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Local GOP leaders want more debate substance, less squabbling

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Too many personal attacks,
too few policy discussions.

That was the reaction of
Plymouth-Canton Republican
leaders to Thursday night's
debate between four GOP
presidential candidates, held
at Detroit's Fox Theatre.

The forum, between front-
running businessman Donald
Trump and Sens. Ted Cruz of
Texas and Marco Rubio of
Florida and Ohio Gov. John
Kasich, included insults ("Lit-
tle Marco," "Lyn' Ted"), refer-
ences to the size of Trump's
hands and other, uh, attributes,
and even some talk of what
each would do if elected.

"All this personal back-and-
forth gets a little old at times,"
said state Sen. Patrick Col-
beck, R-Canton Township. "I
think this election's been like
no other."

"The personal attacks, at
this point, I don't think it
makes any difference," said
state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Ply-
mouth Township.

"I would like to see these
debates focused more on im-
portant issues," he added,
listing jobs and the economy,
the national debt and terror-
ism as among those at the top
of his list.

"Focus on the issues, rather
than wallowing in the mud
with Donald Trump," said
Mike Mitchell, chairman of the

11th Congressional District
Republican Committee.

Colbeck, the chairman of
Cruz's Michigan campaign
committee, said his man won
the night, sticking to issues
and avoiding the personal
insults.

"Ted has done a good job of

See **DEBATE**, Page A6

'Keep calm and spell on'

Gallimore fifth-grader
wins literacy council
spelling bee

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Andrew Xie likely has no
clue who Frank Neuhauser
might be. But the Gallimore
fifth-grader has a lot in com-
mon with him.

Xie and Neuhauser have
the distinction of being spell-
ing bee winners. In 1925,
Neuhauser, then 11, was the
winner of the first National
Spelling Bee. On Feb. 23, Xie
won the annual youth Spell-
ing Bee, hosted by the Ply-
mouth-Canton Community
Literacy Council.

Xie's winning words were
"athlete" and "censor." He
was joined in the winner's
circle by Charvi Rayarapu, a
fourth-grader at Gallimore
Elementary, who took second
place. Taking third place was
Saumya Arora, a fourth-
grader at Workman Ele-
mentary.

Xie was the champ be-
cause he – after about eight
rounds – spelled two consec-
utive words correctly, said
Debbie Cortellini, literacy
council president.

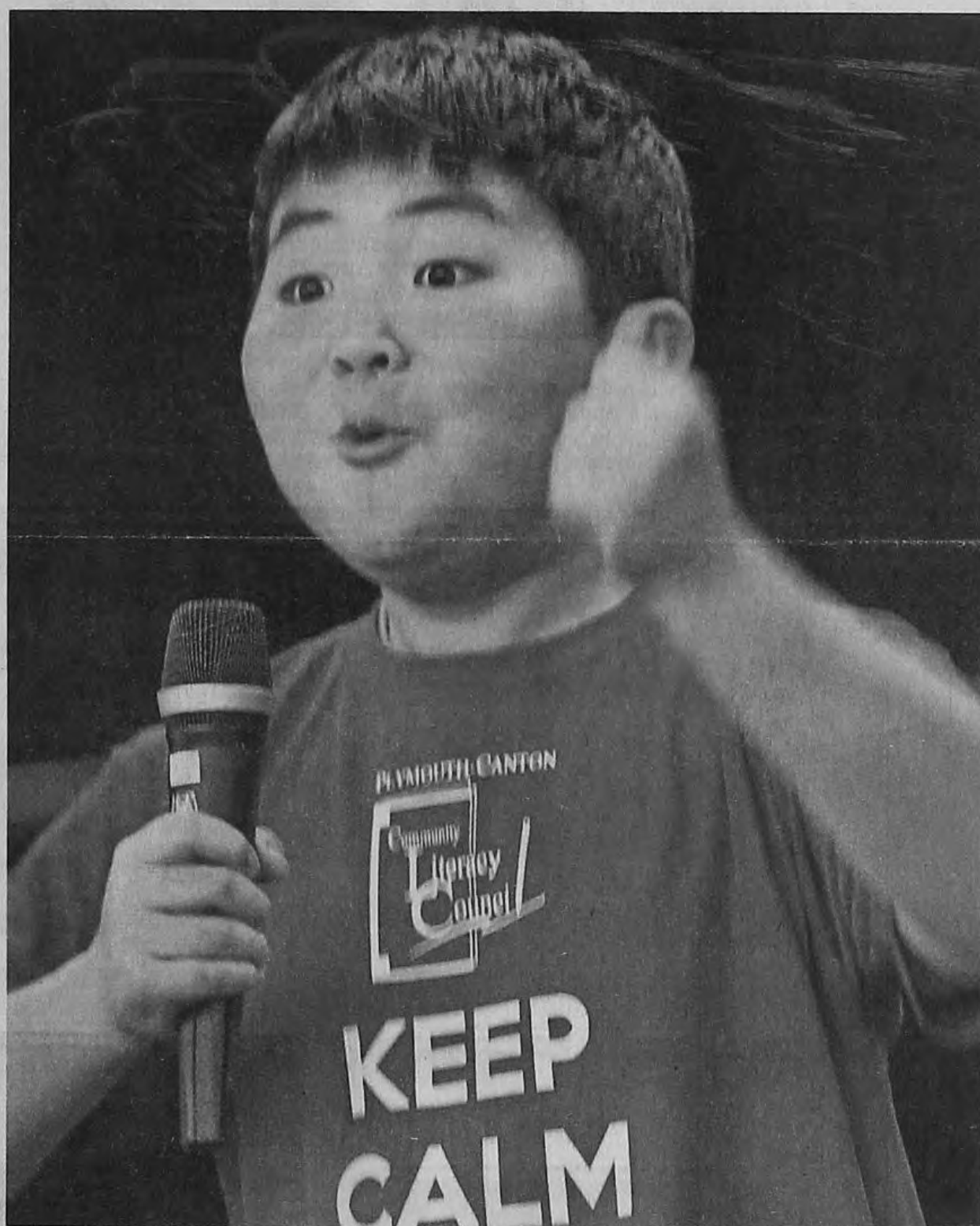
"I love these kids," said
Cortellini, a former Ply-
mouth-Canton elementary
teacher, adding that some
240 family members filled
the audience. "The kids were
spelling some really tough
words."

This is the third year for
the council's youth spelling
bee, held at Liberty Middle
School. "It is exposure for
what we do," Cortellini said,
referring to advocating liter-
acy.

All Plymouth-Canton
public elementary schools –
fourth and fifth grades –
were invited to participate in
the spelling bee. All, except
Miller, sent spellers, with a
total of 40 signed up and 38
participating. The bee has
grown over the years from 18
spellers the first year and 30
the second year. Many of the
participants are second-
language students.

"Our goal is to for every-

See **BEE**, Page A9



And the Youth Spelling Bee winner is Andrew Xie.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER
It comes down to
three spellers.
Charvi Rayarapu,
Saumya Arora
and Andrew Xie,
who won the bee.

Students, parents question P-CEP start time

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Some Plymouth-Canton high
school students say they fall
asleep in class. Others sleep
during their lunch period. And
just as many say they are al-
ready addicted to caffeine –
just to make it through days of
school, sports, activities and
homework, not to mention
part-time jobs.

"What do I sacrifice?" P-
CEP junior Connor Stacey
asked the Plymouth-Canton
Board of Education recently.

Student Nathan Viet told the
board he takes Melatonin to
help him sleep at night. Other
students, he said, take caffeine
pills and at least a pot of coffee
daily.

Student Mikey Curtis said
he gets up at 5 a.m. to make it
to the P-CEP for a 7:10 a.m.
start time. "I'm here to tell you
that kids can't play sports if
they are taking a nap after
school."

And yet another student,
Jona Cera said that between
working, sports, after-school
activities and homework, "as
teenagers we are always tired."
She added: "I cannot partici-
pate in my first-hour class
without coffee. Truthfully, I
have also fallen asleep in my
classes."

"I am a 16-year-old girl and
I'm already addicted to cof-
fee," she added.

And that's the problem, said
Drs. David Sengstock, Jodie
Sengstock and Dr. David Sza-
raz, who told board members
of the plethora of research that
indicates teens – who are still
growing and developing – are
not getting the sleep, about
eight hours, that they need.

The doctors, Plymouth-
Canton residents, and parent
and students asked the school
board to consider changing the
7:10 a.m. start time at the three
high schools at the Plymouth-

See **START**, Page A6



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LaJoy lauds Canton in final State of Township speech

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Supervisor Phil LaJoy, in his eighth and final State of the Township address as Canton's top elected official, touted Canton as a resilient community that has emerged strong after refusing to cower to a stubborn recession.

LaJoy described Canton's position as "shaky" when he took office in 2009, saying Michigan was hard hit by unemployment, foreclosed homes and huge losses in tax revenues.

Citing a team effort, he said Canton fought back with employee concessions, spending cuts, two public safety tax increases and a determined spirit not just to survive — but thrive.

"I am very happy to report that the state of

Canton Township is excellent," LaJoy, 71, said Wednesday afternoon. "The steps taken have ensured that Canton remains the safe, vibrant community we all know and love."

In a departure from his past State of the Township speeches, he made this one via pre-recorded video as a crowd of 170 people watched inside the Village Theater at Cherry Hill during a Canton Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The video wove scenes from Canton's past year with humor and animation.

LaJoy chose to deliver his speech by video to avoid the on-stage emotions he knew he would face if he gave a live address. This year marks the last of a 27-year political career that included 13 years as a township

trustee, six as a state representative and eight as supervisor.

Tonya Caldwell, manager of Pearle Vision on Ford Road, said LaJoy gave an upbeat speech that revealed how Canton survived the recession and has begun to lure new businesses.

"I thought it was good," she said. "It was very informative."

Thomas Gerou, owner of Gerou Chiropractic in Canton, lauded LaJoy's recession-era leadership.

"We really weathered the storm quite well," Gerou said, adding that LaJoy kept Canton on the right path while cutting spending to overcome financial difficulties.

Among the highlights of LaJoy's speech:

» He said Canton has shaved \$17 million off its unfunded liability, or so-called legacy costs, mostly by increasing employee cost-sharing for health care and moving to a self-insurance program. That's a significant start toward reducing legacy costs pegged at \$99.5 million in 2014 for unfunded health care and pension obligations.

He also said Canton has refinanced debt to save \$200,000 over the



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Supervisor Phil LaJoy's final State of the Township speech was delivered via pre-recorded video, with LaJoy addressing the crowd briefly at the end. He opted not to give a live speech because of the emotions that come with leaving office.

next five years.

» LaJoy said Canton benefited from road projects last year including the widening of Cherry Hill, west of Canton Center, and Beck Road on the township's north end, along with resurfacing projects on sections of Lilley and Geddes.

Next up, he said, Lotz Road is slated for paving this year between Ford and Cherry Hill, in the wake of some improve-

ments already made near the Ford/I-275 interchange.

» Canton, already witnessing a new housing construction boom, is expected to have 1,300 new home starts within the next two years. LaJoy also said new commercial and retail growth continues as Canton awaits a new Fresh Thyme Market, Chipotle, T.J. Maxx, Tom+Chee and Panda Express, among other businesses. He said Busch's Fresh Food Market, after long delays, is expected to open this fall at Canton Center and Cherry Hill.

» LaJoy said Canton's rental inspection ordinance already has focused on 900 single-family homes and 800 apartments in complexes such as The Crossings — an effort designed to ensure safe living conditions.

» LaJoy said the most serious felony crimes — such as robbery, felonious assault, murder, rape, auto theft and arson — fell 17 percent from 2014 to 2015. He credited new crime-fighting initiatives by the Canton Public Safety Department, which also has begun a series of programs to form closer ties

to neighborhood groups.

» LaJoy said the Canton Fire Department has finalized new procedures for having paramedics respond with police officers if Canton should have an active shooter situation. He said the program would allow initial treatment of the wounded until they can be moved to a safe zone.

» LaJoy said amenities such as the Summit on the Park recreation center — celebrating its 20th year — have had makeovers. Moreover, efforts are continuing to develop Patriot Park, a 134-acre site northwest of Ford and Ridge roads.

» Canton's arts scene continues to flourish, LaJoy said, with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival returning this summer to the Village Theater and plans moving ahead at a former Henry Ford factory site in Cherry Hill Village, where the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities has plans for walking and biking trails, artist studios and an art/healing program for war veterans.

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Trial set for Canton bank robbery suspect

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Barring a plea deal, a 26-year-old suspect is facing trial in April amid allegations he was the masked, hooded man who went inside a Canton bank and handed a teller a note demanding money and a car.

He fled empty-handed.

The defendant, Damon Ross Davis Jr., could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted of bank robbery and armed robbery charges for an incident

that happened the morning of Jan. 14 at the Citizens Bank branch on Ford Road, near Haggerty.



Davis

Davis is facing a jury trial set for April 25 in Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas Cameron's courtroom.

According to court records, Davis remains jailed with a \$100,000/10-percent bond, meaning he could be released with

\$10,000.

On Tuesday, Cameron accepted a motion to reduce the suspect's bond — originally set in Plymouth 35th District Court at \$1 million/10-percent. That would have required Davis to post \$100,000 for his release.

Davis has pleaded not guilty. A not-guilty plea was placed on record for him.

Davis was arrested in late January after Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said an investigation led police to a Canton residence, where they found

the suspect. His arrest culminated a joint investigation by Canton police, the Michigan State Police and the Western Wayne Community Response Team, made up of multiple law enforcement agencies working together on big cases.

Police had released a surveillance photo of a masked, hooded suspect after the bank incident. Wilsher has said the teller refused to give money to the suspect, who fled the scene on foot.

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City Year members talk career paths at Comcast

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Arrita Mallory, Patrick Killian and Cornelous Crenshaw are taking a year out to help troubled children and teenagers stay on track in school.

But Friday, they and close to 70 other City Year Detroit workers spent time exploring their own paths during a career day at Comcast Corp.'s regional headquarters in Plymouth Township.

Comcast, a media and communications company, has been a longtime partner of City Year, which puts young people, many of them recent college graduates, into local schools for an entire academic year. They serve as tutors and mentors, assist teachers and act as sounding boards and role models for at-risk students.

City Year has a presence in 27 communities across the country and

has been in the Detroit area since 1999.

Comcast's career day, an annual event, included a panel discussion on topics such as leadership, the importance of volunteerism in professional life and finding one's career passion. City Year members also got resume-writing, networking and interview tips and advice on landing a job.

"We count it as a privilege to be able to support what you're doing in the community," Megan Hanley, a senior specialist in community investment at Comcast, told participants as the event began.

'Kids love you'

One City Year team, assigned to Detroit's Noble Elementary-Middle School in Detroit, got special mention Friday when Andrew Stein, executive director of City Year Detroit, noted significant increases in the number of students who met or exceeded bench-



Josh Lange (left) a Comcast fulfillment manager, leads a resume-writing workshop with City Year Detroit members Friday at Comcast's regional headquarters in Plymouth Township.

ROB PONTO

marks on standardized tests. City Year Detroit has partnered with Noble since 2011.

"Those kids love you at Noble. You have a real relationship with those kids," said Maria Holmes, a Comcast director of community investment who visited Noble recently. "They feel like they can make it, they can do better."

Crenshaw, of Detroit, is a team member at Noble. A graduate of Florida Memorial University, where he studied criminal justice and social work, Crenshaw said building a rapport with Noble students is important in his work at the school.

"They lack education because they lack emotional support," which is

something he tries to provide, Crenshaw said in a brief interview Friday morning.

He noted that he mentored peers while in high school and was a resident adviser at Florida Memorial. "I've always been in tune with talking to people," he said.

Future plans

The work at Noble, Crenshaw said, should help move him toward his goal of running a youth center "for these children who don't have the means to make their lives easy." First, Crenshaw plans to attend Marygrove College to earn a master's degree in human resources management.

Killian, who grew up in Plymouth Township and lives in Royal Oak, is unsure of his next step. He's on the City Year Detroit team at Harper Woods High School, working mostly with ninth- and 10th-graders. A mathematics major

from the University of Michigan, Killian said he joined City Year to explore a teaching career and because he liked its mission of social change. A math tutor in college, Killian said he may continue tutoring after City Year or work in a non-profit setting.

Mallory, who lives in Farmington Hills, also graduated from U-M, with a degree in evolutionary anthropology. She's planning to attend dental school at Marquette University later this year.

She worked with young people in Detroit as a volunteer while in high school and college, so a City Year commitment was something that fit well with her "gap year," she said. She is part of a team at Burns Elementary-Middle School in Detroit.

"I'm learning a lot," Mallory said. "I enjoy working with kids."

Plymouth-Canton Interfaith group is seeking to broaden its reach

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Plymouth-Canton group promoting diversity, tolerance and understanding among a rainbow of local faiths and cultures is continuing efforts to broaden its reach.

Calling itself the Plymouth-Canton Interfaith Community Outreach, the group has drawn together representatives as diverse as Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs to build relations and stand against divisive politics. Its focus ranges from social gatherings to student visits to places of worship.

"It's an attempt to build friendships in the community and celebrate our diversity," ICO coor-



Students visit the Sahib Singh Sabha of Michigan, a Sikh place of worship in Canton.

dinator Anne Marie Graham-Hudak said. "We are a diverse community and this is really about getting to know each other."

She acknowledged the group faces challenges trying to broaden its

reach and draw in residents who may have little exposure to people from other faiths and cultures, but it's a challenge the group is willing to tackle.

Next up, the ICO group has invited the

community to gather for conversation and to share snacks 6-8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon Road. Admission is free and visitors are encouraged to bring snacks to pass around.

"We try to make these real informal conversations, so people can just mingle," Graham-Hudak said.

The Plymouth-Canton ICO also has asked those attending to bring toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo to help those living in the Westland-based Wayne County Family Center, which provides emergency shelter.

ICO has been involved in events as diverse as

peace walks, community forums on tolerance and gatherings to show unity against what ICO members have called polarizing politics in the U.S. presidential race.

Moreover, Canton and Plymouth faith houses are continuing to host students, parents and educators from 14 school districts in southeast Michigan to teach courses on cultures and traditions. It's called Religious Diversity Journeys and is aimed at seventh-grade students.

Districts such as West Bloomfield, Troy, Oak Park, Birmingham and Dearborn are among those who bring students to the Plymouth-Canton faith houses. ICO members still are working to get the Plymouth-Canton

district involved in those faith house visits, though some local teachers do invite Religious Diversity Journeys members to visit their classrooms.

Chandru Acharya, an ICO leader and president of the South Asian American Voices for Impact, or SAAVI, presents the Hindu section of the course and also has paid visits to Plymouth-Canton classrooms.

Acharya called the program "an opportunity for students to broaden their understanding of world cultures." For more information about Plymouth-Canton Interfaith Community Outreach, send an email to plymouthico@yahoo.com.

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Laurie Aren (center) of the Plymouth Salvation Army with Andrea Hug, president of the Plymouth-Canton Parent School Council, and school board Trustee John Barrett.

Aren honored for school supplies collection for kids

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

It's an annual effort and Laurie Aren of the Salvation Army, with the help of volunteers, filled 150 boxes of school supplies for delivery to Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren schools this academic year.

"It's community helping community. We are proud to be a small part of it," said Aren, Plymouth Salvation Army director of family and community ministries.

For Aren's efforts in collecting school supplies to help kids who can not otherwise afford them and for her Spread the Love, Not the Flu, she was

recognized – by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education – with a Volunteers in Public Schools Award. Andrea Hug, president of the district's Parent School Council, was also recognized for organizing parents to help with the distribution of the supplies.

"These were not small boxes," Hug said.

Aren also collected \$25 gift certificates to Payless shoes so kids could have new shoes for school. "It's a pleasure to be a part of this community," she said.

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Twenty-two All Saints Catholic School students have been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

All Saints School announces new honor society inductees

All Saints Catholic School has announced the induction of 22 students into the National Junior Honor Society.

The induction was celebrated with a special Mass and ceremony March 1. With the new students, All Saints has a total of 37 students in the honor society.

"We are extremely honored to welcome these young students into the NJHS," Principal Kristen Strausbaugh said. "These students have worked very diligently toward this achievement and will represent All Saints Catholic School well in high

school and beyond."

National Junior Honor Society is a club that challenges students to work hard and excel in academics, service and citizenship.

"I am extremely proud and excited for this group of students because they really focus on building each other up and incorporating service into their daily lives," said Bridget Yaldou, junior high teacher and NJHS adviser. "For three consecutive years, our NJHS team has worked every Friday during Lent at Plymouth's St. Kenneth Catholic Church for their fish

fry dinners. This is just one way we try to give back and serve the greater community."

Congratulations to the following students:

Margaret Adams; Nathan Arao; David Ashman; Alexa Boufford; Gabrielle Chabala; Adam Christie; Jenna DePriest; Marianna DiMaria; Gianna Hicks; Anna LaForest; Madeline LaForest; Mariysha Mahimai; Shaun McGrath; Kieran Neaton; Nora Nuculaj; Joey Per; Liam Reidy; Ava Rund; John Soltis; Grace Squashic; Maria Vena and Kalena Wingrove.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

University of Findlay

Evan Rinke of Plymouth was awarded the endowed Shafer-Van Dorn-McGrannan Scholarship for the 2015-16 academic year.

University of Iowa

Emma Buchele of Canton has been named to the dean's list for the 2015 fall semester.

Emerson College

Mary Wildman of Canton has been named to the dean's

list for the fall 2015 semester. Wildman is majoring in writing, literature and publishing.

Rochester Institute of Technology

Matthew Chin of Plymouth was named to the dean's list for the fall semester 2015-16. Chin is studying in the computing security program.

Grand Valley State University

Canton students Ethan R.

Christensen, Kelsey N. Duran, Michael B. Ganzak, Calley B. Keithler, Kaitlin A. Munoz, Michael S. Nadratowski, Sarah R. Stratford, Veronika K. Uebelacker, Kasey M. Winczkowski, and Zachary W. Yokom, have graduated.

Plymouth students Charles J. McCrary, Alexander P. Sasyk, Paige E. Stevens and Brianna R. Wilson have graduated.

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P-CCS investigating reported ‘inappropriate’ posting of photos

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

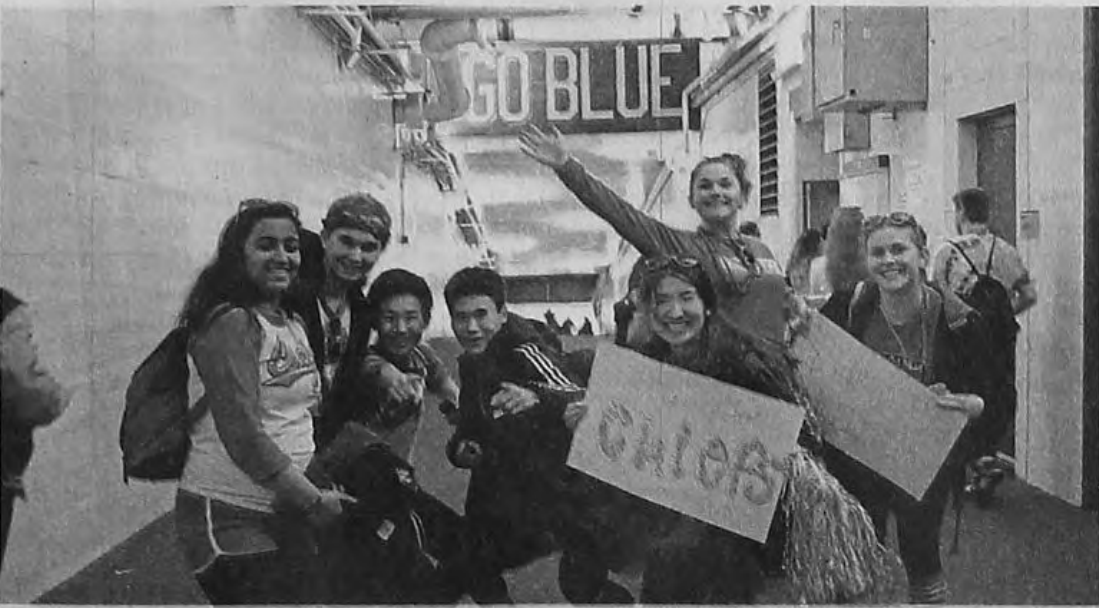
A Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student contacted the *Observer & Eccentric* Friday saying district administration is conducting an investigation into reportedly inappropriate or explicit photos of a teacher that

an unidentified high school student re-posted on social media.

Canton police confirmed they are not conducting an investigation; P-CEP is located in Canton. But school district administrators are investigating. The actual content and source of the photos is unknown.

Calling it, at this point, a “personnel issue,” the district issued the following statement: “It is being investigated. And we cannot comment further because it is a personnel issue.”

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com
248-396-6620
Twitter: @jmaliszews



May Bharathan, Nathan Ewell, Howard Zhang, David McGrath, Samantha McGrath, Mckenna Pierce and Mardi Fries prepare for the plunge.

Taking an icy plunge for charity

The Canton Congress headed to the Big House at the University of Michigan and took the plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics Foundation in mid-February.

Congress members participated in the chilly Special Olympics Polar Plunge and raised \$700 for the foundation, according to member Samantha McGrath.



David McGrath takes the plunge for the Special Olympics Foundation.



Students on break visited the Plymouth District Library to play, dance and make “Pete the Cat” masks.

What did you do on your break?

The Plymouth District Library was a favorite spot for kids who were on break from school and wanted to hang out with *Pete the Cat*, a series of books for children. The program drew plenty of kids who danced, played games and heard all about the cat who is famous in the world of children. Kids and their parents also donated cat food and pet toys to be donated to the Michigan Humane Society.

The series of books by author James Dean set the tone for the program, which included making *Pete the Cat* masks.



Allie Thomas, age 18 months of Plymouth, checked out the donations and the wide array of “Pete the Cat” books.

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Canton announces children's camp fair

Registration for this year's Canton Leisure Services summer camp programs will begin in person and online Saturday, March 12, during Canton's annual Camp Fair, located at the Summit on the Park recreation center.

The fair occurs 10 a.m. to noon in the Summit's Grand Ballroom, 46000 Summit Parkway. Children's activities and refreshment will be offered free.

"It's never too early to start planning for a terrific summer for your children," Recreation Specialist Jennifer Girard said. "Canton Leisure Services offers an extensive variety of exciting daily, weekly and month-long summer camp opportunities for children of all ages."

The Camp Fair represents the opening of Canton summer camp registration and also kicks off the in-person registration for Canton Leisure Services spring and summer classes and programs.

Canton's summer camp offerings include day camps, pre-school camps, sport camps, special-needs programs, art camps, science and education camps and more.

For those new to the Canton



Canton Activity Crew campers get creative with colorful sidewalk chalk in Heritage Park during a previous event.

area or to summer camps, Canton Leisure Services will be providing summer camp concierges at the Camp Fair. To schedule an appointment with a concierge during the event, call 734-394-5474.

For more information on Canton's summer camp offerings and other recreation and education programs, call 734-394-5460 or go to www.cantonfun.org.

START

Continued from Page A1

Canton Educational Park because of the early hours, lack of sleep and the potential hazard to students' health.

School board members did not respond to the presentation, but asked for contact information from the doctors.

In a written statement regarding the request, Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt said: "Student safety and well-being always has been, and always will be, the number one priority of our school district. The presentation at the recent board meeting raised valid concerns that we have considered in the past. We are definitely open to studying this in the near future and we invite the knowledgeable medical professionals who visited to collaborate with us on



Merritt

that work in the coming months."

David Sengstock referenced research, such as a study from the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement.

That three-year study, which involved 9,000 students at eight high schools in three states, showed that later start times and more sleep produced higher graduation rates. It also indicated that schools with start times at 7:30 a.m. had 34 percent of students who reported sleeping for eight or more hours.

Schools with start times as late as 8:55 a.m. had 66 percent of students sleeping eight or more hours.

Sengstock also noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has also conducted studies on teens and school starting times, claims that school should not begin before 8:30 a.m. He referred to studies by Johns Hopkins University Hospital showing young medical residents and the lack of sleep they have – and the consequences. "I see the same thing going on in our schools."

DEBATE

Continued from Page A1

focusing on the records, which I think are fair game for discussion," he said.

Mitchell: Attacks distracting

Heise and Mitchell, both Rubio supporters, agreed their candidate was flat Thursday. They did like his quip about yoga when Cruz urged Trump to, "breathe, breathe."

"I think Marco could've performed better, no doubt about it," Mitchell said. The attacks distract people from the core principals conservatives need to discuss, he said.

"I'm not happy with Marco attacking Donald

Trump and vice-versa," he said. "These debates need to become more substantive."

Heise agreed, saying Kasich and Cruz performed the best.

"(Rubio) spent too much time in the beginning going after Donald Trump and he didn't need to do that," he said. Kasich did a good job by talking policy and staying out of the fray, the three said.

Kasich, Mitchell said, "really hit a home run" when talking about foreign policy, when he outlined his approach to the war on terrorism and said he would support allies around the world.

Colbeck applauded the Fox News moderators for using facts and figures to challenge Trump's claims about how he would cut the

federal budget.

"We've got to go off and connect the dots between the truth and what they say and, if there is no connection, we've got to hold them accountable," Colbeck said.

Heise and Colbeck said the crowd at the Fox added to the contentious mood in the theater.

"At times it was quite raucous. The crowd was very fired up," Heise said. "The level of crowd participation and the yelling and chanting and hollering is something I've never seen before."

"This has been a very emotional campaign season and I think everyone was a little bit tired," Colbeck said.

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734-678-8432

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SALWAN GEORGES | MICHIGAN.COM

Fight night: Republican presidential candidates (from left) Sen. Marco Rubio, businessman Donald Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich on the Fox Theatre stage Thursday during the GOP debate.

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St. Baldrick's goes 'head hunting' for shavees

The St. Baldrick's Foundation, a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to raising money for children's cancer research, will host one of its signature head-shaving events May 15 at The Plymouth Roc, where organizers hopefully to have more than 100 volunteers brave the shave in solidarity with kids with cancer and raise money to conquer childhood cancers.

Why all the shaved heads? Worldwide a child is diagnosed with cancer every three minutes and one in five children diagnosed in the U.S. will not survive. With only 4 percent of all federal cancer research funding dedicated to pediatric cancer research, St. Baldrick's Foundation volunteers, supporters and donors are needed to continue the battle against this devastating disease.

With the help of The Plymouth Roc, Fantastic Sam's of Plymouth, its volunteer committee and local businesses, organizers hope this year's event beats last year's



Eric Bacyinski (from left), co-chair Robb Drzewicki and Jordan West helped St. Baldrick's raise \$60,000 at the 2014 event.

numbers. The event will feature raffles and selling off the rights to take first swipe at your friend or family member's locks. This event is like none other and it's not something you'll easily forget.

The event has raised a lot of money, from \$10,000 in the first year to a high-water mark of \$60,000 in the fourth

year. Last year's event raised \$42,000.

The event started in 2011 in Livonia and moved to The Plymouth Roc in 2014. For its third year at The Plymouth Roc bar, the event's organizers hope to bring new spectators and shaves together with veterans of the event.

"When you've been running an event like this

for a few years, you start to lose the support of your core volunteers," said Robb Drzewicki, who co-chairs the event. "We try to make it too fun to give up on, but we always need new volunteers, spectators and folks willing to brave the shave."

Kelly Wadle said the head-shaving event gives her an opportunity to



Wendy Banfield gets her spirits lifted during her head-shaving by Kelly Wadle, the mother of a children's cancer survivor.

"fight back" against her daughter's cancer diagnosis.

"When my daughter was diagnosed, I felt an overwhelming sense of powerlessness," Wadle said. "St. Baldrick's ... allows me to feel like I'm helping make a difference by raising awareness and funds for childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's head shaving events also prove to all the children fighting cancer that they're not fighting this battle alone. They have entire commu-

nities fighting for and with them."

Anyone wanting to help can go to www.stbaldricks.org and search for the Plymouth Roc event. Some shavees raise hundreds of dollars and some raise thousands, but every shaved head turns into an amazing "bald billboard" for children's cancer research. Don't want to shave your head? Sign up and a volunteer and raise money for children's cancer research while keeping the hair on your head.

Hoopla digital now offered at Plymouth library



A library patron uses hoopla digital.

The Plymouth District Library is now offering free access to thousands of movies, television shows, music, eBooks, audiobooks and comics, all available for mobile and online access through a new partnership with hoopla digital.

At hoopladigital.com, Plymouth card holders will be able to select up to four offerings per month from thousands of titles for instant streaming or temporary downloading to their smart phones, tablets or computers. Users can now download the free hoopla digital mobile app on

their Android or iOS device. Plymouth library cards are available free to residents of the city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

"Our customers will be thrilled at the selection of movies, TV shows, music and more with hoopla," said Carol Souchock, library director. "We encourage our library cardholders to stop in and learn more about this great new service."

For assistance on how to download hoopla digital to a specific device, the library encourages users to stop in for help or to call the library at

734-453-0750, ext. 4.

The Plymouth library is the 34th library system in Michigan to partner with hoopla digital. Current partners include Jackson District Library, Kent District Library, Kalamazoo Public Library, East Lansing Public Library and many others.

Libraries across North America have been working with hoopla digital, a category-creating service to provide online and mobile access to this vast collection of popular entertainment. This service is one among many of Midwest

Tape – a trusted partner to public libraries for 25 years.

"With this amazing product, it is our mission to empower the evolution of public libraries while helping them to meet the needs of the mobile generation. We've worked for years to create a service that is fun, fast and reliable. We will continue to secure content deals to expand our offering of popular and niche movies, TV shows, music, eBooks, audiobooks and comics," said Jeff Jankowski, founder and owner of hoopla digital.



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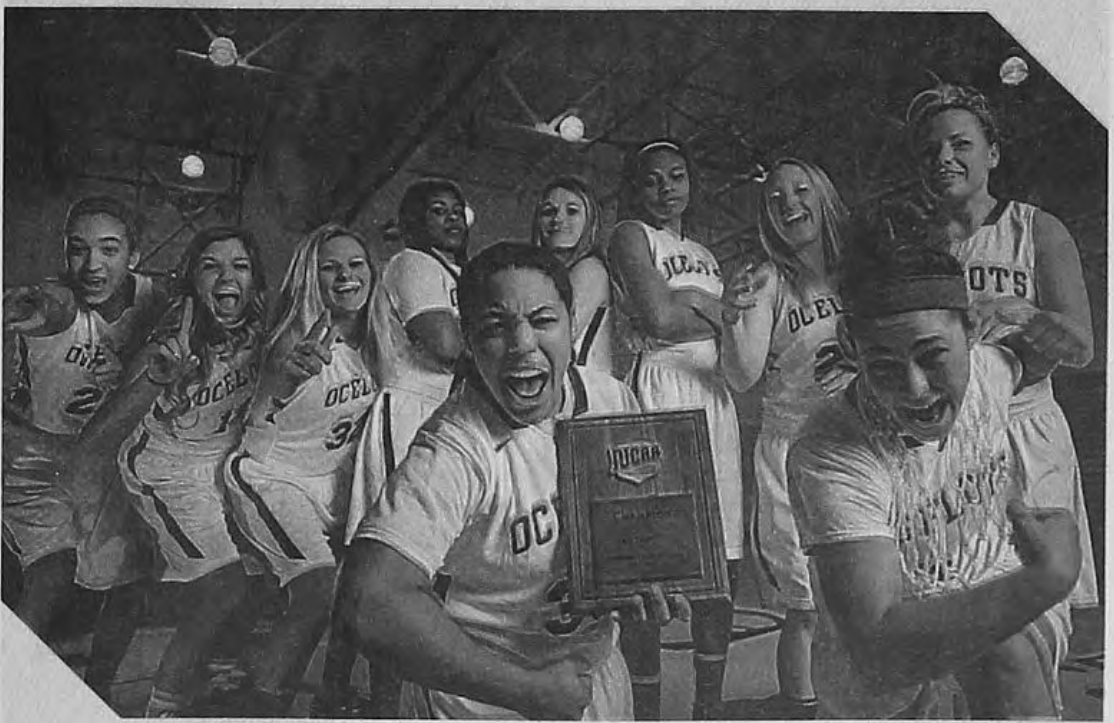
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'Guacamole' — enjoy Texas comedy at the PARC

Better Than Ever Productions will perform the hilarious Texas comedy *Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens* by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

Set in the small town of Sweetgum, Texas, the three Verdeen cousins, Jimmy Wyvette, Peaches, and Gaynelle, are in charge of the last reunion of the old high school that's about to be torn down. When they find out that the governor is planning to show up for the reunion, they want to impress him with their party planning expertise, but of course, everything that can go wrong does.

Everything from earthquakes to fire ants and more sends the party planning towards disaster while several women vie for the crown of Forever Guacamole Queen. Meanwhile, 90-year-old Uncle Aubrey, the town stud, gets himself in a bind by dating two ex-cheerleaders who happen to be sisters. Once again BTEP does not disappoint with their uproarious delivery in a fun-filled production.

The cast features: Jeanne Marie Pruett, SuzyQ Storey, Alexandra



Jeanne Marie Pruett of Canton as Cee Cee Windham and SuzyQ Storey as Jimmy Wyvette Verdeen.

McCay, Denene Pollock, Linda Trygg, Ruth Butts, Brian Trippel, Terry Viviani, Robin Hoover, Becky Copenhaver, Rich Pientak and Frank McCay.

"This show will have you laughing almost non-stop!" said Barbara Bloom, the show's director, "GQ (as we call it)

shows us characters that are way outside the box, but they could be you and me. Join the fun to see!"

This is BTEP's first main stage production at the PARC. "We just love working with the staff at PARC. They are so very friendly, welcoming and helpful," said Jeanne Pruett, president of

BTEP. "I know our audiences will love seeing us on this stage."

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1-2, and 3 p.m. Sunday April 3, at PARC, 650 Church, in downtown Plymouth. Park in the back and enter through door No. 24.



Denene Pollock of Ypsilanti as Peaches Verdeen.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.betterthanneverprod.wix.com/btep> or call 734-306-7883. For groups of 10 or more, the ticket price is \$13; call for a reservation.

Conquer the Summit indoor triathlon comes to Canton

Area residents of all abilities are encouraged to test their fitness endurance levels in the Summit on the Park's second annual Conquer the Summit indoor triathlon starting at 7 a.m. Sunday, March 20.

Participants will complete a 10-minute swim in the aquatic center, 30-minute ride on an upright stationary bike and a 20-minute treadmill run with transition times between each event. Participant scoring and placement will be determined by the total dis-

tance covered in each discipline, with medals given to the overall top male and female finishers and top finisher within each age group.

"Our indoor triathlon is a unique opportunity for individuals to test their physical stamina by swimming, biking and running in a fun and challenging environment," said Brad Chiason, aquatics, health and wellness specialist. "We look forward to hosting this friendly competition and determining who this year's winners will be."

On the day of the triathlon, heats will begin at 7 a.m. and run every 40 minutes after that. Participants must check in 30 minutes prior to their registered start time. Competitors can select their preferred heat start time at registration and heats will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Participants must provide their own swimsuits, swim caps, goggles, biking and running clothing and towels. Stiff-soled or cycling shoes are recommended. Lock-

er rooms will be available to store belongings during the event and competitors must bring their own locks.

This event is the second indoor triathlon to be held at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Fees to participate are \$35 for Summit members, \$40 for Canton residents and \$45 for non-residents. The deadline to register is 5 p.m. Sunday, March 13.

For more information, go to www.summitonthepeak.org or call 734-394-5460.



A treadmill run is part of Canton's Conquer the Summit indoor triathlon.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SWADDLING CLOTHES PROGRAM

Date: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 19

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan Road, Wayne

Details: Swaddling Clothes, a mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church, is a place for struggling Moms and Moms-to-be to find some help gathering all the items that are needed for a new bundle of joy (ages newborn to toddler). We have clothes, baby

care items, toys, diapers, wipes, etc. All items are provided FREE OF CHARGE.

Contact: wayne@swaddling-clothes.org for more information.

LEAGUE TALKS TRANSPORTATION

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

Location: Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road

Details: The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County will meet concerning the

progress and current challenges of public transportation in the southeast Michigan region. The speakers are: Travis Gonyou, Community Outreach communications manager for the Regional Transit Authority, and Megan Owens, executive director of Transportation Riders United.

SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. Saturday, March 12

Location: PARC, 650 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community Band will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. The effort supports the band and will feature the Blue Steel Jazz Band with a special appearance by the P-CEP Jazz Band.

Cost: Guests will be asked for a \$10 for a plate of spaghetti.

Contact: Email at info@plymouthcommunityband.org

CANCER SCREENINGS

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12

Location: Women's Health Center, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor hospital campus, 5320 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti

Details: Backed by a grant from the College of American Pathologists Foundation, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor will provide free cervical and breast cancer screenings. As the only location in Michigan participating in the See, Test & Treat program, SJMAA will provide uninsured and low-income women ages 21-64 with free pelvic and breast exams and Pap tests with same-day results. Women ages 40-64 can also receive a free mammogram with same-day results. HPV tests, health education and access to community health resources are also offered. Spanish-speaking staff will be available for those needing translation services.

MOM-2-MOM SALE

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12

Location: Hillside Elementary School, 36801 W 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Hillside Elementary School hosts its fourth annual Mom-2-Mom sale, featuring 70 tables of gently used baby, maternity and children's clothing, toys and equipment. Early bird admission at 8 a.m. is \$3; general admission after 9 a.m. is \$2.

ESSAY CONTEST

Time/Date: Applications due April 1

Details: The Beloved Communi-



Jayden Gohl of the Royal Stars 2 with Buddy Wendy Williamson. Registration is now open for Miracle League of Plymouth.

ty, partnering with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, has announced the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest. The contest is open to all sixth-through 12th-grade students in Plymouth and Canton, including those children who attend traditional public, charter and private schools or who are home-schooled. Participation in the essay contest is intended to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion and further the goals of education, deep reflection and reconciliation on topics critical to racial justice in the Plymouth-Canton community.

Contact: Inquiries about the application process may be directed to Loren Khogali at lorenkhogali@gmail.com or Sommer Foster at sommer.foster@gmail.com.

BOLLYWOOD BASH

Time/Date: 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, March 11

Details: Third annual Bollywood Bash to benefit Good News India, which rescues children from bonded labor, sex slavery, providing them a safe haven. It runs the largest network of care centers for orphaned and destitute children, seeing them through university and vo-tech training. GNI currently owns and operates 30 "Dream Centers." To be held at Novi Christian Community Center, 45301 W. 11 Mile Road,

Novi. Tickets are \$12 online or \$15 at the door. Email novibollywoodbash@gmail.com or go to www.facebook.com/nccc78 for more.

CANCER SUPPORT

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. third Monday of each month

Details: Connecting with others who know what it is to have lung cancer can help during this difficult time. To start, join the Lung Cancer Support Group at the Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon Dr. David Sternberg leads the group. The group is open to anyone living with lung cancer and their loved ones. Meetings are free the third Monday each month. For more information, call 248-473-4828.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Men's Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Ladies Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Connor's Restaurant, Haggerty/Five Mile Road, Northville. To save a seat, con-

tact Carol at 313-562-3080.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting Co-Ed Breakfast at Richard's Restaurant, on Plymouth Road at Eckles Road. Contact Jerry at 734-455-2651.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday

Location: Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth Township

Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging announces new programs for senior community from the city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Upcoming programs and events will include Chair Exercise, Free Wii Bowling, Knitting & Crocheting Class, Craft Classes, Free Drop in Game Day, Senior Cardio Fitness and Senior Yoga. In addition to the new programs, the center will offer free monthly bingo beginning Feb. 16. Presently, the Community Senior Transportation is at the Friendship Station. The center will offer Focus Hope distribution and a newly created food pantry.

Contact: For more information and a calendar of dates and times and information on membership, call 734-354-3222. For transportation information, call 734-459-8888.



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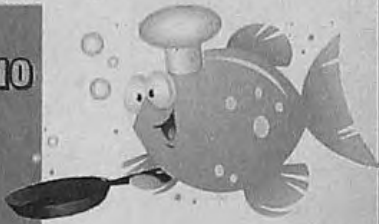
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KLAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Ryan's heroics lift Chiefs to KLAA title

Senior's clutch trey the key as Canton defeats Western in OT, improves to 20-0

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For stretches of Thursday night's KLAA boys basketball championship game, Canton senior forward Logan Ryan sat on the sidelines due to early foul trouble and watched his team go back and forth against Walled Lake Western.

The 6-7 standout wanted the chance to get back in and make it happen — to help the Chiefs clinch their first-ever association championship while winning their 20th game without a loss in the process.

Ryan made monumental plays at both ends of the floor in the final 10 seconds to force overtime at Canton High School. And the Chiefs then finished the job in the extra session, outscoring the Warriors 4-1 to win 50-47.

"Spirits were high after the fourth quarter, we wanted it," said Ryan, celebrating the triumph with teammates and wearing KLAA championship T-shirts. "We knew that we could win after that too, we had to come back, so we knew

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
The Canton Chiefs are all smiles Thursday night after defeating Walled Lake Western 50-47 in the KLAA championship boys basketball game.

D2 REGIONAL FINAL



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Livonia Stevenson senior forward Alex Siroky (right) blasts home the winning goal past Salem goalie Tristan Rehling. Trying to get back on defense for the Rocks are Austin Marthaler (No. 15) and Bailey Thompson (No. 16).

BILL BRESLER |
STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Stevenson players mob each other while Salem goalie Tristan Rehling and defenseman Austin Marthaler can only watch.



END OF THE LINE

Late goal by Stevenson's Siroky keeps Salem from another trip to Yost

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Late in the third period of Friday's Division 2 boys hockey regional final, the host Salem Rocks were tasting a potential upset of No. 2-ranked Livonia Stevenson.

After trailing 1-0 virtually all night at Plymouth Cultural Center and being outshot by a

wide margin (the Spartans led the shot board 22-4 after two periods), all of a sudden the Rocks evened things up when junior forward sent the rebound of a shot by junior defenseman Marty Mills into the Stevenson net with 15:48 remaining in regulation.

But with a packed house of about 1,200 fans pumping up the volume, Stevenson pounced

on an errant defensive pass in Salem's zone. The puck landed on the stick of senior forward Alex Siroky, who at 12:01 of the period blasted a one-timer off the right post that Rocks junior standout goalie Tristan Rehling (30 saves) had no chance on.

That turned out to be the difference as the Spartans

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mustangs top Canton for crown

Northville overcomes Hult's 23 for 44-38 win

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

If you're looking to take stock in the girls basketball team these days, then Northville might be the next good investment.

The Mustangs traded baskets for much of the night with Canton in Friday's Class A district championship game, but came through at the closing bell by outscoring the Chiefs, 15-9, in the final quarter and claim the title with a

44-38 victory at Salem.

Northville, which improved to 19-3 overall, moves into the regional semifinal match-up against Milford (10-11) at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Novi.

The Mustangs, who were tied 29-29 heading into the final quarter, separated themselves from Canton in the final three minutes, getting a big rebound basket by Brook Adams with 2:56 left to make it a four-point spread, 37-33.

Northville then followed by making 7-of-8 free throws during the final 1:23 to seal the victory.

"We knew it was going to be back and forth," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "It

was probably going to come down to the end. I just liked the resiliency on defense. We had a couple of turnovers in the fourth where we had a chance maybe to break it open and we just couldn't break it open, but we got stops on defense when we needed to. And Jess Moorman was just ice in her veins there from the foul line and that was big."

The 6-foot Moorman, who finished with a team-high 17 points, seemed oblivious to the pressure down the stretch.

"I tried to put that aside and just shot free throws the way I know how to shoot them," the

See DISTRICT, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Shamya Butler (right) dribbles at the 3-point line, guarded by Northville's Lindsey Rathsborg.

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BOYS D2 HOCKEY

Rocks down 'Cats in regional semifinal

Solid special teams,
netminding help
Salem move on

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It didn't take long for Salem junior goalie Tristan Rehling to serve notice that scoring against him Wednesday night was going to be tough.

Only three minutes into the Division 2 boys hockey semifinal at Plymouth Cultural Center, Rehling stared down a Plymouth 2-on-1 rush and scooted laterally to rob senior forward James Baldwin's one-timer.

Salem, on the other hand, cashed in some blue-collar goals — two by junior forward Jake Saunders — to earn a 5-2 victory and move on to face Livonia Stevenson (ranked No. 2 in D2 with a 18-6-1 record) 7:30 p.m. Friday in the regional final. The Spartans routed Livonia Churchill 6-1 on Wednesday at Eddie Edgar Arena.

"We had a 2-on-1 and their goalie makes a great save," lamented Wildcats' head coach Gerry Vento. "It's a game where you like to get the first goal and get on the board early, make them chase the game. Instead, they got the lead and we had to chase the game."

Salem (17-8-2) took the upper hand after a close-checking first period when junior forward Matt Schaumburger tallied a power-play goal at 2:23 of the second period.

The rebound of a shot by senior defenseman Bailey Thompson got away from Plymouth senior netminder Trevor McManus and slid right onto the stick of Schaumburger, who buried a low shot.

About a minute later, the Rocks took a two-goal lead when junior forward Joey Driscoll's shot handcuffed McManus and slid into the Plymouth goal. Drawing the lone assist was senior forward Zach Goleniak.

Then came three successive minor penalties against Salem with Rehling playing much bigger than his 5-9, 180-pound frame to thwart the Wildcats time and time again.

Rehling (22 saves) denied Baldwin twice during that span, once on a nifty pad stop. Junior forward Alex Chartrand's backhand shot was stopped.

"He played really well," said Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, about Rehling. "It's a cliché but you need your goalie to be your best penalty



Trying to skate past Salem's Marty Mills (No. 11) Wednesday night is Plymouth's Ricky Covault (No. 8).

MICHAEL VASILNEK

killer and he definitely was that for us tonight, he battled hard.

"Our guys did a good job letting him see most of the shots and clearing second opportunities."

According to Rehling, a big reason for his success was remaining calm against the deluge of shots, "keeping the puck in front of me and controlling my rebounds, not giving them any opportunities to score."

Plymouth finally did break through on its third straight power play of the frame, when senior forward Ricky Covault jammed a rebound past Rehling. Assisting was senior forward Jake Silvester.

Major moments

Slowing any Wildcats momentum was a major penalty called against senior defenseman Kyle Kozler with 3:15 to go in the second. But the Rocks were unable to do any damage the rest of the stanza, which ended 2-1.

It looked as though Plymouth would successfully kill off the remaining 1:45 of the Kozler penalty early in the third, but that's when Saunders did what he does best — go to the blue paint and wreak havoc on opposing netminders.

With 16:04 remaining in the third, Saunders chipped the puck home from near the right post (with assists to Schaumburger and junior defenseman



Calm and steady, Salem junior goalie Tristan Rehling (No. 33) blocks aside a Plymouth shot Wednesday night. At right for the Wildcats is sophomore forward Josh Weber (No. 26).

MICHAEL VASILNEK

Austin Marthaler) to put Salem in front 3-1.

"That was big, I felt if we could have killed that off that we had a really good chance of making a game of it," Vento said. "Even then, they scored, we came back and responded. They got two extra, it was a game of them capitalizing on chances and us not being able to and their goalie making some great saves."

Plymouth showed it wasn't going away, when senior forward Alex Bump beat Rehling at the 3:36 mark to slice the deficit to a goal. Setting up the tally were senior defenseman

Zack Wiener and junior forward Alex Chartrand.

Of course, there was Saunders doing his thing again. He got to the front of the net and lofted a rebound over McManus (22 saves) with 9:20 left to put the Rocks back up by a pair at 4-2.

Driscoll and junior defenseman Marty Mills picked up the helpers on Saunders' second goal.

"I knew it was going to be a tough game coming in, so it meant that much more that we had to step up and play our roles," Saunders said. "I just had to get in front of the net,

get the garbage goals, get the clean-up goals. That's pretty much what I did."

Ossenmacher emphasized that teams need those extra-effort goals to win games this time of the season, and it's a plus to have a player like Saunders prepared to do just that.

"Jake's a big, strong player, he's really continued to develop from our prep team," Ossenmacher said. "I've said it before, I think the sky's the limit for him. He might be one of the biggest and strongest kids we've ever had."

"As the tools continue to catch up with that he'll continue to put the puck in the net."

Capping it off

The Wildcats didn't give up, however, and came within inches of scoring just a minute after Saunders' second goal.

But Rehling and his defense kept the puck out and Salem senior forward Evan Newel went down the ice and capped off the victory with an unassisted goal at 8:46.

"That was a pretty good moment for us," Ossenmacher said. "Again, it starts in the D zone, we know our offense starts 200 feet away from their net. Make a good play down here, prevent a goal, go the other way and bury one."

"That really right there was a huge momentum shift. Even though it was already a two-goal lead that third goal really put us in a pretty good position."

All that was left was for Salem players sitting on the bench to slap their hockey sticks into the boards as the final seconds elapsed, setting off a wild celebration around Rehling.

However, for Plymouth seniors such as Covault, it wasn't a fun sight to watch as their season ended at the hands of the Rocks for the second straight season.

"We were working really, really hard, we had it in their zone a lot, we were getting a lot of chances on the power play and 5-on-5, we just couldn't bury it," Covault said. "It feels pretty tough, I remember the feeling last year and this year it's pretty tough, especially being a senior."

"All the boys, I love them all, I go way back, even from five years old playing with them, beginning my hockey career, and now ending my hockey career with about four or five of them. So it's very special and very emotional in the locker room right now."

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DISTRICT

Continued from Page B1

junior said.

The Mustangs overcame a heroic offensive effort from Canton junior forward Erin Hult, who led all scorers with 23 points. Hult was 8-of-17 from the floor and made all five of her free throws as she carried the Chiefs offensively throughout the 32 minutes.

Her clutch triple with 1:11 left after Northville went up by six pulled Canton to within three, 39-36, but the Chiefs couldn't get any closer.

"Hult was almost impossible to stop," Gudith said. "She came out hot right from the start and it didn't really matter who we had on her. It was a tough go and it wasn't like she made easy shots. They were all deep twos or threes. It wasn't like she was scoring at the rim. We switched and put a couple of different girls on her. Luckily, we were able to make a few stops there late in the fourth."

Hult scored seven points in the opening quarter as Canton jumped out to a 13-8 advantage, but Northville took the lead at halftime, 21-20, thanks to a triple from Moorman at the buzzer.

First-year Canton coach Rob Heitmeyer tried to make some subtle changes at intermission to slow the Mustangs down.

"At halftime, it was a one-point game and, number one defensively, we needed to get back," he said. "Number two, on offense, we needed to keep the floor more spread. We wanted to get into the high post and work out of the high post a little bit more. Northville does a good job of jamming up the middle. And, of

course, it's hard to screen because they're switching on all screens, so we tried to make that adjustment."

Both teams struggled shooting the ball in the third quarter, with Northville going 3-of-16, while Canton was 4-of-12. It resulted in a 29-29 deadlock.

But in the fourth quarter, Northville got to the line and made 11-of-14 free throws.

"That (free throws) obviously made all the difference in the world trying to keep it at least a two possession game because Hult hit a couple there late to kind of get them within arm's reach and we wanted to make sure we just had a little wiggle room," Gudith said.

Turnovers played a big factor in the outcome as Canton had a total of 20, while Northville had 13.

"With about three minutes to go, for some reason we got butter fingers a little bit," Heitmeyer said. "Some of that is nerves, but these girls live for these moments. All season, they've been in some big games and they've come through. This is just one of those times where the ball didn't bounce our way."

While Hult finished with 23, Madison Wolfbauer was Canton's next high scorer with five as the Chiefs went 13-of-38 from the floor (34.2 percent) and 10-of-11 from the foul line (90.9 percent).

"We call her 'Hot-Handed Hult,'" Heitmeyer said. "She loves to find a rhythm and for her team, she delivered."

Northville, meanwhile, had more of a balanced scoring attack as Adams, a junior, added 10, while sophomore guards Kendall Dillon and Roan Haines contributed eight and seven, respectively.

The Mustangs made 16-of-50 shots from the floor (32

percent) and 14-of-20 free throws (70 percent).

"Northville does a good job of getting to the rim," Heitmeyer said. "They did a good job of getting second shots. They're a dribble-drive team. They like to spread the floor and get to the rim, so we'll learn from it, we'll grow from it. And to their credit, they got a lot of good looks, a lot of second chances. Close game all the way, though."

For the Mustangs, it was their first district title since 2012.

"We just knew we needed one more win to win the district, obviously, so we put all of our hard work out on the court and left it all on the court," Moorman said. "Win or lose, you got to be ready to play. I think it was more defense but, obviously, we finished on offense. We've been really working on our defense and it showed today."

And for the KLAA Central Division champion Mustangs, getting to a regional will definitely improve the team's portfolio.

"Just really proud of our kids, really excited for them," Gudith said. "They've worked hard all year and this is just the culmination of that."

The Chiefs, meanwhile, finished the year 18-5 overall and Heitmeyer called the season "very successful."

"A lot to be proud of for these girls," he said. "They got themselves a (KLAA South) division championship. They played for a (Kensington) conference championship and they played for district championship, so it was a great season. And each one of the girls has a lot to be proud of."

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Erin Hult (left) launches a jumper over the outstretched arms of Northville defender Jessica Moorman.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Canton survives district test vs. Novi, 37-35

Wildcats can't get over hump in state tourney

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It was a Class A district girls basketball semifinal that resembled a 15-round prize fight Wednesday night at Plymouth.

It was an Olivia Newton John "Let's Get Physical" kind of game as Canton and Novi traded body blows for 32 minutes.

And it was Canton that came away with the 37-35 decision over the Wildcats in a game that wasn't decided until the final possession.

The defenses dominated and baskets proved hard to come by as evidenced by the shooting percentages of both teams. Canton shot 11-for-32 (34.3 percent) from the field, while Novi was 14-of-53 (26.4 percent).

In a game that remained tight throughout, things got really interesting when Ellie Mackay's basket with 1:50 left pulled Novi (16-5) within one, 36-35.

But the Wildcats missed two shot attempts during a tense final 18 seconds before Canton's Shanya Butler split a pair of free throws with only 3.3 seconds to make it a two-point cushion after being fouled.

Mackay's last-ditch heave from just from over half-court then missed the mark as the buzzer sounded and Canton held on.

"(Bill) Kelp had his kids ready to play," Canton's Rob Heitmeyer said of his rival coach. "It was a physical game. Certainly it was in the battle plan for both teams. It's too bad someone has to lose a game like this because it was a gutsy game all the way around."

Canton made 6-of-10 free throws during the final quarter,

while outscoring the Wildcats 10-6 after trailing 29-27 after three periods.

The Chiefs' scoring attack was balanced led by Brianna Finn's eight points.

Erin Hult, Raquel Church and Butler each added seven, while Madison Wolfbauer had six.

"Raquel Church came off the bench for us tonight and really gave us some great minutes," Heitmeyer said. "Shanya Butler down the stretch ... a lot of big rebounds. We had (Madison) Wolfbauer guarding Ellie (Mackay) and I thought she did a fantastic job keeping her in front, making sure every time she touched the ball she was going to be pestered. Gutsy performance by all of our players."

(Marissia) Templeton also had big basket for us when we were down by four, got her own offensive rebound and putback.

They were all over Erin Hult and she gutted it out for the entire time she was in there."

Canton made 14-of-22 free throws for the game (63.6 percent), but committed a total of 21 turnovers, including two costly ones in the final minute which gave the Wildcats a chance to tie or go ahead.

"Both teams were in the (free throw) bonus so we certainly didn't want to foul," Heitmeyer said. "We certainly wanted to put ourselves in position to be fouled. We shot the free throws pretty well tonight. If they were going to put us at the line at the end we felt comfortable there."

Canton led 11-5 after one quarter, but Novi rallied with a 14-5 run in the second to take a 19-16 halftime lead.

And over the final two quarters the two teams were never separated by more than four points.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Madison Wolfbauer (14) gets crowded on the shot by Novi defenders Julia Lalain (5) and Allie Lipson (22).

TITLE

Continued from Page B1

we were a good enough team to do this."

Not even the upcoming state tournament could match the drama that filled the gym as the Warriors and Chiefs grinded it out in a physical battle that went back and forth on the scoreboard all night.

The Canton's hopes were fading and almost snuffed out, trailing 46-43 with 10 seconds remaining. And then the "big man" did what he has done all season.

Ryan took a perfect pass from freshman guard B. Artis White and launched a 25-foot jumper from the left wing to knot the score at 46-46.

But he wasn't done saving the day for the Chiefs, as he raced down the court to reject junior guard Delano Smith's attempt for a winning bucket at the buzzer.

"He hit a three with 10 seconds left, and then he had a big block," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "Then thirteen on their team (Smith) got to the rim and Logan blocked it, on a last-second shot."

"And we were pretty tough in overtime, we had a couple sloppy possessions early but we came up big the last couple minutes."

Leading now-20-0 Canton with 16 points and six rebounds was senior guard Hamoudy Turfe, while Ryan (12 points) and senior forward Jalen Cochran (six points) also chipped in.

For the Warriors (15-5), Smith scored 21 points, with junior guard Cody White contributing 16 and 6-6 senior center Donovan Williams scoring 10.

"When you're playing for a championship you certainly don't want it to end," Reddy said. "We haven't talked about the record or the streak or anything like that. We talked about trying to get to these games and win them."

"Again, we've been saying all year pressure is an opportunity to do something great. And that's what this group's trying to do."

Ryan gave all the credit for his late-game heroics to "my point guard, (freshman) B. Artis White," stressing that without the on-the-money feed, he wouldn't have been able to successfully catch and launch his money shot.

After falling behind by a point at the start of overtime, the Chiefs finished on a 4-0 run to close out the championship victory.

"We had a goal at the beginning of the year to go undefeated at home, more important than going undefeated overall," Ryan said. "This was it, we could have capped off our goals right here, but we were fortunate enough to get it done. I'm glad we got it done."

Another key senior, Turfe, admitted being a bit nervous in the final moments of regulation as the Chiefs still trailed.

"But you always got to believe," Turfe said. "We're a good team and we got to do what's got us here."

He smiled and nodded when Ryan's clutch triple was mentioned. "He's the heart of our team, he's huge."

Western broke out to a 11-8 lead after one quarter, but the Chiefs bounced back to go into halftime tied at 23-23.

Canton then outscored the



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Launching the crucial last-second trey to force overtime Thursday is Canton senior forward Logan Ryan (No. 11).

Warriors 13-10 in the third, but Western was the better team in the fourth — at least until Ryan was able to demonstrate his magical skills one more time.

And with the heartstopping victory in the books for the Chiefs, next is trying to rev it right back up for the Class A districts. Canton will play 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Salem, against the winner of Monday's Plymouth-Northville contest.

"We want the season to go as long as possible, so next week is really important," Reddy said. "We got to get better these next few days, because Plymouth or Northville will be ready to roll next Wednesday."

The Chiefs obviously want nothing more than to keep the victory train rolling.

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Muscling toward the basket against a Walled Lake Western defender is Canton senior guard Obi Okoli (No. 24).

PREP BOYS HOOPS

Topolovec's points, rebounds fuel victory

Rocks look to carry momentum into district opener

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With senior center Kenny Topolovec registering a pair of double-doubles, Salem's varsity boys basketball team split a pair of KLAA tournament tuneups in preparation of the Class A districts.

After a 65-59 loss Wednesday to Howell, the Rocks came back to win 71-61 Thursday over Grand Blanc.

In both games, Topolovec was outstanding. He tallied 11 points and 14 rebounds against the Bobcats and a 15-point, 11-board showing against the Highlanders.

Topolovec could be a key factor if Salem (12-8 overall) is to have success in districts, which begin 7 p.m. Monday at home against Novi.

But he won't have to do all the lifting himself.

In the victory over Howell, senior guard Freddie McGee III led the Rocks with 15 points. Chipping in with 13 points was junior forward Cameron Grace, while senior guard Calin Crawford helped the cause with 12 points.

Against Grand Blanc, other top Salem performers included Grace (11 points, eight rebounds) and Crawford (nine points).

Plymouth falls

The regular season for Plymouth ended with a 80-43 loss Thursday to Walled Lake Central.

Brent Davis scored 15 points for the 8-12 Wildcats, while Pete Carravallah and Frank Brown tallied seven and six points, respectively.

Plymouth will face Northville at 5 p.m. Monday at the Salem-hosted district.

The Wildcats did post a 52-35 win Feb. 26 in a KLAA tourney tilt, with Brown's 10 points and 11 rebounds sparking the victory. Davis (16 points) also was a go-to player for Plymouth.

Adding seven points was Carravallah while AJ Neal scored five, helping Plymouth end a three-game losing skid.

PCA finale

In the MIAC, Plymouth Christian Academy posted a 46-41 win Thursday against Bloomfield Hills Roeper to close out the regular season with a 9-10 record.

It took overtime for the Eagles to hold off the Roughriders, and PCA now heads into Class D district play 6 p.m. Monday at home against Peterson-Warren.

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BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

Chiefs nip Wildcats in photo finish

KLAA South Division honors go to Canton, but barely

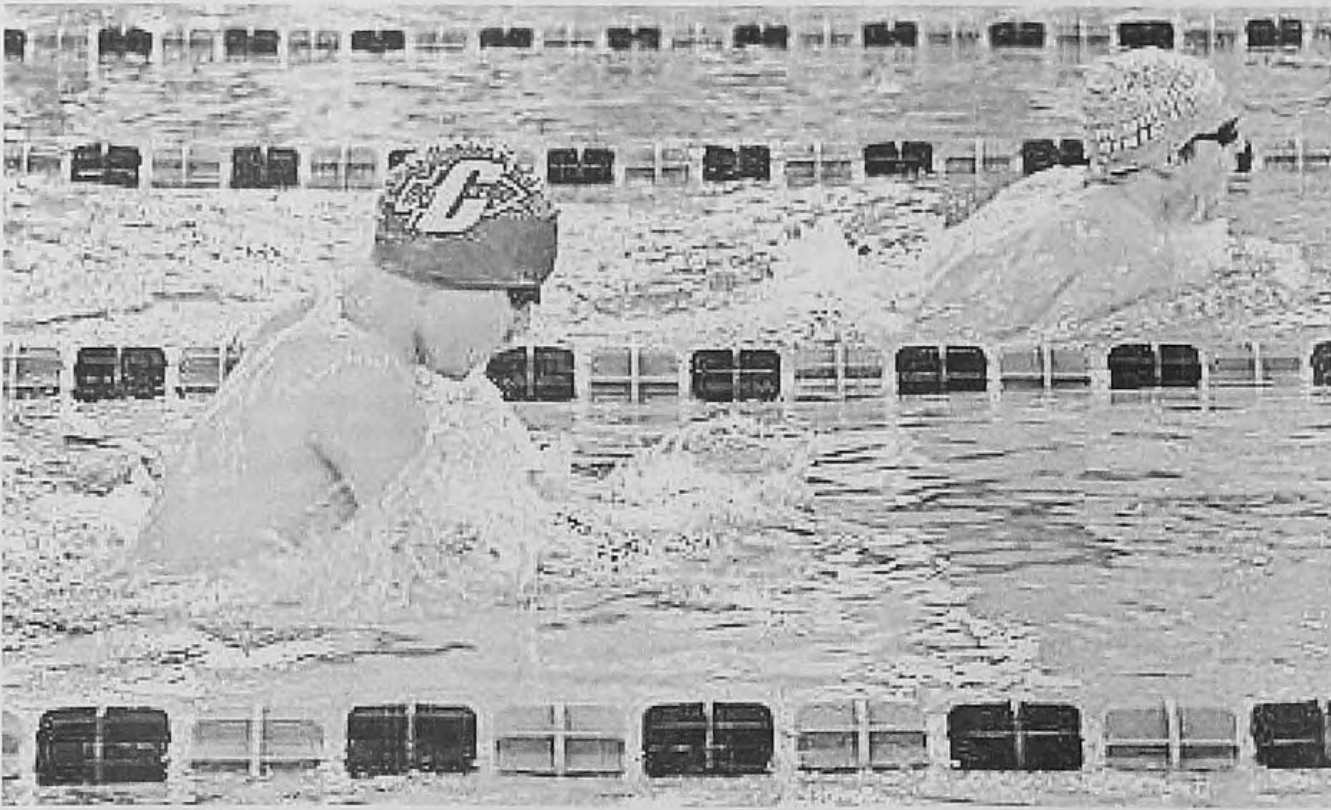
Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton and Plymouth battled for supremacy in the KLAA South Division Feb. 20 at Westland John Glenn, and both varsity boys swimming and diving teams nearly finished in a dead heat.

The division meet came down to the final event, too, with the Chiefs' 400-meter relay team of senior Gerard Niermann, sophomore Derek Goderis, junior Kyle Amick and sophomore Daniel Mullen's time of 3:20.16 nipping the 3:20.23 turned in by Plymouth's quartet of junior Mike Wischer, seniors Bronson Knowles, Aniketh Visai and Garrett Beauprez.

That turned out to be the difference overall, as Canton finished first in the meet with 640.5 points, with Plymouth's 629.5 good for second. In third with 383 was Livonia Churchill, followed by Wayne Memorial (fourth, 330), John Glenn (fifth, 133) and Livonia Franklin (sixth, 89).

At the subsequent Kensing-



Canton's Tristen Shao (left) and Plymouth's Garrett Beauprez, shown from earlier this season, finished in the top-four in the 200 IM at the KLAA South Division meet. Shao was fourth and Beauprez took the top spot.

ton Conference meet Feb. 27, the Chiefs placed fifth in the team standings while Plymouth came in sixth.

Canton's 200 relay team also was first, with Niermann, Goderis, junior Jemal Vaunado and Mullen prevailing in 1:33.47.

The Wildcats garnered top spot in the meet-opening 200-medley relay, with the tandem of Beauprez, Knowles, Visai and Wischer's 1:41.12 time ahead of second-place Canton (sophomore Tristen Shao, Niermann, freshman Isaac Fong and junior Kyle Amick fin-

ished in 1:45.25).

Kicking off the two-day meet was 1-meter diving on Feb. 19, which Churchill's Ethan Burke won with a total of 462.25 points.

The only individual victory for the Chiefs was collected by Mullen, first in the 100 free-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton's Gerard Niermann, shown from a meet earlier this season, was part of two winning relays at the division meet.

style with a 48.91. Depth points were key for Canton, with four second-place finishers.

Plymouth, meanwhile, took first in the following individual events: Beauprez (200 IM, 2:02.22; 500 free, 4:55.87), Wischer (50 free, 22.82), Keegan Kendall (100 butterfly, 58.32; 100 backstroke, 59.13) and Knowles (100 breaststroke, 1:04.29).

In regular season dual meets, the Chiefs went 5-0 while the Wildcats were right behind at 4-1.

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REGIONAL

Continued from Page B1

hung on for a 2-1 victory and advanced to the D2 quarterfinal slated for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor.

"Alex Siroky, I couldn't be happier for a kid," Stevenson head coach Dave Mitchell said, struggling with emotion as he tried to get the words out. "He's been through a lot. He's a first-year senior, his mom is battling cancer.

"For him to do that on this stage, he's a first-year guy for us. I'm just so happy for him and proud of him and so excited that he got this opportunity and he made the most of it."

For his mom

According to Siroky, who has dedicated this season to his mom — who has only been able to attend a couple of games this year — getting the winning goal "feels good, it's the best feeling right now. ... I basically just went back to what we do in practice, (forecheck relentlessly) and make the 'D' make a mistake. I just capitalized on it."

For most of the game, he and the other Spartans were unable to solve Rehling between the Salem pipes. Siroky had a theory.

"I was shooting low all the game and I wasn't getting anything," Siroky said. "So I figured I'd shoot it high once."

After the contest ended and Stevenson players hoisted the regional trophy, veteran Salem head coach Ryan Ossennmacher waited on the ice to say a few extra words and give a pat on the back to one of the defensemen on the ice for the deciding play — co-captain Bailey Thompson.

"The reality is there's hundreds of plays in a hockey game and not one play defines a game," Ossennmacher said. "We're probably not in that position to begin with if he's not on our team."

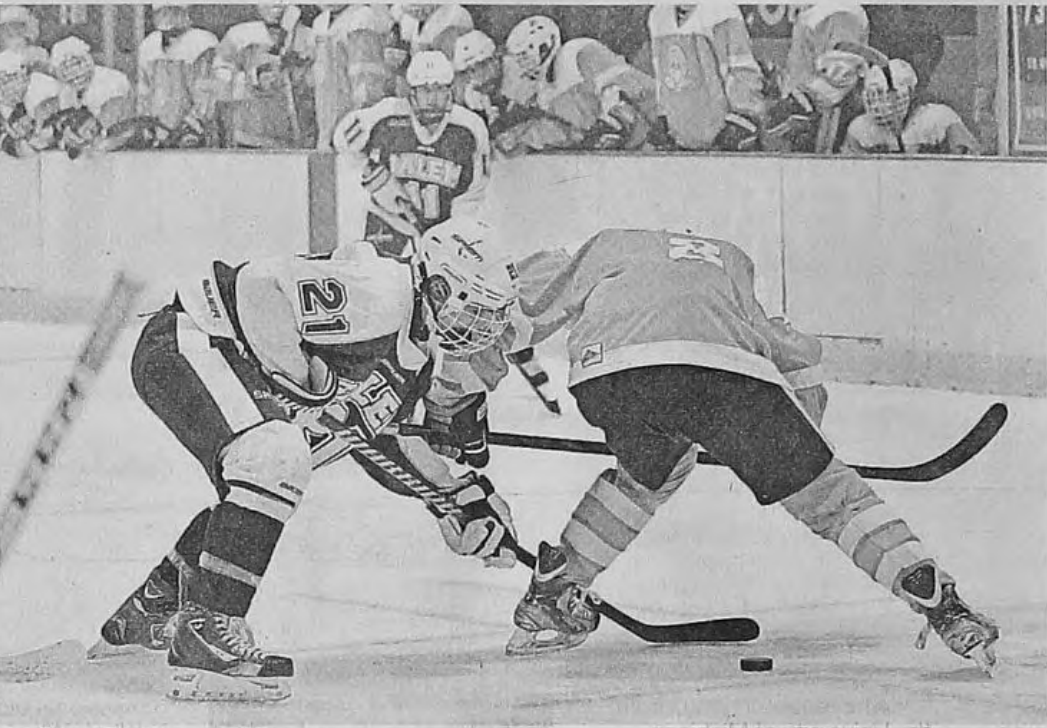
"It was absolutely no reason for him to hold his head low; he played a fantastic game. We played four defensemen against the fastest team in the state for 51 minutes and so he was our rock all year and it was no different tonight."

Quick start

Stevenson's trademark speed was evident right off the hop. At 1:03 of the opening period, senior forward and co-captain Nate Sudek pounced on a rebound and drove it past Rehling.

"It's playoffs; when you score in the first minute, that just propelled us, that really got us going," Sudek said. "I got to the net and I just put it in."

The Spartans (18-7-1) kept the pressure dialed on high, but took that 1-0 lead into the locker room after the first, despite outshooting Salem, 13-1.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Squaring off for a high-intensity face-off are Salem's Matt Schaumburger (left) and Livonia Stevenson's Ben Kowalske.

"The first period, we had to adjust to that speed and I thought we did," Ossennmacher said. "Really, from there on out, they had opportunities, but they were on the outside. We limited them to one-and-dones."

Salem (17-9-2) had several power plays in the second period, including a five-on-three for 1:19, but could not get much going and remained down 1-0 after two periods.

"We'd probably like to get one on the power play, but their PK is not much different from (Stevenson's) rest of the game," Ossennmacher said. "It's fast, it's well-coached and we didn't bury one on the power play like we would have liked to."

Finally, the Rocks found a way to light the lamp against Stevenson senior goalie Cullen Barber.

Saunders — who scored two net-front goals Wednesday against Plymouth — converted the rebound of a Mills shot taken from above the circles.

No worries

There was no panic on the Stevenson bench, even with Salem fans on their feet and screaming at the top of their lungs.

Still, it wasn't an easy task to get another one past Rehling, on his game throughout the week-long regional. With just under 10 minutes to play in the third, a Salem defensive giveaway led to a snapshot by Sudek from between the circles.

Rehling snared the puck with a spectacular, windmill grab.

"Great save; he really stepped up at the end of the season," Ossennmacher said. "Especially in the first period, I thought he did a good job keeping it to

a one-goal lead. And then he made the saves he needed to and, that one in particular, the glove save, keeps it 1-1 and gives us an opportunity."

Even then, the Spartans kept their composure, ready to get the next one. Soon enough, they did.

"We were just trying to keep our heads in the game," Sudek said about the team's response on the bench to the equalizer. "We were like, 'Don't lose the intensity and we were going to get it back.' My buddy Alex Siroky, my linemate actually, he buried it in the net. That was fantastic."

And now the Spartans move on to Yost, one more win away from going to USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth for the final four.

"It's Tuesday against the winner of Trenton and Ann Arbor Huron," Mitchell said. "Either way, it's going to be a solid, solid hockey game. We got to clean up some things and generate a little more offense."

"But when you're this deep in the tournament, going into a quarterfinal game, it's going to be a good hockey game and we'll be ready."

Mitchell then tipped his cap to Ossennmacher, Rehling and the Rocks, but emphasized that his group of seniors is deserving of a chance to go for a championship.

"This senior group is an unbelievably special group," Mitchell said. "All the groups of seniors usually are, but this group, led by our captains of Ben Kowalske and Alec Allen and Cullen Barber and Shane Leonard and Adam Olson ...

"All the seniors, just such a classy, high-character group of kids that works so hard. I'm just so thrilled for them at this moment."

COLLEGE SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Crusaders feature mix of vets, newcomers

Timothy Johnston
Correspondent

Coming off of last season's magical run in the NAIA National Tournament, Madonna softball is preparing to take the next step in 2016 and will rely on a strong returning cast of student-athletes along the way.

Led by reigning WHAC Coach of the Year Jerry Abraham, the Crusaders return a host of players from last year's roster, including 2015 First Team All-Conference members Erin Combs, Morgan Kaiser, Mikey Kish and Nicky Salloum.

The 2016 season began with an appearance last month at the Martin Methodist College Meltdown Classic in Pulaski, Tenn. This week, the Crusaders are in Tucson, Ariz. for a course of 14 games in six days through March 9.

The Crusaders' home opener is scheduled for 1 p.m. March 19 against NCAA Division II opponent Findlay (Ohio). In all, the Crusaders will play in front of their home crowd on seven different occasions this season.

The team recorded a perfect 14-0 mark at home last season.

HELLO, GOODBYE: The Crusaders said goodbye to three key players at the end of last season, including standout pitcher Bree Crampton who dominated on the mound for the Crusaders, finishing her final season with an ERA of 1.88.

Third baseman Kasey Trieweller was crucial for the Crusaders both defensively and offensively, helping the Blue and Gold's magical run with a season batting average of .366 while achieving great success off the field with a pair of high academic honors.

Center fielder Karleigh Creighton, one of the Crusaders' leaders in the outfield from last season, rounds out the key losses to graduation. But new to the fold are Livonian Franklin alum Becky Giacobbi (outfield) and Canton product Halee Warren (infield), both freshmen.

Others arriving onto the scene are freshman infielders Kerstyn Comerzan, Alyssa Matusko, Haley Izvorski and Jordan Thayer. Both Matusko and Izvorski also catch.

RETURNING CAST: Several players with ties to Observerland and Hometownlife high schools will be back for another season at Madonna. That list includes junior infielder Nikky Salloum (Livonia Churchill), junior infielders and Plymouth products Kayla Rebain and Bri Giordano, sophomore pitcher Erika Randall (Livonia Stevenson), sophomore outfielder Julia Cavagnini (Churchill) and sophomore outfielder Mallory Daschke (Novi).

ON THE MOUND: The loss of Bree Crampton leaves some big shoes to fill on the Crusaders' pitching staff and junior Erin Combs is ready to take over where the former all-league hurler left off.

Combs, a No. 1 pitcher by any team's standard, put together a stellar 2015 campaign with a conference-low 1.68 ERA as a sophomore. She was as a First Team All-WHAC member while also being named to the Academic All-District First Team and batted .378.

Abraham and the Crusaders also boast Randall and Paige Montague on the 2016 staff. Both are expected to compete for time in the circle this season.

BEHIND THE DISH: Junior catcher Mikey Kish, who proved to be a key player throughout the Crusaders' 2015 run, returns to work behind the plate.

Kish finished the season with a .376 batting average and a stellar performance behind the plate as one of the WHAC's top defensive catchers.

The then-sophomore racked up her share of awards in 2015 by being named WHAC All-Conference First Team, while earning nods on the National Fast Pitch Coaches Association (NFCA) NAIA All-Region First Team and Academic All-District First Team.

Junior Breanna Keethler and freshmen Izvorski and Matusko will also compete for time behind the plate.

INFIELD CREW: The middle infield duo of Salloum and Emma Cook return as the battery up the middle for the Crusaders this season.

Salloum was a force all 2015 for the Crusaders, posting a .329 batting average to earn a nod as First Team All-WHAC. She also earned a spot on the Academic All-District team last season.

Cook, the starting second baseman, recorded one of the top fielding percentages in 2015 with a .986 mark by way of 55 assists and only two errors.

The only senior on the 2016 squad, Cook hit .315 last season with 14 doubles, two home runs and 38 RBIs. Jordan Thayer will compete for time at second base behind Cook.

Former Plymouth Wildcat Rebain returns at first base this season after seeing the field in 46 of the Crusaders' 52 games in 2015. She tied for the team-lead in homers with five last season.

Five-to-six student-athletes will vie for playing time at third base. Of the large group competing for a spot, Giordano is the most experienced with freshmen Kerstyn Comerzan and Warren mixed in the rotation as well.

OUTFIELD PATROL: The Crusaders' outfield will be led by Morgan Kaiser, a junior from Flat Rock and yet another First Team All-WHAC selection from the 2015 campaign. The Flat Rock native paced the Crusaders offensively with a .426 batting average, adding .475 slugging percentage to go along with four doubles and 13 RBIs.

Timothy Johnston is sports information director at Madonna University.

GIRLS CLASS D HOOPS

Late charge by PCA comes up short

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

All season long, Plymouth Christian Academy never stopped battling.

Such was the case in Wednesday's Class D girls basketball contest against host Taylor Baptist Park. After trailing most of the night, the Eagles staged a late surge — scoring eight unanswered points in the fourth to slice the deficit to three points.

With time running out and needing a successful trey to force overtime, PCA was not able to get a shot off and fell 28-25 to close out the season.

The Eagles, who finished with a 5-16 record, trailed 20-12 at halftime, but came out strong in the third on a jumper by junior Kennedy Horne (10 points) and a steal and bucket by Aliyah Pries (six points, five steals).

"I thought we might get our offense going," noted PCA head coach Rod Windle, noting that just as quickly the baskets stopped for the rest of the frame. Baptist Park maintained a 24-17 edge after three frames.

The Wildcats padded that lead to 28-17 at the start of the fourth quarter before PCA made its late push.

"We really had to scrap and chase

and fly around on defense to back into this game," Windle added.

Contributing five points along with eight rebounds for the Eagles was Robin Albert while Lydia Chapel also grabbed eight rebounds, six on the offensive end.

Rounding out the scoring with two points each were Paige Perkey and Jordan Reed. For Baptist Park, Katie McElroy led in scoring with 12 points.

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Baby, it's chili outside

**Story and photos
by Julie Yolles**
Social Scene Columnist

There's nothin' like good ol' hot comfort food on a cold winter's night. Supporters of Variety, The Children's Charity always look forward to Variety's Annual Chili/Mac and Pulled Pork Cook-Off which recently was held at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

Fourteen of the area's top chefs and restaurants served up every imaginable recipe of chili, mac and cheese, and pulled pork to compete for top honors and bragging rights.

The Golden Ladle went to: Critics' Choice Awards for Best Chili, Green Lantern Pizzeria in Madison Heights, Clinton Twp., Sterling Heights, Macomb and Royal Oak; Best Mac & Cheese and Best Pulled Pork, Yardbird Smoked



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL
SCENE

Meats in Keego Harbor. The People's Choice Awards for Best Chili also went to Green Lantern Pizzeria; Best Mac & Cheese, Crispelli's of Berkeley and West Bloomfield; and Best Pulled Pork was also awarded to Yardbird Smoked Meats.

Next up for Variety are its Annual Table Tops Luncheon, Wednesday, April 27, at Pine Lake Country Club in West Bloomfield, and the Star is Born Gala, Friday, May 20, at Emagine Royal Oak. For more information, go to variety-detroit.com.

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



Tonya Clark of Belleville and Sean H. Robertson of Livonia enjoy the Annual Chili/Mac and Pulled Pork Cook-Off.



Nathan Mersereau of Livonia is a Variety The Children's Charity board member. He's with Jennie Cascio, Variety's executive director, at Variety's Annual Chili/Mac and Pulled Pork Cook-Off.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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WEDDING



SUBMITTED

Bryce Frye and Amanda Dobos on their wedding day

DOBOS-FRYE

Amanda Dobos and Bryce Frye were married Oct. 17, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth.

Amanda, daughter of Otto and Carol Dobos of Livonia, is a 2008 graduate of Churchill High School and a 2012 graduate of Arizona State University. She has a degree in theater and is an actor in Los Angeles, Calif.

Bryce, son of Neil and Cheri Frye of Scottsdale, Ariz. also graduated

from Arizona State University. Bryce is a software engineer in Santa Monica, Calif.

The wedding party had two maids of honor, four bridesmaids, four best men, three groomsmen, a ring bearer and a flower girl.

A reception was held at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

The newlyweds took a honeymoon trip to England, France and Germany. They reside in Los Angeles, Calif.

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH 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

EASTER FUN

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26

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

Details: Family-friendly event with crafts, egg hunt, and presentation of the Easter story. Bring a basket for the egg hunt, which is for ages 12 and under

Contact: Melissa at 734-765-1827

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

EGG DROP

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Orchard Grove Community Church, 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake

Details: More than 12,000 eggs filled with candy will be dropped from a helicopter for children through fifth grade to collect. Children will be grouped by age

Contact: Shawna Schwaninger at 248-926-6584 or email shawna.schwaninger@orchard-grove.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

EGG HUNT

Time/Date: 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13

Location: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Cookie decorating, crafts, and Easter egg hunt is free and will be held rain or shine

Contact: 734-422-6038

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 handouts

Contact: Pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

AIKENS



ROBERT BRUCE "BOB" 86; passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on March 2, 2016. He was a noted developer of regional enclosed shopping centers as well as numerous other properties located throughout the United States, a rugged outdoorsman, and a generous philanthropist. He will be deeply missed as a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. Born in Ft. Wayne, IN on June 27th, 1929, he was the son of Berton Allen Aikens, Jr. and Katherine Sanson Aikens. He attended Baldwin High School where he fell deeply in love with his wife of 65 years, Charlotte Ann Snyder. He was President of his fraternity, and he called play-by-play for the school football team. In 1951 he received his BA in economics from Brown University, and in 1954 he received his JD from the University of Michigan Law School. Bob was Lt. JG U.S. Navy from 1955-1958. He served as Legal Assistant to the J.A.G. in the Pentagon. From 1959 to 1973 he was a Senior Partner in the law firm of Wunsch, Aikens & Lundershausen, where he focused on real estate and tax law, representing commercial developers in all types of real estate transactions. In 1973, Bob struck out on his own as Chairman and 100% owner of Robert B. Aikens & Associates, LLC. Since that time, his company has developed, owned and managed, among other property types, nine enclosed regional shopping centers around the United States. Bob was notable in business for his relentless will-power and vision, which he equally applied to rugged leisure pursuits including hunting, fishing, sail-boat racing, skiing, squash, swimming, and golf. Bob's heart was evident in his commitment to building beautiful gathering places such as the L'Abre Croche Beach Club in Northern Michigan, the Village of Rochester Hills, and the Robert B. Aikens Commons at the University of Michigan Law School; in his devotion to his community of long-time friends gathered in boyhood and beyond; and in his primary philanthropic commitments to the University of Michigan Law School, the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center, the University of Michigan School of Art & Design, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Christ Church Cranbrook, and William Beaumont Hospital. Most of all, Bob's heart is reflected in the eyes, as well as the memories, of his loving and devoted wife, and his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Ann Snyder Aikens; his children, Kimberly Ann Aikens; Robert Bruce Aikens Jr. (Linda); Lindsey Aikens Hetter (Peter); and Geoffrey Scott Aikens (Beth); his eleven grandchildren; and his brother, William Robb Aikens (Alice). A Memorial Service for friends and family will be held on May 9, 2016 at 11 am at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Memorial gifts are to be made to Christ Church Cranbrook, to the Discretionary fund of the Rector, The Rev. Dr. William J. Danaher, Jr., to provide immediate support to those in need. Obituary and condolences at lynchfunerarydirectors.com

COLLINS



MICHAEL 59, of Alamosa, Colorado, formerly of Livonia, died February 27, 2016 in the Snowy Range, west of Laramie, Wyoming. A funeral will take place on March 2, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Laramie, Wyoming at Montgomery-Stryker Funeral Home for family and friends. A memorial will take place in Alamosa, Colorado at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on April 2, 2016. To send condolences or to sign the online guest book, please visit, www.montgomerystryker.com

DAUZET-MILLER



LEIS M. March 1, 2016, age 52 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of Greg. Cherished mother of Ava, and Nicklas Miller. Loving daughter of Ronald (the late Maryann) Dauzet, and sister of Jodi (Jeff) Jones, and Beth Ann (William) O'Connell. Family and friends are invited to gather Monday March 14 11 a.m. for a luncheon at the Italian American Banquet and Conference Center, 39200 5 Mile Rd (East of I-275) Livonia MI 48154, followed by a Celebration of Life in honor of Leis. A private interment will be held at Michigan Memorial Park. To share memories, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

HARVEY

JUNE L. Age 92, February 19, 2016 of Garden City. Beloved wife of the late Donald. Loving mother of Donald G. (Ruthella), the late Richard and Sherry. Also survived by five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. A celebration of June's life will be held at The Grande Parlour, 6221 Merriman Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Maplewood) on Sunday, March 13 from 12 pm - 4 pm. Please share a memory of June at www.rgharris.com.

HAWES



DANNY R. age 71, passed away March 1, 2016 in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Danny grew up in Livonia, MI and married his wife Patricia in 1970. Before his marriage, Danny served for two years in the U.S. Army. His deployment overseas took him to Baumholder, Germany with the 293d Engineering Battalion. Danny loved all sports and was a big Detroit Tigers fan. He passed this love of sports on to his grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter Beth Stokes (Darren), son Michael Hawes, grandchildren Max, Jack, Addie and Avery, brother Jim Hawes and sister Kathy Larabell. Interment will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. A special gathering to celebrate his life is planned for Father's Day.

JOSEPH



RAMON R., M.D. Of Sun City West, Arizona, and Emeritus Professor of Medicine at University of Michigan, transitioned peacefully in his sleep on February 17, 2016 at the age of 85. Born in New York City, he was the son of Helen and Felix Joseph. He was married to Mary Ann (Kowalchik) Joseph for 50 years until she passed away in 2006. They had three children, Ricardo George, Maria Ann, and Lisa Marie. Dr. Joseph received a B.S. degree from Manhattan College, New York. After receiving his M.D. from Cornell University and a fellowship in gastroenterology, Dr. Joseph became a Professor of Medicine at the University of Michigan, Assistant Dean, and Chief of Medicine at the Wayne County General Hospital. Dr. Joseph's professional biography is in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare, and Who's Who in Science and Engineering. He published numerous scientific papers, established free clinics for indigent patients, and coauthored the K-12 curriculum for education on drug abuse in Michigan. In Sun City West, Dr. Joseph was a member of Advent Episcopal Church where he served as Vestry member, Senior Warden, and created a Patient Advocacy Ministry through which he helped countless parishioners and others with various medical issues. Having a lifelong love of ballroom dancing and gourmet cooking, he shared his many talents and friends. Late in his life, he made his theatrical debut as a singer and actor in Theatre West, was a member of HandiCapables, and the Beardsley fitness facility. He leaves a son, Dr. Ricardo Joseph, M.D. of Michigan; and two daughters, Maria Thompson of Michigan and Lisa Benson of Florida: daughter-in-law, Heather Joseph; son-in-law, Dr. Levi Thompson, Ph.D. and son-in-law, Dr. Robert Benson, M.D.; a brother, Francisco Ronaldo Joseph of California; half brothers, Felix R. Joseph Rodas, Alberto M. Joseph Rodas, Jose E. Joseph Rodas; a half sister, Gisela (Techi) Joseph Rodas of Dossey; and six adored grandchildren, Marissa Elena Thompson, Alexandra Marie Joseph, Christian Ramon Benson, Sabrina Elise Thompson, Nicholas Ramon Joseph, and Camille Lauren Benson. He also leaves behind a former wife, Karen Moran and her son, David Moran. Dr. Joseph was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Ricardo Carlos Joseph and his wife, Mary Ann Joseph. Always a physician, scholar and a gentleman, Dr. Joseph was first and foremost a family man. He will be well remembered by nieces and nephews, cousins, friends, colleagues, patients, and students that he touched along his life journey. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Advent Episcopal Church, 13150 Spanish Garden Dr., Sun City West, AZ, 85375 or to Manhattan College, Manhattan College Parkway, Riverdale, NY, 10471.

TEBBEN



SARAH "SALLY" J. of Plymouth, MI passed away peacefully on her 68th birthday surrounded by her family. She passed Tuesday, March 1, 2016 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, following a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born to the late J. Paul and Margaret Fisher of Lima, Ohio on March 1, 1948. She is survived by four children, Jennifer (Toribio) Nuñez, Christopher (Marina) Tebben, Paul (Mara) Tebben and Joseph (Sara) Tebben; five grandchildren, Jonah, Sophia, C.J., Casey Jane and Anna; two sisters, Kate Stepleton and Peggy Allen; two brothers, John Fisher and Jim Fisher; and her dear friend and confidant, Theresa Tebben. She was preceded in death by her daughter Christine Marie Tebben, her parents and her sister Lillian Schnabel. Always one who looked to give rather than receive, Sally will also be missed dearly by many other caring relatives and friends. Sally graduated from Lima Senior High School (Lima, Ohio) and received her RN nursing degree from Lima Memorial School of Nursing. She proudly chose her primary vocation as a "stay at home" mother and returned to her nursing career once her children were grown. She distinguished herself in both endeavors, but if asked, would want her legacy to be that of a loving mother and devoted grandmother. Sally's life was guided by a deep faith, compassionate heart and loving nature. Her daily examples of strength, principled character, love and grace are the foundation of her children's values, and also left an indelible mark on all those whose lives she touched. Sally left this world in the same way that she lived - with dignity, quiet grace, compassionate selflessness and a loving devotion to God, her family and her many friends. Visitation will be held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth, Michigan from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2016. Funeral Services will be conducted at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Lima, Ohio at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 8th. Memorial donations may be made to Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr, Ann Arbor MI, 48103 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105. Sally's family would like to thank the University of Michigan Medical Center and Arbor Hospice staffs for the compassionate and dignified care they provided in her final weeks of life.

TROWBRIDGE

ELIZABETH J. age 80, of Salem Twp. Passed away on March 3, 2016. Beloved wife of the late Elba Trowbridge, who preceded her in death in 1998. Dear mother of Janet Roy; proud grandmother of Mitchell Trowbridge and Jessie Tiilikka; great-grandmother of Elba Trowbridge; caring sister of Mary Lou Bowman and Judy Rehburg; sister-in-law of Mary Helen Franks; aunt of Diane (Jerry) Gransden, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. At the request of Elizabeth, cremation has taken place and a remembrance service will be held at a later date. Those wishing to send a memorial contribution in Elizabeth's name may consider: The Arbor Hospice Foundation, 2366 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-8944. Arrangements entrusted to the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Plymouth (734) 459-2250

May peace be
with you in this
time of sorrow.



May peace be with you
in this time of sorrow.



May
you find
comfort
in family
& friends

Traveling athletic shoe brings awareness to rare, fatal disorder

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Phillip Fortier wants you to meet the MSA Shoe.

Pose with it for a photo. Host it at a gathering. Notice it on a new billboard along I-94. See it guest starring with blues singer Thornetta Davis March 19 at Motown Moves For MSA, an annual fundraiser.

The traveling athletic shoe brings awareness to multiple system atrophy (MSA), a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects movement and such involuntary functions as blood pressure and digestion. It has posed with celebrities, visited landmarks, attended Detroit's Movement Electronic Music Festival and crossed international borders during the past five years.

"The Shoe is iconic and appears in the oddest of places," said Fortier, founder of Defeat MSA: Joseph G. Fortier Foundation, based in St. Clair Shores. "It has been at The Fox, The (Joe Louis) Fist. At U of M Hospital it was put into a PET scanner. DMC did a whole video of it traveling through the hospitals."

Photos are posted on the Where is the MSA Shoe? Facebook page where supporters can follow the Shoe's movements.

"It is a tool that can help spread awareness," Fortier said, noting that March is MSA Awareness Month. "Many of the patients are bedridden and it moves for them in a way. It also travels in memory of those who have suffered from this disease that no one knows about."

Memories

MSA patients and their loved ones often attach mementos to the Shoe during public appearances. Carol Ruth of Westland added Mickey Mouse- and bowling-related stick pins from her husband's collection when she met the Shoe last year.

"Richard loved bowling and he loved Mickey Mouse. He was an avid collector," said Ruth, who supports the Shoe's efforts, but says she wishes she had never heard of MSA.

Her late husband, whom she described as a "health freak who took care of himself and always went to the doctor," lost his battle with the disease at age 65 in May 2009.

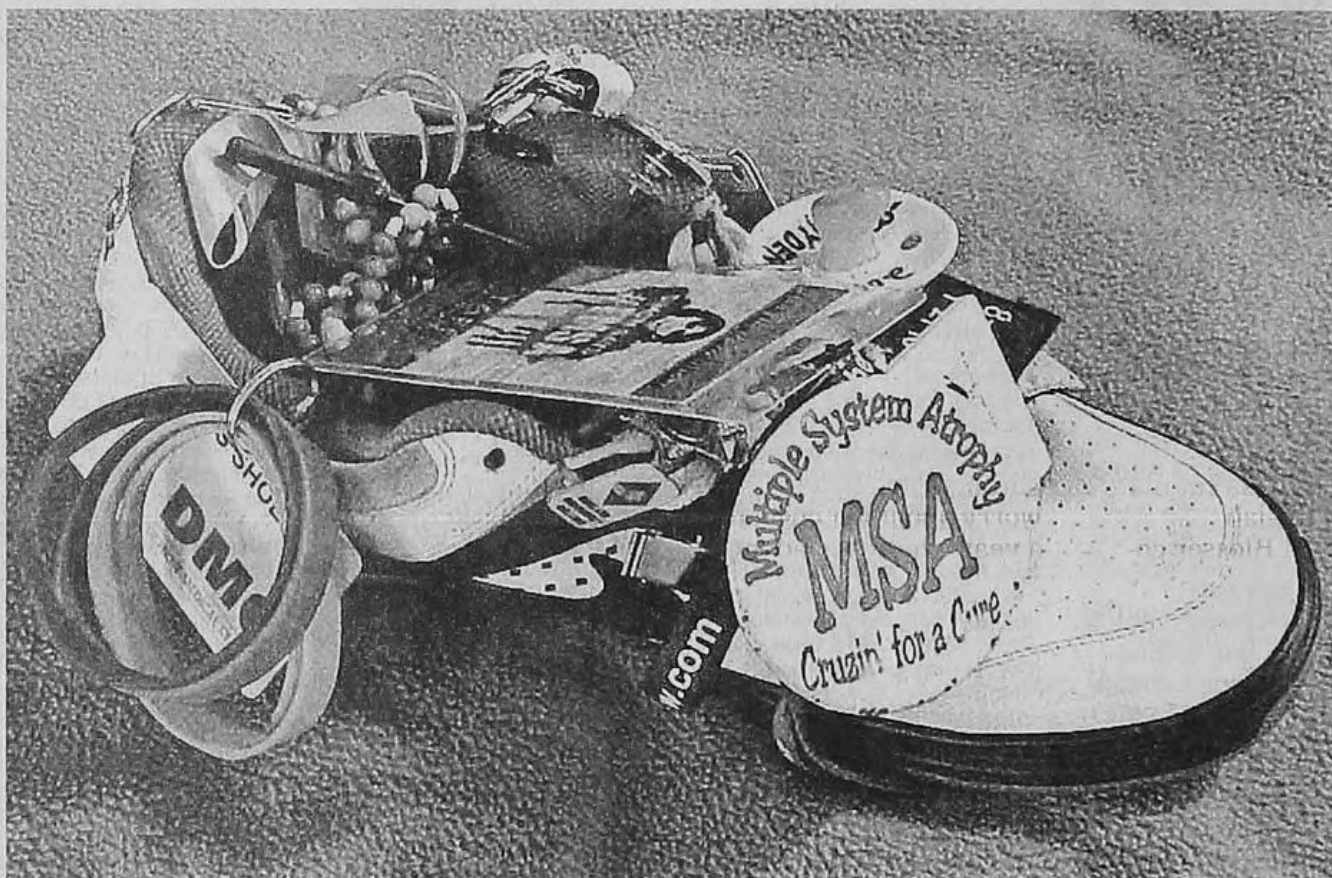
"This is a disease that doesn't discriminate. It just says, 'you're it.' There is no cure," she said.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, MSA is a rare disease that affects potentially 15,000-50,000 Americans. Symptoms, which often are difficult to distinguish from those of Parkinson's disease, appear when a person with MSA is in their 50s. MSA symptoms include tremors, stiffness, slow movement, clumsiness, impaired speech, bladder control problems, and low blood pressure when rising from a seated position. MSA generally progresses more rapidly than Parkinson's disease, is similar to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and can involve sleep disorders, breathing problems, difficulty swallowing and fainting spells. Within five to 10 years patients



Richard Ruth died a few years after being diagnosed with MSA. Carol Ruth of Westland hopes for increased awareness of the disease.

SUBMITTED



The MSA Shoe, decorated in mementos from patients and their loved ones, raises awareness of multiple system atrophy, a neurological disorder.

SUBMITTED



Julie Horst, talks with her son-in-law, Richard Ruth, who sits in a Hoyer sling. The equipment helped lift Ruth from his bed during the end stages of his battle with multiple system atrophy (MSA) several years ago.

lose mobility and are bedridden.

Richard Ruth initially was

diagnosed with Parkinson's. Two years later he was told he had MSA.

"It's a rare disease and yet these are real human beings. Every disease deserves attention. Even if it affects just one person."

PHILLIP FORTIER
an adjunct professor at U-D Mercy

"He didn't want to live the disease. We still went to dinner. We went to Hawaii a year and a month before he died," said Ruth, who watched her husband go from walking with a cane to a walker, then a wheelchair in three years. He was bedridden when he died.

No cure

Fortier's brother, Joseph, was diagnosed with MSA the

MSA EVENTS

» A support group sponsored by The MSA Coalition and Defeat MSA Joseph G. Fortier Foundation runs 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland, 44405 Woodward Ave., Pontiac. The group will meet in classrooms C and D on the fourth floor.

» Second annual Motown Moves for MSA benefit runs 5-8 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at University of Detroit Mercy - Architectural Exhibition Space in the School of Architecture, 4001 McNichols, Detroit. It features blues singer Thornetta Davis, along with Barbara Scott Oster. Includes hors d'oeuvres and wine, beer and soda, a silent auction and photographs with the MSA Shoe. Tickets are \$30 online at DefeatMSA.org and \$35 at the door.

same year that Richard Ruth died. At first he too, was thought to have Parkinson's, but after the medications he took for the disease didn't work, doctors determined it was MSA. Joseph Fortier died a little over three years later.

"There is no known cause and no cure and very little in the way of treatment," said Fortier, an adjunct philosophy professor at University of Detroit Mercy. Medications treat symptoms, but don't slow progression of the disorder.

"We need more awareness. With awareness comes earlier diagnosis and probably better diagnosis, and more research," he said. "It's a rare disease and yet these are real human beings. Every disease deserves attention. Even if it affects just one person, it's worthy of pursuing treatments."

For more about the organization that Fortier founded, visit defeatmsa.org. For more about the MSA Shoe, visit msashoe.org.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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Balding, sore gums may be symptoms of heart disease

Chest pain and heart palpitations may be the most common symptoms signaling heart disease that bring patients into their physician's office or the emergency room.

However, there are some other signs that may indicate your heart isn't performing the way it should. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, schedule an appointment with your primary care physician or cardiologist because they may be signs of a heart problem.

» Swelling, also called edema, of the feet or lower legs can be caused by something as simple as too much salt in your diet. It also may be a sign your blood isn't flowing the way it should and is causing fluid build-up in your lower extremities. It is best to be cautious



Delair Gardi

GUEST COLUMNIST

and have the cause of your swelling diagnosed by a physician.

» Men, are you going bald? According to a large study by Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, there is a correlation between male hair loss and heart conditions such as nonfatal heart attacks, angina or chest pains as well as the need for procedures to open blocked coronary arteries.

Where you are balding can also be an important indicator. The likelihood of heart disease increased by nine percent

when men of any age started to lose hair on the front of their heads; 23 percent when a bald spot opens at the crown; and 36 percent when the top of the head is completely bald. On top of this, if you have high blood pressure or high cholesterol in addition to hair loss, the risk is almost three times higher than it would be if you had the conditions without hair loss.

» Your snoring isn't just keeping your partner awake — it also may be warning you of things to come. A study at Emory University in Atlanta found the obstructed airways in people who have sleep apnea or snore were linked to higher risk of cardiovascular disease. If you've been told you snore but don't have any other symptoms of cardiovascular disease, take action now and have

a sleep study done. Finding a solution to the snoring problem will help you sleep better and may prevent the emergence of additional health problems.

» Women, do you suffer from reoccurring migraines? In a 2012 study, the American Academy of Neurology found that women who have migraines with visual or sensory disturbance at least once a month are twice as likely to develop heart disease. Be sure to talk to your doctor about your migraines and the possible effects they are having on your heart.

» Sore, bleeding gums are not only a sign of gum disease but might also affect your heart. Keeping your teeth and gums clean and healthy could be one easy way to reduce your risk of heart disease. Also,

because you typically see your dentist more regularly than your primary care physician, he or she may be able to tell from your mouth that something isn't right elsewhere in the body.

If you are experiencing these or other health concerns, schedule an appointment with your doctor. Be sure to write down any questions or items you'd like to discuss before your appointment.

Delair Gardi, MD is an interventional cardiologist at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. He is the medical director of endovascular services and the cardiac catheterization laboratory. Gardi is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, interventional cardiology and nuclear cardiology.



SUBMITTED
Charlie Blosser holds Dusty, the first cat he brought into the pottery studio at Oakland Community College, in this photo taken in the 1980s.

Potters Market donation to benefit NBAR cat rescue

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Charlie Blosser always kept a cat in the pottery lab where he taught ceramics for 36 years at Oakland Community College.

Dusty, Rusty and Luckey (with an "e") all orange tabbies, all rescued cats "lived a great life" amid the throwing wheels, clay creations and students that populated the Ceramic Technology department on the Royal Oak campus, according to Bridget Blosser.

"My husband was so into cats," she said. "He got to be the rescue guy. You could bring a cat to him and he'd find a home for it. He purchased a big cage and when he got a



PET PROJECTS

cat, the cat would live there until he found a home. He did that for 10 years and finally had to stop (rescuing) because he had three or four cats in the cage a few times. And he had his cat that lived in the lab."

Bridget Blosser co-coordinates the annual Potter's Market in Southfield, a December pot-

tery show her late husband started years ago at OCC. When it came time to choose a charity for last year's market, Blosser knew exactly what he would have chosen — cats.

Sale proceeds from a charity portion of the show have been tallied and Blosser is ready to present a \$2,100 check to New Beginnings Animal Rescue, (NBAR) a cat-only shelter in Royal Oak.

The shelter — this writer is a board member — is located on Rochester Road north of 12 Mile, and includes both free-roam rooms and kennel "condos" for cats awaiting adoption. All of the shelter's cats are vetted, including with spay and neuter surgery, before they are adopted.

Kitten season

"This way, new pet parents don't have to worry about vet costs for a year when they adopt from us," said Jennifer Fritz, a Garden City resident and NBAR vice



SUBMITTED
Kittens enjoy lounging on perches at New Beginnings Animal Rescue (NBAR) in this photo from 2014. Every spring brings a new "kitten season," with pregnant cats, kittens and new cat moms that need new homes.

"He would come up and give you a purr and rub your leg and you'd stop throwing (clay) and play with the cat. A lot of students would bring treats and food."

BRIDGET BLOSSER
co-coordinator of the Potter's Market

president.

She said the Potters Market donation, which will be used for medical costs, will come in handy as "kitten season" gets underway.

"As we enter spring, it's what we call 'kitten season,' meaning there are a lot of pregnant cats and newborn kittens that will be flooding shelters and rescues all over Michigan," Fritz said. "We make sure that these kittens and new mommas get all the medical care they need, both pre- and

post-natal — everything from basic vaccinations to ultrasounds are done to help give these families a head start on their way to becoming members of new human families."

Pottery lab cats

Blosser lives with three rescue cats and has fond memories of the lab cats at OCC. The final lab-cat-in-residence, Luckey, had run of the pottery studio until 2010 when Charlie Blosser retired. The cat was

adopted by a family in Ferndale. Charlie Blosser died in 2014.

"He put his mark on many a pot," Blosser recalled one of the lab cats. "He would come up and give you a purr and rub your leg and you'd stop throwing (clay) and play with the cat. A lot of students would bring treats and food."

Like the lab cats, her own felines have the run of her home.

"The only place they don't go is the studio," she said.

For more about Potters Market visit thepottersmarket.com.

For New Beginnings Animal Rescue, visit nbarmichigan.org. Or visit its Facebook page.

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A purr-fect partnership

Furry Friends Rescue hits 500 mark for feline adoptions at Pet Supplies Plus

Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Furry Friends Rescue met the 500 mark of finding homes for cats and kittens Sunday at Pet Supplies Plus in South Lyon.

More impressive is that many of the animals it placed weren't the most desired felines.

Some were old, middle aged, shy or depressed, and others were black, typically not the most desirable of choices for many people. Furry Friends started making cats available for adoption out of the store when it opened in October 2012.

"It's outstanding," Susan Brown Furry Friends Rescue volunteer, said. "We get a lot of cats adopted there that don't have much chance at the shelter."

Brighton-based Furry Friends Rescue has three cages that are usually filled with cats from the Livingston County Animal Shelter in Howell.

Second chance

The store at Pontiac Trail and Nine Mile provides more hours and foot traffic than the shelter, Brown said.

Last year, 139 cats and kittens made available at Pet Supplies Plus found homes. Of those, 61 were adult cats, at least one year old. One cat was 10 years old and another was 12 years old. Older cats aren't typically the first choice of most peo-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Susan Brown, a volunteer with Furry Friends Rescue, celebrates the group's 500th cat adoption at South Lyon's Pet Supplies Plus. Brown holds up Alex a 6-year-old domestic short hair that's available to a good home.

ple looking to bring a pet home, Brown noted.

Many of the cats were shy, depressed or scared, Brown said, adding that some of the cats had all three conditions. Furry Friends Rescue volunteers visit the store throughout the day to interact with the felines, and that often helps build their socialization skills.

Many of the cats had been abused, were strays or came from hoarders. Sometimes people surrendered their cats, because they could no longer care for the animals due to downsizing, they didn't have the money or they were moving and couldn't bring their cats to their new homes.

"There's all kinds of sad stories with people who have become homeless and couldn't take care of their cats," Brown said. "At the shelter they get tossed in a cage and they don't know what's happening."

Personality make over

One cat recently was hissing and growling at the back of a cage at the shelter, Brown said.

"We get them to the store and we start working with them, they come out of their shells and become more adoptable," Brown said. "One cat came to the shelter last March. We got her up to the store in February and we had her adopted in four days. There was another with the same situation, and both were black cats."

Furry Friends Rescue is a 501-3C charity that started in 2008 finding homes for cats and dogs. Pet Supplies Plus doesn't house dogs for adoption.

Anyone interested in volunteering with Furry Friends Rescue should call Brown at 810-599-7567.

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Stand out in an uncommon but well-paid job

 BY MATT TARPEY
 CAREERBUILDER

Are you the type of person who marches to the beat of your own drum? Who goes against the grain and prefers to stand out from the crowd? Does that mentality apply to your professional life as well as your personal life? If so, then you should consider a job that no one else you know is likely to have. And the good news is that even uncommon occupations can have big paydays.

Here are eight less-than-common occupations that offer competitive salaries. (Occupation descriptions are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Average hourly earnings and 2015 U.S. job numbers are provided by Economic Modeling Specialists Intl.)

1. Astronomers study planets, stars, galaxies and other celestial bodies. Some astronomers focus their research on objects in our solar system, such as the sun or planets. Others study distant stars, galaxies and phenomena such as neutron stars and black holes, and some monitor space debris that could interfere with satellite operations.
2015 jobs: 1,945
Average hourly earnings: \$52.48



THINKSTOCK

2. Forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists assess fire hazards in both public and residential areas. They look for fire code infractions and conditions that pose wildfire risks. They also recommend ways to reduce fire hazards. During patrols, they enforce fire regulations and report fire conditions to their central command center.
2015 jobs: 2,105
Average hourly earnings: \$20.15

3. Genetic counselors assess individual or family

risks for a variety of inherited conditions, such as genetic disorders and birth defects. They provide information and support to other health care providers or to individuals and families concerned with the risk of inherited conditions.
2015 jobs: 2,451
Average hourly earnings: \$34.33

4. Theatrical and performance makeup artists apply makeup to performers to reflect the period, setting and situation of their roles.
2015 jobs: 2,752

Average hourly earnings: \$31.47

5. Historians research, analyze, interpret and present the past by studying historical documents and sources.
2015 jobs: 3,407
Average hourly earnings: \$29.45

6. Commercial divers work below the surface of the water, using scuba gear to inspect, repair, remove or install equipment and structures. They may conduct tests or experiments, rig explosives

or photograph structures or marine life.

2015 jobs: 3,519
Average hourly earnings: \$24.19

7. Transit and railroad police patrol railroad yards and transit stations. They protect property, employees and passengers from crimes such as thefts and robberies. They remove trespassers and check IDs of people who try to enter secure areas.

2015 jobs: 3,902
Average hourly earnings: \$25.53

8. Broadcast news analysts are often called upon to provide their opinions, rather than reporting, on a particular news story. They may appear on television, on radio or in print. Most come from fields outside of journalism, have expertise in a particular subject — for example, politics, business or medicine — and are hired on a contract basis to provide their opinions of the subjects being discussed.
2015 jobs: 4,316
Average hourly earnings: \$39.19

Matt Tarpey is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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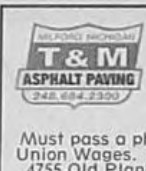
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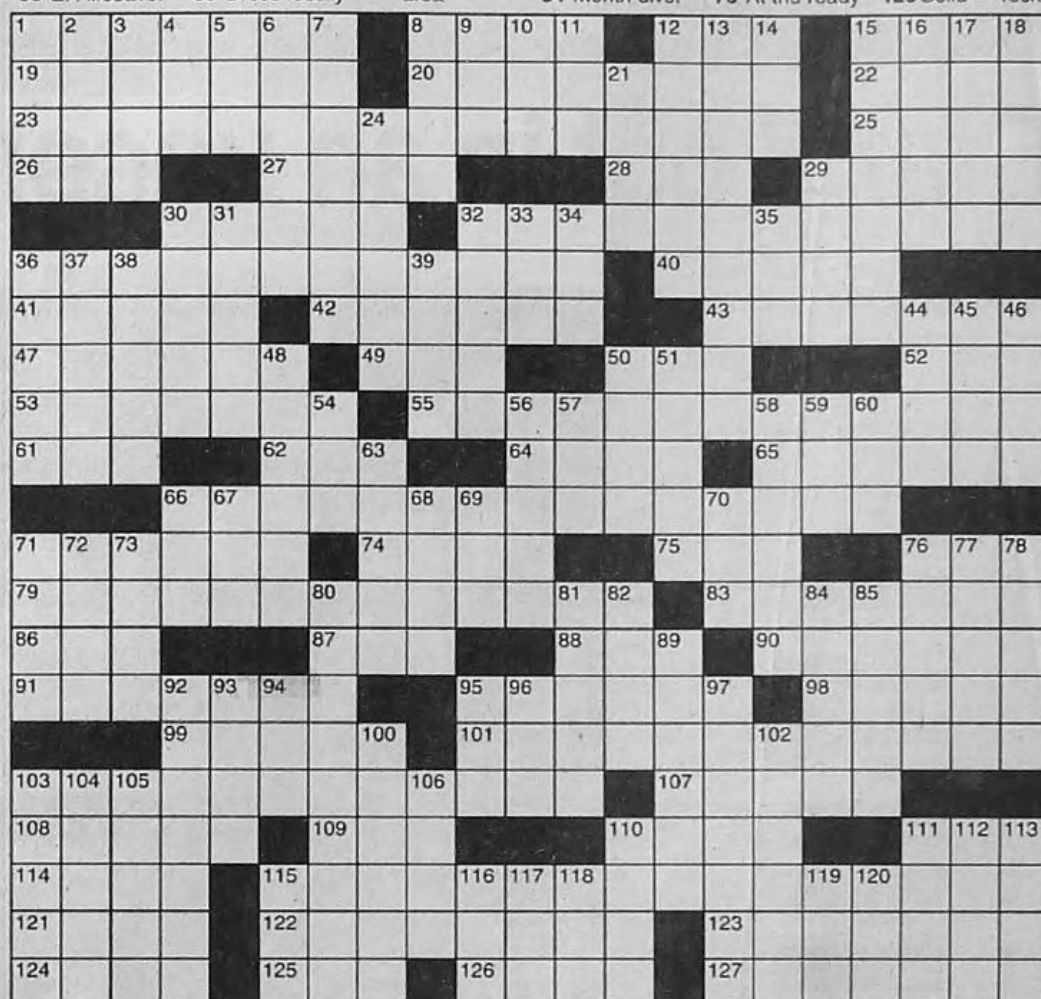
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ACROSS
1 Stinging box jellyfish
8 Salvador of surrealism
12 NFL three-pointers: Abbr.
15 Seal off
19 Satellite, to its planet
20 Envoy
22 Course
23 Jack-o'-lantern
25 One gazing
26 Ending of sugars
27 A deadly sin
28 Wiggly fish
29 Mother, in Madrid
30 Snow house
32 1986 #1 hit for Whitney Houston
36 Colonel on "Hogan's Heroes"
40 See 52-Across
41 Tibetan or Thai
42 Weighted fishing nets
43 How butter is often eaten
47 Gave gas to in a garage
49 Start to fall
50 ER lifesaver
52 With 40-Across, 1960s fad dance
53 Christmas star's place
55 7/21/69 New York Times headline
61 Strong desire
62 Say "I do" to
64 Having a sleek design
65 Snatched
66 1978 Maya Angelou poem
71 Shot — (ice hockey statistic)
74 Not of the clergy
75 Bit of Aspen gear
76 Feedbag bit
79 Y2K
83 Nosy comic Jimmy?
86 Sebastian of England
87 Kind of poem
88 Ill-litig's partner
90 Pestle's partner
91 Nine-item groups
95 "Fallin'" singer Keys
98 Tale twisters
99 Dress fussily
101 Dessert at a tropical-themed party, maybe
103 1928 Eddie Cantor song
107 Reel drum
108 Samuel on the Supreme Court
109 Drop the ball
110 Mosque chief
111 Kick — fuss
114 Strong desire
115 It uses only the 12 letters A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U and W (like eight long answers in this puzzle)
121 "The Wizard of Oz" farm hand
122 Present-day Persians
123 Most lax
124 In time past, in time past
125 Hogs' home
126 Rolling — (rich)
127 Apply messily
1 Arty NYC area
2 Lengthy reigns, say
3 Proficient
4 Wheaton of the screen
5 Volume 1 heading starter
6 "Black Beauty" author
7 First names, in France
8 Disallow
9 Fuse box unit
10 Lucy of the screen
11 Philosophy
12 Bluff one's way through
13 Decorative grating
14 Wd. in Rogel's
15 Talk with
16 Franz Joseph —
17 In — surgery
18 Flung
21 Expel forcibly
24 Draws forth
29 Light fog
30 "no clue"
31 Playwright Jean
32 Gate joint
33 A single
34 Month divs.
35 Jeremy of basketball
36 Like loads
37 River to the Rhone
38 Pep (up)
39 Neeson of "Taken"
44 All-inclusive
45 Brogan, e.g.
46 Be inclined
48 Thrive
50 Track leg-end Lewis
51 Rototills, e.g.
54 Hogs' home
56 Country/folk singer Griffith
57 "Aren't — pair?"
58 Densest stable element
59 Tchr.'s org.
60 Hour div.
63 Portioned
66 Toy dog breed, briefly
67 "Bali —"
68 Shaggy locks
69 German "a"
70 Didn't nix
71 In time past
72 Sign gas
73 Stefani of pop music
76 At the ready
77 Early arcade biggie
78 Laconic
80 Despair
81 City near Venice
82 Prey for owls
84 Rich kid in "Nancy"
85 Israel's Sharon
89 Noxious vapor
92 Sobriquet
93 Tuscan river
94 Dawn beads
95 Tablet buy — in wait
97 Horrifics
100 Oslo's land
102 Item for a cheerleader
103 Corn, to Brits
104 Amend
105 Boots
106 Algerian city
110 Tech sch.
111 Super, slangily
112 Mexican coin
113 Fax abbr.
115 That follow's
116 20% of XV
117 Scottish
118 Singer DiFranco
119 Farm tool
120 Solid — rock



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ZODIAC WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ABSIDES
ADHERENCE
AQUARIUS
ARIES
ASTROLOGER
BIRTHDAY
CANCER
CAPRICORN
CAST
CHART
CONSTELLATION
CUSP
GEMINI
GRID
HOROSCOPE
HOUSE
LEO
LIBRA
LUNAR
MOON
PERSONALITY
PHASES
PISCES
PLANET
RULING
SAGITTARIUS
SCORPIO
SIGN
SOLAR
SUN
TAURUS
TEMPERAMENT
TRAITS
UNDER
VIRGO
ZODIAC

Crossword Answers
SEAWASP DALLI FGS SHUT
ORBITER EMISSARY PATH
HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN EYER
OSE ENVY FEL MADRE
IOLOO HOWWILLIKNOW
WILHELMKLINK TWIST
ASIAN SEINES ONTOAST
REVVED SAG CPR THE
TREETOP MENWALKONMOON
YEN WED AERO SEIZED
PHENOMENALWOMAN
ONGOAL LATIC SKI OAT
NEWMILLENNIUM DURANTE
COE ODE DIM MORTAR
ENNEADS ALICIA ALLIARS
ENPREEN PINEAPPLEPIE
MAKINWHOOPEE SPOOL
ALITO ERR IMAM UPA
ITCHE HAWAIIANALPHABET
ZEKE IRANIAN LOOSEST
ERST STY TNIT SMEARON

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE
V I R U G S U B H V Y Y E Q A R H E I A
H U Z N C N E A M V R E D N U C H A R T N
P Z Y U Q N E A M S U I R A U C A G N P B
Y P S O M N C C I T T O I P R O C S U C
R N S E Y A O A A T R T T P B N G B G L
M L A L U T T I L P T E G Z H D Q N R R
O I S S P H I T T A R A C N S A Z P C A
S B T E S U S L P A L I R N I P S E E N
O R R I U A Z V A R L P C I A L E E G B
L A O R C C O O Y N S L I O U C U I S A
A H L A R N R V D S O T E S R S S R I B
R L O I N I M E G I S I T C N I A H S
N Q G S T D R A R O A T R A S E C Y G I
T B E A Q Q G D N R Y C M E R N S V M D
S E R B E P O C S O R O H E P T O D E E
U E N I D S M Z H R D I S I I O M C G S
R Y G A M A D H E R E N C E L L G O G R
U P I R L T E M P E R A M E N T P R O U
A G L H I P R B H O U S E C U H D N I N
T H M Z E D Q D O E Y A D H T R I B G V

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Car Report

Audi's Continued Rise Rewards Efforts of 'Challenger' Brand To Take On Stalwarts of Luxury Market



By Dale Buss

Six months into Dieselgate, the Audi brand in the United States hasn't been touched much by the emissions issue occupying its corporate parents at Volkswagen AG or its siblings at VW.

Only a relative handful of Audi vehicles were implicated in the matter, which helps, while Audi has kept its own momentum going in the U.S. with key new products, major branding initiatives—and, most recently, significant third-party endorsements.



A scene from the Audi Super Bowl ad, 'Commander'

Consumer Reports just declared Audi the #1 brand for luxury car-buyers in the U.S. (Subaru was named the best mainstream brand). Fully 100 percent of Audi models tested by the magazine are recommended by it, which is particularly high praise as a distinction that none of its premium market rivals enjoy.

And in the latest, equally influential J.D. Power annual study of vehicle quality and reliability, Audi did trail Lexus, its sibling Porsche brand, and even Lincoln among luxury marques, although it beat fierce rivals Mercedes-Benz and BMW. And the German automaker's A4 sedan was among the highest-ranked in its category.

Audi also has begun volume sales of its substantially overhauled Q7 SUV in a segment that is among the industry's hottest these days. The brand is looking forward to the launch of a new version of A4, its bread-and-butter sedan. And it won acclaim for its David Bowie-esque Super Bowl ad, "Commander."

Loren Angelo, director of marketing for Audi of America, told me that, "As a challenger brand, you have to look at your category, your situation ... and attack it head-on." We chatted more about how to keep the momentum and growth going—and how long Audi can continue to keep calling itself a challenger brand:

Q: The Audi brand rose like a rocket over the last seven years. Now, given how Audi's sales have continued to surge lately and have moved you closer to the U.S. luxury-market leaders, how do you direct the brand?

Angelo: We need to continue to challenge. That's what allowed us to drive our position and to turn the brand around beginning in 2008. A challenger brand doesn't mean we only challenge the competition, but we communicate how we challenge the status quo and challenge complacency in our industry and in culture.

That type of approach keeps us nimble and allows us to continue to convey that Audi is a brand that pushes the edge. We see that in our motorsports program, in our leadership in piloted driving technology and in new products that come to market with leading edge technologies such as the virtual cockpit. Those are all things that we celebrate in our advertising and marketing.

Q: What has the A3 Sedan, introduced last year, done for the Audi brand—and vice versa?

Angelo: A3 has given us an incredible opportunity to speak to a new audience of first-time luxury buyers, bringing in almost 70 percent new consumers who have come from the mass market. It allows us to give those buyers a chance to experience the new Audi with leading design, technologies and our sophisticated new environments with our premium dealership network. We get to expose millennials to a brand



The A4 sedan is one that helped Audi score high for Consumer Reports

they've been aspiring to for years.

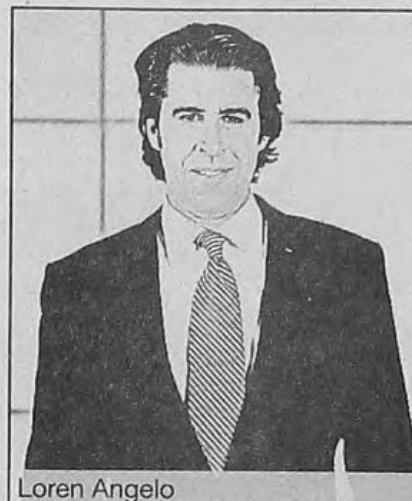
Q: Your Super Bowl ad once again featured your most highly aspirational model, R8. What has that halo car meant for the Audi brand in the US market?

Angelo: It has allowed us to draw a line in the sand and make it very clear that there was a new luxury player in the game—having a supercar with that stopping power in our portfolio made a powerful brand statement.

We started advertising it in the Super Bowl, and it has continued to be a halo for the brand, allowing us also to talk about our pioneering aluminum space frame, our leadership in motorsports and that this car shares more than 50 percent of its parts with the R8 LMS racer, so our consumers are

really driving a race car every day when they get behind the wheel of the R8.

And clearly, from a design standpoint, R8 sets an emotional tone for the brand that conveys the excitement and enthusiasm that inspires every Audi on the road.



Loren Angelo

Advertising Feature

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Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.49	0	2.625	0
Amenplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.75	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.125	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0	3.125	0.125
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4	0	3.25	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.625	0.25	3	0

Above information available as of 3/4/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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