, production and on air. When the February auditions come and go, Keith expects at least another 10 students will join the station.

"I love being part of the radio. It gives me a real life experience," said Flora, who plans to major in communications, although still unsure whether it will be radio or another medium.

"It really is more of a real job," Flora said, adding the station helps students learn to do news stories and how to speak publicly.

And that leads to community involvement. "We have a great staff. I don't think I could be prouder," said John Kreger, a 1997 P-CCS graduate and radio alum. "These kids really



Three students, Caitlin Flora, Michael Adzima and Kaley Ross, received scholarships to attend the National Association of Broadcasters conference in Atlanta.



Bill Keith is mentor and station manager for WSDP-FM (88.1), The Park student radio station at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

push the envelope and are community conscious."

About 10 of the students are involved in community focus programming. In one such program, Midha Mashhood interviewed Kim Silarski, communications manager for the Arab American National Museum, which hosted a special exhibit about the late Danny Thomas and his founding of St. Jude Children's Hospital. In another show, a student interviewed Kathleen Rich, emergency management planner for Canton.

Don't be surprised if you

see WSDP students at the Plymouth Ice Festival. Typically, students broadcast from the festival from inside the Plymouth District Library. The station also broadcasts high school basketball and hockey games. "We are also trying to do a wrestling match," Keith said.

Though supported financially by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district, Keith and the students host three major fundraisers, including a pledge drive in November, which raised about \$8,000. "We are still getting

money in," Keith said, expecting to reach the \$8,810 goal. "In previous year, our record was \$7,000."

The next big event is the annual record show, which in past years has drawn, well, a record crowd. Typically, some 50 record and CD dealers arrive with just about every type of music imaginable. "It's a giant yard sale of records," Keith said. "It's a lot of fun if you are a record geek."

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Gene Keyes, teaching his students in the Schoolcraft College Manufacturing Lab, said participation in the program has risen to more than 400 students.

Schoolcraft wins Educational Institution honor

Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

Gene Keyes has worked diligently over the years to build the manufacturing program at Schoolcraft College.

And the effort appears to be paying off.

Schoolcraft College has received the 2015 Clips & Clamps Industries Educational Institution Award as part of the Precision Metalforming Association Awards of Excellence in Metalforming.

The school won the award for its outstanding manufac-

turing programs designed for students seeking 21st century skills based on today's manufacturing environment. Educational programs at the school cover middle-school and college students, and industry workers.

"It's national recognition for what we do here at Schoolcraft," said Keyes, head of the school's Advanced Manufacturing Department. "We've worked hard on adapting our programs to what is needed to get jobs in local industries."

Schoolcraft College has a well-established Industry Ad-

visory Committee that has been active for more than 15 years, with a dozen companies participating at the most recent meeting.

The college, along with both Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, works directly with local industries through the Livonia Industrial Council and the Plymouth Manufacturing Council, a partnership of educators, businesses and policy makers focused on growing a

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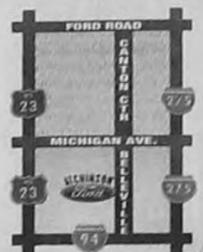


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HONOR

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skilled and high-tech workforce in the region.

Local businesses have also donated time and machines to the manufacturing department, showing the trust and faith local businesses have in the school's manufacturing department.

The school's partnership with local businesses is a key to its success, Keyes pointed out.

"It's what sets us apart," Keyes said. "I'm in (local) plants all the time. I want to give them (students) who are the best ... who are ready to be productive from day one."

Under Keyes, Schoolcraft College has aggressively tackled the challenge for developing new skilled metalworkers by updating curriculum and pursuing NIMS accreditation.

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, students were able to acquire NIMS certification from the college's advanced manufacturing programs. A total of 73 credentials were earned, 30 of which were from Schoolcraft faculty and students.

Schoolcraft College actively reaches out to the community, introducing parents and students to the world of manufacturing and machining. One way the school does this is

through the college's "Kids on Campus" program, the "Manufacturing High Adventures" section, which is attended by more than 60 students from middle school to high school every summer.

"It's about exposing them to the industry," Keyes said.

The department also works with the local K-12 teachers and administrators to develop a career path from middle school to college and then onto jobs. The school also recently hosted its second annual open house in the Advanced Manufacturing Lab, allowing more than 200 students and parents to tour the lab and campus.

With the development of Schoolcraft's partnerships with the community, local industrial councils and manufacturers, enrollment keeps climbing in the college's manufacturing programs — "I had 54 students in 2009; now there are more than 400," Keyes said — and the school looks forward to this trend continuing in years to come.

The Educational Institution Award is one of eight Awards of Excellence in Metalforming presented annually by the Precision Metalforming Association. The award, which includes a cash prize, is sponsored by Clips & Clamps Industries of Plymouth and funded by the Dul Foundation.

CLERKS

Continued from Page A1

prefer to keep straight-ticket voting and also have no-reason absentee voting.

But doing away with straight-ticket voting is unlikely to cause major problems or much longer lines for Plymouth voters, she said.

"The city of Plymouth, I think, most voters go in there and they're pretty informed about who they're going to vote for," Langmesser said.

Supporters of eliminating straight-ticket voting say it would prompt more voters to research candidates individually and make better-informed decisions, rather than just voting for one party. Critics say the extra time it will take to mark ballots will lead to longer

wait times at polling places and leave some voters disenfranchised.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, a member of the House of Representatives' elections committee, favored doing away with straight-party voting, but also favored the tie-bar to the no-reason absentee measure.

Heise said he was disappointed the state Senate removed the tie-bar, sending back Wednesday to the House only the bill to eliminate straight tickets. The bill also came with a \$5 million appropriation for new voting equipment and voting software updates.

'Over a barrel'

"They really had us over a barrel at that point," Heise said. "It's not like we could reattach the tie-bar and reach a deal."

Heise said he hopes the Legislature can revisit no-reason absentee voting next year and that he sees momentum to do so in the House elections committee.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, had a similar view. He also voted to eliminate straight-ticket voting, but voted against removing the tie-bar.

"I am an advocate of no-reason absentee voting, provided we include provisions that would mitigate the risk of voter fraud," Colbeck wrote in an email.

Colbeck is vice chairman of the Senate's elections and government reform committee and said the Senate plans to look at the issue again next year.

Most states, Heise and Colbeck said, do not allow straight-party voting.

Bennett and Conzelman said they are looking at ways to compen-

sate for the longer waits that could occur at the polls, such as by providing more voting booths, should Snyder sign the bill.

Conzelman said that she'd encourage voters to study candidates carefully and to find out if they may be eligible to vote absentee. Voters 60 and older, she said, are automatically eligible to vote absentee, but many don't know that. If more voted absentee, she said, that could shorten election-day lines.

"Clerks are very resourceful and they are used to last-minute changes from the Legislature," she said. "I think that the key will be educating people on this new change and encouraging them to educate themselves."

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Delta Air Lines supports military hospitality efforts at Detroit Metropolitan Airport

Delta Air Lines announced Dec. 16 its continued support for members of the military and their families traveling through Detroit Metropolitan Airport. For the second consecutive year, Delta will be the presenting sponsor of the "Holiday Military Salute" at the Freedom Center Military Lounge.

Delta's support of the Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc. makes possible a month-long Holiday Military Salute program at Freedom Center Military Lounge, located adjacent to Gate A-43 in the McNamara Terminal. As presenting sponsor, Delta is ensuring that military members and their fam-

ilies enjoy the comforts of a world-class military lounge, including complimentary soft drinks, coffee, juices, bottled water, snacks and sandwiches during their holiday travels.

"Delta Air Lines has been a wonderful supporter of Freedom Center since we opened our doors in November of

2011," said Ken Pratt, president of Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc. "Our lounge is greatly appreciated by the many military members and families every day of the year and especially during this holiday season."

Since its opening, the Freedom Center military lounges have hosted more than 200,000 military, family members and veterans. The Holiday Military Salute program, which runs through Jan. 15, coincides with the busiest time of the year for Freedom Center.

"We are proud to continue supporting the Freedom Center with our Holiday Military Salute this holiday season," said Andrea Newman, senior vice president of Government Affairs for Delta Air Lines. "This world-class facility is a great respite every day of the year for members of our military and their family members, but especially during the holidays. Lounge staff and volunteers assisted nearly 6,000 members of our military and their family members last holiday season, alone."

Freedom Center volunteers staff the lounge beginning at 6 a.m. until flight operations are completed for the day.

Delta Air Lines has been designated the official airline of the Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc. In addition to the McNamara Terminal lounge, the nonprofit group also operates lounges in Troy and Lansing for the benefit of new recruits and their family members and is opening a fourth lounge in the North Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

As a Michigan nonprofit, MAFHC is dedicated to providing a world-class reception and hospitality station that meets the needs of in-transit military service members. Staffed by volunteers and supported by various organizations, organizers also welcome retired members of the military and veterans. In addition, they welcome members of the military from allied nations. The Freedom Center is dedicated to "Serving Those Who Serve Us." More information is available at: MIFreedomCenter.org.

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Plymouth woman plans Santa visit, holiday carnival for Burger Baylor

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Burger Baylor School was glad to welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with other guests, Dec. 9, for its "Under the Big Top" carnival.

Burger Baylor serves students in preschool through high school who have autism. The Garden City school district facility serves all of Wayne County.

"This is my quiet time," a relaxing Santa Claus said at noon in the lobby of the school, which has 160 students. He'd earlier visited with Burger Baylor students, with more to come.

In the gym, the circus theme continued with snacks and entertainment. One man juggling a bowling ball, bowling pin and eating an apple drew applause and cheers. An entertainer on stilts drew applause, as did a unicyclist.

"We try to visualize for our special learners to get them engaged," said Colleen Polin of Plymouth, special events chair. She's a former teacher at the school who retired in June 2014 after 38 years and stays involved.

In the lobby, a large Christmas tree included

stuffed monkeys that students were to win as prizes. Paper clowns on the walls represented classrooms "that we recognize the originality in all of us," Polin said.

Adjectives like "tremendous" and "stupendous" over the clowns helped the students learn.

'Engage the kids'

"We have some low-key games to engage the kids," Polin said, pointing to a guessing game for the number of animal crackers in a jar. Garden City Kiwanis volunteers were on hand, dressed as clowns and serving hot dogs that day.

Sponsors of "Under the Big Top" included the Noella and Jack Russo Family Foundation, which presented a smart board for learning that day and has supported the school for more than 20 years. The Westland Signal Seekers Radio Club (www.michigansignalseekers.org) was also a sponsor, as was the Garden City Kiwanis.

Scott Paschen of Livonia, radio club president, was on hand for "Under the Big Top." His club donated \$1,500. "We had some extra money from our air show," said Paschen, who retired from



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark wears a balloon hat that bears resemblance to a certain reindeer.

the Livonia Police Department about five years ago.

He learned more about autism as a school resource officer. Paschen, Polin and all there that day wore bright red T-shirts emblazoned with "Under the Big Top."

Polin thanked the volunteers. "We do it for the kids. You can't put a price on a memory," she said. "It's just a pleasure to do this for these kids. It's really a reflection of being a part of a group."

The red T-shirts came at 11:30 p.m. the night



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Magician Joshua Wilde entertains Olivia and Jared with feats of prestidigitation.

before and organizers, including Polin, appreciate staff help getting shirts out to students. "All these people worked as a team, the Burger staff," Polin said at the assembly.

Great place to learn

Mary O'Neill, Burger Baylor building administrator, said the school has been at the Inkster location, off Middlebelt south of Michigan Avenue, a year and four months. The previous Burger West facility at Ford and Merriman roads was taken down.

"I love it," Monroe resident O'Neill said of the new building, noting individual classroom bathrooms. "The hallways are very nice and airy."

Added classroom teacher Bonnie Dexter of Garden City, who coordinated the carnival, "It gives them more independence, too," to have restrooms near students.

"Everyone's diagnosed with autism or on the spectrum," O'Neill said of Burger Baylor students. Some are severely cognitively impaired, some gifted, with social skill difficulty impacting "their ability to be social with other people, to communicate their wants and needs."

Dexter noted events like "Under the Big Top," which was previously held at the Garden City site, help students learn to cope. After Burger Baylor, students go to the Burger Transitions Center, with a focus on job training and living independently.

O'Neill explained patience isn't really so much the issue in teaching students with autism. "It's really not the crux to what we have to be successful," she said. "What we do is reinforce the positive."

Dexter has a student who learned to write his name "over and over, a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Face-painting helps set the mood for the show.

lot of repetition," making that possible. The educators find their work challenging and rewarding.

Dexter noted students often fear putting down a wrong answer. Added O'Neill, "We forget what it's like to be on the learning side of the desk. You're thinking about your own self-image."

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More than 200 students inducted into NHS

The 59th annual National Honor Society induction ceremony was a great success in celebrating the newest NHS members' achievements in the four NHS pillars: character, scholarship, leadership and service.

The Dec. 7 ceremony in the Salem High School auditorium wel-

comed the families and friends of 240 new inductees to publicly recognize their hard work and formally induct them as a National Honor Society members.

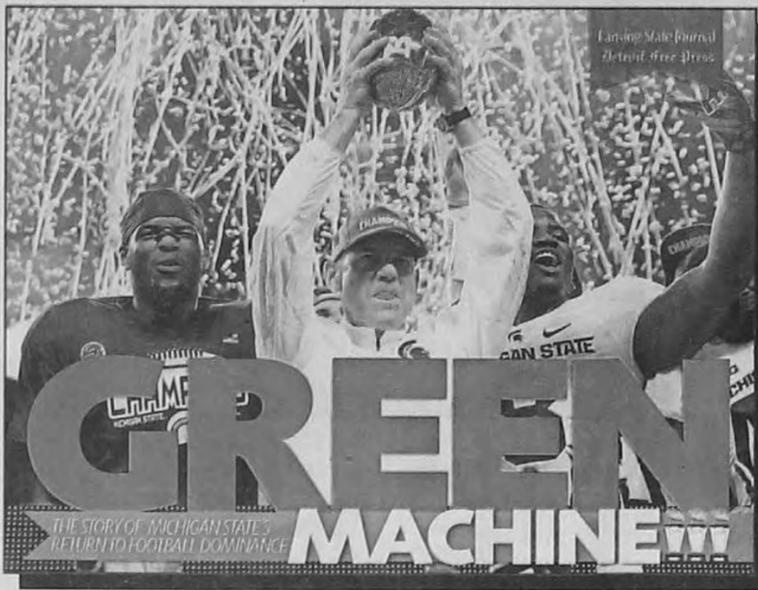
Special thanks to Plymouth Principal Cheri Steckel, Canton Principal Hal Heard, Salem Principal Kim

Villarosa, Superintendent Michael Meissen, P-CEP NHS alumnus Ethan Hopper and Cathy DePentu's Park Symphony Strings for their attendance and participation in the ceremony.

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Some serious fun for homeless families

Teen's philanthropic efforts include a few games of Monopoly

Lori Higgins
Michigan.com

Some people look at homeless people and question their life choices. When Caleb White sees them, he only wants to help.

And that's what this 13-year-old Commerce Township teen has done since he was 6 years old and was first hit with the reality that some people live on the streets.

Caleb's philanthropic efforts — which rely on the help of friends, family, classmates and others — have evolved since then. He went from handing out a few Christmas packages full of toiletries, food and winter accessories to handing out hundreds. He has been involved in efforts to raise money and provide backpacks and coats to needy children and adults. He just launched a fundraising effort to provide welcome baskets



SALWAN GEORGES

Antonio Whitley, 8, of Detroit (from left); Melissa Kennedy, 33, of Commerce Township; Sai Diaz, 10, of Detroit; Caleb White, 13, of Commerce Township; and Colin Stewart, 14, of Novi play Monopoly during game night at Detroit Rescue Mission Genesis House II. Caleb hosts the event at the shelter once a month. Earlier this year he created his own foundation to coordinate his activities to help homeless people.

to homeless women transitioning to permanent housing. And earlier this year, he created his own foundation to coordinate his activities.

But a monthly game night he hosts at Genesis House II, a Detroit residence for homeless women and children, has added a different twist to his mission. It's not about volunteering, raising money or providing es-

sential items. It's about pizza and pop, Monopoly and Operation, and having fun.

"It's just a great night for us and for them," said Caleb, an eighth-grader at Clifford Smart Middle School in Commerce Township. He was honored this year as one of the top 10 youth volunteers in the nation through the Prudential Spirit of Community

Awards program.

"I love it," said Kisha Woods-Mathis, director of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministry's Genesis House II, which provides transitional housing and employment and educational services to women and children. "The kids love him."

They also love game night. Jade Diaz's favorite part? "The pizza," the 13-year-old said.

For her sister Sapphire Diaz, 11, the best part is the funny people who come to eat and play games with them. Every time, there are new faces, she said.

"We have good memories, good times," Sapphire said.

The two were chowing down on pizza, talking about their favorite games. Apples to Apples 2 is a big draw, they said. So is Monopoly.

"It's like Life, but fast," Sapphire said of Monopoly.

For the kids, game night is important, Woods-Mathis said: "They've been through so much. They've been through hurt. Some have been evicted. Some have

dealt with domestic violence."

And Caleb? She said she's awed to see someone so young have such drive to help others.

"Caleb doesn't come in here like he's somebody different," she said. "He does everything with the kids. And they love it."

Caleb's mother, Melissa Kennedy, describes her son as one of those kids who gets an idea and has the fire to get it done.

"He sees a need, and he just follows up," Kennedy said.

His mission began on a frigid day when he was 6. He and his family were in Detroit for a circus and while driving around, he spotted a man in the street. After learning the man was homeless, Caleb was inspired to help.

"Everybody just assumes, 'Oh, they're homeless because they made bad choices,'" he said. "It's not that way for everyone. A lot of people have stories that are really, really sad."

And as he has heard these stories over the years, Caleb has learned that "they're just like us." He counts the kids at

Genesis House II among his friends. But he's also become someone the kids look up to, Woods-Mathis said.

"They say, 'When we get out of here, we're going to give back,'" Woods-Mathis said.

That's exactly what Caleb hopes to inspire.

"I just think that I can set an example for other people so when I'm doing this they can see it and they can go out in their community and it can spread," he said.

His younger brother Noah Kennedy, 8, is already picking up the torch. Game night actually evolved because Noah had decided he wanted to get involved. Playing games is his favorite activity.

Caleb won't be giving up his mission any time soon. He's involved in many other activities, like wrestling, soccer, hanging out with his friends and playing video games. But volunteering and helping less fortunate people will always be important, he said.

"I want to continue this until I'm really old," Caleb said.

ARMY

Continued from Page A1

grams and we really don't want to have to do that," Kollinger said.

As of Friday afternoon, the campaign had brought in just over \$119,000, more than \$100,000 short of the Red Kettle goal of \$225,000. The Plymouth Corps' overall fundraising goal for the season is \$315,000.

Red Kettle donations to the Plymouth Corps stay in its service area, which includes the cities of Plymouth and Northville, plus Plymouth, Northville and Canton townships. The money

goes toward Plymouth Corps programs such as summer day camp, the Tiny Tots preschool, character-building events and help for struggling families through rent and utility assistance and an emergency food pantry.

Kollinger said the temporary loss of the Kroger store in downtown Northville as a bell-ringing site was a setback for the campaign, as some of the highest collection totals have typically come from that location. The store, formerly a Hiller's, was being remodeled after its purchase by the Kroger Co. and the Red Kettle campaign couldn't be on site there

until Dec. 10, Kollinger said.

In addition, she said, the campaign has been hampered by a lack of volunteer bell-ringers and lower per-day collections at many of the sites. There are 25 Red Kettle locations throughout the Plymouth Corps' service area.

Kollinger is emailing past volunteers to let them know of the need for bell-ringers. Among the Red Kettle sites, she said, are six grocery stores where a significant portion of total donations is typically made; it's important that those sites be staffed.

"We're hopin' and prayin'. It's a mighty task, for sure," Kollinger

said.

People interested in volunteering can do so through the website www.ringbell.org or by calling the Plymouth Corps at 734-453-5464, ext. 24, and speaking to Kollinger or her assistant, Roger Harder.

General donations can be mailed to the Plymouth Corps at 9451 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170. Donors can also drop in at the Plymouth Corps to make donations; credit-card donations are accepted.

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Area resident out \$4,000 in 'grandparents scam'

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

An 83-year-old Livonia woman is the latest to be out money in a scam that strikes many senior citizens.

The woman came into the Livonia police station Thursday to report a fraud that had taken place earlier. She said she received a call earlier in the day from someone claiming to be her grandson. The suspect said he was currently locked up in custody of the Detroit

Police Department after getting into a car accident. He said he needed \$4,000 in order to compensate the other driver for damages.

The suspect asked the woman to go to a Dollar General store and purchase \$4,000 worth of iTunes gift cards to pay for the damages.

The suspect called later and asked her to read the numbers on the back of the cards, which she did, giving him access to the funds on those cards.

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Maintain the community's tapestry

I believe educating young people is the most important task of any community. Michigan's students and teachers are our most important treasures. Equally important is community identity (or individuality), since young people are woven into the local tapestry.

Although money to educate is important, community identity and ethics in local government are equally so. Wittingly or not, community identity is harmed when officials exchange publicly owned community space and institutions for privately run cookie-cutter corporate-style developments, which look or function no differently than in other surrounding communities. That exchange removes a sense of community, local flavor, pride, home.

Public institutions or neighborhood schools help create that tapestry. Most know that neighborhood schools are multi-use, used for neighborhood or city functions. I believe the core issue of the proposed



Dan Sabo
GUEST COLUMNIST

Planned Urban Development in Old Village, at the Holbrook Street site, is that Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, although representing Plymouth residents, also represent the interests of folks that do not live in Plymouth, but in Canton and Plymouth townships. With a combined population of more than 100,000, that dwarfs relatively tiny Plymouth, population less than 10,000. With no intended offense to anyone, this is clearly lopsided and unfair representation on this issue.

A main reason why folks move to nearby townships is because of historic, unique Plymouth. Plymouth is a city unto itself, as well as a small hub of township activity. Attempts to harm the historic center, such as the Saxton's site, for example, harms the entire area.

Officials of school

districts spanning more than one community, as well as other local officials, should respect community identity as much as they recently claimed to respect diversity and equal opportunity.

Approving apartment houses, some in the Old Village area having rents approaching \$3,000 monthly, is a poor way to respect diversity. School boards should stay out of city planning and city-wide issues, unless building a new school or maintaining or upgrading existing school facilities. The discussion, however, is a housing project directly affecting the lives of folks living in Old Village and in the city and removes forever yet another school from Plymouth. This then becomes primarily a city issue. Constructing housing projects is not within the primary scope of responsibility of school boards or superintendents.

A housing project on a now historic school site, made possible in part by years of school district and city neglect, is not

going to solve financial shortcomings of P-CCS or Plymouth. Putting this Band-Aid on a cracked dam will only result in more congestion, more major development city wide and more harm to a historic neighborhood and city, more parking problems, more noise. Plymouth is not alone.

The current financial problems that P-CCS and many districts are experiencing across Michigan are not going to be solved by districts building housing projects on school playgrounds or in historic neighborhoods, as in another example, the Baker Elementary School site in Milford.

Many directly involved in this and other proposed PUDs suggest the only way to prevent public historic buildings from being razed, is privatization, elimination of public owned green space and historic areas. I believe such is disingenuous. There are many other ways to preserve for the common good.

Financial problems P-CCS and many school districts in Michigan have are systemic to the

state educational system. They are caused by and require solutions from our lawmakers in Lansing. School districts promoting subdivisions on school properties, plus violations of the Michigan Open Meetings Act by local officials, are not going to solve the problem. Current trends toward privatization, with charter schools replacing public schools in Michigan and across America, are slowly dismantling public education everywhere.

There is much talk about diversity, equal opportunity, apartment buildings, woes of low teacher pay. To add to the suggestions made in the June 18 edition of the *Plymouth Observer*, P-CCS could retain the property and convert the building to subsidized rent quarters, solely for newly hired teachers receiving entry level pay from P-CCS.

Preserving all of the open space, for teachers and residents alike, and assisting entry-level teachers preserves community identity and is for the public good.

Such is currently a solution for the Santa Rosa, Calif., school district. Many teachers in P-CCS are having student loan difficulties, given low starting compensation packages. This could be a meaningful way for the district to hire, help and retain teachers and show people they care about maintaining academic excellence.

This writer has been told of a (tentative) meeting, at 7 p.m. Dec 21 in Plymouth City Hall, at which the PUD issue in Old Village may be decided.

Whatever one's position, a turnout of residents – similar to the Saxton's meeting – will show community identity is as strong as it was in 1926, when Plymouth voters fought hard for, and won by a 4-1 margin, a neighborhood public institution.

Taylor resident Danie! Sabo grew up in Old Village in the home his great-grandfather G.A. Starkweather built, attended Starkweather School and graduated from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

It's easy to search unclaimed data base and worth the effort

Not too long ago, I was talking to a client who had recently lost her father. Her mother had died years ago, but her dad just recently died. During our conversation, she mentioned that her father was somewhat of a nomad, since the death of her mother, nearly 20 years ago, her father has lived in 10 different locations in six different states. As soon as I heard that, I automatically asked her if she has ever done a lost property search. Not surprisingly, she had no idea what I was talking about.

Every year, banks, financial institutions and other entities turn property and accounts over to the state if there has been no activity in the account for generally a five-year period. The state treats this property as unclaimed assets and hold onto them until the rightful owner comes forward. Of course, the great majority of people have no idea that they lost that property, so it just sits with the state as an unclaimed asset.

You may question how people can forget about their assets, but it is quite normal – particularly in our society today, where many people live in various locations throughout their



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Every year, banks, financial institutions and other entities turn property and accounts over to the state if there has been no activity in the account ...

lifetime. You see this happens a lot at banks. People think they have closed out their accounts, but there was some interest left in it. Another example is a person leaves their employer, they were entitled to some type of compensation and now the employer can't locate the employee. In those situations, the bank or the employer are supposed to turn that property over to the state. The state then acts as a custodian for that money until it is claimed.

You may think in dealing with the state it is very difficult to locate

and to claim unclaimed assets, but it's not. Just about every state has a data base online where you can search. To search the state of Michigan's unclaimed property data base, all you need to do is go to the Michigan Department of Treasury at www.michigan.gov/treasury and click on unclaimed property, where you can then do a search. Another good website is www.missingmoney.com, which allows you to search its data base of about 39 states at once.

I think it's not a bad idea for everyone to go to the websites of the various states where they have lived. You may be surprised to find that there is something that you are entitled to that you had no idea about. My philosophy has always been that the money looks better in your pocket than it does in anyone else's. If you are entitled to the money, why not?

You might ask if it's easy to get the money from the state. Generally, the answer is yes. However, in the situation at hand, where the property may not be yours but a loved one's, there is a little more complexity. For someone who is deceased, a probate may have to be opened. The

bottom line, however, is it's your money and it may be worth a little bit of aggravation and frustration to get it.

As I look outside and I see the green grass, it's hard to believe that it's mid-December. There's just something nice about seeing green grass in December. That being said, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy, healthy holiday season. In addition, let's not forget what the holidays are about. It's not about gift-giving, but rather it's about enjoying and appreciating your loved ones.

Good luck!

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

Woman loses money to IRS phone scam

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

It's the scam that just keeps giving to crooks.

On Dec. 9, a Westland woman told Westland Police that two days earlier she used a MoneyGram to send \$850 to someone claiming to be an IRS agent collecting on overdue income taxes.

The woman, 26, told police that two days earlier she had received a voice mail message telling her that the IRS was going to arrest for back taxes. After calling the number left behind, the woman said she talked with a female who then transferred her to a second person.

The second person, a man, provided instructions telling the woman to send the money via MoneyGram. The wom-

an later called the IRS and realized she had been scammed.

Police told the woman that there was no likelihood of recovering her money as the scammers were likely out of state — an Internet search listed the phone number in New York state — or in another country.

The IRS, on its website, has warned about the telephone scam, noting the agency doesn't call about past due taxes or use local police to make arrests.

In an unrelated complaint, a Westland woman told police Dec. 8 that someone opened a Verizon telephone account using her personal information. She said there was a balance of \$22.

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Former 'Hardcore Pawn' reality star breaking out on her own with website

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Ashley Gold of *Hardcore Pawn* fame is branching out on her own.

The Bloomfield Township resident, who spent nine seasons on the popular reality TV show, is now hawking jewelry through her own website at www.pawnchickshopping.com, which she describes as an online shopping destination for men and women.

And, yes, she's ready to make a deal.

"It's true, I left the pawn shop," Gold said in a phone interview recently. "This is my thing now — I'm the pawn chick. I was born and raised in a pawn shop, (but) I know how to buy jewelry and I know how to pair jewelry. Everyone has always seen the rough and tumble side of me, but now people will see a new side of me."



If you're looking for that perfect piece for the holidays, it's not too late. Ashley Gold can have it shipped to you by Christmas Eve.

She currently has an online collection of 300 pieces of jewelry from 12 different designers, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$3,000. Gold said the new venture will allow

her to spend more time with her husband and their two young children. "This gives me freedom to be with them and do what I love, which is still to be in the jewelry

industry," she said. *Hardcore Pawn* ran five years and produced 150 episodes that focused on the Gold family and their pawn shop off Eight Mile Road in Detroit. At the moment, Gold said she doesn't know if the show is being renewed for another season.

Contrary to what some viewers might think, Gold said the situations and customers on the show were real and not scripted.

"These were real people who were down and out on their luck, in most cases," she said. "We met a lot of interesting people and enjoyed a lot of adventures ... the show itself became a tourist destination. But those situations were real."

Gold, who grew up in the area, is a 1996 Andover High School graduate. She graduated from Michigan State University's Eli Broad College

of Business and also has her certification in diamonds from the Gemological Institute of America.

"There's not a lot of women in the pawn shop industry, so I'm sure I always stood out in that sense," she said. "But people always turn to me for style and fashion advice. I know what I'm doing — I can dress anyone in basically under two minutes."

She handles her own social media and blogs about fashion on her own website at www.pawnchickradio.com. She still reaches out to her fans and is grateful for how the show opened doors for her, such as guest appearances on *Good Morning America*, where she talked about the art of buying and selling.

One of her favorite moments at the store was when Hollywood star Aaron Paul walked through the door. Paul

played a meth dealer by the name of Jesse Pinkman on the hit series *Breaking Bad*. More than anything, he was known for his colorful vernacular and trademark slogans.

"He came into the shop one day and said he wanted a gold bar that said, 'Yeah, Bitch!' I'm able to accommodate a lot of people at the shop, but that one didn't happen," she said.

As for the wheeling and dealing that goes hand-in-hand with working at a pawn shop, Gold said she's more than willing to bargain with her online customers.

"I run deals all the time," she said. "People are afraid to ask for a deal ... you can't ever be bashful about asking for a deal. I'm always open to a little negotiating."

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'Force Awakens' brings out Star Wars fans in droves

The State Wayne Theater hosted around-the-clock showings of the highly anticipated *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* starting Thursday night.

"The first show is 7 p.m. Dec. 17 and it will run for 30 hours with continuous shows until after the midnight shows into Dec. 19," Phoenix Theaters owner Cory Jacobson said prior to the showings. "People are excited. We're getting a good response from people who work odd shifts and can't be there for the 7 p.m. opening."

The same showing schedule was offered at Phoenix's other theaters, including the cinema at Laurel Park in Livonia and in Monroe.

"We have new big screens at the Wayne. There are wall-to-wall screens in two auditoriums," Jacobson said last week. "It has Dolby 7.1, so there will be great sound and a great picture."

A bright new LED marquee is another



TOM BEAUDOIN

Brandon Moss of Plymouth stands in line Thursday night as he is ready to see the highly anticipated new *Star Wars* movie, "The Force Awakens," at the State Wayne Theater.

upgrade for the State Wayne, located on Michigan Avenue, west of Wayne Road, in downtown Wayne. Many shows were sellouts, with eager fans enjoying the camaraderie and the new story.

Faith communities will gather Dec. 22 to share message of love, peace

Representatives of the spectrum of metropolitan Detroit faith communities will gather at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, at the Islamic Center of America on Ford Road in Dearborn to stand up for their faith values.

"Our community is being captured by fear and there is too much talk of abandoning some of our most cherished faith values," said Bob Bruttell, chair of the Inter-Faith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit. At Tuesday's event, Detroit-area faith leaders will speak out and encourage our community to have faith and seek peace. They also plan to launch a series of events around the theme "2016: A Year of Faith and Peace."

"The antidote to fear is

boldly standing up for our common faith values," Bruttell said in a release. "So we will stand together with our friends of all faiths; we will unite against fear; and we will stand up for religious freedom."

Numerous faith communities and religious leaders in the region have been looking for an opportunity to express their solidarity around strongly felt faith values, in light of the heated rhetoric in the public sphere.

Tuesday's launch will bring together leaders of numerous religious organizations and congregations in southeast Michigan, including the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, the United Methodist

Church, the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, the Michigan Board of Rabbis, the Hindu community and the Sikh community, as well as Islamic mosques, Christian churches and other congregations. The event is free and open to the public.

"We need to stand together, comfort one another and commit to working together to solve these problems as people of faith," Bruttell said. "During this season of peace, Christmas, Hanukkah and the birth of the Prophet, our faith leaders will kick off a year of events that will reinforce our faith and help to calm our fears. In the current charged atmosphere, we must commit ourselves to actively working toward more understanding,

creating friendships and building community."

In 2016, the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit and the interfaith community will introduce adult literacy programs, religious diversity immersion programs, congregational exchanges, interfaith dinners, open houses and other innovative educational events designed to help our community develop deeper understanding and stronger bonds of friendship.

"We cannot allow terrorism and intemperate political statements to displace our faith values," Bruttell said. "It's as simple as that. Our better angels require us to seek peace, generate good will and care for each other."

Colbeck resolution calls for temporary halt on refugees

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, introduced a resolution calling on Gov. Rick Snyder to continue his opposition to the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Michigan until the state is sufficiently assured that the federal government is properly vetting the refugees against any terrorists infiltrating the U.S. through the resettlement program.

"We are not seeking a ban on resettling refugees in Michigan, but rather a pause in the

process until we are certain that the process for vetting them is sufficient to protect our citizens," Colbeck said. "For those who are truly seeking refuge from a dangerous situation, there are other options available to us right now, including Safe Zones in their own countries and nearby countries. For those who are looking for a better life in America and wish to assimilate into our 'Great Melting Pot,' we welcome their immigration through the

resettlement process once it has been proven safe."



Colbeck

The resolution notes that the president has issued an executive order increasing the intake of refugees from Syria to 10,000 and seeks to resettle Syrians in communities across the United States.

Colbeck also said that by increasing the intake of refugees, the president has given individuals who have adopted the teachings and ideology of ISIS a clear path into the United States. FBI Director James Comey admits that "there are certain gaps ... in the information available to us" when speaking about the process by which refugees are screened to prevent the resettlement of individuals with ties to ISIS.

"As the frequency and severity of ISIS attacks increase, measures are

needed to protect the citizens of Michigan and the United States. Governor Snyder was correct in suspending the Syrian resettlement program in Michigan in the wake of ISIS's attacks on Paris," Colbeck said. "Suspending this program has made our state more secure and efforts must continue to be made to ensure our security."

"We appreciate how the governor has taken the lead not only in Michigan but across the nation on the need to protect our citizens from a resettlement process that even leading members of the president's administration have admitted is riddled with information gaps. Ultimately, the security of our state is a partnership between the governor and the Legislature. My fellow legislators and I look forward to continuing that partnership in a fiscally responsible and secure manner that promotes the most honorable values of Michigan citizens."

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Which IRA is right for you? It all depends

In those retirement years, you want to be able to buy that second home in Florida, jet off to Aruba or golf every day. The more you save, the more you have to enjoy your retirement. If you have money that you can afford to invest for the long term, you should consider an IRA.



Paula Swain
GUEST COLUMNIST

have taxable income. Both feature tax-sheltered growth of earnings and give you a wide range of investment choices. However, there are important differences between the two. You must understand these differences before you can choose the IRA that's best for you.

Traditional IRA

An individual retirement arrangement is a personal retirement savings plan that offers tax benefits. IRAs are one of the most powerful retirement savings tools available. Even if you're contributing to a 401(k) or other plan at work, you should also consider investing in an IRA.

There are two types of IRAs: traditional and Roth. Both allow you to make annual contributions of up to \$5,500 in 2015 or \$6,500 if you're over age 50. Generally, you must have at least as much taxable income as the amount of your IRA contribution. But if you are married filing jointly, your spouse can also contribute to an IRA, even if he or she does not

Most people can contribute to a traditional IRA. The only requirements are that you have taxable income and be under age 70½.

Your contributions may be tax-deductible on your federal income tax return. This is important, because tax-deductible contributions lower your taxable income, saving you money in taxes. If neither you nor your spouse is covered by a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan, you can

generally deduct the full amount of your annual contribution. If one of you is covered by such a plan, your ability to deduct your contributions depends on your annual income (modified adjusted gross income) and your income tax filing status. You may qualify for a full deduction, a partial deduction or no deduction at all.

When you start taking money from your traditional IRA, the funds will be subject to income tax. If you take a withdrawal prior to age 59½, you may have to pay a 10-percent early withdrawal penalty, unless you meet one of the exceptions.

When you reach 70½, you will be required to take your first required minimum distribution, which is based on standard life expectancy table. You can always withdraw more, but never less. If you withdraw less, you'll be hit with a 50-percent penalty on the difference between the required minimum and the amount you actually withdrew.

Both feature tax-sheltered growth of earnings and give you a wide range of investment choices. However, there are important differences between the two. You must understand these differences before you can choose the IRA that's best for you.

Roth IRA

Not everyone can set up a Roth IRA. Even if you can, you may not qualify to take full advantage of it. The first requirement is that you must have taxable income. Your ability to contribute to a Roth IRA depends on your modified adjusted gross income and your income tax filing status.

Roth contributions are made with after-tax dollars, therefore they are not tax-deductible. If you meet certain conditions, your withdrawals from a Roth IRA will be completely free from federal income tax, including both contributions and investment earnings.

Unlike a traditional IRA, the Roth IRA is not subject to the required distributions at age 70½ or at any time during your life. You can put off taking distributions until you really need the income or you can leave the entire balance to your beneficiary.

Choose the right IRA for you

Assuming you qualify to use both, which type of IRA is best for you? The Roth IRA will probably be a more effective tool if you don't need the tax-deductible contributions. However, if you want to deduct your contributions, the traditional may be the better choice. Most professionals be-

lieve that a Roth IRA will still give you more bang for your buck in the long run, but it depends on your personal goals and circumstances. A financial professional or tax adviser can help you pick the right type of IRA for you.

Note: You can have both a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA, but your total annual contribution to all of the IRAs that you own cannot be more than \$5,500 in 2015 (\$6,500 if you're age 50 or older).

I am dedicated to walking you through the steps that you need to make to take control of your financial future and prepare you for a secure retirement. Now it is the time to start focusing on your finances.

Paula Swain is a Plymouth-based financial consultant. The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. Please consult with an adviser about your specific situation.

Forever, Inc. to host its first digital scrapbooking retreat

For moms and family historians alike, the new year isn't just a time to reflect on memories made with families and friends. As the curators of family history, it's also a time to organize those memories.

Forever, Inc., a one-stop shop for digitizing, editing, printing, permanently saving and sharing memories, will hold its first of many digital scrapbooking retreats Jan. 8-10 at the Novi Sheraton. At this inaugural retreat, moms will gather with friends and learn new tricks from industry experts on how

to take perfect pictures and make beautiful photo books as they preserve their families' history for generations. Similar retreats will be held across the country in 2016.

"Thanks to smart phones, there's been a steep increase in the number of pictures taken and photo organization is now a more daunting task than ever," said Anna Broome, a Commerce Township resident and lead organizer of the retreat. "Our goal with the Forever Retreat is to make it fun for moms to organize their memories

and check this important memory keeping item off of their 'to do' list. I would describe this retreat in three words: cozy, fun and productive."

The two-day retreat will kick off at 1 p.m. Jan. 8, with world famous photographer and author Nick Kelsh, whose expert, but easy-to-learn photo taking advice earned him several appearances on *Oprah* and *The Today Show*. Kelsh's breakout session will de-myth the belief that you can only take great pictures with clunky, expensive cameras.

Kelsh will teach moms powerful tricks on how to take amazing pictures with your smart phone.

Concluding Sunday, the retreat includes a total of six breakout sessions and plenty of digital or non-digital 'crop' time. Jan McCallum, founder of the popular site Pixels2Pages, which teaches anyone how to create masterful digital scrapbooks with Forever's Artisan software, will present strategies and tips for creating photo keepsakes that celebrate lives. Other special guests include Forever Trainer Shelley

Murray, who has appeared on TV to give moms tips on how to de-clutter memories by digitizing them and making photo gifts with Forever. In addition to hearing from these and other industry experts, attendees can also bring with them old photos they wish to digitize and save at their Forever site.

Registration is still open. Prices vary based on the number of sessions attendees wish to choose. The Deluxe Package that includes six breakout sessions, dinner Friday and Saturday, a Forever "goody"

bag and crop time snacks is \$159.99. Attendees may register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/digital-week-end-retreat-tickets-19078155276>.

"For many women, it's not just about starting off the new year with a commitment to organize memories for generations, but about having fun and spending time with like-minded photo enthusiasts," Broome said. "While we gather as a community to curate life stories, there's no doubt we'll be making memories with old and new friends, too!"

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County: We're ready to plow roads when snow hits

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The weather has been unseasonably warm this December, but everyone knows the snow will come sooner or later. Wayne County says its trucks and drivers will be ready for the task when that time comes.

County officials were on hand last week at the county's central maintenance yard in Romulus to offer a glimpse at snow-removal procedures for the upcoming winter across Wayne County.

"All the trucks are ready, every day, for a snow emergency," said Robert Conrad, director of the county's roads division. "They're all loaded with fuel, loaded with salt."

The county has about 160 trucks ready to plow and salt, which also includes several new trucks purchased this year. The division begins the season with more than 90,000 tons of salt, a commodity that saw a slight price decrease this year over last year. The



DAVID VESELENAK

Wayne County driver Eric Longmire in one of the county's new snow removal trucks.

county has used an average of 75,000 tons of salt over the last five years, Conrad said.

Motorists can access information on locations of county trucks by going to compass.waynecounty.com either on a desktop or a mobile phone. There, motorists can also view live video of certain areas, the route history of trucks or file a complaint with the county over the condition of roads.

"That allows us to have real-time information available on our trucks, where they are, what they're doing, what work they've done, where they're going and in the past we've expanded that to the public with our Compass website," Conrad said. "It is quite an elaborate operation once we start rolling."

Issues can also be reported to the county by calling 888-ROAD-CREW.

Compass has been active for motorists for several years. While earlier storms caused the site to crash from too many users, county officials say that shouldn't be as large of an issue this year.

"If it's a very severe storm, then our usage tends to go up," said Anthony Bellinger, a roads division department manager.

Major roads in cities done

The county maintains snow removal on most of the main roads throughout western Wayne County. The county is also responsible for all roads in several townships.

Conrad said there hadn't been any specific talks between the county and local communities about possibly allowing for cities, such as Livonia, to help plow roads under county jurisdiction. Coming to an agreement like that has several complications, he said, including liability issues.

"It's not outside the possibility, but there's a lot of things that have to take place," Conrad said. "How are we going to pay them, how much we're going to pay them, agreements as to who's liability it is if they don't uphold to our standards. Those negotiations aren't as easy as just saying, 'Hey, they have an extra truck or two, they can pick something up for you.'"

Conrad said snow

removal in residential areas in the townships comes after a certain level of snow falls in an area. Even then, those roads do not receive salt, just plowing.

"Our rule is we don't go in and plow township roads until there are six or more inches of snow on them," Conrad said.

County Executive Warren Evans said even with the fiscal problems the county has faced in recent years, the snow removal division runs efficiently and close to budget as possible.

"You know Wayne County's gone through all kinds of fiscal crises this year and I want to tell you these guys get it done and they get it done as closely in budget as humanly possible," Evans said. "These guys do an awfully great job for Wayne County, and you just have to go through a snow emergency to appreciate that."

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734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

AAA: Millions of travelers hitting the road this holiday season

AAA projects more than three million Michiganders will journey 50 miles or more from home during the year-end holiday season, an increase of 1.9 percent from the 3.12 million people who traveled last year. This upward trend marks the highest travel volume for the holiday period in 14 years. (AAA data dates back to 2001.)

On a national level, the number of year-end holiday travelers is expected to top 100 million for the first time on record. Nearly one in three Americans will take a trip this holiday season, with 100.5 million expected to journey 50 miles or

more from home. This represents a 1.4-percent increase over last year and the seventh consecutive year of year-end holiday travel growth. The year-end holiday travel period is defined as Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015, to Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016.

"The increase in holiday travel this year is driven by continued improvement in the labor market, rising incomes and low gas prices which remain well below last year's levels," said Brent Stahlheber, senior vice president - Brand Marketing and Travel, AAA - The Auto Club Group. "This helps boost Amer-

icans' disposable income, generating more money to spend on lodging, dining out and buying gifts." **Driving remains most popular mode of travel for year-end holiday travel**

More than 90 percent of travelers (91.3 million people) will drive to their holiday destinations, an increase of 1.4 percent over last year.

Air travel is expected to increase by 0.7 percent, with 5.8 million Americans flying to their holiday destinations.

Travel by other modes of transportation, including cruises, trains and buses, will increase 2.4 percent, to 3.4 million

travelers. **Airfares fall, hotel and car rental rates rise modestly**

According to AAA's Leisure Travel Index, airfares for the top 40 domestic flight routes are 6 percent lower this holiday season, falling to an average of \$174 round trip. Rates for AAA Three Diamond Rated lodgings will be 4 percent higher this year, with travelers spending an average of \$150 per night. The average rate for a AAA Two Diamond Rated hotel has risen 11 percent with an average nightly cost of \$119. Daily car rental rates will average \$68, 3 percent higher than last year's holiday travel season.

Lowest New Year's gas

prices in seven years expected

Michigan's statewide weekly average price for a gallon of gasoline has been below the \$2 per gallon benchmark for the past four weeks.

The national average price for a gallon of gasoline remains poised to fall below the \$2 per gallon benchmark by Christmas.

AAA Michigan urges motorist to take online pledge to drive drug and alcohol-free

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's Traffic Safety Culture Index, one in five licensed drivers (21 percent) who drink at least occasionally reported having driven when they thought their alcohol

level might have been close to, or possibly over, the legal limit in the past year.

"As we celebrate the holiday season, AAA urges travelers to be cautious about their safety and the safety of everyone sharing the roadways," said Susan Hiltz, Public Affairs director, AAA Michigan. "Ninety-seven percent of licensed drivers consider it unacceptable to drive when they may have had too much to drink, yet there is an average of one alcohol-impaired driving death every 53 minutes. We urge everyone to take our online pledge to drive drug and alcohol-free and learn more about safer celebrations at AAA.com/saferdriver."



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The midsize sedan has an "open and inviting interior with many features that will surprise people," Demmer sales manager Chris Conley said. "From the floating center console with ample storage underneath it and the attention to detail that is noticeable throughout the vehicle."

The 2016 MKZ is available with front- or all-wheel drive. "Three engine choices with three levels of performance and three suspension settings allows the MKZ to be tailored to each driver's personality," Conley said. The hybrid version is rated at up to 41 MPG.

"The available all-wheel drive offers peace-of-mind for all driving conditions," he added.

Standard features for the 2016 MKZ include:

- » 240-horsepower, turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine
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The 2016 Lincoln MKZ.



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through a smartphone App Conley said. Other available features in-

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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Holiday tie for Park teams

Late goal by Newel gives Rocks 3-3 draw with 'Cats

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As seconds ticked down to zero in the third period Friday night, the puck slid back to Salem senior Evan Newel at the blue line.

With his team down 3-2 to Plymouth and Rocks goalie Tristan Rehling pulled for the extra attacker, it was all systems go for Newel.

"(Junior Matt Schaumburger) somehow made a pass back

to me, through everybody," Newel said, describing the goal that forced overtime. "I just closed my eyes, hoped it went through. And I guess it just went through."

Newel's drive zoomed over the trapper of Plymouth senior goaltender Trevor McManus with 32 seconds left to make it a 3-3 tie before a packed Plymouth Cultural Center — an estimated 800 came out for the annual holiday food drive game, which was a hard-hitting, chippy affair.

Then, in overtime, the Rocks did everything but win the KLAA South Division var-

sity boys hockey match-up, firing five shots at McManus during a dangerous power play.

But McManus was sensational, doing a full extension to snare Newel's low bid from the left corner, grabbing the puck near the left post.

"We got that power play and we had so many shots," Newel said. "There were so many chances, but we just couldn't bury it."

Salem head coach Ryan Ossebmacher, whose team improved to 2-4-1, chuckled about the overtime power play,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of many hard hits Friday night, Plymouth's Zach Gallaher (right) and Salem's Zach Goleniak slam into the boards.

See TIE, Page B2

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tasty milestone for Chiefs' Reddy

Canton coach gets 100th win in just his seventh season

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It's only a milestone, but Canton boys basketball varsity head coach Jimmy Reddy views 100 victories in just over six seasons as a sign of consistently doing things the right way.

Reddy's Chiefs pounded host South Lyon East, 60-29, to improve to 4-0 on the season. After the game, he and the rest of the team celebrated with cake.

"They found out after," Reddy said. "My mother and wife had a cake. They (players) figured it out after the game, but I didn't say anything to them before."

According to Reddy, getting to 100 career wins so soon is a testament to Canton's players and assistant coaches since he took over the squad in 2009-10.

Tipping his cap

"We're just trying to stay competitive and be consistent, which I think we have been," Reddy said. "None of this would have happened this early without good players, good student-athletes and great assistant coaches."

"I feel I've been lucky enough to have really good coaches around me and the one guy that's been with me since day one is Tony Wichmann. We wouldn't be at 100 right now without Tony."

The 100th win was a fore-

See REDDY, Page B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Jimmy Reddy's Canton tenure has focused on defense and rebounding.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON LITTLE LEAGUE

PLANTING SEEDS FOR BASEBALL



Father Jeff Holt and son Elijah teamed up in 2015 on Plymouth-Canton Little League's major Royals team as coach and player, respectively.

New PCLL president Holt passionate about growing the game in digital age

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Baseball is ingrained in the heart, soul and mind of Jeff Holt. It has been ever since his own Little League days.

"I look back on my own memories," said Holt, now 51 but still a boy at heart when it comes to baseball. "When I was out in center field, under the lights, with people in that grandstand and people lining the sides of the field ... I literally felt like I was in the big leagues."

Holt was reminiscing about when he played Little League baseball in rural Chatham County, N.C., at Kitten Holt Field — named after his dad Robert, because "that's how everybody in the local community knows him."

On that long-ago evening, young Jeff Holt fielded a sharply-hit single to center, then threw a bullet to home plate, where his catcher slapped a tag on the runner trying to score from second base.

"(The catcher) caught it on one hop and nailed him at the plate to end the game," Holt said, smiling as he recalled the magical sequence. "We were up one, so we won the game."

"That was a huge moment for me as a kid, the memory that, you know, when you were the hero. Stuff like that sticks with you and you learn something by that."

No time to stop

Now, the Canton resident can't wait to help today's and tomorrow's youngsters have that same kind of experience.

He recently was elected president of the Plymouth-Canton Little League, where he has coached his own son (Elijah, 11) and stayed connected with the game of his youth.

"I love baseball and I love kids," Holt said. "And I enjoy serving. It all goes together. I'm excited and I'm really interested to meet as many people as I can meet to get our story out there — and to talk to people and see where it goes. I don't know where it

See HOLT, Page B4

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BOYS BOWLING PREVIEW — PART 1

Park teams look to keep rolling

Chiefs, Rocks hope to build off last season's success

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

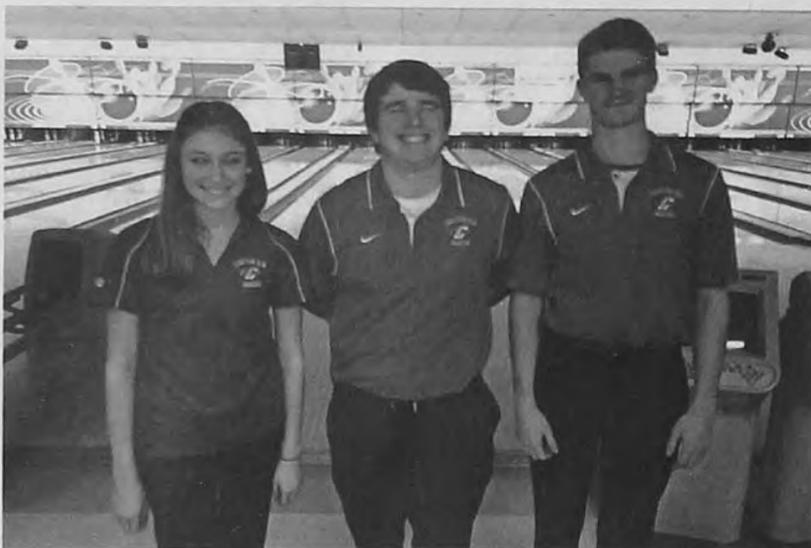
There is no denying last season was a special one for the Canton and Salem boys bowling teams.

Both the Chiefs and Rocks went 10-2 in the KLAA Central Division to share the title. Canton went on to win the association and Division 1 team regional championships.

And coaches for both teams are optimistic that 2015-16 can be another successful circuit on the lanes.

"I do expect this team to do well, as we have the leadership at the top and a good mix of younger players," Canton head coach Karl Brubaker said.

Returning to the Chiefs' fold are seniors Mitchell Zelenak and Tyler Pozan and junior



Canton bowling standouts for 2015-16 include (from left) Emily Kacic, Tyler Pozan and Mitchell Zelenak.

Dominic Dimaya, all of whom Brubaker said were "a big part of that success" in 2014-15.

Meanwhile, the Chiefs are looking for bigger

contributions from sophomore D.J. Jablonski, junior David Hess, senior Jack Watson and junior Andrew Nosay. Brubaker will be

keeping tabs on the junior varsity team and will be ready to call up bowlers to varsity if needed.



SALEM BOWLING
Co-captains for Salem's varsity boys bowling team are (from left) seniors Zach Gonyea and Jacob Kurth.

Salem preview

Salem head coach Kathie Hahn also is enthusiastic that the Rocks can pick up where they left off last season.

"I think this year will be another strong year for the Rocks," Hahn said. "We have four returning varsity players and have added three from the JV team."

Senior co-captains Zach Gonyea and Jacob Kurth will lead the team.

Augmenting them are juniors Ryan Gonyea, Mitchell Rusinek, Shane Rusinek and Alex Mattson and sophomores Brendan Kwapis and Joshua Hall.

"Salem has a very strong JV team again this year," Hahn said, "so we are going to be doing a lot of moving back and forth."

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GIRLS BOWLING PREVIEW — PART 1

Better days could loom for Chiefs, Rocks

Canton's Macunovich to lead team's fortunes; Salem eager to make strides

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton junior Meghan Macunovich is one of the elite high school girls bowlers in Michigan.

What Chiefs head coach Karl Brubaker would love to see is for others on the roster to improve their own games and augment Macunovich — who in 2014-15 finished second in singles play at the Division 1 individual finals.

"Meghan is truly one of the best young lady bowlers, if not the best, in the state and has the drive and passion to win," Brubaker said. "You always hear people



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Coming into her third season with Canton is junior Meghan Macunovich, who last year finished second at the state finals in singles play.

say, 'This player makes the others around them better.' Well, that is Meghan, a great bowler and great leader."

Macunovich was the top singles qualifier at the regional hosted by Super Bowl in Canton, with a 1,345 total. At the

state finals, she rolled 1,184 in six games and was bested, 512-470, by champion Allison Morris of Ann Arbor Huron.

Canton's roster includes two other varsity returnees in senior Emily Kacic and sophomore Megan Peldo. Another girl from last year's JV, Sabrina Lee, will be called upon to contribute at the varsity level.

Ready to help whenever needed will be freshmen Cassie Holowicki and McKenna Ceci.

Brubaker is fairly certain that Macunovich again will be a contender for an individual state title. But he also wants the team itself to have a better season, having gone 7-8 in 2014-15.

Salem preview

Salem finished 4-11 last season, but head coach Kathie Hahn points to strong work ethic as a reason why she



SALEM BOWLING
Co-captains for Salem's girls bowling team are (from left) seniors Rachel Lopez and Brynna Samuels.

expects an upswing.

Early returns are promising. The Rocks won two of three early season crossovers and then defeated Novi, 29-1, in the first KLAA Central dual match of the season.

"The varsity girls are even stronger this year," Hahn said. "We returned with the same six girls. They worked hard over

the summer on their game."

Seniors Rachel Lopez and Brynna Samuels are co-captains in 2015-16. Senior Katherine Kehoe, juniors Leah Boucha and Olivia Harkins and sophomore Alaina Langen make up the rest of the varsity roster.

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Salem's Matt Schaumburger (right) tries to veer his way around Plymouth's Alex Chartrand on Friday night at Plymouth Cultural Center.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Scoring late in the third period Friday is Plymouth's Joe Fontana (right), slipping the puck past Salem goalie Tristan Rehling. Also shown are Salem's Zach Goleniak (left) and Plymouth's Ricky Covault.

"He's an important part of our team," Vento said about Kozler. "That was a tough play, but I don't want to get into it."

The Rocks opened the scoring in the first period, when senior forward Zach Goleniak found himself alone near the goal crease for a tap-in past McManus (22 saves).

Plymouth was the stronger of the teams in the middle period, not allowing a Salem shot and scoring twice.

Netting the equalizer was Weber, who slammed the puck in from the doorstep.

Then with about five minutes left in the second, Plymouth went up 2-1 on a power-play goal by Mullenax, who got the puck near the right post and buried it behind Rehling.

Ossenmacher discussed the lull in his team's game, primarily for stretches of the second period.

"We just have to work on playing 51 minutes of hockey and we haven't

done that yet, even tonight," he said. "We're a good 40- to 45-minute team and, against teams like Plymouth and Stevenson, you just can't play three-quarters of a game."

"So we have to find consistency, because there's no rhyme or reason. Sometimes our lull's in the first, sometimes it's in the third."

Next up

Salem now will go to Traverse City for the annual December trip. The Rocks will leave Dec. 28 and play three games.

"We have a great time up there," Ossenmacher said. "Coming out of Traverse City, we have a pretty good idea of what our team's going to be for the rest of the year. It's a galvanizing trip for us."

The Wildcats (3-3-1) will host South Lyon on Wednesday night, looking to get back into the victory column.

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TIE

Continued from Page B1

a chunk of two minutes where the Rocks pretty much buzzed the Plymouth goal throughout.

"That was our first one (power play) of the game, so we worked really hard yesterday (in practice)," Ossenmacher said. "So I guess that paid off at the end in terms of possession."

"We liked what we saw. You're not going to score on every power play, obviously. But we liked what we saw on that one. Unfortunately, the

puck didn't go in the net; their goalie made a couple key saves."

Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said the overtime was "the best eight minutes of the season for (McManus). He was outstanding and hopefully that continues. He needed to come up big and he did."

Young guns

Until the Newel slapper, it looked as though Plymouth's stellar sophomore forward line of C.J. Mullenax (goal), Jack Chumley (two assists) and Josh Weber (goal) was going to carry the Wildcats to victory and in

the process snap a three-game losing streak.

That line was in the mix for all three Plymouth goals, including the go-ahead goal by junior defenseman Joe Fontana on the power play with 2:20 left in regulation.

Chumley and senior forward Ricky Covault worked the puck deep around Rehling (25 saves) and Fontana pinched in from the blue line to poke the puck in.

"We lost three in a row, but they were close games. We're working our way out of it," Vento said. "Our sophomore line scored all the goals

tonight. So guys are making steps and we're going to be fine."

It was a costly point in the standings for the Wildcats, however. With just one-tenth of a second to go in the second period, senior defenseman Kyle Kozler sustained a knee injury after he was driven into the boards by Newel. No penalty was assessed on the play.

"I just went in to hit him," Newel said. "I guess I got his knee or something. I didn't mean to intentionally hurt him. But what happens, happens."

Vento did not wish to discuss the play.

2015 ALL-AREA BOYS TENNIS TEAM

FIRST TEAM SINGLES

Jordan Lu, Plymouth: The senior co-captain and team MVP finished the season with a record of 18-4, including wins over highly-ranked players.

Lu was named a Division 1 all-state player as a result of his efforts, which sparked the Wildcats to the KLAAs South Division championship. "Players with this level of skill and talent are rare," coach Tom Kimball said. "Jordan combined a crushing serve, a devastating forehand, superior athleticism and a strong desire to win to become one of the best players that Plymouth will ever have."

David Kagan, N. Farmington: Kagan jumped four spots in the lineup this year, going from No. 4 singles (all-area second team) to No. 1 and a berth on the first team. Kagan was a regional champion and helped the Raiders to qualify for the Division 2 state tournament.

"David did a great job of stepping up as a leader this year," coach Whitney Wasielewski said. "He made a big jump in the lineup and really held his own at that difficult spot."

"One singles is a much different and more challenging position to play than four singles and David has proven he is ready for the challenge."

"He worked very hard during the off-season and that showed. I think next year he can have a very successful season now that he's had a year of experience at that position and if he continues to work hard."

Sean Mulka, Churchill: Mulka had a fantastic junior season, racking up an 18-5 record against many of the top players in the area. He is also an outstanding student.

"Sean is one of the hardest workers on the team," coach John Webster said. "He is a leader on and off the court. Sean works with recruitment and development of new players. Sean was city champ, Troy Athens



Lu Kagan Hack Mukhtar
Mulka Decker Kapke Mohanraj

COACH OF THE YEAR

Tom Kimball, Plymouth

FIRST TEAM SINGLES

Jordan Lu, sr., Plymouth
David Kagan, jr., N. Farmington
Sean Mulka, jr., Churchill
Matt Decker, jr., Plymouth
Aaron Hack, jr., Harrison
Matthew Mukhtar, jr., Canton

FIRST TEAM DOUBLES

Justin Kapke, jr., Plymouth
Yogesh Mohanraj, jr., Plymouth
Jeff Della Mora, jr., Stevenson
Scott Findlay, jr., Stevenson

SECOND TEAM SINGLES

Kevin Hou, sr., Plymouth
Tyler Kelly, jr., Garden City
Cade Bunton, jr., Stevenson
Andrew Dzioubau, jr., Stevenson
Navjit Girija, jr., Farmington
Daven Patel, jr., Plymouth
Vijay Sriram, soph., Harrison

SECOND TEAM DOUBLES

Joey Mosca, sr., Canton
Kurt Seifert, fr., Canton
AJ Choukair, jr., Salem
Jacob Rumpfs, jr., Salem
Avery Emerson, jr., Garden City
Derek VanDooren, sr., Garden City

HONORABLE MENTION

Harrison: Perry Kreiss, Jon-Luc Kralovich, Kyle Trautmann; Farmington: Chirag Adappa, Justin Walsh; N. Farmington: Keith Jackson, Sriharj Srinivasan, Sunny Malik, Sarosh Irani; Canton: Jacob Paton, Howard Zhang, Geet Antani, Vishal Nayak; Salem: Caden Sweet, Conor Sweet; Plymouth: Sam Tufts, Anoop Kotia.

relay tourney runner-up and regional runner up this season."

Matt Decker, Plymouth: Another stellar performer for the Wildcats was Decker at No. 2 singles, tallying a 16-5 record, including victories over players from top programs such as Salem, Canton, Grand Blanc and Walled Lake Northern. He also won two tournaments.

"Despite our move toward sched-

uling tougher opponents, Matt has once again made significant improvements in his game," Kimball said. "Matt will continue to work on his game in the off-season and I expect that his skill and humble determination will take him far again next season."

Aaron Hack, Harrison: The junior compiled a 10-8 record at No. 1 singles, was a regional finalist and a

Division 2 state qualifier.

"Aaron came prepared this season to build on his experience playing one singles," coach Joe Ludwig said. "He earned that spot through tenacious efforts in his challenge matches."

"Aaron continued to work on improving throughout the season, culminating with his qualifying for states. He is a remarkable young man."

Matthew Mukhtar, Canton: The junior was a standout for the Chiefs at No. 2 singles, compiling a stellar 11-5 record.

Mukhtar posted wins against players from Novi Detroit Catholic Central, Brighton, Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Franklin.

"Matthew became a great singles player with his own style and strategy," coach Barb Lehmann said. "He would stream the ball over the net, surprising his opponent and catching them off-guard."

"His laid-back attitude kept his focus strong and his competition level strong."

FIRST TEAM DOUBLES

Justin Kapke and Yogesh Mohanraj, Plymouth: The Wildcats' top doubles tandem finished 13-5, only losing close, three-set matches against top 10 teams, Kimball said.

"This duo played a powerful, aggressive, high level of doubles that was enjoyable to watch," Kimball said. "Given additional challenge matches, either one of these players could have broken into our singles lineup and would have done equally as well. Both players have developed a smart, confident, intimidating net game that allowed them to go on the offensive and control their opponents."

Jeff Della Mora and Scott Findlay, Stevenson: The Spartans' duo compiled a stellar record thanks to their top-notch skill level and on-the-court chemistry that is vital to doubles success.



COACH OF THE YEAR

Tom Kimball, Plymouth: Led by senior all-stater Jordan Lu, the 2015 season was an unequal-

ified success for Kimball and the Wildcats.

Plymouth went undefeated in the KLAAs South Division, claiming the title for a fifth straight season. Along the way were victories at the Wildcat and Monroe invitational, the first-ever win over West Division champion Grand Blanc, a team-high third place at the KLAAs tourney and fourth place at the Plymouth-hosted D1 regional tournament.

Kimball said a team effort throughout the lineup was instrumental in that long string of successes.

"The doubles players went outside their comfort zone and were able to start developing some aggressive tactics and alternative strategies, which resulted in success against some of the top teams in the state," Kimball said. "All of our singles players are polished, tournament-level players who amassed an amazing combined regular season win-loss record of 56-6."

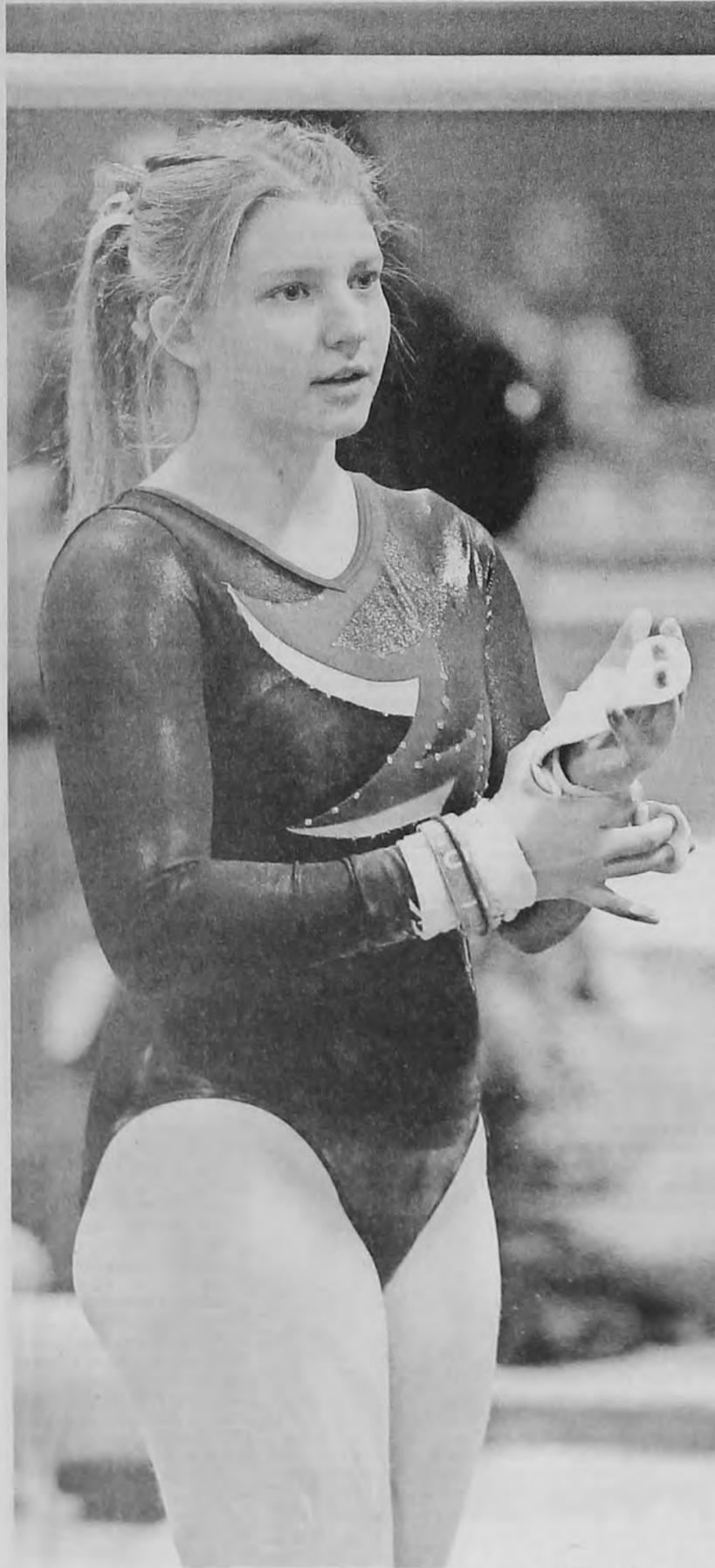
"I have excellent athletic administration that support the growth our program here at Plymouth and I am especially fortunate to have Erik Batell assist me with coaching and developing our players."

Despite the graduation of four seniors, including Lu, the veteran coach is confident in the program continuing to succeed in 2016.

"Each year, we have more players taking lessons in the off-season and playing in leagues at indoors clubs, which allows them to improve and move to the next level at a much faster rate," he said.

PREP GYMNASTICS

Chiefs bounce back with win



Getting ready to perform her next routine Tuesday is Canton's Stephanie Cox. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

After suffering first loss of season, Canton defeats tough Plymouth bunch

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Canton gymnastics juggernaut hit a little bump in the road with a Dec. 11 loss to North Farmington, but the Chiefs came roaring back Tuesday.

Canton closed out a stiff December schedule at 4-1, following an impressive 140.025-137.375 victory over the Plymouth Wildcats.

"To finally break into the 140s against a very good Plymouth team will add to the confidence level of our team and make it the first step towards our state meet goal," veteran Chiefs head coach John Cunningham wrote in an email to the *Observer*.

The meet at Plymouth High School did not get off to a promising start for the Chiefs, as the Wildcats opened with wins on vault and uneven parallel bars.

But Cunningham said "a stellar beam performance with one fall sealed the win."

Stephanie Cox won beam with a 9.45 score. Other Canton contributors in that event included Hailey Hodgson (9.325), Kelsea Kernosek (9.15) and Jana Hilditch (9.025).

A double-winner for the Chiefs was Maddie Toal, who registered scores of 9.274 on floor exercise and 35.925 in the all-around.

There were other strong performances in what Cunningham called a "well-rounded team effort."

Sharing second place on bars were Toal and Katie Dickson (8.8 each). Kernosek scored third on floor (8.825), while Hilditch scored 8.7 on floor.

For Plymouth, top performers were Haley Metz (beam, 9.3; bars, 9.1) and Rebeca Simu (vault and floor, 9.1 each event).

First loss
Canton ran into a well-prepared North



Canton's Jana Hilditch, shown from last season, was one of four Chiefs to reach the 9.0 mark on balance beam against Plymouth.

Farmington squad Dec. 11, falling 141.375-138.15.

Hodgson and Kernosek tied for first on vault (9.25). Chalking up 9.0 scores were Dickson and Hilditch, each good for a share of fifth place.

Dickson was third on bars (8.55) and the Chiefs enjoyed a 3-4-5 finish on floor, with Cox (8.95), Hodgson (8.9) and Rachel Socha (8.8).

"The grouped all-arounds show the team balance," Cunningham said, listing Hilditch (34.45), Cox (34.3), Hodgson (34.2), Dickson (34.075), Kernosek (33.15) and Socha (33.0). "On most nights, that would mean a win; not tonight. A meet like this leaves lots of areas for improvement and we will."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Honor for Baechler

Canton football coach Tim Baechler, whose team made it to the Division 1 state semifinals, is receiving yet another honor.

The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association announced Baechler is one of the Region 12 coaches of the year.

The Regional Coach of the Year Awards are determined by voting by the head football coaches in each of 18 regions. Out of 618 schools playing 11- and 8-man football this past fall, only 52 of these awards are given out.

Spring girls lacrosse

Canton Leisure Services is offering a spring girls lacrosse program for players of all skill levels in grades 3-8.

The program will include league games with local communities. It also will feature uniforms, indoor practices and classrooms, among other components.

Jennifer Herzfeld will be coaching and a few former girls high school players are being recruited to assist. Helping with scheduling and to recruit coaches is Salem girls varsity lacrosse coach Dave Medley.

Call Canton Sports Center at 734-483-5600 as soon as possible if interested.

Hole-in-one

Brighton resident Steve Dominick, 44, registered a hole-in-one Dec. 12 at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth.

Dominick used a 6-iron and a Pro V ball to ace the 178-yard No. 3 hole on the Golden Fox course. He scored 84 for the 18-hole round.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Struggles continue for Plymouth

Senkowski nets winning shot to cap Spartans' second-half rally

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Points were precious and few during Thursday night's KLAA Kensington Conference crossover showdown between Livonia Stevenson and host Plymouth.

The two most precious points — at least as far as the Spartans were concerned — rolled off the fingertips of junior guard Diane



Going up for a layup Thursday night is Plymouth senior Bailey Brown.

Senkowski, whose last-minute put-back off a

missed free throw proved to be the difference in Stevenson's thrilling 29-28 victory.

"It wasn't a pretty game, but both teams played hard," Stevenson head coach Tim Newman said. "Diane only scored three points, but two of them won the game for us."

On the flip side, Plymouth head coach Ryan Ballard lamented too many turnovers and not enough rebounds for the Wildcats (1-4).

"We are really struggling to rebound the basketball right now," Ballard said. "That is something we're going

to have to correct before division play starts in January."

Grace Lamerson led the winners with eight points, while Bailey Brown led the Wildcats with 14 points. Hannah Badger added nine for Plymouth.

"Bailey did a lot of nice things on the floor for us and was an opportunistic scorer," Ballard said.

Plymouth rolled to a 10-2 lead after one quarter before securing a 16-6 halftime advantage in the defense-dominated contest.

Stevenson started to find its mojo in the

third quarter, when it outscored the Wildcats 7-2 to pull to within 18-13.

The Spartans closed the game with one of its most-productive quarters (16 points) of the season to notch the win.

Audrey Stahr converted two pivotal baskets in the final eight minutes, Newman said.

SALEM 50, FRANKLIN 8: Salem ended the pre-holiday portion of the schedule with a 4-1 record following this romp Thursday over host Livonia Franklin. Lasha Petree led Salem with 13 points, seven steals and four rebounds, while freshman Mahri Petree chimed in with nine points and six boards. The Rocks completely dominated the Patriots, building a 13-2 lead after one quarter and not allowing another point until the final quarter. The fourth quarter

opened with Salem up 48-2.

S. LYON EAST 47, CANTON 42: South Lyon East's Peyton Jones tallied 22 points Thursday to pace the visiting Cougars.

"Give South Lyon East a lot of credit. They made shots when they needed to, especially Peyton Jones, she scored 22 points," Canton head coach Rob Heitmeier said. "We put five different people on her throughout the game and to their credit they certainly made shots."

Scoring 12 points for the Chiefs (3-2) were led Tuesday by juniors Aliyah Pries and Lydia Chapel (11 and 10 points, respectively).

Pries led the Eagles with seven rebounds and chipped in with three steals. Strong defense across the board sparked PCA, with 23 steals. Leading with four steals each were Chapel, Paige Perkey and Robin Albert. Contributing five rebounds each were Taylor Misteale and Jordan Reed.

Staff writer Tim Smith contributed to this report.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Salem shows its mettle

Rocks hang on against late-surgin Chargers for 59-53 triumph

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

There was no shortage of floor burns or energy expenditure during Tuesday night's KLAA Kensington Conference crossover girls basketball game between host Salem and Livonia Churchill.

Both teams laid it all on the line — and left it all on the floor — before the Rocks held off a feisty fourth-quarter rally by the Chargers to prevail, 59-53.

Salem sophomore guard Lasha Petree — one of three Petree sisters on the Rocks' roster — proved to be nearly unstoppable for the winners, netting 25 points, nine rebounds and four steals.

Churchill's star was junior center Anne Yost, who was a put-back machine, finishing with 22 points and 15 boards.

Every time the Chargers would start to dig themselves out of a first-half deficit, the Rocks would answer with a dagger.

Trailing 27-13 midway through the second quarter, Churchill went on a 6-0 run thanks to two free throws from Yost, a base line jumper from Shae Smith and a driving layup from Molly Pummill to pull to within 27-21.

But on the Rocks' next trip down the floor, Marisa Martin calmly knocked down a triple from the corner to extend her team's lead to 30-21. Salem tacked on three free throws to carry a 33-21 lead into the half.

The Rocks rolled in the third quarter and seized their biggest lead of the night, 41-24, after Petree converted a layup following a steal. Jala Petree's triple with three ticks left in the quarter gave the hosts a 50-35 edge.

But the Chargers played with a relentless fury over the final eight minutes, trimming their deficit to 54-48 with 1:40 left on a layup by Smith.

A trey from Pummill made it 58-53 with 19.7 seconds left, but Lasha Petree canned a late free throw for the game's final point.

Jala Petree finished with 18 points for the victors, while Martin contributed 10 points.

Complementing Yost's strong performance were Pummill (nine points), Smith (eight points) and Alivia Kondrath, who also scored eight.

The Chargers drained 14-of-20 free throws, while Salem was 11-of-27 from the stripe.

Ladywood falls to GPN

The Blazers hung close to state-ranked Grosse Pointe North for over three quarters Tuesday night before ultimately dropping a 58-37 decision.

The loss dropped the Blazers to 2-2.

Maggie Shirk led Ladywood with 18 points. Also playing well for the Blazers were Erika Selakowski (seven points) and Abbey Reppen and Ally Audia, who both had six.

Freshman Julie Ayrault led the Norsemen with 21 points, three more than junior Katie Snow.

Ladywood surged to a 10-4 lead thanks to four points each from Selakowski and Shirk. However, GPN countered with a 12-0 run and never trailed again.

GPN led 27-17 at the half. Ladywood was within reach, trailing by 10 early in the fourth quarter, but the Norsemen sealed the deal with a late 10-0 streak.

The Blazers will next play Ferndale at the Bishop's Cup Christmas Tournament at Ann Arbor Richard on Monday. The opening tip is set for 5 p.m.

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HOLT

Continued from Page B1

goes; I don't know what I don't know."

One thing he knows for sure is he intends to keep coaching, even as he launches his first year as PCLL president. In the 2015 season, he coached Elijah on the major division Royals.

"I will enjoy working with the board to lay out a vision for the league and to build

on the good foundation we've got," Holt said during an interview at the Grand Traverse Pie Co. store on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

"But I don't ever want to walk away from coaching, particularly with my son."

"I've coached him both in regular season and all-stars the last several years."

Room for baseball

For as much joy that Holt gets out of coaching his son, he wants nothing more than for other families to get in on the fun. Through the PCLL, he is optimistic that can happen.

"Kids need to be part of a team, they need to feel their parents involved," he said. "Dads and moms who bring kids to the field and drop them off and leave are missing a great opportunity."

Holt realizes that the world is much different than it was during his childhood. But he is adamant that there is room for baseball, even with the rise in popularity of soccer and the proliferation of iPads, iPhones and video games.

"A lot of people really don't understand baseball," Holt said. "We're fascinated with soccer and I get it, it's easier to play, you get a big field, a couple goals and a ball and you run and play."

"I understand it's more complicated than that, but people don't understand baseball and they think kids are standing around bored for two-hour games."

Baseball is far from boring, as far as Holt is concerned.

"I think some of the rap with baseball is people think it's boring," he said. "Because they think, if you're not pitching, catching or hitting, you're standing around. I don't ever let my kids stand around and

REDDY

Continued from Page B1

gone conclusion in the first quarter, which ended with Canton up 17-5. It was 26-14 at halftime and 41-20 after three quarters.

Leading the way with 13 points was Hamoudy Turfe, while B. Artis White had 12 points and six steals. Chipping in seven points and five rebounds was Jalen Cochran.

Of course, 100 wins is just the start when compared to coaching legends such as Salem's Bob Brodie, who is cruising toward his 450th victory this season in a career that began more than three decades ago. Brodie is enshrined in the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

"It's just a number, but it's to know that we've been having some success and,



In this undated photo, Elijah Holt (left) gets ready to get a jump off third base while his dad, Jeff Holt, coaches him nearby. Even though Jeff Holt is president of the PCLL, he intends to keep coaching his son, now 11.

watch. "If kids are engaged and active in the game and are dialed in to what they need to be doing, there's energy and activity and movement on every play. So I think that's one of the issues baseball has struggled with."

Learn about life

Holt has heard the buzz about how baseball is an old-fashioned sport in trouble amid all the fast-paced entertainment options now literally in kids' hands.

Just don't expect him to buy the argument.

"I think kids today need healthy, active expressions for themselves outside of an Xbox console," Holt said. "I'm not against the whole Xbox thing. I get it, I understand the draw, I understand the attraction."

"But not only is baseball a great physical outlet for kids, I think it's a great place to learn about life. You're part of a team, you have to work together. It's not all about me, it's about us."

For a man who is devoted to worship, serving grade school children each Sunday at Oak Pointe Church in Novi, he talks about baseball as though he were speaking from the pulpit.

hopefully, doing things the right way," Reddy said. "We're early in the season and early in this year's journey and I think this team has a chance to be pretty good. "I hope we get better, so when February and March come around, we're competing for championships."

Consistency

In his first six seasons at the Canton helm, the least-successful year was 2013-14, when the team went 15-8.

There have been four KLAA South Division titles and the Chiefs won the Kensington Conference and Class A district championships one time each during Reddy's tenure to date.

"I feel like we've been one of the most consistent programs in the area for the last six-plus years," said Reddy, who played high school basketball at Canton for Dan Young (now golf coach at Plymouth).



Jimmy Reddy is all smiles Thursday night after winning his 100th game as coach of the Canton Chiefs against South Lyon East.

Trademarks of his Canton teams have included an

SPOTLIGHT ON HOLT

PCLL prez: Jeff Holt, 51, new president of Plymouth-Canton Little League. The Canton resident is a longtime coach in the PCLL and doesn't plan on giving up coaching just because of his burgeoning role as president.

He's a gamer: He played Little League baseball, then went on to play high school and college baseball.

Partners: Holt stressed working together with Canton Leisure Services to maintain playing fields for the league. He also said he intends to enjoy a healthy partnership with the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association.

"The only difference between the two, GYBSA is the larger of the two leagues and they're not chartered by Little League International, which gives them a little more flexibility," Holt said. "They don't have a draft. So if a group of guys wants to get together and put together a team and have a coach, they do that."

Family ties: Holt's dad Robert coached him as a youngster. And he has coached his own son Elijah since he was 4 or 5 years old. "I knew I wanted him to play baseball, because it had been such an important part of my life," Holt said.

By the numbers: About 300 players competed in PCLL in 2015 and Holt said he would like that number to remain steady and perhaps climb. Cost to sign up typically is anywhere from \$100 to \$130, depending on age and division.

Personal: Holt does advance marketing for Ford Motor Co., where he has worked for nearly three decades. He has two children, 14-year-old daughter Chloe and Elijah, now 11. He volunteers at Oak Pointe Church in Novi.

fields. "Canton knows how to host a tournament. They host the Canton Cup, which is probably four or five times bigger than anything we would do. There's money here, there's land here."

Then, Holt beamed as he drew a connection between that mammoth youth soccer tournament and the PCLL's ultimate potential under his watch.

"There's a lot of things that can fall together to take it to another level," Holt said. "Maybe we can make Little League baseball as big in Canton as soccer is."

In Holt's world, it's a heartfelt pitch he intends to throw down the middle.

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emphasis on defense and rebounding and that blueprint has been a winning one, to say the least.

Reddy, a teacher in the South Lyon district whose wife (Jeannine) is Canton varsity girls soccer coach, wants to keep coaching the Chiefs and piling up wins for many years to come.

He hopes it's a career like Brodie has had with the Rocks.

"This is something I love doing. I love teaching and I love coaching," Reddy said. "We started something pretty good here at Canton and I'd like to be here as long as possible and as long as everything else in my life is going well."

"I think this is something I'd like to do for a while."

Who knows? There might be plenty more celebratory cakes yet to enjoy.

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WEDDING

Kristen Elizabeth Barry and Michael Kenneth Marcaccio were married Dec. 27, 2014, at Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Novi. The Rev. Arthur P. Ritter officiated.

Kristen, daughter of Michael and Nancy Barry of Livonia, is a 2007 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in education in 2011 and a master of arts degree in literacy in 2015 from Michigan State University. She teaches fourth grade in the Troy School District.

Michael, son of Kenneth and Carol Marcaccio of Waterford, graduated in 2005 from Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory and earned a bachelor of science degree in human resources in 2011 from Michigan State University.

Jenny Meagher was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Kelley Marcaccio, Michelle Cady, Beth Kretunski, Becca Grden and



Michael Maraccio and Kristen Barry

Amanda Dean. Flower girls were Lily and Genevieve Brown.

Matt Bojczyk was the best man. Groomsmen were Steve Kelm, Tom Barry, Kevin Brennan, Neil Runyon and Chris Cichewicz.

The reception was held at the Meeting House Grand Ballroom in Plymouth.

The newlyweds took a honeymoon trip to Jamaica. They live in Rochester Hills.

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Winter solstice service celebrates 'rebirth' of sun

The winter solstice marks the longest night and shortest day of the year in our Northern Hemisphere as the Earth's axis tilts the furthest away from the sun. While the first day of winter can make us feel cold and chilly, for many people it's a time to celebrate the return to more light, as the daylight will gradually lengthen.

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield is holding an Earth-centered winter solstice service for people of all faith traditions Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Rev. Kimi Riegel explained that among the membership of the eclectic congregation are Christians, atheists, agnostics, people of the Jewish tradition and those who identify with Buddhist teachings.

"If you look at our hymnal, there are hymns from all different traditions and different languages, so it's a very open and accepting and supportive environment," she said. "There are people in the congregation who celebrate solstice ... for whom that is a metaphor that explains this time of year. We will have a solstice service led by me and one of the women in the congregation for whom the story is most meaningful."

Farmington Hills resident Denise Calhoun, a pagan, is organizing the



Diana Wing

solstice celebration. She said it was important for ancient man to understand the rhythms and cycles of the Earth to know when to plant in order to survive.

"Between (Dec.) 21 and 22, the Earth is going to tilt. ... This energy is going a certain way and all of a sudden it's reversed and changing. Some people think there is significance to that and it affects us on a physical and spiritual level," she said, noting that it's a time to reflect and look inward.

"We can sit and count our seeds for the next planting season. It's a dark time and that's why ancient man celebrated it," Calhoun said. "It's like, don't be scared. The sun is going to come back and we're going to have a party about that."

Pagan rituals

The solstice ceremony will run about an hour and will include a lighting of candles and rituals to welcome the new year. There is a tradition of calling the quarters, a belief that direction — east, south, west and north — each brings a different kind of energy.

"When we create a pagan ritual, we want to create a sacred space



Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield is holding an earth-centered winter solstice service for people of all faith traditions Tuesday, Dec. 22.

and in our minds imagine it being out of time in a dimension," Calhoun said. "We invite the east and it brings its own kind of energy. Some people invite the god and the goddess. I like to think of it as the divine masculine and feminine energies that give us balance."

Another ritual is an intention similar to making a new year's resolution and then telling the congregation about it if you'd like.

"What do you want to bring into the next year? What do you want to create or work on or have success with?" Calhoun said. "We're going to commit by writing these

down and decorating a wreath with them. The wreath represents the cycle, the wheel of the year."

The solstice service begins at 6:45 p.m. and it's open to the public. The congregation's regular Tuesday "Friends and Soup" gathering begins at 6 p.m. and includes a vegan soup and vespers — a quiet meditation and sharing time. A \$5 suggested donation is suggested for that earlier gathering.

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 23925 Northwestern Highway. Call 248-354-4488. Go to www.northwestuu.org.



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.

MULLEN, BARBARA "BOBBIE" ELLEN (NEE NEEDLES)

Age 91, lifelong resident of Birmingham and Horton Bay, MI. Beloved wife of the late William "Bo" Stanley Mullen; loving mother of Pam (John) McEnroe and Jeanne Groat; proud Meme of Elizabeth McEnroe, Richard (Dylan) Groat and Kathy Groat; dear sister of the late Gene (Ed) Falk; fond aunt of Stephen (Diane) Falk. Funeral Mass was held in Illinois and a Michigan funeral will be held in spring of 2016 follow by interment at All Saints Cemetery, Waterford, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Alzheimer's Association 8430 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631 or Misericordia 6300 North Ridge Avenue Chicago, IL 60660 Info: www.donnellanfuneral.com or (847) 675-1990.



May you find peace in your time of sorrow.

WALKER, WHITNEY

Was born on August 14, 1942 in Lincoln, Pennsylvania and moved when she was three years old with her parents and family to Birmingham, Michigan. From a very young age she was a beautiful child who laughed easily and often, and was creative to her very bones. She attended Adams Elementary, then Kingswood School Cranbrook until she transferred to Birmingham High School for her junior and senior years. She was accepted at Julliard as a dance major, but went to Butler University instead. She was strong and a very fine dancer, excelling in the Martha Graham technique of modern dance. Ballet was too confining for Whit; she was a free spirit. During summers in high school she worked at the Village Store, which offered classic 1950s kilts and Shetland sweaters for teenagers, on Pierce Street in Birmingham. She studied modeling and was a successful photographic model for local studios during high school and during summers when she was in college. After two years at Butler, she left to live and work in Ann Arbor, briefly embracing a beatnik lifestyle, especially its jazz music. She was quite a rebel in the conservative 1950s. In 1962 she was maid of honor in her sister Starr's wedding; then returned to Ann Arbor where she met and married Flip Jackson, a fine jazz musician, with whom she had seven children, five of whom still live near the Birmingham area where they grew up. She loved Santa Barbara and spent a few years there with her younger children who were still in grade school. She loved music, especially jazz, and the wonderful Hawaiian music she discovered when she visited her cousin Adrian in Hawaii. She played the piano for fun and to entertain her children. She enjoyed painting and art, and passed these passions to her offspring. She loved to sing; Whit and her sister Starr used to sing camp songs in harmony each night while washing dishes at home after dinner, often joined by her younger siblings, Sam and Deb. Whit and Starr were the only choir members, accompanied by a piano player, when our parents transferred us from Christ Church Cranbrook to St. Stevens, a mission church Christ Church sponsored in the late 1950s. Over the years Whit learned to be a good business-woman, operating her own day care center and home cleaning service. In her later years, she became a master gardener, transforming her deep love of flowers and artistic talent into a fine gardening design business for clients in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and neighboring communities. Whitney was a warm and friendly person, well loved by all who knew her. She died gently and peacefully in hospice on December 7, 2015. She is survived by her sisters, Starr Foster (Mitch) and Deborah; and brothers, Sam (Joanne), Peter and John Walker; and her children, April, JJ, Lee, Valerie, Emily Beasaw (Rex), and Bill; and her beloved grandchildren, Jackson (April), Jordan, Hailey, and Joshua (JJ), Hana, Olivia (Valerie), Maliko, Cole, Rexy, Blaire (Emily). The Memorial Service was held Friday, December 11, 2015, at Christ Church Cranbrook.

Hearts touched by giving at CARE House

Diane K. Bert
Correspondent

With children and parents in attendance, the annual festive CARE House holiday party was held recently at the Sheriff's Hall in Pontiac. Tricia Schuster, program director of CARE House, was in charge of the event.

"It is a joy to see the parents' faces as their children pick out their gifts," Schuster said. "Many families thought they weren't going to have a Christmas. They wouldn't be able to buy gifts. They only have money for basic needs. The staff gets to see people we work with all week long ... seeing them get things is very rewarding."

"We do this at no charge to CARE House," Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Hickson said. The police in Oakland County work closely with CARE House.

The Junior League of Birmingham founded CARE House decades ago. "We have volunteers offering craft projects and healthy snacks. Children receive a bag of snacks and make cute ornaments," Carol Ellis said.

"This is a great event," said Anne Neihal of the Junior League. "Seeing the joy of all the kids is gratifying."

"People are especially generous this year in supporting CARE House," said Pat Rosen, CEO of CARE House. "We have had a wonderful response from many individuals, the Junior League of Birmingham, Kirk of the Hills Church and the nursing students of Baker College. This enabled us to offer this wonderful holiday party for our families and serve many children through the Adopt A Child gift giving program. We collect things all year to give away at this event."

"This is a great opportunity for the families," said Chad Ozias, director of volunteers. "We couldn't do it without all of the volunteers."

"Baker College nursing students are expected to earn service learning hours. Helping at this event is a fine experience



Pat Rosen, CEO of CARE House of Oakland County, holds one of the beautiful Santa Bears donated by Karen Rogers as gifts for children served by CARE House.

for them. They have fun and serve others," said Linda M. DiClemente, a professor.

"CARE House is a nonprofit agency which serves children who are victims of sexual abuse or neglect by providing forensic interviews and therapy," Miriana Milo said. "They also have an Early Learning Head Start Program which provides parenting education to high-risk young parents, a Court Appointed Special Advocate program and education programs for school personnel and children. All services are provided free to the families. All of the children and their families are invited to the party."

CARE House staff members wholeheartedly support the event, appearing early to decorate the hall and arrange hundreds of gifts in the Santa room. A beautiful Christmas tree covered with teddy bears and other stuffed animals awaited the children. As Yvonne Cameron, director of intervention, decorated the tree, she said, "It is really exciting for us to see the excitement of the children. Parents

can relax and enjoy themselves. It is touching when children ask for a bear for their younger brother or sister."

One very special guest was 81-year-old Mary Lou Zieve.

"Years ago, it was my idea to do this for the kids," she said. "As president emeritus of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, I called on friends to be Santa (a.k.a. Steve Goldsmith) and his helpers. This goes beyond giving money; we gave of ourselves. We make life a little happier for the kids. It is a feel good thing."

Zieve provides the film for the Santa photos.

As children had their turn to visit Santa and have their picture taken, they were able to choose a toy from the wonderful array of age-appropriate gifts donated by Kirk in the Hills members. Norma Waldo who coordinates the Kirk involvement, said, "This is such a meaningful, wonderful event. We like seeing the happiness on the children's faces. They seem to glow and, after seeing Santa, they glow even more." The church also

provided pizza and salads to feed the 250 guests at the party.

One little boy clapped his hands in delight after choosing a gift. Most children gave careful consideration to their choice.

One Cranbrook Schools student had guests at her birthday party bring gifts for CARE House children. Another generous donor, Karen Rogers, gave her Christmas Bear collection to CARE House. These beautiful bears will be treasured by the children. Rogers' daughter Danielle said, "We wanted to make a difference on someone's life."

A gift honoring the memory of Brian White was given to CARE House. A beautiful book case holding children's books was placed in the waiting room of the therapy area. Children may take books and the books will be replenished frequently.

Kyle Mason and his wife Broyer their children, ages 9, 6, 4, and 2. He said, "The kids couldn't wait to come. We came last year. They are very excited and loved seeing Santa."



Nicole Nahs shows the glitter paint she used on her DIY sweater.



Nicole Nahs, assistant manager of a Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft store in Livonia, explains how she created a tacky holiday sweater.



Nicole Nahs plans to wear her DIY gaudy Christmas sweater when she visits her in-laws.

Holiday sweaters turned craft project

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Call them ugly, tacky or the overachievers of the knitwear world.

Holiday-themed sweaters are a must-wear for parties, family gatherings and bar nights at Christmas. The gaudier, shinier and more sparkly they are, the better.

But you don't need to buy a sweater. You can make one yourself with a little craft knowhow and lots of fabric glitter paint.

I asked Nicole Nahs, assistant manager at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores on Middlebelt near Schoolcraft in Livonia for a few pointers. She responded with newly decorated sweater in hand.

"I was thinking about it and I was kind of walking around the store and looking at stuff and I saw some wrapping paper that had cats dressed as elves and I said that would be kind of cute to do something with animals, because who doesn't like animals, especially when they are dressed up?" said Nahs, who shares her home with her husband, three stepchildren, four cats and a dog. Nahs calls animals her passion and in her spare time makes thermal blankets for cats and dogs at the Michigan Humane Society.

"I would stick with a theme, something you're passionate about," she advised. "If you go with a theme that makes it easier to find things to go with it. Otherwise you're just looking at everything Christmas."

After gathering a few items from the store, including a flannel remnant decorated with cute dogs, white sequin fringe, bells, and a wide piece of ribbon sporting the words, Merry Christmas, Nahs combed through her craft items at home. Then she shopped at a DAV thrift store in Livonia, where she bought a red sweater with red sequin stripes for \$4. Sweatshirts can substitute for sweaters, too.

"It was already shiny. I like shiny stuff," Nahs said. "I think you want to start with something plain, depending on what you're going for."

At the jewelry counter, she found a handful of cat-themed pins for 25 cents each, and a few trinkets in the shape of mice. She bought them all.

At home she worked on the layout. She recommends laying out the entire design before gluing with



Nicole Nahs describes her do-it-yourself holiday sweater as cute but gaudy.

fabric glue and outlining with fabric paint. Nahs cut dog shapes from the fleece, placed them on the sweater and gave them felt hats with fake fur brims and a pom-pom on top.

"You know you have to put something on like a wreath or a tree. So, I cut out triangles and frayed them. I put a little fabric paint on there, too, to give them texture."

The triangles were stacked into a tree that begged for ornaments.

"Once I found the dogs, I thought I could decorate the tree with the cat pins, like they'd caught the cats and those are their ornaments. And the little mice I found at the thrift store would be happy the cats would be on the tree. I made up this whole story," she said, with a laugh. A story can help give the sweater "a life of its own."

She liberally sprinkled on glitter as a finishing touch.

"Honestly, glitter doesn't need glue. It sticks everywhere. You aren't going to wash something like this. It's one of those things you'd wear it once or twice to a holiday party."

Nahs plans to wear her do-it-yourself holiday

sweater to her in-laws at Christmas.

My theme ideas

» It's the giving season, so why not make your ugly holiday sweater a walking billboard for your cause? If you're a food bank advocate, for example, buy an assortment of tiny play food boxes from the toy store. Draw a Christmas tree on the sweater in green fabric paint. Add ornaments by attaching food boxes to the sweater with ribbons. On the back, write food pantry names and addresses to encourage donations. Add glitter.

» Adult coloring books are hot this year. Cut out Christmas cookie cutter shapes from coloring books and adhere them to the sweater with glue. Outline each shape with fabric glitter paint. Glue green and red crayons on the garment. For a whimsical touch, tie or glue a few felt tip colored pens or crayons onto a long ribbon. Alternate with jingle bells. Tie the ribbon, wear as a necklace. Add glitter.

» Be the tree. Staple on garland. Cut ornaments out of fleece and glue onto the sweater or sweatshirt. Outline each in fabric paint. Add some battery-operated lights. Add a star to a headband and wear. Add glitter.

Where to wear it

» Ugly Christmas Sweater Charity Party, 8 p.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, Townsend Hotel, in downtown Birmingham. Includes pictures with Santa, cash bar, Christmas carol karaoke, DJs and live music by Killer Flamingos. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation to support this year's Snowpile Program, which gives parents the chance to "shop" for Christmas presents their children, without having to leave their sick child's bedside. Tickets from \$34.99-\$59.99. Visit www.neptix.com/events/29015

» Ugly Sweater Contest, judging starts at 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, at Stellas Black Dog Tavern, 860 Fralick, Plymouth. Win prizes for first, second and third place. Appetizers and drink specials. 734-207-9656

» Family Christmas dinner. If you're cooking, be sure to wear an apron. Don't add glitter.

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Polish group shares oplatki wafers at annual event

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society will wish the public a Merry Christmas with its annual Oplatek on Sunday, Dec. 27, in its heritage room at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia.

"We anticipate a big crowd this year at our event since it's our 10th annual Oplatek," said Laurie A. Gomulka, vice president and executive director/secretary.

The 10th Annual Oplatek & Grand Gala will honor local Polish press, including the *Polish Times*, *Polish Weekly* and *West Side Courier*. The event will run 2-5 p.m. at the church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile.

It will start with music by Filarets Choirs and a Koledy singing-along. Visitors will get a chance to browse a Polish heritage exhibit that includes photographs of west side Detroit neighborhoods, vintage funeral record books and ordination documents, a vintage priest's stole, vintage musical instruments, Catholic Society booklets, pins, holy cards, and

more. Artist Dennis Orlovski will be on hand to discuss the mural he painted in the Heritage Room. Oplatki wafers, a Polish Christmas tradition, also will be served.

"Outside the Heritage Room in the main Activities Center is where we will share the oplatki wafers. We will have approximately 28 tables set up and in the middle of each table will be a plate containing eight wafers," Gomulka said. The Rev. Gary Michalik, St. Colette pastor and president of the Society, will recite a blessing and attendees will share the wafers.

"As we share the wafer, we wish one another health and happiness in the New Year or other similar wishes of goodwill. It is very important in the Polish culture that before entering into this custom we forgive and forget any past slights or wrongs. It is believed that no untoward or unkind thought should be carried forward into the New Year," she said.

Christmas Eve

She practices the tradition at home during her family's

Wigilia, a Christmas Eve dinner, and also includes a small piece of wafer in each Christmas card she sends to Polish family members and friends.

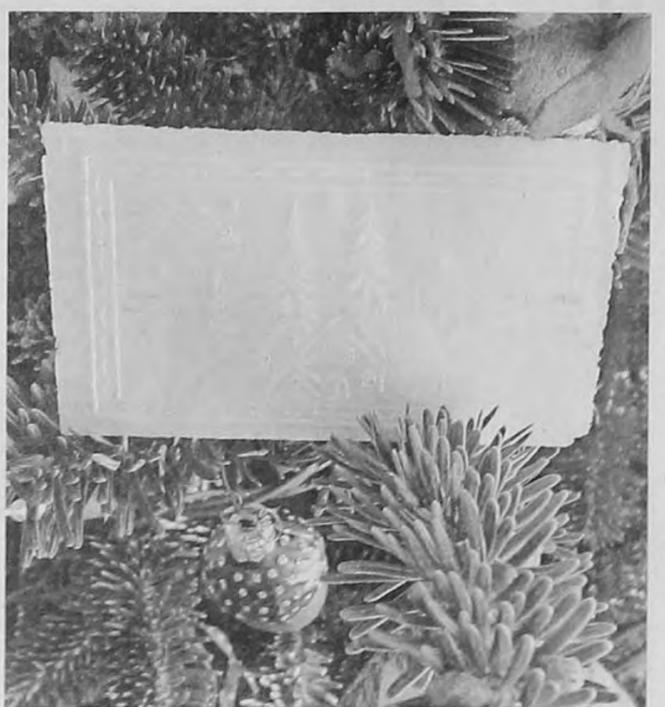
Chistine Lewandowski, co-owner of Polanka Market on Plymouth Road, east of Middlebelt, in Livonia, said the wafers are essential for Polish family Christmas Eve celebrations. Each bag of oplatki she sells contains three large and two small wafers and costs less than \$2.

"It's at the center of the table. We cover the table with a white tablecloth and underneath usually they put a little hay. This represents that Christ was born in a manger. It's a symbolic thing," Lewandowski said. "We put it on a plate and everyone takes a little piece."

A light reception will follow the wafer sharing at the 10th Annual Oplatek & Grand Gala. There is no admission, but a free-will offering will be accepted.

For more information, call 855-765-6642 or email lgoulka@detroitpolonia.org.

sdargay@hometownlife.com



Oplatki wafers are made of flour and water and are decorated with a holiday scene. You can get a chance to taste them at the Tenth Annual Oplatek & Gala, Dec. 27 in Livonia.

REUNIONS

DETROIT CODY CLASS OF 1966

50-year reunion planned for Sept. 10, 2016, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. For more information, visit cody-class1966@groups.facebook.com or call Joe Evans at 313-421-5448 or Barbara (Doherty) Kalinski at 734-320-6545.

GARDEN CITY EAST AND WEST CLASS OF 1966

The reunion is set for Sept. 10, 2016. RSVP to 1966reunioncommittee@gmail.com or call Dennis Russell at 734-658-2288.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967

50-year reunion planned. Visit Class Creator - Plymouthmi67.com for information, or call Lynette Thayer at 419-726-2088.

REDFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966

50th reunion planned for Saturday, May 21, 2016 at Western Golf and Country Club, with an informal get together on Friday, May 20, 2016. For registration and full details, visit RU66reunion@gmail.com or call Randy Maltby at 248-914-1052.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER BREAKFAST

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

Location: St. Thodore 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

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Time/Date: 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. Dec. 24 and 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m. Dec. 25

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia

Contact: 734-464-4433; stcolette.net

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

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

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

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

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

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

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

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

Rescues offer calendars, pet delivery, winter tips

Guardian Angel Animal Rescue (GAAR) in Livonia wants you to start the new year out right, with its 2016 wall calendar.

The calendar includes photographs of GAAR-rescued animals that "fought against all odds to survive."

The calendars cost \$12, with all proceeds going to help its animals. Order by mail by sending a check to GAAR, P.O. Box 511309, Livonia, MI 48150. Or email to guardian_animal_rescue@hotmail.com.



PET PROJECTS



Guardian Angels Animal Rescue is selling this calendar for \$12 each.

Christmas delivery

Any pet adopted from the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) Dec. 21-24 is eligible for free holiday delivery within a 10-mile radius of the shelter.

"Volunteer elves will be making most of the deliveries on Christmas Eve and morning," said Krista Donohoo, adoptions manager. "But Santa said he'll deliver a few pets himself, too."

HSHV hopes to use this service to encourage adoption instead of other ways of acquiring a pet, and aims to get as many homeless animals into homes over the holidays.

More puppies and dogs will be delivered to the shelter just in time for Christmas by Pet-Smart Charities' Rescue Waggin. The homeless dogs will come from shelters that struggle finding adopters.

See available pets on HSHV's website, hshv.org, and on HSHV's Facebook page. Or visit in person at 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor; 734-662-5585

It's c-c-cold outside

Every year, dogs and cats in the metro Detroit area are left outside, forced to face the frigid winds and extreme temperatures without adequate shelter, food and water. With its

Cruelty Investigation Department already responding to high numbers of weather-related calls, the Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is urging pet owners to ensure their pets are protected now, before it's too late.

Michigan state law requires pet owners who keep their animals outdoors to provide enough food and water, as well as adequate shelter. MHS says dog houses should be well-built, insulated, and slant-roofed. The interior should be just large enough for the dog to stand and to lie down comfortably and slightly elevated from the ground for air circulation. The door should face away from prevailing winds and have a protective flap to eliminate drafts. Clean, dry straw should be used as bedding, rather than towels, rugs or blankets, which quickly absorb moisture and freeze in frigid temperatures.

MHS offers free straw for pets from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, at its Detroit Center for Animal Care, 7401 Chrysler Drive. It's also available from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays at its shelter on 3600 W. Auburn Road, Auburn Hills.

It offers these cold weather tips:

» When temperatures plummet, pets should not be left outside for any length of time. Be sure to bring small or short-haired pets in when temperatures reach 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit. Be sure to take into account precipitation and wind chill.

» Cats should be kept indoors or at least brought into a warm, animal-proofed garage during severe weather.

» Roaming cats often seek the warmth of car engines, so be sure to knock on the car hood or honk the horn before starting your car to startle them and give them a chance to escape.

» Increase the amount of food you provide for dogs left outside by 10-20 percent during the winter months. The extra calories are needed to help an animal to stay warm.

» Regular access to clean, unfrozen water is also critical. Check drinking water frequently — every few hours — to ensure that it is unfrozen.

» If an animal is cold to the touch, or his paws and ears are pale, he may be suffering from frostbite. Move the animal to a warmer area and contact your veterinarian immediately.



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Citrus Herbed Chicken With Asparagus



Tuscan Pasta

Swap salt for herbs, spices in 2016

Making a New Year's resolution? Don't forget salt. Most Americans consume about a 1,000 milligrams of sodium over the amount recommended by nutrition and health experts. New research shows cooking with spices and herbs could help you ditch the salt shaker and meet sodium recommendations.

Keeping a resolution to cut salt from your diet is easy. Use simple spice swaps to create tasty, low-sodium meals. From seasoning eggs with basil instead of salt to adding spices and herbs to no-salt tomato sauce, the McCormick Kitchens offer these easy tips and recipes to make low-sodium meals full of flavor:

» Beat ½ teaspoon herb instead of salt into 2 eggs before scrambling.

» Add oregano, garlic powder and red pepper to no-salt added tomato sauce for a tasty, low-sodium pasta dinner.

» Try making Citrus Herbed Chicken with Asparagus, Fiesta Citrus Salmon or Tuscan Pasta. These dishes don't call for any salt. Instead, they swap in basil, garlic powder and oregano.

For more low-sodium tips and recipes — such as shaved vegetable salad with Italian herb vinaigrette — visit McCormick.com/recipes/low-sodium to keep your New Year's resolutions on track. To see the full Anderson study, which examined the effects of a behavioral intervention that emphasized spice and herbs, and how it impacts sodium intake, visit McCormickScienceInstitute.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

FIESTA CITRUS SALMON

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves: 4

- ½ cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons McCormick Perfect Pinch Salt-Free Fiesta Citrus Seasoning, divided
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 pound salmon fillets

In small bowl, mix juice, oil and 1 tablespoon each seasoning and sugar. Place salmon in large resealable plastic bag or glass dish. Add marinade; turn to coat well. Refrigerate 30 minutes, or longer for extra flavor. In another small bowl, mix remaining seasoning and sugar. Remove salmon from marinade. Discard any remaining marinade. Rub salmon evenly with seasoning mixture.

TUSCAN PASTA

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves: 6

- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 can (8 ounces) no-salt added tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon sugar (optional)
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Garlic Powder
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Perfect Pinch Italian Seasoning
- ½ teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper, ground
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound zucchini, sliced
- 1 package (8 ounces) sliced mushrooms
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 6 ounces pasta, such as spaghetti or linguine

In medium saucepan, mix tomatoes, tomato sauce, sugar and seasonings. Bring to boil on medium heat. Reduce heat

to low; cover and simmer 20 minutes.

In large skillet, heat oil on medium-high heat. Add zucchini, mushrooms and onion; cook and stir 4 minutes or until vegetables are tender-crisp. Stir tomato sauce into vegetables. Meanwhile, cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well. Place pasta in serving bowl. Add vegetable mixture; toss well.

CITRUS HERBED CHICKEN WITH ASPARAGUS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves: 4

- ½ cup flour
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
- ¼ teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper, coarse ground
- 1 pound thin-sliced boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 ½ cups chicken stock

- 1 teaspoon McCormick Basil Leaves
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Oregano Leaves
- 1 pound asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

In shallow dish, mix flour, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and pepper. Reserve 2 tablespoons. Moisten chicken lightly with water. Coat evenly with remaining flour mixture.

In large nonstick skillet, heat oil on medium heat. Add ½ of the chicken pieces; cook 3 minutes per side, or until golden brown. Repeat with remaining chicken, adding additional oil, if necessary. Remove chicken from skillet; keep warm.

In medium bowl, mix stock, basil, oregano and reserved flour mixture until well blended. Add to skillet along with asparagus. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 3-5 minutes, or until sauce is slightly thickened, stirring frequently. Stir in lemon juice. Return chicken to skillet; cook 2 minutes, or until heated through.

Guide to Employment

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

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For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

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Help Wanted - General

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DRIVER - LOCAL AREA

Full time immediate opening. Dry cleaner/ laundry. Chauffeur license & good driving records. Apply in person: Dec 18th from 10am-noon Tues Dec 22nd 9am-11am 9100 Central Ave, Detroit (Bring current driving record) Or Email: lusterclainersinc@yahoo.com Attn: Driver's Position

JANITORIAL

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Help Wanted - Medical

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Help Wanted - Medical

CLAIMS LIAISON

The Rehabilitative Service Claims Liaison has responsibility for oversight of all administrative aspects of the program, including managing calls, mailings, and general office tasks. Must have excellent computer skills, demonstrate exceptional verbal and written communication skills, organizational skills, and be customer service oriented. \$15.50/hour; benefits. Resume to: humanresource497@yahoo.com

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The Disability/Clinical Case Manager has responsibility for the oversight and completion of the disability claim management lifecycle. The RN is responsible for the assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, and evaluation through communication and available resources to assist with improvement in the disabling and co-morbid condition(s). The RN is responsible for the oversight and completion of assigned disability claims for purposes of making appropriate claims decisions. CCM certification encouraged but not required. Must have unrestricted Michigan RN license. Min 5 years clinical exp. Computer literate, excellent written/verbal skills. No weekends or holidays. Competitive salary; benefits. Novi location. Email resume to: humanresource497@yahoo.com

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