

CANTON OBSERVER

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TESTING MACARONS
AT POP-UP EVENTS
FOOD, B11

Primary: Still time to vote absentee

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

If you've been wanting to have a say in the presidential race, next Tuesday, March 8, is your chance – and there's still time to vote absentee.

The election is a closed primary and is typically used so parties can determine who in any voting district is a

Republican or Democrat. Unlike the March 8 election, the August election is an open primary.

The March 8 primary is the only time this year that voters will be required to declare a party before casting their ballot. The ballot given to voters only has candidates of the party that corresponds to the voter's choice. And regardless of which party voters

choose, it doesn't stick – meaning voters are not stuck voting this choice in the August state primary and November general election.

Although voters are required to declare a party for the March 8 presidential primary, there is a spot on each of the party's ballot in which voters may vote uncommitted. Checking this box means that a voter has chosen a

particular party, but not a specific candidate.

Voters should be aware that some candidates' names will remain on the primary ballot, even though they have suspended their campaigns.

The Democratic Party ballot will ask voters to cast a vote for one candidate:

See PRIMARY, Page A2



Store manager Randy Schaufe (left) and company president Tedd Handlesman in the new space at The Better Health Store in the Plymouth Square Plaza. Handlesman said the expansion should be completed by late this summer.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HEALTH FOOD STORE PLANS EXPANSION

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A natural foods store with deep local roots is expanding to meet a growing demand in the Plymouth-Canton area for unadulterated foods and personal care products.

The Better Health Store, in the Plymouth Square Plaza at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon, will be adding about 2,000 square feet and outfitted with a full kitchen, a cafe, service counters, an additional grocery aisle

and a fourth checkout line. The larger space will also allow Better Health to carry more produce, more fresh breads and bulk foods, plus fresh meat and seafood, said Tedd Handlesman, president of The Better Health Store Inc., a Michigan chain with 14 locations.

Handlesman, who started the company about 16 years ago, said demand is such that he could use much more space at the Plymouth Square Plaza store, now at about 7,000 square feet. But with its location, loyal customer base and long history in the area — the store was well-

established as Healthways before Handlesman's company bought it — "we felt it made sense to be here and stay here," he said.

"There's a big demand for it. I think it's going to do really well here," Handlesman said.

Better Health will expand into a vacant space to its south that was formerly occupied by a travel agency. When completed — by late summer, Handlesman anticipates — the store will occupy the entire building, which is opposite the plaza's Kroger superstore,

which was expanded several years ago.

Store manager Randy Schaufe said Better Health has a large lunch crowd, even with its currently limited ready-to-eat takeout menu. A full kitchen, with hot and cold foods prepared on-site, along with cafe seating and a salad bar, should be very popular, he said.

"They're just dedicated to this lifestyle," Schaufe said of his reg-

See STORE, Page A2

Service Project puts focus on fighting hunger locally, worldwide

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Teamwork's the key to success for the upcoming Greater Plymouth Service Project.

"It's about all of us as a community that are coming together for a service project," steering committee member Nick Schultz said of the Saturday, May 7, event at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex in downtown Plymouth.

Organizers are focusing their efforts

on Kids Against Hunger, with plans to work three shifts that day, two hours each, on an assembly line to pack meals. Schultz in a recent interview showed the bag which contains six meals, feeding those six people at 28 cents per meal.

Schultz, a Plymouth Township resident, tipped his hat to David Siegrist, chair of the Community Foundation of Plymouth. Siegrist is also active in Kiwanis and a certified public accountant.

"It was really his brainchild to open

this up to everybody," Schultz said of Siegrist. Schultz, whose family had owned a local manufacturing business, serves as foundation president for the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.

Donations are welcome now for the anti-hunger initiative and may be directed to the Community Foundation of Plymouth (checks payable that way), CFP-GPSP, P.O. Box 700866, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Many clubs, participants

"It encompasses a lot of the service clubs and foundations," Schultz said of the May 7 event at PARC. Those include: Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, local Rotary Clubs and their high school arm of Interact, local Kiwanis Clubs and their high school component of Key Club, Plymouth Lions, Plymouth-Canton Jaycees, churches in-

See HUNGER, Page A5



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INDEX

Business	A6	Homes	B7	Services	B7
Crossword Puzzle	B7	Jobs	B6	Sports	B1
Entertainment	B10	Obituaries	B9	Wheels	B7
Food	B11	Opinion	A8		



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PRIMARY

Continued from Page A1

Martin J. O'Malley; Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton; Roque "Rocky" DeLaFuente (formerly Roque De La Fuente); Uncommitted.

The Republican Party ballot will ask voters to cast a vote for one candidate: John R. Kasich; George Pataki; Rand Paul; Marco Rubio; Rick Santorum; Donald J. Trump; Jeb Bush; Ben Carson; Chris Christie; Ted Cruz; Carly Fiorina; Lindsey Graham; Mike Huckabee; Uncommitted.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 8. Voters may still vote absentee. To accommodate voters, the Canton clerk's office, 1150 S. Canton Center, will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 5, for voters who want to obtain an absentee ballot. Voters may still obtain

an absentee ballot Monday, March 7, but it must be voted at the clerk's office. All other absentee ballots are due before 8 p.m. election day.

In addition to bringing a photo identification to the polls, Canton Clerk Terry Bennett asks voters to also bring their patience, as the township has a healthy number of new election workers.

The township's voting precincts are listed on the Canton website at www.canton-mi.org/224/Voting-Precinct-Locations. Voter registration cards also designate voters' precincts. For more information, call the clerk's office at 734-394-5120.

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Maybury Farm offers summer camp

Maybury Farm will offer Day Camp for Kids once again this summer. Maybury Farm Day Camp is a hands-on experience that offers a variety of activities that are educational and fun. Campers will enjoy learning all about farm animals including grooming, feeding and walking them. Kids will have fun taking nature hikes, doing crafts, playing games and learning team building skills as they get to know all about farm life and the importance of farm animals in our everyday lives.

Maybury Farm Summer Day Camp is open to boys and girls ages 5-12. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from June 21 through Aug. 18.



FILE PHOTO
Kids get close to nature at the Maybury Farm Day Camp.

There will be no camp the week of July 4. The cost is \$60 per camper per day or \$150 per week (Tuesday through Thursday). Kids can sign up for one day or join for a whole week.

To register for Day Camp, 248-374-0200 or go to www.northvillecommunityfoundation.org.

Maybury Farm is at 50165 Eight Mile, west of Beck Road. It is operated by the Northville Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Maybury Farm is a historic farm that provides interactive educational opportunities for the public.

League hosts talk on public transportation

The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County will host a meeting Monday, March 7, concerning the progress and current challenges of public transportation in the southeast Michigan region.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road. The public is invited. The speakers are: Travis Gonyou, Community Outreach communications manager for the Regional Transit Authority, and Megan Owens, executive director of Transportation Riders United.

STORE

Continued from Page A1

ular customers.

Moving into mainstream

Handlesman and Schaufele said they want a store where customers can do all of their natural food shopping in one stop, from nutritional supplements to desserts and everything in between.

The natural foods market, Handlesman said, is growing nationwide as people become more aware of food ingredients and natural alternatives. Both national and regional players in the market have emerged and natural foods are moving more into the mainstream.

"There's a lot more competition than there used to be," Handlesman said. "More and more people realize there's a difference."

Better Health has a "no-no" list of ingredients, such as artificial sweeteners, hormones, hydrogenated fats and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Randy Schaufele is manager at The Better Health Store in Plymouth Township.

high-fructose corn syrup, that are banned from its shelves.

"We're trying to set the benchmark for what healthy living is," Schaufele said.

Handlesman started

The Better Health Store Inc. after his family's Canton Township-based dental supply business, in which he spent his early career, was sold to a larger competitor. He was too young to retire, he said.

"I had a passion to build another business," Handlesman said. "I love this industry."

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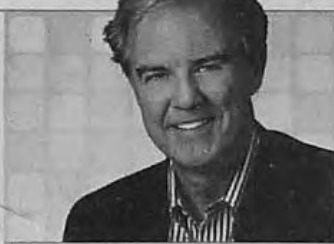
Ask the Expert

THE TRUTH ABOUT COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

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Cochlear implants work differently than hearing aids. Rather than amplifying sound, they use sophisticated software and state-of-the-art electronic components to provide access to the sounds you've been missing. They are designed to help you hear better and understand speech in all situations, including noisy environments.



David C. Kelsall, M.D.,
Cochlear Medical Advisor

Dr. David C. Kelsall, a cochlear implant surgeon and medical advisor to Cochlear, the world leader in cochlear implants, answers questions about cochlear implants and how they are different from hearing aids.

Q: How are cochlear implants different than hearing aids?

A: Hearing aids help many people by making the sounds they hear louder. Unfortunately, as hearing loss progresses, sounds need to not only be made louder, they need to be made clearer. Cochlear implants can help give you that clarity, especially in noisy environments. If you suffer from high frequency hearing loss but maintain your hearing in the low frequencies, there is a solution called Hybrid™ Hearing that may be able to help as well. Be sure to discuss your options with a Hearing Implant Specialist in your area.

Q: Are cochlear implants covered by Medicare?

A: Yes, by Medicare and most private insurance plans.

Call **1 877 499 4000** to find a Hearing Implant Specialist near you.

Visit Cochlear.com/Det for a free guide about cochlear implants.

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Porcha Jordan of Team Tigers 1.

Registration open for spring 2016 Miracle League of Plymouth

Spring is just around the corner and so is Miracle League of Plymouth spring 2016 registration, which must be done by March 11.

Registration for the spring season is \$60; save by registering for spring and fall for \$100. Financial assistance is available.

The spring season begins in May. Field time will be available before and during the season for players to practice their skills.

Players may be registered online at www.bit.ly/MLPSpring2016 or in person at the front desk of the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information on how to register, go to the Miracle League of Plymouth page on the city of Plymouth website: www.bit.ly/MLPRegInfo

Miracle League of Plymouth wouldn't exist without volunteers. Online Buddy registration begins April 1.



Mark Kritzman, a Blue Angels player, with umpire Dave Vissar.



Jayden Gohl of the Royal Stars 2 with Buddy Wendy Williamson

For any questions about being a Buddy for the Miracle League of Plymouth, go to www.MiracleLeaguePlymouth.org.

For large groups interested in volunteering, email Chelsey@MiracleLeaguePlymouth.org.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF

PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Bitmead under his car, a 1976 Ford Falcon made in Australia. Both came from Perth, Australia, for the Detroit Autorama, and are taking home the CASI (for Champion Auto Shows Inc.) Award.



Australian hot rod grabs recognition at Autorama

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A 1976 Ford Falcon from Australia — by way of Plymouth Township — found a lot of friends at last weekend's Detroit Autorama at Cobo Center.

Chris Bitmead, a civil engineer from Perth, in western Australia, brought the heavily modified muscle car halfway around the world to compete for the Detroit Autorama's Ridler Award, considered the top prize in the world of show hot rods.

The Falcon didn't take the Ridler — that went to a 1965 Chevrolet Impala owned by a couple from British Columbia — but was one of eight finalists, called the Great Eight. It also won the CASI (for Champion Auto Shows Inc.) Award for best car and attracted a lot of visitor interest, Bitmead said.

"We're very happy with what we achieved with the car," Bitmead said Tuesday. The Impala that took home the Ridler was certainly deserving, he said.

Bitmead and a team of friends from Australia spent days leading up to Autorama prepping the Falcon XB at American Speed, an auto restoration and customizing shop in the township. The car had been shipped on a

freighter from Perth to Philadelphia, a journey that took more than six weeks, then trucked to American Speed.

Bitmead, helped by more than two dozen friends, had spent years building and customizing the Falcon in the shed, or garage, at his home in Perth. The Australian-built car had started out as a Falcon XC, Bitmead said in an interview with *Street Machine*, an Australian hot-rodding magazine, but he and his crew had added several features from the more aggressive-looking XB.

The Aussies, Bitmead said, enjoyed their visit to the area.

"Detroit gets a very bad rap" in the media, said Bitmead, who visited the 2012 Detroit Autorama for a sort of scouting trip. "The people were so friendly. Everyone helped us out."

He added, "It certainly

showed another side of Detroit."

Bitmead was off this week to a trip to New York City and Washington, D.C., and then planned to travel to the West Coast before returning to Perth later this month.

He'd like to return to Detroit some day — but without a show car, he said, because of the resources it took to get the Falcon here. "Once is enough," he said with a chuckle.

Shipping the Falcon alone, round trip, cost more than \$14,000.

Bitmead gave a shout out, and thanks, to American Speed founder Mark Trostle and the American Speed team.

"We probably would not have won ... had it not been for their help," he said.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Driver thought he was in the South

A drunken driving suspect awakened by a Plymouth Township officer early Monday thought he was in South Carolina, police report.

The 43-year-old from Columbia, S.C., was arrested after a preliminary breath test showed his blood-alcohol level was over the limit for a person operating a vehicle, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

An officer on patrol found the man, asleep at the wheel of a Nissan Versa, at Ann Arbor Road and Terry Street, just west of I-275, around 2 a.m. Monday, the report said. A woman, 29, was asleep in the front passenger seat.

The Nissan was running — with the driver's foot on the brake — and the officer shut it off, police said. He woke the driver, who at first thought he was in his home state, police said.

Police found a bottle of vodka in the car, which was poured out at the scene. The car was impounded and the passenger driven to a local hotel, police said.

Car window breaks

Something punched a hole in the a passenger-side window of a car as a woman drove west on Joy Road, west of Canton Center Road, the evening of Feb. 23, police report. No one was hurt.

Police Chief Tom Tiderington said the hole was about two

inches in diameter and was unlikely to have been caused by a bullet. A responding officer found no object inside the car that could have caused the hole, the chief said, and the interior of the car was not damaged.

A bullet, Tiderington said, would likely have gone into the car, while a rock would be more likely to have bounced off after breaking the window.

Ammo stolen

More than 1,700 rounds of ammunition, in a variety of

calibers, was reported stolen from a pickup truck while the truck was parked Sunday at the USA Hockey Arena.

The victim told police he was at a hockey game at the arena between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and returned to his truck to find the ammunition, and the canisters in which it was kept, gone. The man said he thought he had locked the truck, but police found no signs of forced entry, a police report said.

— By Matt Jachman

Dozens of cops in Livonia for community policing conference

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The Embassy Suites Detroit-Livonia/Novi may have just been the safest place in town Tuesday morning.

That's because about 140 law enforcement officers from across the state were inside the hotel on Victor Parkway at a presentation being done on President Barack Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Topics covered included constitutional and effective policing, body cameras and procedural justice, among others.

Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid said the topics reflect an effort by police departments to connect to the communities they serve more closely so the relationship is a healthy one.

"What we're trying to accomplish is an educational component," he said. "Coming together as regionally and analyzing the recommendations, seeing what's applicable to each of our agencies, implementing those items that are good for the community sooner rather than later."

One way Caid said the Livonia Police Department hopes to accomplish one of those goals is by being open about its role in the community and

welcoming community members to meetings it intends to hold in the community in the future.

Law enforcement officers from as far west as Kalamazoo and as far north as Cadillac were in attendance to listen to attorney Eric Daigle, who represents municipalities and police departments in court on a regular basis. He touched on many topics throughout the day at the hotel, which is going through a major renovation.

Policies in place

One unique attendee to the event was David Gelios, special agent in charge at the Detroit field office of the FBI. Having those proper policies and training exercises under law enforcement's belts is an important component to prevent issues from happening to members of a law enforcement force.

"My observation is stressing the importance of having policy, training and good supervision in place in the things that you do," he said. "You have to have all three of those pillars to be proactive and to protect yourself."

"If you have a lack of policy, if you have a lack of training, then courts or various authorities can hold that you were

negligent in doing your duty."

Garden City Police Chief Bob Muery said he's taken away ideas of how to create policy within his department. With Garden City being a smaller department, there are fewer minds to craft those policies that need to be solid and defensible.

In the past, most departments would have had someone at the top of the hierarchy crafting community policing policies. Now, Muery said, it's important other police officers, residents and other stakeholders work together to craft policies as well.

"So the biggest benefit I'm taking away from this has to do with policy development and reaffirmation of the idea that policy has to be constantly reviewed and updated," he said. "This speaker has brought up some interesting points on the sources for our policies and what those sources are."

"What I'm taking away from this is a broader view has to be taken into account. We all need to be on the same page."

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Carbon monoxide alarms can help avoid tragedy

Tom Hughes
Guest Columnist

Recently, two adults and four children, ages 2, 4, 7 and 9, were found dead in a Fenton home due to an apparent carbon monoxide poisoning. According to reports, the neighborhood lost power Saturday and the family appeared to have been using a portable generator in the basement of their home to provide electricity.

This tragedy is a somber reminder of the importance of understanding carbon monoxide and having working CO alarms in your home. Carbon monoxide, or CO as it commonly referred to, is also known as the "silent killer," because it is a deadly, colorless and odorless gas that is undetectable by humans. Low levels of CO poisoning can begin with a headache, fatigue or flu-like symptoms, while elevated levels can lead to confusion, unconsciousness and death.

According to the CDC, there are an average of 430 carbon monoxide-related deaths every year in the U.S. Make sure you and your family are protected by following these simple tips:

» Install a CO alarm outside of all sleeping areas.

» Install a CO alarm on every floor of your home.

» Have your furnace inspected and serviced annually.

» Have your fireplace inspected and serviced annually.

» Clean your dryer, water heater and furnace vents regularly. Birds and other animals may seek refuge in these warm vents and can cause CO backups.

» Never leave your car running in your garage.

» Clear the snow and debris away from any outdoor vents.

» Never use a generator or other fuel burning appliance in your home or garage.

» If your CO alarm activates, move all occupants outdoors and contact the fire department immediately.

CO alarms can be found at most local home improvement stores for between \$20 and \$40. Newer devices have 10-year batteries and don't even need to be plugged in. Remember to follow all manufacturer's instructions for the proper location, installation and maintenance of CO alarms.

Let this tragedy be a lesson to us all and don't let your family go another night without protection.

Tom Hughes is fire inspector for Northville Township.



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Patterson: From North Farmington to NBC

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

North Farmington High School alum Steve Patterson started 2016 with a new job – NBC News network correspondent.

Patterson, who graduated from NFHS in 2003, most recently worked in Philadelphia at CBS, and prior to that at KSDK in St. Louis.

The *Farmington Observer* recently caught up with him to get details on his journey from Farmington Hills to a high-profile news gig.

Observer: Please give a brief synopsis of your journey from North Farmington High School to NBC (college/degrees, professional experience, etc. and where you are based/live now).

Patterson: “Underachiever” is a great word for me in high school. I was an average student with a below average work ethic. Mainly ... I didn’t have a “thing.” For some ... being diligent in class went without saying. Back then, I felt like I had nothing to fight for. I needed that to succeed. That’s what I found in college.

I graduated in 2003. Somewhere between being lost and found post high school, I knew I wanted to write and decided film was the path for me ... screenwriting, directing, something. I almost went to film/art school before my parents convinced me to try something else.

At Michigan State ... I fell in love with journalism and everything just clicked. I found my thing.

I wrote for a campus magazine, interned at an alternative weekly and got on staff at the student run *State News* before moving to broadcast where I did hosting, moderating, anchoring and reporting on campus, all leading to an internship at CBS News in New York.

By senior year, I was waking up at 2 a.m. as a newsroom assistant at WLNS in Lansing to edit the morning show before going to class in the morning, then to my job as an editor at the newspaper, then back to work at the TV station.

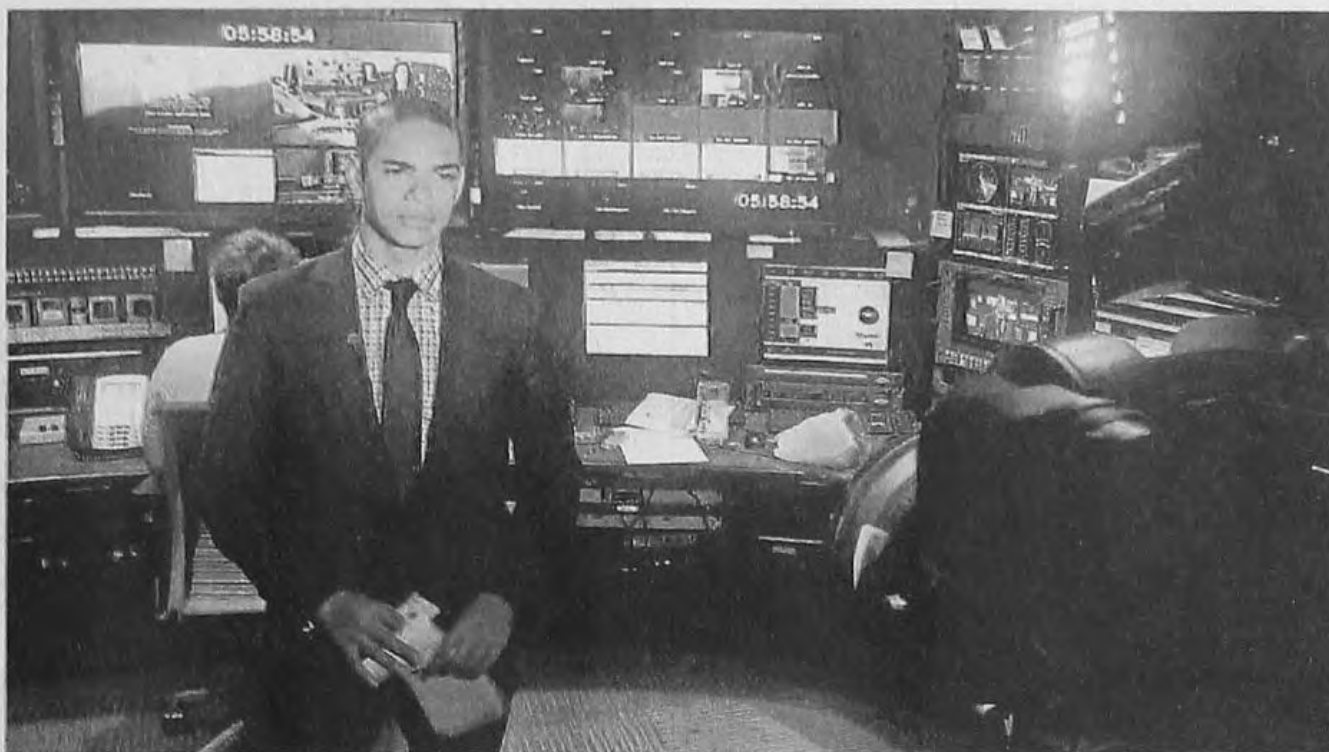
That led me to a recruiter (Thanks, Joe Grimm) for Gannett’s Talent Development Program, which did as it promised. In 2008, during the height of the Great Recession, I had a reporting gig right out of school at WZZM in Grand Rapids. From Grand Rapids I moved to KSDK in St. Louis in 2011. From St. Louis to KYW in Philadelphia in 2013. From Philly to where I am now.

Observer: When did you hire in at NBC, and describe a typical day – if there is such a thing.

Patterson: I was named an NBC News Correspondent at the very end of 2015. I’m beginning my network career reporting on stories out west, based in NBC’s Los Angeles Bureau.

You hit the nail on the head ... there really isn’t a typical day here.

Last week for example: I followed a trio of Orange County prison escapees from on the lamb in San Francisco to back behind bars. Tuesday, I hopped in a single-engine plane with an atmospheric scientist studying the methane levels above a natural gas well leak. We flew just 200 feet above a palm and pool community. Friday, I was cleared by NASA to sit in on a NOAA/NASA briefing on El Nino at Edwards Air Force base.



North Farmington alum Steve Patterson can be seen on NBC Nightly News and the Today show.

In between, I’m trying to set up a shoot for tomorrow, cultivating those NASA sources I met last week (working on a pair of really really cool stories involving the future of flight) and trying to get a follow up off the ground from that methane leak through a story pitch. Pitching is huge here.

Observer: What has been the biggest thrill so far in your career?

Patterson: In 2010, at my first job, I did a months-long investigation into a slum lord who was destroying the lives of dozens of homeowners with a predatory foreclosure scheme. After my story aired, he was stripped of his Realtor license and subsequently arrested.

On the day I found out I was being honored with an Emmy Nomination for writing, we learned of his apparent suicide. That experience was an early lesson in the power of journalism. I was humbled and awed by it.

In a more recent example here at the network ... on my fourth day of work, when I was supposed to be going through a period of “orientation,” I was rushed to a story in Philadelphia about a police officer being shot with a lone wolf ISIS sympathizer.

I don’t know any correspondent who led Nightly News on their first day on air and their fourth day at work ... it was good to get that one under my belt.

Observer: What has been your favorite story to report on so far?

Patterson: At the Network, it has certainly been the Porter Ranch methane gas leak. This natural gas well in a canyon above this affluent SoCal community has spewed more than 200 million pounds of methane since it ruptured in late October. It’s the greenhouse gas equivalent of half-a-million cars on the road. I was lucky enough to get an exclusive with the only guy with a special designation from the FAA to fly low enough into the plume to study the data on how much is being released.

It was a very visual story to tell, fun to shoot from the air and more to the point ... extremely important to expose.

Observer: What has been the toughest part so far of getting where you are today?

Patterson: Constant pangs of self-doubt throughout my career.

You know the kind ... you’re not old enough, you look this

way, you sound that way, too this, too that, etc. It’s an incredibly harsh, overly-critical sink or swim job. The internal confidence necessary to keep going has to be nearly unending ... and of course it never is.

Luckily, I love a job that provides a challenge like that. It makes me feel alive.

Observer: Tell us something about your job that you believe many people would be surprised to hear.

Patterson: I’m sure a lot of people know this, but even if that “many” is more like “some” it’s worth saying for them: There isn’t a single component of my job more important than writing. It is the fundamental element of journalism and that includes what we do in broadcasting. Nothing means more to me and the people I work with than strong writing and storytelling. It may be difficult to see past the bright lights, makeup, talking heads and teleprompters but at the end of the day nothing is more valued.

Observer: Describe the “glamor factor” you’re experiencing as a national network correspondent.

Patterson: Zero. There’s nothing glamorous about going to work at four in the morning and leaving at seven or eight at night, knowing that you’re not going to have a day off for several more weeks. There’s nothing glamorous about crafting a script, tracking a line and accurately delivering a report.

The only difference now is that the technology is better, the people are more driven, the collaboration is incredible and the stakes are as high as they can be.

If glamor is measured by viewership or salary or resources then there may be an argument for it being a part of a stage this big. But none of my bosses measure it that way, none of my co-workers measure it that way and certainly none of our viewers do. They expect incredible storytelling and accurate reporting ... that expectation is in every local market across the country and it has nothing to do with prestige or glamor.

Observer: How much celebrity status are you enjoying?

Patterson: Ha ha, well I’m really famous with my family right now. It’s a huge joy to see them applauding my work and rooting for me to succeed. It’s great that they can see me do my job no matter where they are or I am. I love that and it feels really good.

Real celebrity in this job though comes from repetition and consistency. I’ve been on the TODAY Show and Nightly News so far still less than a good dozen times, viewers often need a few hundred to really connect.

To get to a place like that can take working countless hours for years to consistently get on. It takes a lot of hard work and trust. I’m just getting started.

Observer: Much of the media is under fire these days for being perceived as biased or “having an agenda.” Your thoughts?

Patterson: I think if the media at large has any agenda, it’s the agenda of whatever the best storyline is. We love drama. I think sometimes that love puts people in the wrong places, making the wrong calls. We’re humans trying to tell stories. Humanity always gets in the way. However, I think the aim, at least mostly.

Observer: Can you point to a teacher at NFHS who had a major influence on you?

Patterson: Of the things that really gave me a spark and instilled a sense of duty and responsibility back then ... I can still feel the lessons I learned in band class. Marching, concert, jazz, etc. Both directors Carl Gippert and Jason Lowe probably don’t know the affect they had on the greater spectrum of my life. It was big.

Observer: What skills have helped you land this latest job?

Patterson: The big one for me has always been writing. I think being skilled in how to craft and tell a story is invaluable beyond compare and it really divides good from great. It’s stark.

Beyond that, obviously at this level you need a little bit of everything ... being able to dig, cultivate sources, having a penchant for variety, etc. but I’m often surprised how far humility and the ability to see things from the ground level can take you. And then you have to be crazy enough to work these hours and still love it.

Observer: Do you have career goals beyond NBC?

Patterson: Right now? No. I mean I have a front row seat on the edge of history right now! I mean I’d love to be the guy Americans turn to when the world turns another page. I want to expose the truth and hold the powerful accountable. I want to challenge conventional wisdom, hold the powerful accountable and give voice to

reason ... that’s always the goal. Right now, it’s important for me to stay focused on the task at hand: be consistent, be reliable and tell good stories.

Observer: Any advice for aspiring journalists?

Patterson: You have to love it.

Truly, deeply, with wild abandon. Journalism is not a journey to be taken lightly. Don’t get me wrong, it’s rewarding, it’s fun, it’s inspiring and it can be one of the most powerful crafts the world has ever known. But because of that ... it’s also extremely selective, extremely demanding, extremely time consuming and, at times, extremely unfair.

So always my biggest advice: before even getting into the how to break in or how to navigate the politics or even how to tell a good story ... know your relationship to journalism. This is not something you can go and get a degree in and then start collecting a paycheck. It’s a grind.

I believe to truly be successful, it has to be at or near the center of your world. That’s a real drag if you’re not in love.

Observer: Why did you choose this career?

Patterson: It’s the best line ever: I get paid to tell stories. Period. That’s the dream for me.

More broadly speaking: I am a professional artist. I get paid to create.

I think because of the suits and the “Type A” personalities that people tend to associate our jobs with lawyers or brokers, etc. At its core though, Journalism really isn’t a profession ... it’s a craft. It’s extremely creative, often important, always eventful, and once in a while ... life changing.

And I love it.

Observer: Are you “living the dream” now? What do you do when you aren’t working?

Patterson: Honestly, I haven’t had big enough period of “not working” to reflect on that. I’m into my fifth week at the network and have had exactly three days off. I imagine if I had a few moments I would do a lot of sleeping.

I am learning how beautiful California is. When I do have a little time, I try to explore. A few weeks ago, spent the day driving ... took the coastal highway to Malibu, ate seafood, watched the sunset. It was sublime.

Yesterday, I was called in at 4 a.m. to update a story for the west coast on the TODAY Show. By 7 a.m. I was live with Matt Lauer on the lead story. By 10 a.m., I started writing a story we shot a few days ago. By 2 p.m. we started editing. By 5 p.m. I was told to stay in case something broke and to start looking ahead to my story airing Saturday. By 6 p.m. we had an approved script for the story we started editing at 2. I was out of there about 8 p.m.

Despite all that ... it was one of the fastest days of my life. I am most certainly living the dream.

Observer: How often do you come back to Farmington Hills?

Patterson: Unfortunately, these days, barely ever. Social media has its benefits.

Observer: Anything else you’d like to share?

Patterson: Just gratitude. Thanks for the interest.

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HUNGER

Continued from Page A1

cluding Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic, business representatives and others.

Organizers asked themselves, “Why don’t we open this up for everybody?” Schultz said. Those from near-by communities are welcome to join the effort.

Volunteer inquiries are welcome at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170. The chamber phone is 734-453-1540 and Douglas Wallace, director of Membership Development for the chamber, is that contact. (Volunteers can reference Greater Plymouth Service Project / May 7.)

In addition to funding, “the second major component is going to be volunteers because many hands make light work. We’re talking hundreds of volunteers,” Schultz said. “The more the merrier. We have groups from everywhere



Nick Schultz of Plymouth Township shows a sample meal to feed six people at a cost of 28 cents each. He’s among organizers of the Saturday, May 7, anti-hunger Greater Plymouth Service Project.

coming together. We’re all inclusive. This is all volunteers.”

There’s a tentative goal of 200,000-plus meals to be packaged May 7, with three packaging shifts: 8:30-11 a.m.; 10:30

a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 12:30-3 p.m. Those include a half-hour at the start for training, including sanitation.

“We’re going to have 16 assembly lines,” he said, with 12-20 volunteers on each. Organizers are also looking at entertainment to help make the day fun.

Nutritious meals

“This is a highly engineered, fortified meal,” he said. The meals were formulated by General Mills, Archer Daniels and Cargill as a mixture of nutrient-fortified rice-soy casserole. Only boiled water needs to be added.

“It’s something you don’t do every day,” he said of the Greater Plymouth Service Project.

Schultz’s family has 45-year roots here. “This is our hometown,” he said. “We love our town. What town has that many thriving service clubs? People give. Are we a rarity? We’re used to it.”

Kids Against Hunger is a nonprofit that works to reduce undernourished children lo-

cally and worldwide. The May 7 effort will be divided with one-third used locally, one-third internationally and one-third for disaster relief.

The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, the former Central Middle School, is being donated that day along with PARC staff time “to support the effort. This is a community effort and we’re pleased to be a part,” said Plymouth Township resident Don Soenen of PARC. “We’re happy to provide the space. PARC is pleased to be part of this very worthwhile effort.”

Schultz’s father was active in Kiwanis and among the many Kiwanians who helped Kids Against Hunger acquire a truck and trailer to become mobile and more effective.

“Before you knew it, they were able to take the show on the road,” Schultz said of Kids Against Hunger.

Kids Against Hunger history

Kids Against Hunger’s one of many feeding programs founded by Richard Proudfit,

who was moved by what he saw on a 1974 Honduras medical mission trip.

The Kids Against Hunger Coalition was started in 1998 by Donald Burwell, who joined Proudfit’s work. KAHC now produces millions of meals for community food banks and shelters and ships meals to many other countries.

“I think it is a most outstanding thing when you get people together with different talents to serve a community in need. I just would love everybody to come out and have a great time,” said Michael Burwell, Kids Against Hunger Coalition executive director, who will pitch in May 7 in Plymouth.

In 2004, the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth contributed a van and trailer, Burwell noted, which helped with mobility. Now, KAHC operates five trucks and eight trailers in its work.

Additional information on Kids Against Hunger, which has an Oak Park office, is online at www.kahcoalition.org.



The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce welcomes
www.mailboxPlymouth48170.com.

New Plymouth company offers home-based businesses address

New business in Plymouth, www.mailboxPlymouth48170.com, offers home-based business people an address.

Most clients and customers "Google" or "Map search" the business that they are thinking of using. An image called "Street view" comes onto the computer or mobile device when the business address is searched. Many small businesses look more amateur than they really

deserve because that image is often a house, a post office or a Fed Ex building.

New business www.MailboxPlymouth48170.com in Plymouth grants those small businesses a real address in an office building at 705 S. Main, Plymouth. The suite number is the same as a business owner's mailbox.

For more information, contact Tom Goebel at 734-453-7000 or TomEgoebel@gmail.com.

Canton welcomes new business



The Canton Chamber of Commerce welcomed new business Accounting & Tax Services at 5840 Canton Center, Building 290, Suite 2, in Canton.

Need help with your website?



Michigan.com has the solution:

- Responsive design for optimal viewing across all devices
- Templated or customized website to meet your business needs
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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

CORE Nutrition and Fitness on a fast track



CORE Nutrition and Fitness is at 8345 Ronda Drive, Canton.

Q. Your business specialty?

A. Relationship building, one-on-one coaching, group fitness classes, customized meal plans. First-timers all always free for their first visit.

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

A. We offer customized nutrition plans, one-on-one coaching and accountability and group fitness classes for all age ranges and fitness levels.

Q. How did you first decide to open your business?

A. Culturally, there is great need for places of encouragement. Somewhere to make friends and get 1 percent better every day. We offer free workshops every month! They all revolve around fitness, nutrition and mindset.

Q. Why did you choose Canton?

A. I was raised in Canton. I love this city and the surrounding area. We are passionate about building relationships and plugging people in.

Q. What makes your business unique?

A. Our coaches and clients. Everyone takes a stand for one another. You can feel the passion for people radiating through the club.

DETAILS

Name: CORE Nutrition and Fitness

Address: 8345 Ronda Dr. Canton, MI 48187

Owners: Jeremy and Rachel Royer

Hometown: Canton

Opened: June 2015

Employees: 20-plus and growing fast

Hours: We post our event/class schedule monthly

Contact: 734-578-3788, raerooyer@yahoo.com or check us out on Facebook

Q. How has it changed since you opened?

A. It's grown a lot! We started with six coaches, now we have over 20. We also offer all sorts of new class types and times.

Q. Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?

A. Every day, we

bring free lunches to local businesses. We feel it's the best way to show people that proper nutrition can be convenient and delicious. We want to thank every business that we have visited for being so kind and for letting us serve your employees.

Q. How has the recent economy affected your business?

A. Business is good!

Q. Any advice for other business owners?

A. Lock arms with your community! Get to know the local businesses, the people and the events. Make a difference for people and Canton will be very receptive; plus, it's fun!

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

A. We will continue to take a stand for our communities health and battle the obesity epidemic. We will continue to impact one person and business at a time.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ribbon-cutting

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting at 1 p.m., March 11, for Wayne Lawn & Garden, 39915 Michigan Avenue.

Chamber auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's 29th annual Dinner Auction, will be held Saturday, April 16, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The annual event is the largest fundraiser for the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"Our chamber depends on its resources to subsidize important programming, services and educational development. Funds raised from the auction are crucial in maintaining our mission to stimulate positive business growth in the Canton community," said Thomas Paden, president, Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"The area businesses have been extremely generous with their auction donations in the past

and we know that we can count on their generosity this year as well," he added.

The Canton Chamber Auction starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person and are available to the public. Your admission includes: open bar, strolling dinner, entertainment and the opportunity to participate in the live and raffle auctions. For more information, contact the chamber at 734-453-4040. This year's auction is sponsored by Jack Demmer Ford, Inc. and Beaumont Healthcare Center-Canton.

Promoted

Carlisle/Wortman Associates has promoted Plymouth residents Doug Lewan, AICP, to the position of executive vice president and Sally Elmiger, AICP, to the position of principal.

Lewan, 51, has more than 28 years of professional practice experience in the public and private sector, joining

Carlisle/Wortman in 1993. His experience includes all aspects of community planning and zoning. In addition to his management role with the company, Lewan currently represents 10 communities primarily in Washtenaw and Oakland counties. He received his master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State University and a bachelor's degree in community planning from Northern Michigan University.

Elmiger, 54, joined Carlisle/Wortman in 1999. She received a master's degree in landscape architecture from the school of natural resources and environment at the University of Michigan, specializing in environmental design and land conservation. In addition to providing continuing services, she contributes expertise in environmental planning, historic preservation, site design and recreation planning to many client projects.

O'Malley is first woman president at Beaumont-Farmington Hills

Beaumont Health Chief Operating Officer

Carolyn Wilson has selected Constance O'Malley of Clarkston to be president of Beaumont Hospital-Farmington Hills, formerly Botsford Hospital.

O'Malley succeeds Paul LaCasse, who now serves as executive vice president of the Post-Acute Care division and Diversified Business Operations for Beaumont Health.

In this position, O'Malley leads Beaumont Hospital-Farmington Hills and also has responsibility for the hospital's various outpatient services. She will ensure the hospital delivers on Beaumont Health's mission of providing compassionate, extraordinary care every



O'Malley

day. O'Malley begins her new position March 7.

"I am thrilled to lead Beaumont-Farmington Hills," O'Malley said. "With our \$160 million construction project underway, we are improving our facilities to create a more comfortable, efficient and private healing environment for our patients and their families. The Farmington Hills area is a terrific community and I look forward to meeting and working with community members and business leaders."

O'Malley is the fourth president of the hospital and the first woman in the role. Botsford General Hospital opened in 1965. Previous presidents include LaCasse from 2005-16; Gerson Cooper, who currently serves as vice chair of the Beaumont Health board of directors, from 1984 to 2004; and Allen Zieger, from 1965-83.

O'Malley has served as vice president and chief operating officer of Beaumont Hospital-Troy since 2012. At Beaumont-Troy, she was responsible for daily operations and ambulatory services. She previously served as vice president of Surgical Services, Trauma, Transplant and Ambulatory Services at Beaumont Hospital-Royal Oak with administrative responsibility for the Beaumont Medical Center-West Bloomfield.

Before coming to Beaumont, O'Malley held a variety of leadership positions with Ascension Health-St. John Providence Health System and Detroit Medical Center, including vice president of Clinical Services, chief nursing officer and chief operating officer. She has more than 30 years of health care experience and began her career as a surgical nurse at Providence Hospital.

Trump gathers support locally as primary nears

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Viggo Pihl isn't old enough to vote, nor is he a U.S. citizen, but Saturday he was making phone calls on behalf of the Donald Trump presidential campaign.

"Since I can't vote, I figured this is the best way to help out," said Pihl, a Swedish exchange student currently living with a host family in Milford and attending Brighton High School. "I share a lot of values with Trump; he's the only one capable of doing the change everyone talks about."

Pihl was one of about 10 young men who looked to be similar in age who sat around a table calling potential voters Saturday at the makeshift Farmington Hills headquarters of the Trump campaign located at 24283 Middlebelt Road.

A man and a woman at the front desk of the storefront refused comment and photos of volunteers, directing all inquiries to a general Trump email address.

Army veteran Richard Stover entered the front door wearing a cap bearing Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again" and, when asked if he would like to comment on his support for Trump, staffers objected before he could answer, saying solicitation was not allowed.

Outside the office, Stover spoke freely.

"Immigration is destroying the country like the Trojan wars," said the 73-year-old Livonia resident, who served in the U.S. Army from 1961-64, was active during the



Viggo Pihl volunteered Saturday at the Donald Trump Farmington Hills campaign headquarters. Pihl is a Swedish exchange student at Brighton High School.



Brock Thomas, a 16-year-old West Bloomfield High School student, campaigned on behalf of Donald Trump Saturday at the Farmington Hills campaign headquarters on Middlebelt Road.

Cuban missile crisis and is urging his family and friends to vote for Trump. "You know how vets are treated — you can't get an appointment for months at the VA Hospital. Those are the two big issues for me: immigration and veterans. A lot of people are ticked off. It's going to be settled at the ballot box or the bullet box."

Young volunteers

Pihl stepped outside for a break and also answered questions about his first day volunteering for an American political campaign. He was invited by a friend at his high school and they are calling people to ask if they're going to vote for Trump. He explained that if the person answering the phone says "no," the volunteers thank them and end the call.

"If they are undecided, we try to explain what Trump stands for," Pihl said. "Building a wall

against immigrants, national security, giving power back to the people. Some say 'yes' they will vote for Trump. We tell them a little about Trump."

Brock Thomas, 16, stopped to talk on the sidewalk outside the headquarters, as well. He also heard about the volunteer opportunity from a classmate of his at West Bloomfield High School. He was not financially compensated, nor is he receiving community service hours for school. He was there because he agrees with Trump on most of the issues.

"I like Mr. Trump's way to fix America," Thomas said. "I don't agree with deporting immigrants, but I like the idea of stricter entrance guidelines and his economic policies, like trade agreements. He wants to go in and fight ISIS and I like that rather than waiting for something to happen."

Party diversity

Dave Staudt, Novi mayor pro tem, treasurer of the Oakland County Republican Party and political candidate consultant as owner of Core Communications, said the current race for the Republican Party presidential nomination reflects the diversity in the party.

"There are three different factions of the party right now," Staudt said. "There's an establishment side, the conservative side and those that are angry about government. That is why there are three fairly close candidates right now — Trump, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. Trump clearly represents those who are angry about the way government functions and the direction our country is moving."

Cruz is representing the conservative side, more aligned with the

Tea Party movement, Staudt continued, while Rubio considers himself an establishment Republican, with a less conservative viewpoint, although Staudt said he believes all three are fairly conservative.

The Republican field has been narrowed from 17 presidential candidates to five seeking the nomination. Besides Trump, Rubio and Cruz, Ben Carson and John Kasich remained in the race, at least before Super Tuesday. The candidate Staudt favored, Jeb Bush, also considered an establishment candidate, has dropped out and he believes the support Trump has garnered above the remaining candidates shows that the voters turning out for the presidential primaries and caucuses are angry.

"The primaries are interesting; they bring out the serious political people," Staudt said.

"General elections bring out everyone. This will be extremely different than November."

The Michigan presidential primary election is Tuesday and it appeared Trump had the momentum going in, although as of press time, the results of Super Tuesday, when voters would cast their ballots in 13 states, were not yet known.

"On Super Tuesday, we will get a clear idea," Staudt said. "If Trump wins (the majority), realistically, will anyone beat him?"

Staudt said the anger voters feel toward President Barack Obama's administration is benefiting Trump. He also believes if Trump is the eventual Republican presidential nominee, he will represent a difficult challenge for either one of the current Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, although the Republican Party is facing its own challenges.

"We are becoming a more diverse party," Staudt said. "We have to convince women and minorities that Republicans have something to offer them. We have not done a great job of that over the last eight years. ... One of the things the Republican Party struggles with are social issues, whether Second Amendment rights, same-sex marriage or abortion. We have to figure out how to deal with those who disagree on one or all of those issues."

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Primary goals: Feeling the Bern, hoping for Hillary

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Gerry Haran wears his Hillary Clinton campaign button proudly and is happy to put in a plug for the presidential candidate wherever he goes — including Nevada last week.

"I wear the button all the time, and I'll point to it and say, 'Vote for Hillary,'" said Haran, 76, a Novi resident. "You have naysayers and I'll say, 'We need to try a woman president, try something different, because we've had the men and it's not working too well.'"

On Saturday, just hours after returning from Nevada, Haran was ready to get to work gathering support for Clinton in the March 8 Michigan presidential primary election.

Only a mile away, Cynthia Churches, also a Novi resident, was campaigning for Clinton's competitor for the Democratic nomination, Bernie Sanders.

"We need a revolution," Churches said. "Nothing against Hillary, but I'm 70 and too old to wait."

Both she and Haran are members of the Democrats of West Oakland County, which meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Novi United Methodist Church. Although not currently united on their choice of candidate, they consider themselves friends. They are also both long-time campaign volunteers.



Cynthia Churches, a Bernie Sanders campaign volunteer, makes a house call on Walter Sobczak at his Novi residence.

York when Haran was transferred with General Motors.

"I really liked Bill Clinton," Haran said of the former president and husband of Hillary Clinton. "I made phone calls, handed out literature and sold buttons and political paraphernalia around the country."

He recalls meeting Bill Clinton and the eventual Vice President Al Gore on a bus as they dressed for church in Charlottesville, Va., and laughs that he got to see a little bit more of Clinton and Gore than most people. He attended the first inauguration of Bill Clinton in 1993 and met the President again, as well as his wife. He would also volunteer in Clinton's successful reelection campaign four years later and, when he saw him during a UAW campaign event at Cobo Hall, was amazed when the president remembered his name.

"I was flabbergasted," Haran said. "The biggest thing about Bill Clinton, to me, is the ability he has, charisma or whatever, to make you feel

like you're the only one there in the room he is talking to."

Busy with work and family, Haran didn't work as much on Gore's failed campaign against successor George W. Bush. He returned to a more active role as a campaign volunteer when John Kerry ran for president in 2004 in another failed Democratic bid. He also worked on both of President Barack Obama's campaigns, although early on in 2008 he supported Hillary Clinton as Obama's challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination.



Gerry Haran of Novi makes calls urging voters to support Hillary Clinton in Michigan's Presidential primary election.

"Back then, in the beginning, I was for Hillary, but I could see the writing on the wall," Haran said. "Obama was really getting his message out and, when it became a rout, I moved over."

While Haran likes the current president, Hillary Clinton was always his preferred choice and he is happy she is running a second time, particularly with added foreign policy experience after serving as Secretary of State during Obama's first term.

Bernie supporter

Novi resident Cynthia Churches said she would support Clinton if she is the eventual nominee, but Sanders is the

change she believes America needs.

"I've been politically active for a number of years and I'm too old to settle," said the married mother of one and retired accountant. "People say you need to be pragmatic, but we need a political revolution. We need free college education and single-payer health care and no war. We need a complete change for the middle class. I hope he's elected. He could really do something great for our country."

Churches has been campaigning for political candidates ever since Kerry's bid against Bush.

"I was driven by our involvement in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and the neglect of education," she said.

Since then, she has made thousands of phone calls and knocked on hundreds of doors in various campaigns for Democrats at the federal, state and local level. Sometimes her efforts are well-received, sometimes not.

"I get everything from 'Go away' and the door shut in my face to 'Come in and have a cup of tea,'" Churches said.

"Sometimes you have lists of registered voters, sometimes you don't ... I love to walk and make phone calls, all the grassroots things."

She tries to share her views in a non-threatening way, giving fodder for discussion in what is usually a conversation between two to five minutes. Regardless of an individual's stance on various issues, she continually tries to awaken the spirit of political involvement in a society she believes is increasingly apathetic.

"People are so disgusted with politics in general," she said.

To become better educated on issues, both Churches and Haran encourage involvement at the local level, by writing letters to legislators and newspapers, attending school board and city council meetings and, of course, voting in all elections, including Tuesday's presidential primary.

"The main goal is participation," Churches said. "Everyone, regardless, just get out and vote and be aware of the issues that impact your life and your children's lives."

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THESE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION. THE AUCTION WILL BE ON MARCH 8TH AT 10:00AM AT 6345 HIX, WESTLAND MI, 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS, STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

AMOUNT	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN
\$1,565.00	2001	MERCURY	SABLE	BLACK	1MEHM55S71A652185
\$1,535.00	2005	DODGE	MAGNUM	GRAY	2D4GZ48V35H557874
\$1,365.00	2006	CHEVY	COBALT	GRAY	1G1AL55F767880337
\$1,215.00	2000	CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	WHITE	1C3EJ46X3YN311200
\$1,165.00	1999	DODGE	INTREPID	BLACK	2B3HD56J3XH804885
\$1,555.00	2006	CHEVY	IMPALA	BLACK	2G1WB58K369269429
\$1,065.00	1998	DODGE	CARAVAN	RED	1B4GP54G0XB603346
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\$1,064.00	1989	CADILLAC	ELDORADO	TAN	1G6EL1152KU627729
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OUR VIEWS

Prove transparency by using FOIA

Gov. Rick Snyder is employed by Michigan taxpayers. So are our legislators. Yet they continue to scoff at the notion of being accountable to the very people who elect them. Yes, they are accountable come election time, but what about all the important work being done — or not being done — in the interim?

It is way past time for the governor's office and the Legislature to be subject to the same Freedom of Information Act as the rest of the state's public bodies. Taxpayers have a right to know how the state's business is being conducted. The governor and legislators don't merit special dispensation.

Snyder, addressing the Flint water crisis during the 2016 State of the State, said, "You deserve better. You deserve accountability. You deserve to know the buck stops here with me. Most of all, you deserve to know the truth and I have a responsibility to tell the truth. The truth about what we've done and what we'll do to overcome this challenge."

Truth starts with transparency. Transparency requires full disclosure.

The fact is when Snyder released more than 274 pages of personal emails last month, supposedly showing transparency on the water crisis in Flint,

3 & BETTER JOBS MICHIGAN



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's time for the governor's office and the Legislature to be subject to the same FOIA laws as everyone else.

much was redacted. And some say there are more emails that went unreleased. For true transparency to work, all emails must be released.

As one of only two states with a blanket exemption from FOIA for the executive branch (the other is

Massachusetts), Michigan seems to have followed a winding road with an attorney general's opinion also including the Legislature in the exemption.

Let's remember: FOIA law already has exemptions within which government agencies, municipalities and public school districts and universities operate. Under Section 13 of the act, there are 24 subsections exempting items ranging from trade secrets to Social Security numbers to information that might, if public, impede ongoing law enforcement investigations.

If that works for everyone else, then it should work for executive and legislative staff as well.

And if Snyder and the Legislature want to send a strong message about how to prevent another Flint-type crisis from happening in Michigan, they would immediately pass legislation subjecting themselves to the same accountability as others.

Failure to do so sends a simple message: They don't want voters to know what they are doing.

Michiganders should expect more from their elected leaders.

— This editorial first appeared in the Lansing State Journal.

LETTERS

Parking solution

In regard to the parking woes the president of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce claims in the recent *Plymouth Observer* article are "choking us," I have an idea. How about constructing an underground parking garage with limited hours of operation, on the site of the former playground in back of Starkweather School and landscaping a

public park or green space on top?

It would solve several problems the city has in regard to historic preservation and preserving open space, while adding the parking business leaders claim to so desperately need. And it would definitely help Old Village business owners and eliminate the need for more historic homes to become demolished to make way for more parking.

Obviously, the proposed subdivision in back of the school would need to be abandoned. There are many reasons why it should be as I stated before. A parking garage constructed in an empty field would be easier and I believe cheaper to construct than in the downtown area near Kellogg Park. Provide some form of free or paid shuttle service from the garage to the downtown area for those that do not wish to walk downtown.

Dan Sabo
Taylor

Who is Colbeck serving?

On Feb. 10, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck was named the Michigan chair for presidential candidate U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz.

I tried to ask Sen.

Colbeck how much time he is putting into this position, but did not get an answer from him. I would have asked him on his Facebook page, but I was blocked by him or by one of his staffer for agreeing more with Sen. David Knezek on the issue of Senate Bill 209, which requires the reading of the United States Constitution, Michigan Constitution and Declaration of Independence, with an emphasis on certain sections of each document.

It just makes me wonder if Sen. Colbeck is hiding something. Is he more focused on this chair position than his job as state senator, a position that pays \$71,865 per year, plus expenses?

Joe Gilligan
Livonia

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If the shoe fits

Who do you know who fits this description: Someone who makes offensive insults. Someone who insults to maintain a competitive edge. Or perhaps someone who

uses insult to deflect or silence hecklers.

Comedian Don Rickles comes to mind. His style kept his career alive for many years.

Now we have the Don Rickles of the Republican Party, Donald Trump. He uses the same insulting style as he campaigns to become the president of the United States. If he is nominated by his fellow Republicans, it will surely derail the future success of the Republican Party.

Someone may be able to entertain with festive insult but you cannot address our present day global concerns and leaders with insult comedy — even if you feel as if the behavior fits.

Jim Brenner
Redford

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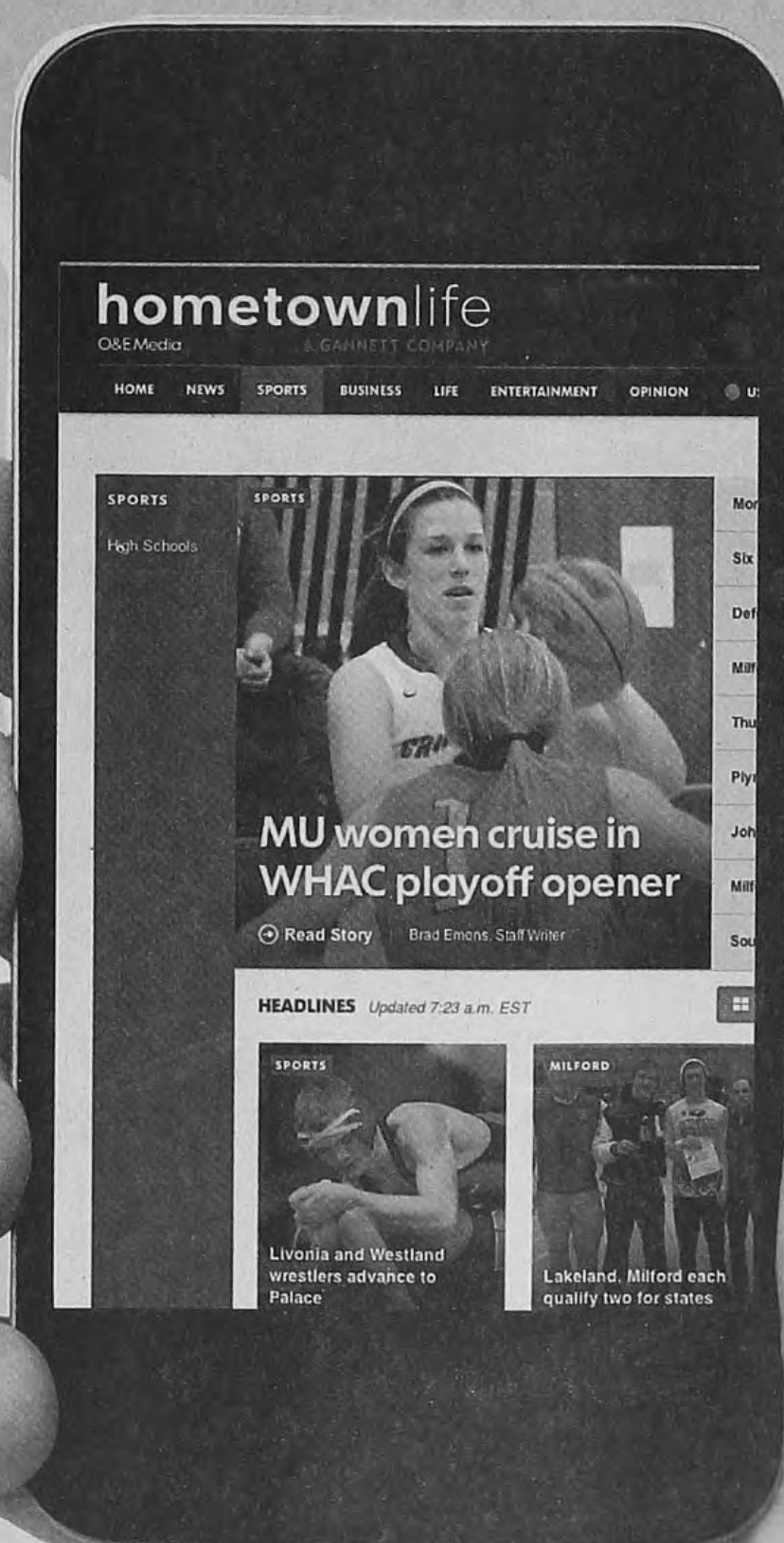
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U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER



Salem junior Izzy Rodriguez proudly wears the U.S. Soccer crest during a visit to High Velocity Sports in Canton.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Brianna Finn (right) tries to catch up to Salem's Darby Scott during Monday's Class A girls basketball district game.

GIRLS HOOP DISTRICTS

Chiefs topple Rocks in opener

Canton overcomes sluggish start, posts 43-37 victory

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton's varsity girls basketball team dealt campus rival Salem a knockout punch Monday night, defeating the Rocks, 43-37, in a Class A district opener.

The host Chiefs (16-4) fell behind, 16-13, after the first quarter, largely due to torrid perimeter shooting by Salem's Marisa Martin and Darby Scott, who each hit two treys in the opening eight minutes.

But first-year Canton coach Rob Heitmeyer quickly assembled his team before the second quarter could get started, to bottom line it for them.

"I told them we have to close out on shooters, we have to get loose balls and we have to match their intensity," Heitmeyer said, noting that anything less could jeopardize ending what has been a splendid season.

With the Chiefs subsequently not letting Martin, Scott or other players get too comfortable near the 3-point arc, Canton went off on a 17-3 run to enter halftime up, 30-19.

"The difference-maker was they were four for their first four in 3-point shooting, but the rest of game they were 1-of-11," Heitmeyer said. "So making that adjustment, by closing out on the shooters ... being more

See DISTRICT, Page B3

TAKING ON THE WORLD

Salem junior Rodriguez All-American girl with U-17 World Cup on her mind

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When people tell Izzy Rodriguez how unbelievably talented she is on the soccer pitch, the humble teenager usually shrugs it off with a "Who me?" response.

Others take notice, of course. The Salem High School junior is embarking on

a journey only a miniscule number of athletes are able to take, as a member of the U.S. Under-17 Women's National Soccer Team.

Don't say that too loud, because Rodriguez doesn't want to have the red, white and blue rug pulled out from under her soccer shoes anytime soon.

"It's such an honor," Rodriguez said, pointing to the U.S. crest on her shirt during a recent interview at High Velocity Sports in Canton.

"You never know when it's going to be your last chance to wear it, so every time I'm wearing it, I always know I have to give 110 percent. I always make the most of it."

See IZZY, Page B4



RODRIGUEZ FAMILY PHOTO
Izzy Rodriguez competes for the U.S. Under-17 Women's National Soccer Team during a recent tournament in California.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Jalen Miller (left) lays a hit on Salem's Shawn Weldon during Monday's Division 2 boys hockey pre-regional at Plymouth Cultural Center. The Rocks won, 5-2.

DIVISION 2 BOYS HOCKEY

Salem holds off Chiefs' comeback

Hat trick by Callegari keys 5-2 victory in D2 pre-regional contest

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

In the first period of Monday's Division 2 boys hockey pre-regional, Salem played as if poised to blow out campus rival Canton.

The Rocks scored just two minutes into the contest at Plymouth Cultural Center, with senior forward Nick Callegari sending a shot behind Chiefs senior goalie Isaac Salinas.

Then came sweet-looking goals by junior winger Matt Schaumburger and senior forward Evan Newel — the last

one with just 15 seconds to go in the opening period to make it 3-0. Newel took a slick feed from freshman forward Colin Goleniak, broke far to his left and waited for Salinas to commit himself before whipping a high shot into the net.

But for as easy as the first period was for Salem — and a 20-7 edge in shots was another barometer — the rest of the night turned much tougher than Rocks head coach Ryan Ossensmeyer might have wanted it. Salem did hold off the Chiefs for a 5-2 victory and advanced to face Plymouth.

"You know, it doesn't really matter who we play," Ossensmeyer said. "I just told our guys, 'I don't know if made one game easy this year.'

"It's kind of ironic. For 'Secret Santa,' they bought me Just For Men Touch of Gray and I think it was pretty appropriate for the way our season's gone. Anytime you play a Park team, it doesn't matter the records, it doesn't matter the previous games. They're always going to be close, hard-fought games."

See HOCKEY, Page B2

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SIDELINED AT THE PALACE

WINNING LEGACY REMAINS INTACT

Unable to compete for individual state title, injured Plymouth senior Dwyer still crafts remarkable career

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It's a bittersweet time in the wrestling career of Plymouth senior Dylan Dwyer, who would want nothing more than to be on the mat this weekend at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Indeed, Dwyer would have been competing at the Division 1 individual state finals, which run Thursday through Saturday, if not for an injury sustained Feb. 20 at the D1 individual regional at Saline.

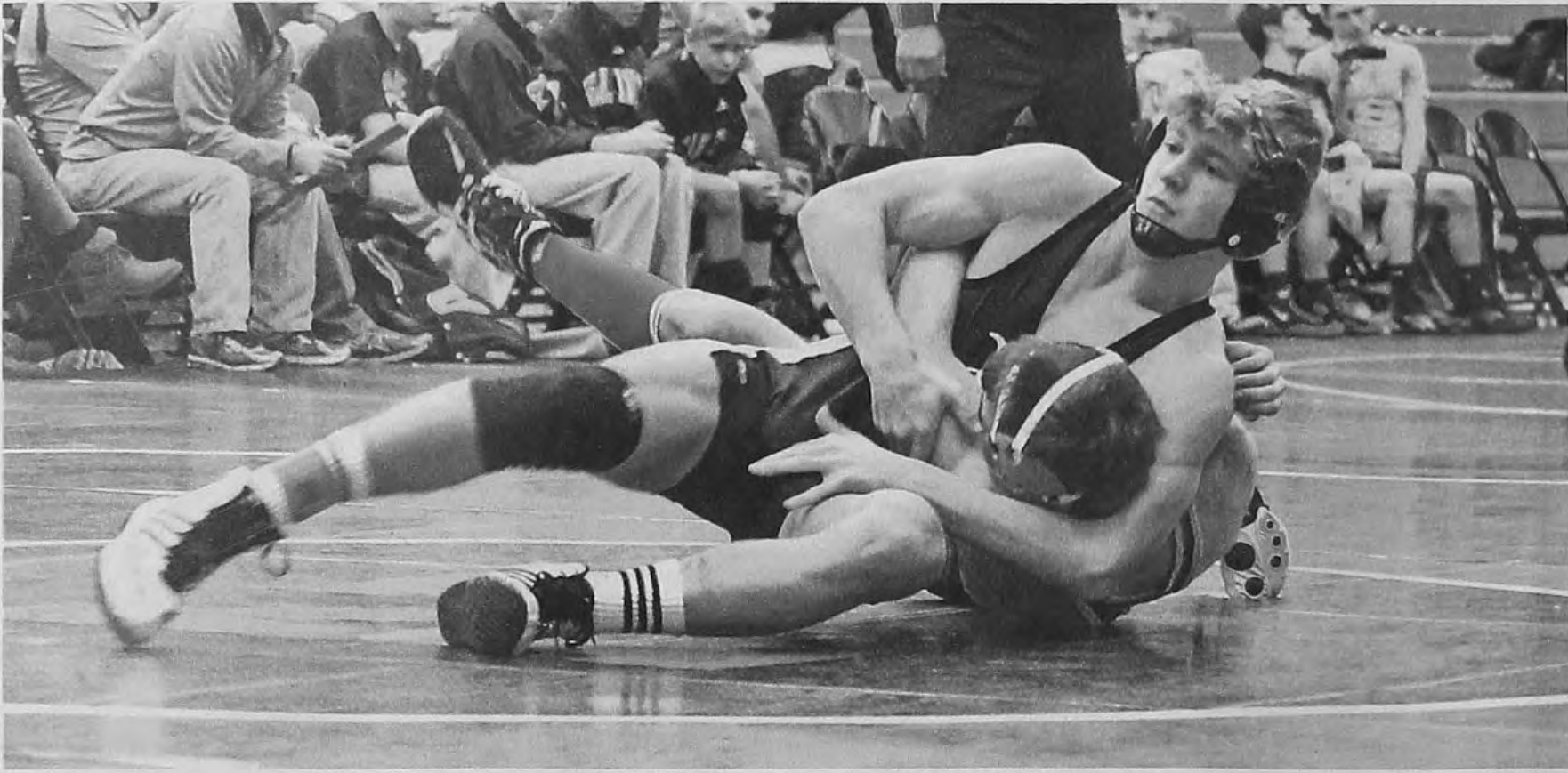
Actually, he had been dealing with torn cartilage in his ribs most of the season, yet racked up a 29-5 record while finishing fourth at the regional in the 145-pound weight class.

"I had many goals this season and there were a couple that I achieved, but a lot that I didn't have the chance to reach," Dwyer wrote, answering a set of questions via email. "I wanted to be the best wrestler to come through the Plymouth program so far by being a state champ. "But I now cannot due to injury. It really bums me out that I cannot prove myself, but there is not much I can do about it."

Cheering them on

He is going to Auburn Hills, but it will be to cheer on Plymouth teammates Isiah Berry and Collin Reed, who will be competing in the 103- and 130-pound brackets, respectively.

"He is deserving of his spot in the Parade of Champions with his best friend Collin Reed, even if he isn't wrestling," said Dan Dwyer, Dylan's dad and No. 1 fan. "We will be there cheering for all four of the other boys from Plymouth and Salem."



DAN DWYER

Plymouth senior wrestler Dylan Dwyer puts the finishing touches on a win during a bout earlier this season. Although he qualified for this week's individual state finals, an injury will keep him sidelined.

In addition to Berry and Reed, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will be represented at The Palace by Salem's Roy Foster (189) and Demetrius Fields (171).

"This has been a rough season for Dylan due to injury and his inability to reach the goals he set for himself for his senior season," Dan Dwyer said.

Dylan Dwyer went into the 2015-16 season pumped up to build off of an all-state junior season, in which he finished fifth and enjoyed a spot on The Palace podium.

He also was sailing along to potentially getting to or near the top of the career wins list for Plymouth High School and looking to eclipse the school mark for career pins. Of course, his main target was a return to The Palace and the chance to finish his Plymouth career with a state champi-

onship.

Battling back

Midway through the season, however, those goals were sidetracked when he injured his ribs. That cost him more than a month of competition, as well as essential practice time.

"Battling through injury was not easy for me this year, but I knew that I had to do what I had to do," Dwyer wrote. "I continued to stay in shape as well as I could to make sure I would be back."

"Sometimes bad stuff will happen, but you just have to go with it and make the best of what you have."

He did come back late in the season, finishing 29-5 — giving him a 138-32 career record. Of his five losses, two were forfeits due to injury default and one due to an illegal hold disqualification.

If not for his injury, Dwyer definitely would have challenged the school's all-time wins leader, 2014 grad Mo Youssef (162 victories).

Dwyer did set a new Plymouth standard with his 88th pin and then finished second at the D1 individual district before the injury flare-up at Saline short-circuited his dreams and goals.

"Having the Plymouth pin record is really cool, but I wish I could have made it over 100," he continued. "Having the record is still really cool though."

Proud of career

Despite the unfortunate timing of his injury, Dwyer is proud of the legacy he has carved out at his high school.

"I didn't make it out of districts freshman and sophomore year, but as a junior, I broke out and took fifth in the

state," he wrote. "I will be remembered for a long time at Plymouth as a good and hard-working wrestler who liked to pin, which is nice."

"I have made countless memories on the mat that will stick with me for a long time. Wrestling has been such a big part of my life and now that it is over, it feels really weird."

It remains to be seen whether Dwyer will be able to resume his wrestling career in college, but he certainly wouldn't mind having that opportunity.

"As of right now, I am just going to go to college," he wrote. "I am not planning on wrestling in college, but if I get contacted by a school that fits my preferences, I would love to continue wrestling."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

Canton did slice the Salem lead to 4-2, when forward Marcus Cook jabbed a rebound past Rocks junior goaltender Tristan Rehling with 5:04 left in the third period. Assisting on the goal were forwards Brian Oldani and Joe Powers.

Game of inches

Then, with Salinas (outstanding with 39 saves in his prep finale) on the bench for an extra attacker, the Chiefs nearly got to within a goal, much to Ossenmacher's chagrin.

Canton sent the puck in front of Rehling, who along with his defense was able to stymie the crease-crashing attempt.

"We had a little breakdown in front and, in reality, it (the sequence) started about 10 seconds earlier," Ossenmacher said. "We had the opportunity to get the puck out of the zone and (instead) we came back to our own goal line with it."

"In that situation, we'd rather not do that. (The Chiefs) created a turnover, made a nice play and it just missed. The difference between 4-2 and 4-3 in that situation is huge."

Salem (16-8-2) did manage to escape that flurry and cleared the zone. Soon thereafter, a roughing penalty was called against Canton to all but clinch the victory. A power-play goal quickly followed for the Rocks.

"We had the momentum, we had the goalie out, we had some good opportunities right off the face-off in their end," Canton head coach Brad Barath said. "They got the puck out, we weren't able to keep it in. And from there, we couldn't get any flow back into their zone."

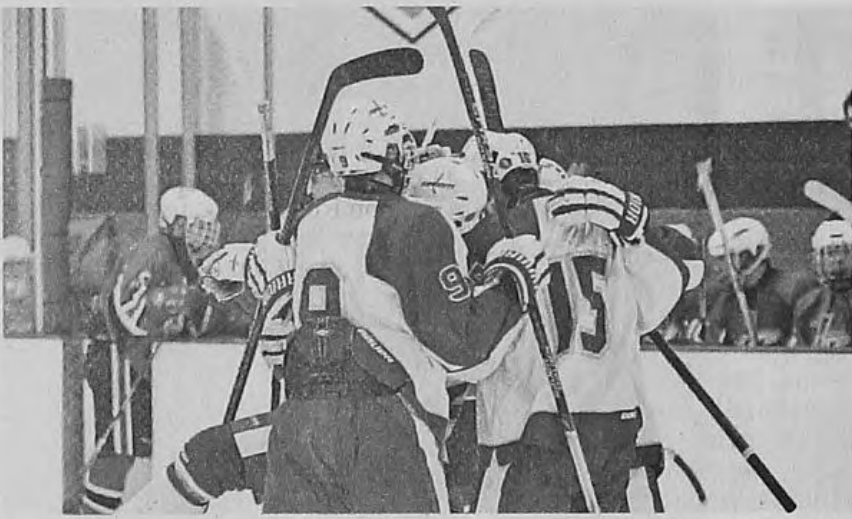
Salinas, who did a yeoman's job to keep his team afloat — Salem outshot Canton 20-7 in the first and 44-21 for the contest — also lamented the missed opportunity.

"We were six inches from scoring in that last minute," Salinas said. "That's a 4-3 game and who knows what happens after that."

"I left it all out there; I have no regrets this season."

'Special' game

With 25 seconds left, Callegari made sure there wouldn't



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem players celebrate after scoring during Monday's Division 2 boys hockey pre-regional at Plymouth Cultural Center.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On this play, Salem forward Nick Callegari is tripped by Canton defenseman Jalen Miller (left), but Callegari had the last laugh — scoring three goals in the Rocks' 5-2 win.

be a successful Chiefs comeback when he took a pass from junior forward Shawn Weldon, walked the puck out of the right corner and snapped a short-side shot into the Canton net for his first-ever high school hat trick.

"Anytime you get a hat trick, it's special," Ossenmacher said. "But (it is) especially when you get it against a Park rival in a playoff game. I thought (Callegari) played really well."

Basking in the victory and his three-goal game afterward was Callegari, a 6-2, 180-pound left wing.

"It feels good to get the win and know I put a couple points on the board," Callegari said, adding that his success Monday was due to "going to the

dirty areas and grinding at the net."

According to senior captain Oldani (two assists), it was a tough way to end a season that showed signs of a turnaround for the program. The Chiefs won seven games, all in the second half, equaling their combined win total from 2013-14 and 2014-15.

"Towards the end, we missed a chance with like a minute left," said Oldani, the team's top offensive player with 11 goals and 17 assists.

"And I took a bad penalty, getting my frustration out, and that put the pin in the coffin."

"There's no chance we're going to score two goals in 40 seconds on the PK."

Out of the gates

Salem broke out fast in the first period and looked to be on the way to a lopsided victory by the time the opening 17 minutes were in the books.

Callegari scored at 2:01, with junior defenseman Marty Mills drawing the assist.

The Rocks kept swarming around Salinas, who was under siege — especially when Salem's top line of Newel, Schaumburger and Colin Goleniak was on the ice.

Just over 12 minutes into the period, Schaumburger neatly re-directed a shot from the right point past Salinas to make it 2-0. Assisting were junior defenseman Austin Marthaler (two assists) and Newel.

Salem put an exclamation point on the opening period in the final minute.

Goleniak sent a pass across the front of the Canton net to Newel and the lanky senior captain did the rest. He skated wide to his left, waited for Salinas to commit himself and then deposited a shot from between the bottom of the circle and goal line high into the net.

"Our first period was really strong today. We got three goals and they were tic-tac-toe goals," Newel said. "It was a good pass (leading to his goal). I have a lot of good teammates this year, a lot of good guys on my line that I can rely on."

"Glad to be producing today. If we really don't produce, our line, it's usually a long game."

The onslaught slowed a bit in the second period, although Callegari did pad the lead to 4-0 at 5:39. Drawing the assists were junior forwards Jake Saunders and Robbie Hermes.

Salem then took back-to-back minor penalties and the Chiefs (7-18-1) got on the board.

Defenseman Michael Gaffka's shot from the right point was tipped into the Rocks net by forward Matt Eastman (who later left the game due to an injury, as did forward Michael Tucker).

Also assisting on the power-play goal was Oldani.

"They fought, they really put their heart into it in the second and third periods, you could tell," Barath said. "We had two guys go down with injuries in the third period. Fatigue kind of set in and it caught up with us."

Plymouth awaits ultra-tough regional contest

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Now the hard rubber hits the ice and veteran high school boys hockey coach Gerry Vento can't wait.

After Friday's strong effort in a 4-2 loss to the top-ranked team in the state, Hartland, Vento's Plymouth Wildcats (12-12-1) was looking to start the postseason on a positive note Wednesday at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Plymouth was scheduled to face the Salem, a 5-2 winner over Canton in Monday's Division 2 pre-regional opener.

"Anytime there's a playoff, especially in a region like ours, it's going to come down to special teams and goaltending," Vento said. "Teams are what they are at this point, and special teams and goaltending are kind of the 'X' factors."

The Wildcats are strong in net with senior Trevor McManus, who has "been playing some of his best hockey the last two to three weeks, so it's encouraging," Vento said.

He also said his special teams are playing well at the right time.

"Our power play's been great all year, but once playoffs start, it's a new season," Vento said. "You just hope everything's still clicking and guys are comfortable out there ... and generate chances."

Leading the charge will be forwards James Baldwin, Ricky Covault and Jake Silvester, with senior captain Kyle Kozler the quarterback at the point. Baldwin and Covault have tallied more than 30 points this season, with Silvester in the upper 20s.

As for the penalty kill, Vento said it will be a collective effort, particularly among defensemen.

"We kind of run all our 'D' through the penalty kill, because you don't want to wear guys down," Vento said. "A lot of our top (defensemen) do regular shifts and the power play; you need everyone on the PK."

Vento, interviewed Sunday, said his team will not fall into the trap of looking too far ahead.

On paper, for example, Salem would look to have the edge Monday evening against Canton, but "they tied last time 5-5... You know how it is with Park teams, know what I mean?"

PREP WRESTLING FINALS PREVIEW

Palace spotlight awaits Park wrestlers

Plymouth and Salem grapplers make cut with showing at Saline regional

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

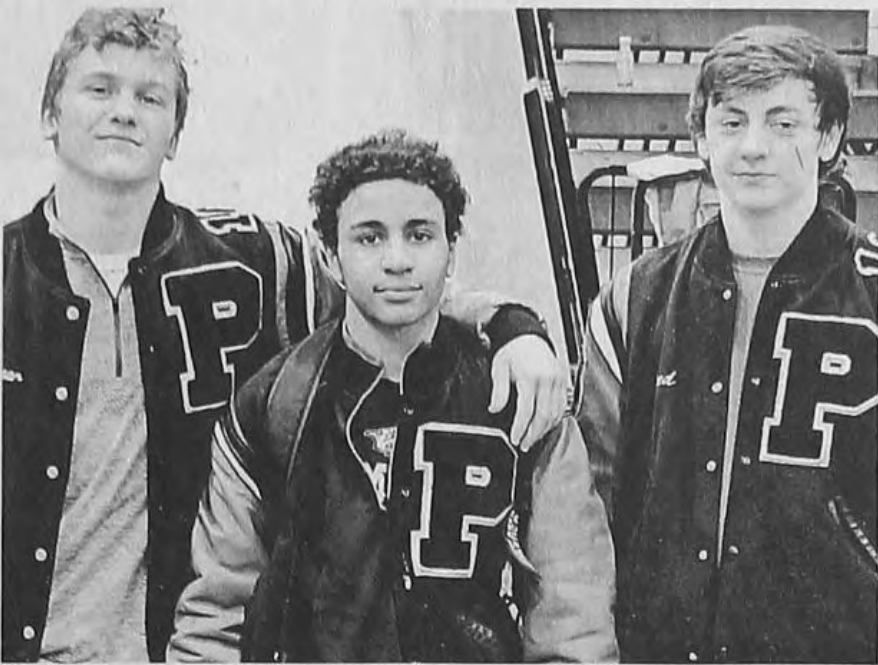
Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will be well-represented this weekend at The Palace of Auburn Hills, where the Division 1 wrestling individual state finals unfold.

A trio from Plymouth qualified to compete March 3-5, but only Isiah Berry (103) and Collin Reed (130) physically are able to. An injury sustained by senior 145-pounder Dylan Dwyer at the Saline regional ultimately ended his season. Dwyer was the third-place finisher at 145.

Berry and Reed both qualified by finishing fourth in their respective weight class.

"Dylan probably had the toughest day of anyone at Saline," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "After winning his first match, he lost in the semifinals on a questionable illegal hold call.

"In the blood round, he suffered an injury and, while able



Qualifying for the Division 1 wrestling individual state finals at The Palace are (from left) Plymouth's Dylan Dwyer, Isiah Berry and Collin Reed. Dwyer is injured and won't be able to compete.

to hold on to win the match, he had to default in the third- and fourth-place match."

Guernsey said Berry had an outstanding day to qualify out of an "extremely deep" weight class, with five top 10 wrestlers. Berry could be a dark horse this weekend.

"Taking fourth for Isiah is probably bad news for the regional champ who drew him first round," Guernsey said.

"He has a very favorable quarter bracket and, if he wrestles well, should make it to the semifinals and wrestle Rayvon Foley from (Ann Arbor) Pioneer for the third time this year.

"He should definitely earn all-state and could make a surprise appearance in the finals, depending on how well he competes."

Meanwhile, Reed came back



Salem's Demetrius Fields (left) and Roy Foster will wrestle at The Palace this weekend in the Division 1 individual state finals.

after losing his first round match to make the cut for the state finals.

"After losing a tough match first round, Collin Reed had two excellent matches, including a blood round win over (Canton) rival Justin Winnie, whom he had split matches with over the course of the year," Guernsey said. "Collin probably has the toughest route to place, but it is not impossible. We will be working hard these next two weeks to prep him to be able to make a run at the podium."

Salem duo advances
KLAA South Division champion Salem will be sending two

to The Palace. Representing the Rocks will be senior 189-pounder Roy Foster and Demetrius Fields. Foster was the runner-up in his weight class, losing the championship bout, 10-8, to Bedford's Gabriel Ellerton.

"Roy has a tough draw, but he has come through way tougher scenarios in his career before," Salem coach Jeremy Henderson said. "It is the state tournament and everyone is good there and Roy is fully capable of making a run."

Fields, meanwhile, came in third at 171, pinning Westland John Glenn's Logan Beaudoin in 1:36.

"Demetrius had to wrestle his butt off to qualify and beat a tough Bedford kid in the blood round to make it," Henderson said. "I am so proud of him. He has come a long way."

Henderson added that both Foster and Fields epitomize hard work and dedication and are being rewarded.

"Both of these kids barely had any varsity experience their freshman years," Henderson said. "So to see them at the state tournament is awesome and a true testament to how hard they have worked."

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PREP WRESTLING

Shamrocks pinned by Davison in semifinals

Cardinals go on 10-0 run to close out Division 1 triumph at CMU

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central couldn't shake nemesis Davison for the second straight year Saturday in the MHSAA Division 1 wrestling team state finals Central Michigan University's McGuirk Arena.

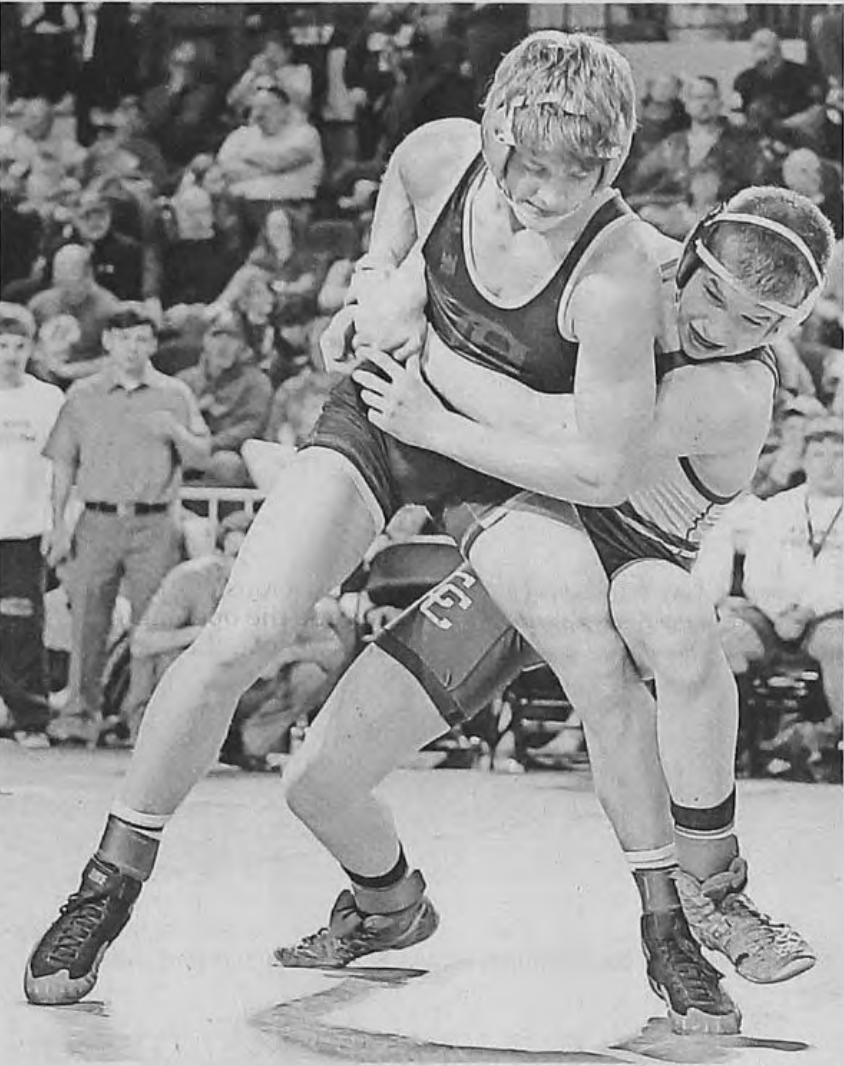
The second-seeded Cardinals, who trailed, 25-19, after CC's 130-pounder Aaron Rehfeldt defeated Ryan Schlak, 6-0, went on a 10-0 run over the final three matches to pull out a 29-25 semifinal victory over the third-seeded Shamrocks, who finished the year 16-6.

Four of the matches were decided by one point, with each team winning two.

The Davison comeback started when Brian Case (135) edged CC freshman Cameron Amine, 2-1, in a pivotal match.

"Aaron is wrestling really well right now and we believed he could beat Schlak," CC coach Mitch Hancock said. "We didn't score bonus points as planned up top or at 103 pounds, which forced us to wrestle Rehfeldt at 130 and bump Amine to 135. We needed to win both and we were forced to put Amine in a difficult position in going up three weight classes. He understood the challenge and accepted the task like a champion."

A stalling call against Amine was a deciding factor



CC's Aaron Rehfeldt (right) scored a victory at 130 pounds.

in the match.

Cal Stefanko then pulled the Cardinals even at 25-25 with a 7-1 decision over Joe McGrath at 140 and Kurt Schlak (145) scored a four-point 16-8 major decision over CC's Tyler Johnson to seal the victory.

Top-seeded Hartland (34-1), last year's Division 1 runner-up, then went on to win its

first wrestling state title in school history with a 36-23 win in the final over Davison, which ended the year 24-5.

Davison, the only team from Michigan to defeat CC this year, also got victories from Brendan McRill (171), pin in 1:43; Tanner Thomas (215), 3-2 decision; Max Johnson (112), pin in 1:44; and A.J. Facundo (119), 16-7 major

decision. Tyler Morland (189) scored the lone pin for the Shamrocks in 3:15, while Ben Kamali (112) added four points with a major decision.

Aidan Wagh (152), Conor Cox (160), Nick Jenkins (285) and Kevon Davenport (125) also all earned a victory for the Shamrocks, who were eliminated by Davison in last year's state quarterfinal.

In Friday's quarterfinal, CC captured nine of the first 10 matches to build a 33-point advantage en route to a 36-16 victory over Macomb Dakota (27-12).

CC got a six-point pin from Davenport (125 pounds), while Jackson Ross (215), Jenkins (285) and Kamali (112) each earned a four-point major decision.

Other wins came from Easton Turner (171), Rhett Newton (103), Amine (130) and Rehfeldt (135). Morland (171) was also awarded six points by forfeit.

MHSAA DIVISION 1 WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Feb. 27 at CMU's McGuirk Arena (Semifinal match)
DAVISON 29
DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL 25
Feb. 27 at CMU's McGuirk Arena
152 pounds: Aidan Wagh (CC) decided Trevor McGowan, 7-6; **160:** Conor Cox (CC) dec. Gabe Ellis, 8-2; **171:** Brendan McRill (Davison) pinned Easton Turner, 1:43; **189:** Tyler Morland (CC) p. Logan Mabbitt, 3:15; **215:** Tanner Thomas (Davison) dec. Jackson Ross, 3-2; **285:** Nick Jenkins (CC) dec. Reme Martin, 7-0; **103:** Ben Kamali (CC) won by major dec. over Steven Garty, 15-4; **112:** Max Johnson (Davison) p. Davis Rastigue, 1:44; **119:** A.J. Facundo (Davison) won by major dec. over Chase Moscovici, 16-7; **125:** Kevon Davenport (CC) dec. Deven Perez (Davison), 4-3 (overtime); **130:** Aaron Rehfeldt (CC) dec. Ryan Schlak, 6-0; **135:** Brian Case (Davison) dec. Cameron Amine, 2-1; **140:** Cal Stefanko (Davison) dec. Joe McGrath, 7-1; **145:** Kurt Schlak (Davison) won by major dec. over Tyler Johnson, 16-8.
Dual meet records: Davison, 24-4 overall; Detroit CC, 16-6.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Cathryn VandenBosch, shown from earlier this season, scored four goals Friday against Northville.

GIRLS HOCKEY
PCS Penguins score early, often against Northville

VandenBosch, Cirino lead offensive onslaught

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League championship tournament just around the corner at Arctic Edge in Canton, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins are getting ready.

The Penguins blitzed visiting Northville, 8-0, Friday, with a four-goal first period getting the contest off to a big start.

Scoring four times in the win was Cathryn VandenBosch, with Michelle Cirino notching two goals.

Since it was senior night, the team's top goalie, Natalie Nowicki, skated out and collected an assist on one of Cirino's goals.

Two siblings got together for perhaps the prettiest goal of the game as Marnie Waggoner set up Brianna Waggoner in the third period to make it 8-0 and close out the win via the eight-goal mercy rule.

Several other Penguins were in on the fun, too. Megan Brace and Jessica Marek each chalked up two assists, while Morgan Gagnon tallied one.

On Saturday, PCS fell behind 2-0 to Bloomfield Hills before the always-hustling Cirino scored two goals to even things up. Drawing the assists were Gagnon and Brooke Gauthier, who played an outstanding all-around game.

But Bloomfield Hills regained the lead late in the contest and skated away with the victory.

The Penguins are 8-6 in the MMGSHL standings, with the Division 1 and Division 2 state playoffs set to begin Tuesday at Arctic Edge.

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DISTRICT

Continued from Page B1

purposeful in our defensive intensity made a big difference."

The catalyst for Canton's game-seizing second quarter was senior guard Madison Archibald, who drained two 3-pointers during that quarter and ended with nine for the contest.

"I think Madison Archibald provided a pivotal spark for us," Heitmeyer said.

In double figures for Canton, which was scheduled to face Novi on Wednesday, were junior guard Brianna Finn and junior forward Erin Hult, with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Contributing six points was junior forward Shamya Butler, while junior forward Madison Wolfbauer led all players with 10 rebounds.

Salem's top scorers were Martin (nine points), freshman forward Natalia Lewandowski (seven points), junior guard Scott (six points) and junior forward Jayna Lenders (five points).

The Chiefs shot 39 percent from the field (16-of-41) while Salem (11-10) connected on 13-of-40 tries for 32 percent.

"It was a little bit more judicious basketball tonight," Heitmeyer said. "Anytime you have a cross-campus rivalry like a Chiefs-Rocks game, both teams are going to value possessions."

PCA FALLS, 47-35: Friday night in Plymouth Christian Academy's final regular season game, the Eagles varsity girls basketball team lost to Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

PCA (5-15) was scheduled to play Wednesday against Taylor Baptist Park at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist in a Class D district opener.

The Eagles fell behind 12-4 after one quarter and could not respond, despite solid performances from Lydia Chapel (nine points), Robin Albert (seven points, five rebounds) and Kennedy Horne (six points).

"We failed to make baskets in the first and third quarters and were unable to drive the lane against their shot blockers," PCA head coach Rod Windle said. "Their guards did an effective job of drawing fouls as well."

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Going in for a layup is Canton's Raquel Church (from left) while Salem's Jayna Lenders and Leah Moss give pursuit.



USA HOCKEY

St. Cyr backstops NTDP U17s to victory

Northville native strong in net, Under-17 ickers roll to 6-2 USHL win over Omaha

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With five players getting in on the scoring fun, the U.S. NTDP Under-17 hockey team blitzed Omaha, 6-2, Sunday afternoon at USA Hockey Arena.

It was an offensive onslaught that U.S. head coach Don Granato was happy to see — particularly since his team's excellent all-around effort Feb. 25 against Bloomington ended in a tough 1-0 overtime loss.

"The other night, we didn't get rewarded for our work as far as scoring goes," Granato said. "Today, we did. It's always a good feeling to score goals. It's even a better feeling to win."

Leading the way with two goals was Grant Mismash, with single goals by Graham Slagert, Sean Dhooghe, Jacob Tortora and Scott Reedy.

Dhooghe, Tortora and Reedy also racked up assists for two-point games.

But Granato was mostly thrilled to see how well his de-

fense and goaltender played against the Lancers.

"I thought it was really nice to play two solid games, especially minimizing chances against," Granato said. "Being hard to play against. The other night the only goal was in overtime."

"Tonight, they scored two in the third. We played a bit stingier and it was nice to see."

Goalie Dylan St. Cyr of Northville had a shutout going into the third and wound up making 29 saves on 31 Omaha shots.

He made a number of strong saves while his defense made sure to provide plenty of support.

"Hats off to them (NTDP goalies)," Granato said. "Dylan performed excellent today, as did (Adam Scheel) the other day."

Granato said St. Cyr, who bounced back from a 5-2 loss to Muskegon his previous game Feb. 21, brings intensity and leadership to the squad.

"He's a very focused kid.



Holding down the fort Sunday afternoon for the U.S. team is goalie Dylan St. Cyr. The Northville native made 29 saves.

He's certainly a leader for us in that regard," Granato said. "He has an intensity ... he's a very, very intense player."

Chance to win

After the matinee contest, as U.S. players got set to skate with fans (there were about 1,200 in attendance), St. Cyr — named the contest's third star — said his performance was all about

his teammates.

"Every night, you want to come out here and give your team a chance to win," he said. "I think my team did a great job in front of me, clearing out second chances and whatnot, taking away big chances."

Playing big in net despite standing only 5-foot-7, St. Cyr finally lost his shutout at 7:31 of the final period, when Matthew

Meier scored.

But the U.S. skated right down the ice to get it back 21 seconds later, when Mismash snapped a shot from the left circle past Omaha goalie Zackarias Skog (26 saves).

"It's a huge confidence booster" for the offense to answer, St. Cyr said. "Let one in, we know it's business and we got to go back out there and grind some more. So we got that goal and it really helped us out."

The win upped Team USA's record in the United States Hockey League to 18-19-4-1, including games played by the NTDP U18s.

Omaha, playing its third game in three days, fell to 22-20-4-1.

MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEKEND: Next up at USA Hockey Arena is Military Appreciation Weekend. Games are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday against Cedar Rapids.

Proceeds from ticket sales and a special military jersey auction will benefit Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System. Go to www.usahockeyarena.com or call 734-453-8400 for information.

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IZZY

Continued from Page B1

The next time is March 3-13, when Rodriguez and her teammates compete at the CONCACAF U-17 Women's Championship in St. George, Grenada. Team USA will need to be one of the three top teams there in order to advance to the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled from Sept. 30 through Oct. 21 in Jordan.

No time to waste

Rodriguez, 16, whose parents are Audrey and Robert Rodriguez of Canton, is on a whirlwind schedule these days. She returned in mid-February from the U.S. team's successful junket to a California tournament and had about 10 days before boarding a plane to Grenada.

In between those trips, she was able to catch up with family, take some high school classes and — most importantly — prepare and train for the heat, humidity and hot soccer awaiting the U.S. team at the CONCACAF tourney.

"They (U.S. Soccer) still have us on a fitness plan, have to do set practices," Rodriguez said. "It's really been hard to get outside; I've made it work, at least. I have to use saunas to get ready for the (high-80s) heat that's going to be in Grenada."

Once there, the heat will be on — literally and figuratively. The team will need to succeed enough to make the cut for Jordan. Of course, if it does, there will be several months of hard work and uncertainty for Rodriguez and the 19 other players on the roster.

"After Grenada, it all re-starts until the actual World Cup, which would be in September," Rodriguez said. "There's always going to be more competition."

"There's 20 on the roster right now, but there's probably a big pool of 50 players they're always looking at."

Nothing for granted

What that means is never taking her spot for granted and working harder than ever to stay ahead of the players trying to elbow their way onto the final roster.

Audrey Rodriguez smiled and nodded about the importance of not counting chickens before they're hatched.

"As a family, we're a little superstitious," she said. "We don't look at Jordan, we look at the task at hand. Every camp, you play the camp. You don't look forward and assume you're going to be on anything, just because you have been."

"Because she's been in that, played well at camps and, one time, did not get invited back the next camp. You can't get that courage that you're doing just fine. Even on this past roster (set in January), there were a couple girls she thought for sure were coming, but they were cut."

"You can't get comfortable and don't dare look ahead and think you're making something."

As long as Rodriguez continues to bring her desire, skills and versatility to the



Izzy Rodriguez has honed her considerable soccer skills with the Michigan Hawks ECNL team in recent years.

ALL ABOUT IZZY

Who: Isabel "Izzy" Rodriguez, 16, a junior at Salem High School.

What: Rodriguez is a defender on the U.S. Under-17 Women's National Soccer Team. From March 3-13, the team is competing at the CONCACAF U-17 Women's Championship in St. George, Grenada.

Global stakes: Team USA will need to be one of the three top teams in Grenada this month in order to advance to the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled for Sept. 30 through Oct. 21 in Jordan.

Family ties: A Canton resident, her parents are Robert and Audrey Rodriguez. She has an older brother Tommy, who played varsity baseball at Salem and graduated in 2011.

Proud mom: "I'm her biggest fan, my husband and I," Audrey Rodriguez said. "Every year, she just never ceases to amaze us. She works hard, very dedicated. Her athletic abilities throughout the years have always just keep improving. We're just so proud that she's given this opportunity. But she's definitely earned it. She's a good athlete and a good person."

At Salem: During her freshman and sophomore years, Rodriguez was a member of the Rocks varsity girls track and field team. She was an all-stater in the 400 meters in 2014. During ninth grade, she played on the freshman girls basketball team.

On the pitch: She developed her soccer skills, first with the Canton Soccer Club, then as part of the Michigan Hawks Elite Clubs National League team.

College future: After graduating in 2017 from Salem, Rodriguez will play Division I women's soccer. She has a verbal commitment to go to Ohio State University.

Keep track: To see how Rodriguez and the U.S. team are doing in Granada, go to www.ussoccer.com.



soccer field, there should be little danger she finds herself on the outside looking in.

Still, having even a miniscule chance of being replaced keeps Rodriguez motivated and engaged.

"The roster can change," Rodriguez said. "I think that really focuses people on qualifying, because they don't know if they are going to be on the World Cup roster."

Totally driven

Even though off the field Rodriguez comes across as soft-spoken and polite, there is plenty of evidence from her

still-growing soccer career that she is a quiet force once she gets between the lines.

"She is (quiet), that's the nature of her," her mother said. "She's been the captain of her (Michigan) Hawks ECNL team for years and I think the reason why is she's competitive and driven when she's on the field."

"But when she steps off, she's one of the sweetest, kindest teammates you will ever find on the planet."

Audrey Rodriguez added that her daughter possesses a strong inner drive to succeed as an individual. But even more important is being there

for her teammates.

"She's driven for herself, but she's a true teammate," she said. "And that might be a little difficult, as she's climbing up the ladder in the national team, because it's cut-throat up there."

"The best of the best play and you have to really just come to play your game."

Over the past handful of years, Rodriguez honed her skills as a midfielder for the Canton Celtic and later at the elite club level with the Hawks.

But with the U.S. team, where she has been since 2014, Rodriguez is entrenched as a defender.

That's not all bad. Like she said, she's still wearing the shirt with the American crest.

"On the national team, defenders are more like midfielders because they get up so much, so they're probably the same," she said, adding with a chuckle that "I like both of them a lot, as long as I'm playing."

Giving things up

Meanwhile, whatever Rodriguez accomplishes this year and, hopefully, in years to come for U.S. Soccer and Ohio State University (where she has verbally committed to play Division I women's soccer), she isn't about to forget all she had to do — and even give up — to get to this point.

A stellar all-around athlete, Rodriguez was an all-state runner for Salem's girls track and field team as a freshman. She enjoyed playing on club basketball and volleyball teams.

But because of her commitment to the U.S. soccer team and the high stakes involved, other sports and activities had to be relinquished. Changes to her athletic life are only part of it.

"On the national team, defenders are more like midfielders because they get up so much, so they're probably the same. I like both of them a lot, as long as I'm playing."

IZZY RODRIGUEZ
U.S. U-17 women's soccer player

"When she played for the Canton Cup, then she played for the State Cup, now she's on the ECNL team, you see what it takes to go up (the ladder)," Audrey Rodriguez said. "It's giving up stuff. The U.S. soccer coaches told them, be ready to miss your brother's wedding. ... It's a dedication."

Even so, the family — including 2011 Salem grad Tommy Rodriguez, who helps his sister maintain perspective — does all it can to help Rodriguez maintain balance in her life.

"I think Tommy's been one of the best people to help her," her mother said. "We were crazed about her playing time; is she going to start? One time, she went for a tournament and didn't play."

"Finally Tommy goes, 'Guys, she's wearing the U.S. Soccer uniform. What more can you want for her? Let her pave her way, what's meant to be is going to happen. She's going to give it her all. She's got a full ride to Ohio State. She's made it!'"

Bottom line

To that end, taking a step back and looking at the bigger picture is important, her mother explained, because it helps Rodriguez deal with all the built-in pressures and expectations.

"If you want to compete and you want to win, then you have to give some dedication," she said. "But there's a balance. And that's something I pride her on doing."

"Even my husband and I, we make sure when she gets home, she gets back in with her friends and her teenage years of having fun. And quality family time."

Also helpful for Rodriguez is remembering a pep talk from someone who's been there, namely Canton native Courtney Petersen, a Dearborn Divine Child alum and former Hawks player with the U.S. U20s.

"I used to play with her (with the Hawks)," Rodriguez said. "When she was a U18, I was a U16. I'd always play up with her team because we had the same coach."

"I haven't seen her in a while, but she always used to say to just do your best. You can't do anything else."

Rodriguez expects nothing less of herself.

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Ocelots clinch another MCCAAC championship

Women cagers share conference crown; men's hockey team wins big against SVSU

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Six players reached double figures in scoring Monday night as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball wrapped up the MCCAAC championship with an 89-79 win at Lansing Community College.

The Ocelots (20-10) were paced by guards Ja'Christian Biles and Tyler Johnston with 19 and 18 points, respectively, as the team secured a second consecutive league title.

Chipping in with 14 points each were guard and Westland John Glenn product Dre Black and forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz.

Also helping the cause with 10 points each were forward Davon Taylor (Canton) and center R.J. Coil.

With Taylor and Wartley-Fritz each grabbing nine rebounds, the Ocelots enjoyed a slim 47-45 advantage on the boards while defusing any serious rally by Lansing (26-4).

Schoolcraft went up 50-41 at the intermission and held serve over the final 20 minutes.

Next up for the team is Friday's 7:30 p.m. NJCAA District 10 championship game at Delta College against either Wayne County CCD or St. Clair County CC.

On Saturday, Coil tallied 17 points and 13 rebounds as Schoolcraft defeated visiting Macomb, 86-64.

Women cagers

Schoolcraft could have two teams Friday at Delta if everything breaks right this week.

The Lady Ocelots need to defeat Mott (scheduled for Wednesday night), but if they did, they will play at 5:30 p.m. Friday against the winner of Tuesday's Henry Ford-Macomb



Ja'Christian Biles (left) and the rest of the Schoolcraft men's basketball team wrapped up the MCCAAC title.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

tilt.

On Saturday, a 21-rebound, nine-point performance by Rikki Scherdt was not enough as Schoolcraft (25-4, 13-3 in the MCCAAC Eastern) lost, 53-46, to Macomb.

T'era Nesbitt (14 points, seven rebounds), Jade Smith (10 points, 10 boards) and Birmingham Seaholm product Elise Tolbert (nine points) had excellent games in a losing cause.

Schoolcraft, MCCAAC Eastern Conference co-champion, lost the tie-breaker to Oakland as a result of the defeat and is the second seed in the NJCAA District H Tournament.

Men's club hockey

Schoolcraft College split a weekend set against Saginaw Valley State University at Redford Arena, winning Friday, 9-4, but falling the next day, 5-3.

"I was very happy with the team's performance," Ocelots head coach Rob Lindsay said

about the win. "We played with three solid lines and a tough defense. Vinnie Glenn (Livonia Stevenson) played a great game, just like he always does. He is a great addition to our team.

"We have established a work ethic and we have been picking up players that can play. We are making a presence and having an impact being a new team."

Glenn scored four goals in the Friday win, with Mike Lesko and Andrew Lindsay each registering two goals. Schoolcraft's ninth goal was scored by Sheldon Varhol.

Earning the victory Friday with a stellar game was goalie and Canton alum Nick Borg.

On Saturday, Schoolcraft led 3-2 after two periods, but gave up three goals in the final period.

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The Salem varsity boys and girls bowling teams celebrate together Saturday at Super Bowl in Canton, after each qualifying for the Division 1 state finals for the first time in school history.

PREP BOWLING REGIONAL

Salem bowling teams make history

For first time, both boys and girls teams earn a berth in D1 team state finals

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Talk about Rock-ing the high school bowling world.

Salem's varsity boys and girls bowling teams each finished in the top three Feb. 26 at the Division 1 regional at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton, earning a berth at Friday's state finals in Sterling Heights.

On the boys side of the equation, Salem — which shared KLAA South Division championship honors with campus rival Canton this season — finished first with 3,972 pins.

The Rocks edged runner-up Wayne Memorial (3,947) and third-place Belleville (3,882), led by juniors Mitchell Rusinek (628 series) and Alex Mattson (612 series).

"It was such a close match. I've never seen the spread between the first three teams so close," Salem co-coach Kathie Hahn said. "Going into the final match, we were leading Wayne by two pins and Belleville by 10."

Missing out on the finals were a number of teams clustered not too far behind, including Farmington (3,857), Canton (3,760), Detroit Catholic Central (3,664) and Westland John Glenn (3,642).

Hahn credited consistency "throughout the whole event," as the Rocks averaged 194 through six Baker games before posting games of 949, 902 and 952 (in the final).

Salem, coached by Glenn Clark, last won the team regional in 2013. Team members, in addition to Rusinek and Mattson, include senior captains Zach Gonyea and Jacob Kurth, junior Ryan Gonyea, junior Jake Jacobbi and sophomores Brandon Kwapis and Joshua Hall.

Salem girls third

Also qualifying for the team state finals was Salem, making the ultimate tournament for the first time. The Rocks tallied 3,483 to trail only first-place Farmington (3,820) and John Glenn (3,758).

"These girls have worked so hard all year and just kept falling short," Hahn said. "They finished third in their division this year and

could never quite get that first place in a tournament this year, but they killed it on Friday."

The Rocks were consistently strong all day, led by senior captain Brynna Samuels (572 series, with a team-best 220 game).

Right behind her was senior captain Rachel Lopez, with a 527 series. Junior Olivia Harkins chipped in a 515 series.

That trio sparked the Rocks, who averaged 156 for six Baker games and had subsequent games of 855, 850 and 841 (in the final).

Rounding out the roster are senior Katherine Kehoe, juniors Leah Boucha, sophomore Alaina Langen and freshmen Abbey Harkins and Katie Collins.

Individual results

On Feb. 27, also at Super Bowl, Canton senior Tyler Pozan finished seventh in the boys individual regional to qualify for the state finals set for Saturday. Salem's Rusinek also made the cut, coming in 10th (1,182).

In the girls tournament, Canton junior Meghan Macunovich (fifth, 1,097) earned a spot in the D1 state finals.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

BOYS SWIMMING

Northville edges Novi to take victory dip

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Emotions ran the gamut in Saturday's KLAA Kensington Conference boys swim meet, with Northville successfully defending its title by the slimmest of margins at South Lyon East High School.

The Mustangs got a clutch performance from their third-place 400-yard freestyle relay team to deny rival Central Division rival Novi its first-ever championship by two points, 897-895.

Host South Lyon Unified placed third with 508, while Livonia Stevenson (499), Canton (486) and Plymouth (416) rounded out the top six in the 11-school field.

"We got our tails kicked in this weekend, but we just kept on fighting," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "We had an awful day today. The last four guys on the relay just kind of decided they didn't want to blow it, which we were doing a really good job of the entire afternoon today."

Stevenson captured the final event, the 400 freestyle relay, in 3:15.43 to edge Canton's runner-up finish (3:15.81).

But Northville got the all-important third as James Xue, Taiyo Ichikawa, Larry Zhao and Trevor Degroot swam 3:17.14 — two seconds clear of fourth-place South Lyon — to wrap up the crown.

"We tried everything, literally. We just didn't have anybody swimming

well, so we were trying to patchwork guys together to try and find somebody that's not going to lose us points," Bennetts said. "And the last four guys had no business breaking 3:20, but they went 3:17. I aged 10 years in the last three hours. I think they enjoy making me sweat."

Novi might have been poised to win the team title, but suffered an unfortunate break when its 400 freestyle relay team was disqualified for a false start in Friday's prelims. The Wildcats, who were the top seed going in, went scoreless in the final relay race.

"My boys are incredible," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "Yesterday, after the disappointment on the relay, they started firing each other up. They didn't get mad, they didn't point fingers, they just started building each other up. We met this morning for breakfast and they just decided, 'We're going to win it anyway. We're going to go out and give it everything we have and see if we could pull it off.'"

And Novi nearly did as it captured two of the three relays.

The Wildcats' Joey Berman, Narayan Manivannan, Siddhardha Kareddy and Ryan Katulski took the 200 medley relay (meet record 1:36.15), while the foursome of Phillip Billiu, Kareddy, Alexander Yuan and Katulski took the 200 freestyle relay (1:27.88).

Kareddy captured the 100 butterfly in 52.08, plus

the Wildcats swept the first three places in the 100 backstroke, led by Berman's 53.22.

Northville's lone first came from Nikolai Arton in the 100 breaststroke (59.71), while Degroot (200 freestyle) and Kirk Maibach (50 freestyle and 100 butterfly) each placed second. The Mustangs also got a runner-up finish in the 200 medley relay.

South Lyon, meanwhile, finished nine points ahead of Stevenson for third.

South Lyon's best finish was third in 200 medley relay as Logan Boals, Brandon Bell, Max Kempisty and Zach Denny were clocked in 1:39.22.

The meet's individual star was Stevenson senior Jackson O'Dowd, who swept the 50 and 100 freestyles in 21.25 and 46.45, respectively.

O'Dowd, headed to swim for the University of Pennsylvania of the Ivy League, also anchored the first-place 400-freestyle relay and was a part of the Spartans' runner-up 200 freestyle relay (1:28.56).

Stevenson's other first-place finish came from freshman Benjamin Rojewski in the 500 freestyle (4:43.59).

Other individual conference champions crowned on Saturday included Canton's Daniel Mullen, 200 freestyle (1:45.59); Plymouth's Garrett Beauprez, 200 individual medley (1:57.50); and Livonia Churchill's Ethan Burke, 1-meter diving (446.00 points).

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Position supports the Treasury team primarily by handling customer account collections by receipting and posting of daily cash receipts. Qualifications include a high school diploma, college courses in a accounting finance or related areas of study are preferred, two years of related clerical work experience with cash handling experience preferred, \$38,972 and extensive fringe benefit package.

Apply promptly with completed City of Novi application available at <http://cityofnovi.org/City-Services/Human-Resources> cover letter and resume to humanresources@cityofnovi.org or Department of Human Resources, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. Phone: 248-347-0452.

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START BUILDING



In February, the "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" campaign focus is on electrical safety.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Electrical safety key for home owners, apartment dwellers

The National Fire Protection Association and the United States Fire Administration are teaming up to help reduce your risk to winter fires and other hazards, including carbon monoxide poisoning and electrical fires. Winter fire safety has several key components.

In February, the "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" campaign focus is on electrical safety.

Electricity is so ingrained in our daily lives that most of us take it for granted, but it does carry fire risks. In fact, electrical home fires are a leading cause of home fires in the U.S. In 2013, electrical fires or malfunctions were factors in an estimated 44,900 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments. These fires caused 410 deaths, 1,180 injuries and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage. On average each year between 2007 and 2011, roughly half of all home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment, while nearly another half involved other known types of equipment.

Safety tips include:

- » Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- » When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified electrician.
- » Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- » Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- » Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home. Use a qualified electrician.
- » Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI-

protected.

- » Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- » Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- » Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.
- You should call a qualified electrician, or alert your landlord immediately, if you have:
 - » Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers;
 - » A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance;
 - » Discolored or warm wall outlets;
 - » A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance;
 - » Flickering or dimming lights;
 - » Sparks from an outlet.

Fifty-five and over community can allow under age residents

Q: I live in a 55 and over community and the board of our association is considering a policy that would allow under-age occupants to live in the community under certain circumstances. Is that prohibited under the statute requiring certain persons to be 55 and over?

A: No. There are a number of requirements that a community must satisfy in order to be considered housing for older persons, but the main point of being 55 and over in a community is that the families with children can be excluded, which is otherwise illegal under state and federal anti-discrimination laws. In addition to having a provision in your governing documents establishing age requirements for occupants and registering with the state, the community must also perform a periodic census to verify that at least 80 percent of the homes are occupied by at least one individual over the age of 55. However the law does not address how the community must regulate the remaining 20 percent leaving it to the community's governing documents which presumably would preclude someone from having children under the age of 21.

Q: We are fighting with our neighbor regarding an easement over a driveway that they have blocked in our opinion. We tried to work it out but we don't seem to have an ability to do so. What is our recourse?

A: Your recourse is to seek an attorney to attempt to resolve the matter through mediation if at all possible. If that doesn't work, you should bring a claim for nuisance, interference with contractual relations and a violation of your access rights in regard to the express provisions of the easement depending on what it says among other particular claims. Each case is fact-intensive so it is difficult to tell you exactly what the basis for your claims will be with certainty but these are some of the arguments that are typically raised in that type of situation by a good real estate lawyer depending on the circumstances.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

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

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

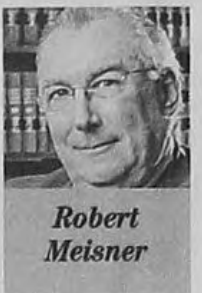
Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.



Robert Meisner

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 28 to Oct. 2, 2015, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

17310 Beechwood Ave \$333,000
31680 Mayfair Ln \$290,000
BIRMINGHAM
1775 Haynes St \$375,000
1067 Lincoln Ct \$277,000
2090 Manchester Rd \$285,000
1501 Mansfield Rd \$258,000
679 Oak Ave \$490,000
952 Southfield Rd \$470,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

234 Hadsell Dr \$184,000
1719 Hamilton Dr \$200,000
1912 Lakewood Dr \$167,000
2275 Cameo Lake Ct \$518,000
2017 E Spinningwheel Ln \$244,000
7411 Old Mill Rd \$520,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

3250 Berkshire Dr \$365,000
4772 Brafferton Dr \$300,000
119 Drury Ln \$445,000
2720 Kingswood Dr \$650,000
2499 Parcels Cir \$195,000
5288 Particular Ct \$335,000
114 W Hickory Grove Rd \$340,000
3790 W Maple Rd \$755,000
5666 Westwood Ct \$610,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

8050 Arden Ln \$290,000
4419 Bluebird Dr \$200,000
5336 Kristi Ln \$275,000
1855 Luneta Ct \$145,000
3636 Sandbar Dr \$440,000
3730 Sleeth Rd \$530,000
5900 Turnberry Dr \$370,000
3518 Union Lake Rd \$315,000
2564 Watonga Dr \$240,000

FARMINGTON

24002 Colchester Dr \$165,000
33935 Glenview Dr \$189,000
31831 Grand River Ave Unit 51 \$33,000
33297 Kingslane Ct \$450,000
33297 Kingslane Ct \$505,000
21131 Meadowlark St \$178,000
38431 Saratoga Cir \$198,000
32297 Valley View Cir \$185,000
22476 Violet St \$119,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

22721 Albion Ave \$93,000
22251 Averhill St \$133,000
32363 Baintree Rd \$206,000
33710 Bostwick Pl \$228,000
25602 Branchester Rd \$235,000
25198 Castlereigh Dr \$180,000
30797 Country Ridge Cir \$353,000
37629 Glenview Dr \$345,000
22955 Glenmoor Cts \$140,000
34306 Gloucester Ct \$242,000
28037 Green Willow St \$153,000
26141 Hidden Valley Dr \$330,000
28810 Leamington Dr \$240,000
21376 Mulberry Dr \$132,000
22243 Nearbrook Ct \$295,000
29033 Oak Point Dr \$120,000
30450 Orchard Lake Rd Unit 65 \$101,000
29969 Pipers Ln \$239,000
37735 River Bnd. \$255,000
27800 Shiawassee Rd \$130,000
35124 Spring Hill Rd \$332,000
23310 Springbrook Dr \$152,000
30420 Springview St \$200,000
25841 Surrey Ct \$365,000
27914 Trailwood Ct \$483,000
23386 Vista Rd \$140,000
29653 Vista Ct \$210,000
31993 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 310 \$46,000
23835 W Newell Cir \$205,000

FRANKLIN

32897 Grimsby Ln \$267,000
26170 Hersheyvale Dr \$595,000

HIGHLAND

2413 Jackson Blvd \$138,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

26621 Lathrup Blvd \$135,000
18260 W 11 Mile Rd \$155,000

MILFORD

31270 Bailove \$38,000
303 Cabinet St \$290,000
1778 Hilltop Dr \$435,000
210 Oakland St \$160,000
3507 S Hill Rd \$425,000
131 W Lafayette St \$120,000
1860 Wixom Trl \$76,000

NORTHVILLE

38714 8 Mile Rd \$295,000
214 Debra Ln \$252,000
1002 Elmsmere Dr \$532,000
38553 Northfarm Dr \$315,000
755 Novi St \$340,000
20925 W Glen Haven Cir \$115,000

NOVI

23790 Broadmore Park Ln \$589,000
41899 Canterbury Dr \$183,000
22081 Chubb Dr \$520,000
22415 Chestnut Tree \$256,000
44743 Ellery Ln \$161,000
40375 Franklin Mill St \$227,000
30853 Golden Rdg \$221,000
44724 Gwinnett Loop \$145,000
27909 Hopkins Dr \$173,000
51159 Luke Ln \$375,000
40971 Mooringside \$140,000
24505 Olde Orchard St \$100,000
21850 Picadilly Cir \$545,000
41465 Twain Pl \$364,000

SOUTH LYON

109 Aspen Way \$149,000
61471 Brookway Dr \$389,000
576 Clarks Ct \$306,000
847 Glen Meadows Dr \$348,000
61268 Greenwood Dr \$82,000
57987 International Dr \$337,000
59729 Mallory Ln \$400,000
60799 Marjorie Ann St \$152,000

MUSTANG DR

61233 Mustang Dr \$396,000
61265 Mustang Dr \$379,000
61457 Mustang Dr \$346,000
1070 Paddock Dr \$265,000
61160 Saddlecreek Dr \$347,000
23753 Stoneleigh Dr \$483,000
439 W Liberty St \$134,000
951 Westbrook Dr \$275,000

SOUTHFIELD

17048 Addison St \$128,000
27550 Arlington Ct \$173,000
20217 Boardwalk Blvd \$126,000
19670 Butternut Ln \$175,000
28517 Castlegate Dr \$207,000
21541 Concord St \$135,000
28020 Everett St \$38,000
27065 Fairfax St \$157,000
26732 Franklin Pointe Dr \$65,000
28316 Glasgow St \$48,000
28316 Glasgow St \$58,000
19207 Greenwald Dr \$165,000
16201 Hilton St \$112,000
21115 Independence Dr \$227,000
17591 Jeanette St \$172,000
30620 Longcrest St \$147,000
17281 Madison St \$166,000
29856 Marshall St \$120,000
19301 Midway Rd \$68,000
29651 N Rutherford St \$170,000
28025 Ranchwood Dr \$275,000
28685 Red Leaf Ln \$109,000
28644 Regent Ct N \$54,000
28013 Selkirk St \$40,000
29439 Southgate Dr \$117,000
27725 Spring Arbor Dr \$100,000
29767 Spring Hill Dr \$160,000
30551 Ventura St \$165,000

19603 W 12 Mile Rd # 102 \$48,000
29199 Wellington Ct # 46 \$75,000
20840 Westland Dr \$65,000
17319 Westover Rd \$167,000

WHITE LAKE

9888 Coledale Ct \$399,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 19-23, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

806 Adams St \$267,000
822 Adams St \$297,000
44131 Applewood Rd \$217,000
42601 Boulden Ct \$211,000
4153 Bridgeview Ln \$224,000
1633 Brookline St \$113,000
34642 Candlewood Dr \$228,000
6849 Carriage Hills Dr \$135,000
1980 Cedar Valley Dr \$137,000
6960 Chadwick Dr \$279,000
7711 Charrington Dr \$260,000
42591 Collingham Ct \$215,000
7139 Copper Creek Cir \$195,000
44610 Cranbrook Ct \$181,000
1680 Dunston Dr \$275,000
4157 Elizabeth Ave \$144,000
7484 Green Meadow Ln \$198,000
42659 Hanford Rd \$185,000
45377 Horseshoe Cir \$151,000
4672 Hunters Cir W \$117,000
47784 Lindenhurst Blvd \$260,000
42974 Lombardy Dr \$206,000
43608 Lombardy Dr \$211,000
1625 Longfellow Dr \$176,000
39858 Lynn St \$144,000
6489 Marshall St \$262,000
739 Meadowlake Rd \$145,000
2054 Mistwood Ct \$503,000
837 Morning Dove Ct \$265,000
50830 Murray Hill Dr \$360,000
47286 Northgate Dr \$254,000
41084 Northwind Dr \$85,000
47691 Ormskirk Dr \$145,000
3957 Palace Ave \$217,000
438 Patriot St \$350,000
43292 Pepperwood St \$228,000
7460 Pointe Dr \$220,000
2171 Preserve Cir E \$165,000
777 Prospect Hill St \$375,000
42630 Redfern St \$189,000
5860 River Run Ct \$325,000
45639 Samantha Dr \$215,000

GARDEN CITY

28538 Bridge St \$93,000
6524 Cardwell St \$90,000
6639 Golfview St \$12,000
482 Henry Ruff Rd \$104,000
6126 Henry Ruff Rd \$109,000
362 Lytle Pl \$75,000
6610 Schaller St \$110,000

LIVONIA

31100 7 Mile Rd \$275,000
36903 7 Mile Rd \$310,000
20007 Antago St \$63,000
11600 Boston Post St \$85,000
31849 Bretton St \$136,000
32961 Briar Ct \$190,000
37333 Bristol St \$220,000
9181 Cardwell St \$246,000
11449 Cavell St \$110,000
9824 Cranston St \$203,000
30877 Dalhauy St \$152,000
17555 Dolores St \$133,000
18840 Doris St \$119,000
36205 Dover St \$162,000
35810 Elmira St \$272,000
35850 Elmira St \$240,000
18650 Foch St \$140,000
29196 Grandon St \$136,000
30027 Grandon St \$140,000
14421 Hillcrest St \$183,000
37732 Howell St \$182,000
37934 Howell St \$218,000
39080 Jamison St \$135,000
38034 Joy Rd \$160,000
17511 Lathens St \$128,000
19243 Levan Ct \$369,000
17726 Levan Rd \$232,000
14151 Mayfield St \$242,000
8883 Melvin St \$157,000
32520 Michele St \$171,000
16537 Middlebelt Rd \$40,000
16563 Middlebelt Rd \$41,000
29760 Minton St \$90,000
31148 Olson St \$140,000
35428 Parkdale St \$173,000
20220 Parker St \$128,000
19913 Parkville St \$168,000
9129 Pere Ave \$164,000
17360 Pershing St \$143,000
11707 Roselinda Dr \$288,000
32939 Scone St \$190,000

NORTHVILLE

32939 Scone St \$214,000
14729 Stonehouse Ave \$300,000
38427 Summers St \$90,000
14347 Sunbury St \$102,000
14196 Susanna St \$90,000
28855 Vassar St \$119,000
33024 Vermont St \$165,000
8963 W Deborah Ct \$150,000
30570 Whitworth St \$190,000
18232 Whittby St \$153,000
18651 Williams Ct \$260,000

PLYMOUTH

40422 Cove Ct \$280,000
15251 Farmbrook Dr \$160,000
676 Leicester St \$365,000
1655 Lexington St \$190,000
14341 Northville Rd \$168,000
9415 Oakview St \$165,000
141 Pinewood Cir \$59,000
49439 Plymouth Way \$128,000
9183 Redbud Ave \$224,000
671 S Harvey St \$305,000
51245 W Hills Dr \$385,000

REDFORD

14328 Brook Dr \$206,000
14132 Centralia \$80,000
17233 Centralia \$20,000
19313 Centralia \$48,000
12820 Crosley \$90,000
18218 Dalby \$40,000

WESTLAND

14726 Fox \$230,000
11430 Garfield \$46,000
20070 Garfield \$41,000
20497 Gaylord \$85,000
9191 Hemingway \$97,000
9652 Hemingway \$70,000
17371 Lennane \$74,000
20481 Macarthur \$40,000
17355 Olympia \$68,000
13941 Royal Grand \$70,000
14422 Sarasota \$76,000
19805 Seminole \$7,000
9031 Wormer \$64,000
9031 Wormer \$111,000

WAYNE

4221 Adams Cir \$55,000
4311 Biddle St \$80,000
4195 Cadillac Ave \$60,000
4345 Columbus St \$65,000
35223 Currier St \$92,000
31823 Stellwagen St \$89,000
36431 Upsand Ct \$115,000
34210 Winslow St \$70,000
32650 Woodbrook Dr \$73,000

WESTLAND

32642 Anita Dr \$144,000
1301 Barchester St \$130,000
33700 Beechwood St \$65,000
34383 Claudia Ct \$186,000
35629 Columbia Ave \$85,000
1290 Easley Dr \$113,000
38543 Emerald Ln N \$165,000
738 Ethan Dr \$200,000
39246 Gloucester St \$133,000
30336 Ledgediff Ave \$135,000
7760 Manor Cir \$55,000
6740 N Farmington Rd \$117,000
6071 Oak Pointe Dr \$212,000
750 Patricia Place Dr \$70,000
1345 Portland St \$17,000
29080 Powers St \$130,000
373 Randolph St \$119,000
7621 Randy Dr \$236,000
37195 Riviera Dr \$145,000
37517 Robinson Ct \$38,000
558 S Hawthorne St \$95,000
33945 Sequoia St \$75,000
33507 Somerset St \$100,000
35563 Thames St \$97,000
1424 Westchester St \$200,000
39047 Willow Creek Pkwy \$47,000
7530 Woodview St \$47,000

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH
24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, March 4 through 8:30 a.m. closing Mass on Saturday, March 5

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

Details: The event will feature several Masses, special Mercy Stations of the Cross, several opportunities for reconciliation, and 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration. There will also be some special snacks, activities, and "time-outs" for families and children during the 24-hour period. The celebration is open to all area Catholics. A full schedule is listed at livoniastmichael.org. Anyone interested in being part of the round-the-clock Adoration Team should call the parish office or visit the church website

Contact: 734-261-1455

BUDDHISM CLASS

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 24, April 14 and 28, and May 12 and 26

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

Details: Free five-week secular practical Buddhism class will apply Buddhist teachings to daily life through meditation, reflection and discussion. Secular Buddhism emphasizes the teaching of Eastern philosophy practices in a way that allows each individual to become their own teacher. Ideas such as "awakening" and "enlightenment" are goals in which there is no "one true way"

Contact: 248-478-7272; uuFarmington.org

EGG HUNT

Time/Date: Noon-1 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton

Details: Children may hunt for candy and small toys inside plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church and have a photo taken with the Easter bunny. Free

Contact: 734-495-0035

EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: 7:15 a.m. Sunday, March 27

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-man, Livonia

Details: Service will be held outdoors except in extreme weather conditions. Coffee and refreshments will be served after the service. An Easter breakfast will start at 9 a.m.

Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322

EASTER WEEK SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 24-25 and 10:30 a.m. March 27

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

Details: Maundy Thursday service on March 24; Good Friday service is March 25 and Easter service on March 27. An Easter breakfast also will be held at 9 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at 9:30 a.m., March 27

Contact: 734-427-3660

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13-May 15; no class on March 27

Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Course consists of 9 video lessons with guided discussions and planning tools for people at all stages of life. The course teaches how to get out of debt, save for the future, plan for emergencies, and save for college and retirement. Cost is \$93. Scholarships can be arranged

Contact: Bruce Walrad at bmwalrad@aol.com; 734-748-4427

FISH FRY

Time/Date: 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, through March 18

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

Details: All you can eat, \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for kids, ages 3-13, free for kids under 3, carry outs, \$9 and \$10

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Sunday, March 6-June 12

Location: Faith Community

Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-man, Livonia

Details: Non-denominational, Christian-based seminar support group is for individuals grieving the death of a loved one. The seminar consists of group discussions, DVDs and workbooks. The \$15 registration fee includes workbook journals and hand-outs

Contact: Pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, beginning March 14

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: The group meets weekly for 13 weeks and will include a video and discussion each week. Participants will also have the opportunity to journal in a workbook. Free but registration is required at christoursavior.org

Contact: Mike McGrath at 734-459-1274 or Linda Hollman at 734-522-6830

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Time/Date: 10:10-11 a.m. Sunday, through March 20 and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, through March 16

Location: Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Sunday series is held in the refectory; Wednesdays in the St. Andrew's room

Details: Sunday morning series explores the meaning of Lent. Wednesday sessions focus on Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline

Contact: 248-626-2515, ext. 117

LIVING TRUST

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, March 14

Location: Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Phil Beavers, vice president of Institutional Advancement at Great Lakes Christian College and Financial Planning Ministry present information about planning a living trust. Financial Planning Ministry assists individuals through the estate planning process for free, but encourages them to leave a gift for their local church after death

Contact: Rev. Todd Lackie at 248-476-8222

PILGRIMAGE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 30

Location: Carpool to the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township from St. John Neumann parish office, 44800 Warren Road, Canton.

Details: Cost is \$10 and includes tour and lunch. Deadline to register is March 23.

Contact: Janet Gilbo at jgilbo@wowway.com or Sharlene Borke at sharborke@gmail.com

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon-2 p.m. Sunday, March 6

Location: Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Regional School, at the current site of St. Raphael Catholic School, 31500 Beechwood, Garden City

Details: Preschool-eighth grade

Contact: 734-425-4420

SOUP SUPPER, SPEAKER

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 18

Location: Resurrection Catholic Parish, 48755 Warren Road, Canton

Details: A meatless meal of soup and bread is followed by Deacon Paul F. Lippard's discussion of "Living Lent with Mercy." Stations of the Cross will follow. RSVP to the parish office

Contact: 734-451-0444; resoffice@resurrectionparish.net

SPRING CARNIVAL, SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 12

Location: Concordia Lutheran School, 9500 Levee, Redford

Details: Carnival games, book fair, food and open house for prospective students

Contact: 313-937-2233; concordials.org

VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 20-April 17

Location: St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, March 20; St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen Road, Southfield, March 27; Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek

Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

Details: Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter-Orthodox chorus will sing the responses

Contact: Olga Liskiwsy at 248-252-8184; Olga-liss0910@gmail.com

VIDEO SERIES

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, through March 10

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: "Sacred Conversations on Racial Justice"

Contact: 734-721-5023

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

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

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

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

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

Faith Community Wesleyan

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

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

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

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

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

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

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

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethan Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

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

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

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

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

Recycling

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

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

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

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

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

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

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

Detroit World Outreach

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

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

» Farmington Hills Baptist

Church

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

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

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

» Merriman Road Baptist Church

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

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

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

» Fireside Church of God

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

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

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

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

» St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

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

Contact: 734-421-8451

» St. Thomas a' Becket Church

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

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

» Unity of Livonia

'Freezer Jam' kicks off fife, drum season

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps will perform at the annual music conference, Freezer Jam, on March 5 at Siena Heights University in Adrian.

In its 21st year, Freezer Jam brings together fife and drum corps from the Midwest for a day of learning, sharing, and community.

A free concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the University. This will be the first performance of The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps' 2016 season.

Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps is made up of students age 12 - 18 from Plymouth and surrounding communities. Its members are dedicated to preserving the ancient arts of color guard, fifing, and drumming. They average 40-50 live performances including parades, patriotic celebrations, civic events throughout Michigan, Ohio, and Canada. They also take a week-long summer tour.

To find out more about the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps' performance season, or to inquire about booking a performance, visit pfdc.us. Or, call Robin Hawman at 734-983-8804 or email pfdcpublicrelations@gmail.com.



Members of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps rehearse for Freezer Jam in Adrian.

CANTON GROUP GATHERS MONTHLY TO SING BOLLYWOOD TUNES

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you love the music of Bollywood films Dhvani Desai and Gayatri Mehta want to sing with you.

The two Canton women are the organizers of a monthly song night for fans of Hindi cinema, its songs and dances. Members come together to sing their favorite tunes from Indian musicals, as a group, individually, or karaoke-style.

"I love to sing and used to do stage performances when I was in college," said Desai, a single mom who works as a pharmacist. "One night she (Mehta) and I were hanging out. She always has music on. I started humming and then we were singing. She said, wouldn't it be fun if we could go to different locations and have everyone sing together?"

They set up a meetup.com page in November last year and dubbed their monthly meeting Bollywood Unplugged Nights. The first session brought singers together at a karaoke club in Ann Arbor. Desai had her iPad with its Bollywood song app — "it has Bollywood songs from all eras" — on hand and an acoustic guitarist also joined in.

The second meeting included a Bollywood movie and dinner. Desai said the group this month either will sing karaoke or may separate into teams for a musical battle, singing "back and forth" between singers.

The group drew singers from Birmingham, Troy, Walled Lake, Farmington Hills and other communities last month.

"I did attend both meetings and I loved them," said Alison



A member belts out a song with the help of a guitarist during Bollywood Unplugged Nights, a local group for Bollywood music fans.



Members of Bollywood Unplugged Nights love to sing songs from Hindi cinema.



Members of a Canton-based club love the music and dance from Hindi cinema and stage, such as this production, "The Merchants of Bollywood."

Tinsley, a Michigan native who has been living in Helsinki, Finland for her job. She returns to Michigan frequently.

"I happen to love Indian culture and always have, so I joined the Bollywood unplugged group. I met great people and we shared a lot of laughs," she said, in an email. "The karaoke was fun because it was our first time meeting and we could see everyone loosen up. The second event was dinner and a movie and it was also fun. I really enjoy the people in the group and look forward to another meet up."

Desai said the group is open to all, although the last two sessions drew singers in the 25-45 age range.

"We had a good mix. Even non-Indian people showed up," said Desai, who grew up in the United States. Mehta left Mumbai for the U.S. seven years ago.

Most of the songs are in Hindi, but Desai said sometimes, if they are sung karaoke-style, the lyrics are written in the English alphabet. Singers also can hum along. She said the group also has sung a few popular tunes for those not fluent in Hindi.

"We plan on doing some different things. We're looking at different venues around town. One night we might have it at a local club and hire a DJ and have a karaoke dance night where you can sing or dance," Desai said. A live Indian band is another possibility.

Dues are \$15 a year. Find out more about the group at meetup.com/Bollywood-Unplugged-Nights/.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

GET OUT!

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

HERITAGE PARK STABLES STUDIO

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 13

Location: Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Sue Majewski, a mosaic glass artist, will lead the workshop, which will focus on decorating three-dimensional letters. Participants will design their project, set colorful glass fragments, and will grout. All supplies will be included. Cost for each workshop is \$65 for non-residents and \$55 for residents.

Contact: <https://recreg.fhgov.com>; 248-473-1856

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through March 19; reception is 6-9 p.m. March 4

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: 10th Annual Member Exhibition

Contact: 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: Deadline for submissions is March 4

Location: Download entry form at threecitiesartclub.org

Details: The club seeks artists to submit original fine artwork, both 2-D and 3-D, for its spring art show, April 8-11 at the Westland Public Library. Submit up to three entries for \$30 on CD, flash drive or via email. Each additional piece is \$5. More than \$800 in prizes will be awarded

Contact: Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939; marilynmeredith@wowway.com

U-M MUSEUM OF ART

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. through May 29

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

Details: First U.S. exhibition of Chinese artist Xu Weixin focuses on portraits of Chinese coal miners and of Chinese historical figures during the Cultural Revolution

Contact: 734-764-0395; umma.umich.edu

FESTIVAL

CHINESE SPRING FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 12

Location: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Performances by Clivia Dance Group, Ann Arbor Jade Dance School, the Ann Hua Waist Drum Team, Michigan Chinese Choir, the Canton Philharmonic Choir, the March Wind Choir, the AM Choir and the New Century Chinese School youth chorus and more. Event includes Chinese Yo-yo, Tai Chi and a traditional Chinese instrumental performance by the Troy Chinese Classic Music Guzheng Team. Tickets are \$5

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org

FILM

MJR DIGITAL CINEMAS

Time/Date: Through March 20; check theaters for show times

Location: Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne Road, Westland, and other MJR theaters

Details: Children's film festival features "Goosebumps," March 5-6; "The Peanuts Movie," March 12-13; "Alvin & Chipmunks Road Chip," March 19-20. Free for children, 12 and under; parents pay \$1. Tickets distributed on first-come, first-served basis at the door

Contact: mjrtheatres.com

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, March 4 and 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 5-6

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: "The Big Short," \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. March 4, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 5

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: "Goldfinger," featuring Sean Connery, \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordtheatre.com

Fundraisers

HISTORY

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through May 15

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: "Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero: the Villas of Opionis near Pompeii," explores the lavish lifestyle and economic interests of some of ancient Rome's wealthiest and most powerful citizens, who vacationed along the Bay of Naples. Includes more than 200 items on loan from Italy. Admission is free

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Exhibit: "It's a Downton Abbey Thing," looks at the PBS series "Downton Abbey" in relation to events from 1912-1930 in southeast Michigan and the U.S.

Details: Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17.

Contact: 734-455-8940



Kyle Mitchell of Ypsilanti is King Rudolph and Erin Phelps of Livonia is Queen Eleanor in Spotlight on Youth's production of "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty."

MUSIC

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Bring your dancing shoes. \$5 donation

Contact: 734-453-1780

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: A \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

MAMA'S COFFEEHOUSE

Time/Date: Doors at 7 p.m., concert starts at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 19

Location: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills

Details: Finvarra's Wren; general admission is \$15, students and seniors pay \$13

Contact: mamascoffeehouse.org

MANRESA JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6

Location: 1390 Quarton, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Pianoboe will feature Sharon Sweet, piano, and Chris Wheeler, oboe, in a program that will include jazz and African-influenced sonatas through the Classical period to adapted familiar works. Afterglow follows. Tickets \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door

Contact: manresa-sj.org; 248-644-4933, ext. 10

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13

Location: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: "An Accordion Affair," features Peter Sozve in a solo appearance with the orchestra, along with a side-by-side performance of Rimsky Korsikov's "Dance of the Buffoons," with the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$25 for seniors, 62 and up, and \$10 for students with ID

Contact: 734-451-2112; michigan-phil.org

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Annie and Rod Capps with John Shain, March 4, Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer, and special guest, March 6; Peter Case, March 11, Julianne and the Rogues, March 12; Open Stage, March 15; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, March 18, Maneli Jamal, March 19. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted

Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

SPOKEN WORD

DETROIT STORY LEAGUE

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. March 5

Location: Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: 6th Annual Once Upon a Time storytelling concert for kids, ages 4-10 features La Ron Williams, Carolyn Grimes, Chrissy Begle, and Ami Jackson. Admission is \$3 per person. Each child will receive a special gift

Contact: Josie at 248-476-8515; jflores-1234@sbcglobal.net

MOTH STORY SLAM

Time/Date: Doors open 4:30 p.m.,

stories start 7 p.m. March 3, Detroit; doors open 6 p.m., stories start 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16, Ann Arbor

Location: Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave., Detroit and Circus Bar, 210 S. First Ave., Ann Arbor

Details: Prepare a five-minute story on the theme, toss your name in the hat, and if your name is pulled, step up and tell your true personal story live without notes. Volunteers from the audience judge the stories. The theme at Cliff Bell's is "excuses," and the theme at Circus Bar is "the dark side." Admission is \$5 in Detroit, \$8 in Ann Arbor

Contact: themoth.org

THEATER

BETTER THAN EVER PRODUCTIONS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 31, April 1-2, 2 p.m. April 3

Location: Plymouth arts and Recreation Complex, 650 Church, Plymouth

Details: "Last roundup of the Guacamole Queens," is set in a small Texas town where three cousins are in charge of the last reunion at a high school slated for demolition. Everything that can go wrong does. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door

Contact: betterthanneverprod.wix.com/btep; 734-306-7883

FARMINGTON PLAYERS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, March 3-5

Location: Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "The Diary Of Anne Frank" tells the story of the teenage writer, her family and others who struggled to hide from the Nazis in their attic. This version of the play weaves writings from Anne Frank's diary together with survivor accounts. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for students and seniors, age 62 and up. Admission on March 3 is \$14 for everyone

Contact: 248-553-2955, farmington-players.org

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, March 16-17; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 18-19; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Inspire Theater, located in the Westland Performing Arts Center, 33455 Warren Road, Westland

Details: "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty" is a musical spin on the classic tale. Tickets are \$15

Contact: 734-751-7057; spotlightyouth-mi.com

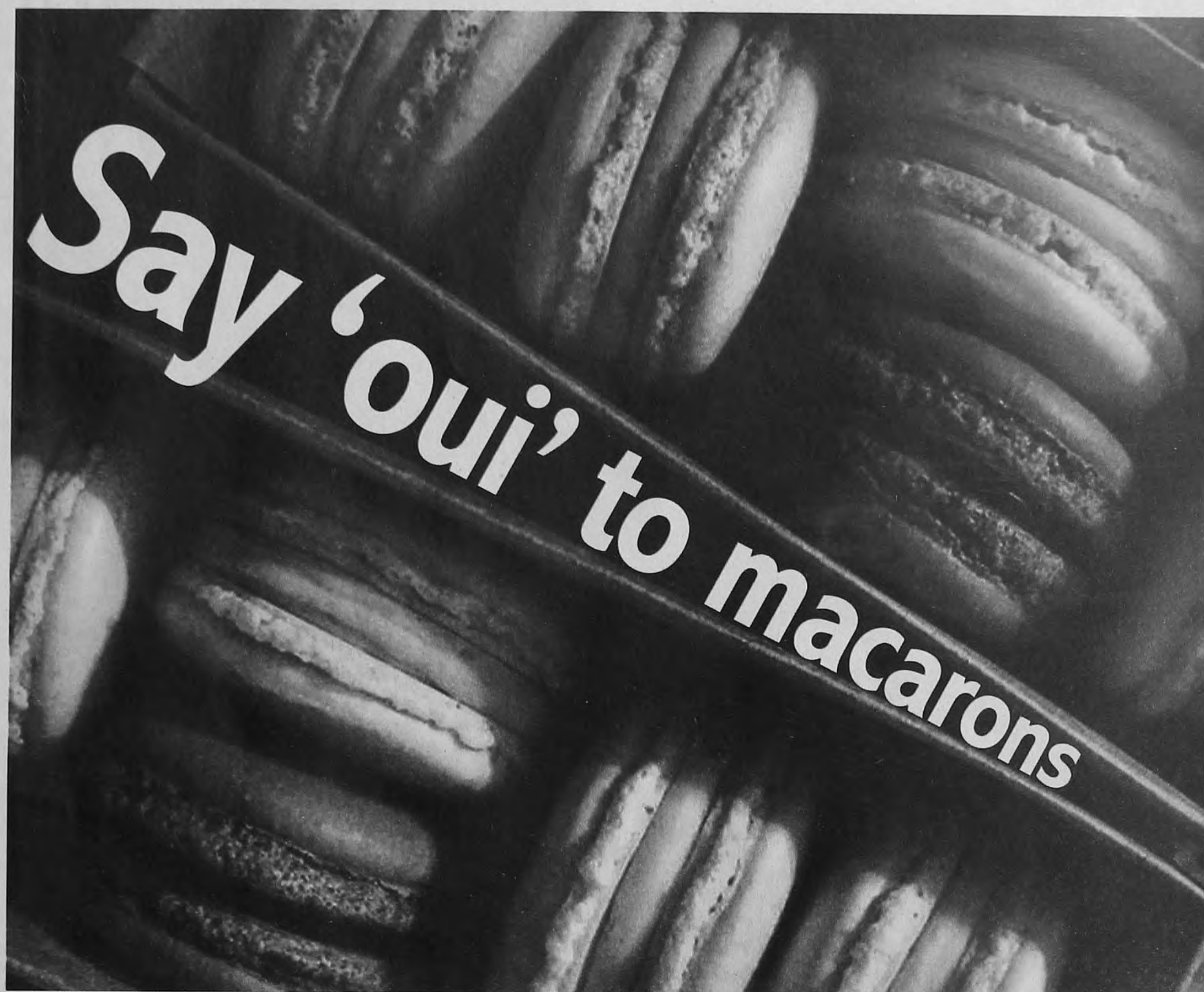
STILL GOT IT PLAYERS

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, March 16-17; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 18-19; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Biltmore Studio at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Old Ringers" is about four senior women and one man who are strapped for funds and start a phone sex service to increase their incomes. Tickets are \$16-\$18

Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillagetheater.org



Colored shells and fillings give the macarons visual appeal and help to identify different flavors.

ADINA ST. JOHN

Tasty treats play starring role in Blu Kitchen's pop-up events

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Adina St. John may open the Detroit area's first store dedicated to macarons.

But first, the Canton woman is testing the market with a series of pop-up events on Detroit's east side.

"If you go to some of the larger cities where they have the actual macaron stores, they'll have rows and rows of them like this," said St. John, placing the colorful pastries in a display case last month during her first pop-up sale. "Everyone is always asking where can they get them like that in Detroit. Well, you can't."

"So, the pop-ups...there is no commitment as far as having to lease a building. While everyone says they are interested in a macaron store, before I go any further, I'll know how feasible that is. Then we'll go from there."

French-style macarons look like colorful, light sandwich cookies. They consist of a filling between two meringue-like shells.

"Ninety-nine percent of the time the shells are going to be just almond, sugar and egg and the filling can be chocolate butter cream, caramel, pretty much anything you want," she said. "There is so much you can do with it."

She uses a food coloring in the shells to make the macarons visually interesting and to help identify the flavored fillings. The shells all taste the same. Macaron bakers use ganache, jam, preserves, buttercream — St. John even tried hummus — in between the cookies to add flavor.

She sells pre-packaged macarons at farmers markets, but at the pop-ups, customers can choose from a variety of flavors. Her business is called The Blu Kitchen and its pop-ups start at 10 a.m. the first and third Saturday of March and April, at The Detroit Marshmallow Co., 17215 Mack Ave, Detroit.

First pop-up

More than two dozen shoppers waited for the door to open at St. John's first pop-up last month. They crowded into the tiny shop four and five at a time, eagerly handing over \$2.50 per macaron



SHARON DARGAY

Adina St. John of Canton carefully arranges her handmade macarons at a pop-up event in Detroit.



Adina St. John talks about her macarons while preparing for her twice-monthly pop-up sale.



SHARON DARGAY

Rows of macarons await customers at the pop-up event.

for a chance to taste flavors such as lemon, hot chocolate, coffee, and vanilla with sprinkles.

Chelsie Helderop of New Hudson was among the first to fill a box and admitted she'd likely taste her purchase on the ride home. She decided to give St. John's

macarons a try after learning about the pop-up on Facebook.

"I love Detroit, so I came down," she said. "I wouldn't miss it. It was worth the drive."

First taste

St. John bought her first macaron from Pinwheel Bakery in Ferndale. Then her husband, Jason, brought home macarons from France while on a business trip.

"We had them and they were great," St. John re-

called. "And I said, I can do that."

She, her husband and their teenage daughters had moved from the suburbs of Milwaukee, Wisc., to Michigan in 2010 because of a job transfer. She discovered the area's farmers markets and looked into the Michigan's cottage food law.

"I started thinking, that is so cool. I'd love to work at the farmers market. So, we were tossing around ideas of what I could make."

She considered jam, and then soap, but decided those handmade products were easy to find at local markets.

"When I started with these, there was no one else. When I started it was me," St. John said. "Now there are a couple of other people."

Getting started

St. John at first used six different recipes and now bakes a combination of the six. She tweaked flavors and shell recipes for about six months and then began selling her creations. Her first event during the summer in 2014 was at a market in Birmingham. She sold macarons at farmers markets, including Eastern Market in Detroit and Novi Farmers Market and has been a vendor at the Detroit Urban Craft Fair for two years.

Although she started producing her macarons in the kitchen at her home, she also wanted to sell in cafes and stores, which is not allowed under the cottage food law. Eli Tea in Birmingham and Socra Tea in Detroit began selling her macarons after she switched to a licensed commercial kitchen in Plymouth, a white and stainless steel environment, unlike any of her previous kitchens.

"My kitchen (at home) is blue. The kitchen in our last house was blue. My kitchen growing up was blue. My grandmother's kitchen is blue. It's always been blue," she said, with a laugh. "If we find a permanent space, I'll make sure it's blue."

Visit her website, theblukitchen.com for a full list of macaron flavors, or see The Blu Kitchen's Facebook page.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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