

CANTON OBSERVER

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FOOD, B10

Canton voters favor Trump, Sanders



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kevin Steinhilber checks in with election workers Joyce Holmes, Patricia Krinock and Carolyn Pearson at Discovery Middle School.

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton voters, mirroring statewide trends, favored Democrat Bernie Sanders and Republican Donald Trump in Tuesday's presidential primary, with Trump surging past Canton runner-up John Kasich after absentee votes were counted.

Turnout reached 38.8 percent among Canton's 64,000 registered voters — surpassing expectations of local officials and dealing a blow, however narrowly, to political establishment candidates such

as Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Republicans accounted for 51.3 percent, or 12,781, of Canton voters, compared to 48.6 percent, or 12,109, for Democrats. Steven Sneedman, president of the Canton Democratic Club, said he believes "the craziness on the Republican side" fired up GOP voters and even caused some Democrats to switch sides for the primary.

Business mogul Trump garnered 4,411 votes in Canton compared to 3,747 for Ohio Gov. Kasich, 2,718 for U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and 1,313 for U.S. Sen. Marco Ru-

bio of Florida. Kasich led most of the night in Canton until absentee ballots rolled in for Trump.

Republican state Sen. Patrick Colbeck of Canton — state chairman of Cruz's campaign — said Cruz "absolutely" still has a path forward, even though Trump widened his delegate count with wins in Michigan and Mississippi.

"It's going to be a two-man race," Colbeck said. "It already is."

He said Rubio's poor showing Tuesday has further hurt

See **VOTERS**, Page A2



Canton Firefighter Maureen Stoecklein is all smiles after she climbed 71 flights of stairs in 12 minutes, 47 seconds.

Ren Cen-climbing woman firefighter receives attention from Brawney

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Maureen Stoecklein has become the fastest female firefighter — for the second year in a row — to climb De-

troit's tallest skyscraper.

Stoecklein, a Canton firefighter, raced up 71 flights of stairs in 12 minutes, 47 seconds in the Detroit Renaissance Center, beating her record last year by a full minute, even though con-

test organizers added an extra floor.

She ranked first among 27 female firefighters and 15th among all 333 firefighters in southeast Michigan who

See **CLIMBING**, Page A3

P-CEP students will present musical comedy

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

Students at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will deliver the community a musical comedy that combines a "hys-

terically funny script" with the greatest hits of the Gershwin Brothers both this weekend and next.

Set in the 1920s during prohibition, "Nice Work If You Can Get It" is the story of

charming and wealthy playboy Jimmy Winter who meets tough female bootlegger Billie Bendix the weekend of his wedding.

Thinking Jimmy will be out of town, Billie and her gang

hide 400 cases of alcohol in the basement of Jimmy's Long Island mansion. But, when Jimmy, his wife-to-be and her prohibitionist fam-

See **MUSICAL**, Page A5

'Predator' gets prison for sex with underage girl

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A 41-year-old Sterling Heights man will spend 8-15 years in prison for having sex with a girl, not yet 13, after he arranged to pick her up in Canton.

Joseph A. Apato is facing formal sentencing March 24 after he pleaded guilty Friday to two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a girl he met through a social networking app.

"It's another predator off the street," Canton Special Services Lt. Craig Wilsher said. "We know he can't victimize anyone else."

Apato's plea agreement averted a jury trial and a potentially longer prison sentence.

He remains jailed as he awaits his formal sentencing by Wayne County Circuit Judge Cynthia Gray Hathaway.

Apato befriended the girl through a social media app, arranged to pick her up in Canton and took her back to Sterling Heights, police said. His guilty plea brings swift closure to charges that arose in December.

Wilsher said the case should serve as a reminder to parents to monitor their children's activity on the Internet, especially on social media, and to reinforce the danger of meeting up with strangers.

"I hope this sends a message to parents that these kinds of (predatory) individuals are out there preying on young, innocent victims," he said.

Under the plea deal, Apato pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct and five other counts were dismissed, including two counts of first-degree CSC; one count of child sexually abusive activity; one count of using a computer and the Internet to commit a crime; and one count of accosting children for immoral purposes.

His arrest came after Canton police led an investigation that began with reports of a missing girl.

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Fly the 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' during new museum show

The Yankee Air Museum will have special rates for rides on its historic World War II C-47 aircraft, "Yankee Doodle Dandy" on Saturday, April 9. Weather permitting, the plane will fly in conjunction with the Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show at historic Willow Run Airport.

The show will be in Hangar 1, bay 7 at 801 Kirk Profit Drive, Ypsilanti. This is an opportunity to experience a flight through the eyes of a paratrooper on an aircraft of the type that

AVIATION AND AIRLINES COLLECTIBLES SHOW

The Yankee Air Museum will present and host its first-ever gathering dedicated to aficionados of historic airlines. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 9.

Dealers of airline postcards, collector cards, books, magazines, pins, models, brochures, posters and more will display and sell collectibles.

Admission is \$5 and children 15 and under are free. Admission includes all day access to the Yankee Air Museum. The show will be in historic Hangar 1, on the west side of Willow Run Airport, 801 Kirk Profit Drive, Ypsilanti.

For more information, go to the www.DetroitAviationShow.com website.

served in combat and set the stage for the D-Day landing at Normandy. All rides at the show will be

at the member rate of \$175.

The C-47 is the most unique of the museum's

vintage flying aircraft. It is a Douglas DC-3 commercial airliner converted for military use, especially active during World War II. It has been fully restored inside to look and feel like the WWII war bird that it was and restoration is ongoing, most recently on the original radio equipment.

Many who flew the C-47 considered it the most rugged and reliable aircraft flown during World War II, largely because at that time the design specifications for commercial aircraft

were more rigid than for military aircraft. C-47s towed troop-carrying gliders, dropped paratroopers into enemy territory, and air evacuated sick and wounded personnel. Many C-47s also served in the Korean and Vietnam wars and as recently as the Gulf War. Other post-war C-47s were retrofitted to once again fly as DC-3 passenger airliners.

"A ride aboard a C-47 is a perfect and affordable entry to war bird flying for only \$175 and is an experience you don't want to miss," said

Bob Hynes, public relations director for the Yankee Air Museum.

The April 9 flights are scheduled at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Reservations for C-47 rides are recommended and "walk up" space may be available. To reserve a ride or for additional information, go to the YAM website at www.yankeearmuseum.org/flyC47, email C-47rides@yankeearmuseum.org or contact Geof Bush at 734-776-7569.

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Four-year-old Maddon Moxlow plays underneath the voting booth as mom Courtney Barhite finishes voting at Workman Elementary.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VOTERS

Continued from Page A1

his campaign, even with Florida on the so-called Super Tuesday map next week. When asked if Rubio should bow out, Colbeck said, "I think the voters are making that decision for him."

On the Democratic side, Sanders, a U.S. senator from Vermont, narrowly outpaced Clinton, a former U.S. senator and secretary of state, in unofficial Canton tallies. He garnered 6,034 votes to her 5,850. Sanders led by large margins most of the night until Clinton narrowed the gap with absentee votes.

"To me," Sneiderman said, "it says that we have two really good candidates on the Democratic side and they have messages that are resonating with voters." Audra Gamble of

Canton, a junior at Grand Valley State University and editor-in-chief of the Grand Valley Lanthorn student newspaper, was among those casting her first presidential primary ballot. She didn't say how she voted, but said she has longed to vote since she was 12.

"I just really love to participate in democracy. As a reporter, I know how important it is to be well-informed as a citizen," said Gamble, a 20-year-old Plymouth High School graduate.

Gamble covered a Republican debate at the Fox Theatre in Detroit and the Democratic debate in Flint. She also reported on a Kasich rally on Grand Valley State's campus.

"This election is breaking the rules," she said, when asked what she thought of the campaign's tone. "It's really interesting to see that happen. ... It's more vitriolic than most elections. It's definitely drawing a lot of attention and, hopefully, will translate into a lot of young people getting involved."

In percentages in Canton, Trump's 34.5 percent outpaced Kasich's 29.3 percent, Cruz's 21.2 percent and Rubio's distant 10.2 percent. Candidates such as neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush received minimal votes, even though they had withdrawn from the race.

Geoff Boltach, Canton Republican Club chairman, congratulated Trump on his victory and said all the candidates worked hard.

"All of the Republican candidates have a better vision for our future and it will be exciting to see how the primary process unfolds," Boltach said. "The Canton Republicans stand for more than just a candidate. We're not Trump Republicans or Cruz Republicans. We are Canton Republicans, where all diverse views are welcome."

He said Republicans stand for "limited government, individual liberty, fiscal conservatism, personal responsibility and (we) support policies that encourage entrepreneurship."

The percentages were closer on the Democratic side, with Sanders garnering 49.9 percent to Clinton's 48.4 percent.

Sneiderman said Canton's close voter turnout between Republicans and Democrats sets the stage for a tight race in November, when Democrats hope to make gains in political races, such as the township board, where Republicans have long dominated.

To be sure, both sides will be competing for votes such as Gamble's, who will be casting a ballot in her first presidential race.

"Every four years, it's pretty miraculous that — without any deaths or violence or any huge upheaval — a commander-in-chief is elected," she said. "That's a pretty unique thing when you look at the world as a whole."

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P-CEP Winter Guard accepts first-place trophy



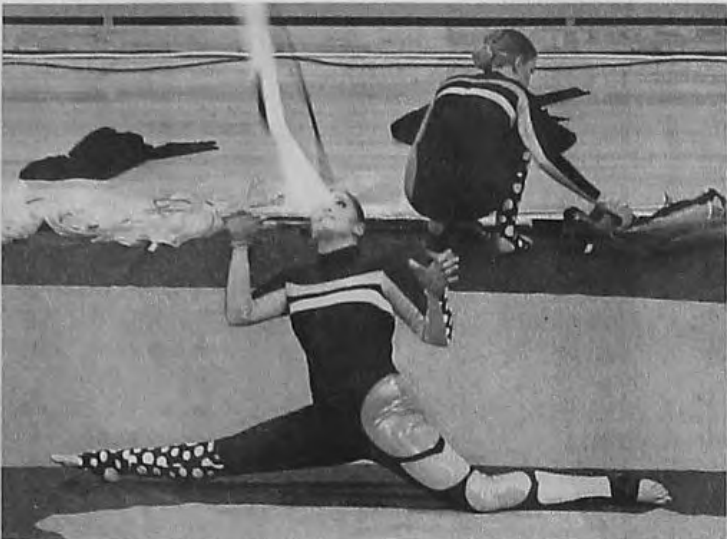
Senior captains (from left) Amelia Brave, Jenna Craven, Anna Berry and Madeleine Hoke accept the first-place trophy at the at Troy Invitational.

Dawn Pyko
Correspondent

Throwing a rifle to rotate six times in mid-air and making a perfect catch, all while doing the splits, is no easy task, but senior Jenna Craven nailed it Saturday night. The Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard again dazzled the audience and clinched another win at the Michigan Color Guard Circuit Invitational in Milford. Members turned around the next week and had a repeat performance Saturday, Feb 27, in Troy.

"We've worked really hard this season and our guard has grown so much since the fall. I love the winter season because we can show the audience our true potential," senior captain Amelia Brave said.

The guard was judged in the categories of equipment, movement, design and general effect. Members scored well in all areas, but were rewarded with high marks in movement and general effect. Movement encompasses dance and choreography. General effect encompasses the overall depiction of the storyline,



Jenna Craven catching a six in the splits and dazzling the crowd in Troy.

Flight of the Monarch. The team opened the season strong and is continuing on that path. It will compete in a power regional March 12 hosted by Winter Guard International at Grand Blanc High School. It will also compete March 19 in the Lakeland Invitational at Lakeland High School, all in preparation for the Michigan Color Guard Circuit State Championship, set for April 2 in Saginaw.

The guard will host a free dance clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16, at the Plymouth

High School cafeteria. Anyone interested in learning more about this organization is encouraged to attend. Prior dance experience is unnecessary.

The clinic will include stretching, technique and a contemporary combination. P-CCG features guest choreographer Ashley Rop, a degreed dancer from Western Michigan University.

The clinic is open to all students in grades 7-11 and registration is not required.

CLIMBING

Continued from Page A1

participated in this year's Fight for Air Climb charity event Feb. 28 to benefit the American Lung Association.

"I feel grateful because I had the opportunity to participate in such a cool event," Stoecklein said.

That might be an understatement for a woman who also has been chosen as one of four U.S. women by Brawny, the paper towel company, for its online #StrengthHasNoGender campaign, which rolls out digitally this week on social media channels and www.Brawny.com. It comes during Women's History Month.

Brawny did its research and chose Stoecklein to represent women who have had remarkable achievements in often male-dominated professions. Rounding out the four are Swim Cash, champion player in the Women's National Basketball Association; Linda Alvarado, the first Latina woman to own a Major League Baseball team, the Colorado Rockies; and Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, the first woman to lead the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta as president and dean.

Stoecklein, a Canton firefighter of 16 years, was flown to Atlanta for a video shoot a few weeks ago and, for part of it, she wore a red-and-black flannel shirt typically worn by men on Brawny paper towel products.

"It was like being a movie star," she said.

Don't expect to see her on Brawny packaging, though. The company's effort is focused on digital.

During the latest Fight for Air Climb, Stoecklein wore firefighter gear weighing 70

"I feel grateful because I had the opportunity to participate in such a cool event."

MAUREEN STOECKLEIN
Canton firefighter who participated in Fight for Air Climb charity event

pounds — not bad for a woman who weighs in at a strong 135 pounds. She said she spends two to three hours a day working out and practicing yoga.

"She's a machine," said husband Chris Stoecklein, Canton's deputy fire chief.

True. To be fair, though, she was out-paced during the climb by one of her fellow Canton firefighters, Bradley Cox, whose time beat hers by about a

second.

Firefighters say there was some friendly competition among 10 Canton firefighters who joined the climb and raised \$3,363 for the American Lung Association. Cox described himself as "honestly surprised" that he placed 13th — two slots ahead of Stoecklein — among 333 firefighters.

"I didn't know what to expect, but I knew I'd do well in our group," he said.

Chris Stoecklein said the event is important because it raises money to fight diseases, such as lung cancer, for which firefighters are at higher risk. Other Canton firefighters participating included Fire Chief Joshua Meier, Fire Marshal John Oltman and Firefighters Cody Bridger, Cory Caincross, Gregory Derby, James Harrison, Duane Lowe and Brian Switzer.

A separate Canton group — an early morning fitness team from the Summit on the Park recreation center — also participated in the event, but separately from the firefighters.

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The Michigan Philharmonic took second place in a recent competition.

Michigan Phil takes second prize in national contest

The Michigan Philharmonic, well-known for its innovative and adventurous programming has received second place in the prestigious National American Prize in the Professional Orchestra Division.

The American Prize is awarded to professional orchestras excelling in classical musical performances and innovation. Judges review performances for artistic excellence and musicality for both classical and contemporary repertoire.

The Michigan Philharmonic received accolades from all five judges for performances that were "tight, energetic and exciting — well-played in front of large and attentive audiences." The judges added that

"The Michigan Philharmonic is obviously an important asset to a large music-loving community and is worthy of every encouragement. It is obviously fulfilling its mission with vision and impassioned music making."

"We are thrilled to receive this second-place award from the American Prize, where our orchestra was competing with other orchestras from all over the country," said Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic. "This year, as we celebrate our 70th anniversary season, we appreciate the long history of civic support and concur with the judges' assessment that the arts are an important part of our community and that the Michigan Philharmonic is a community asset."

The Michigan Philharmonic 70th season celebration continues

Sunday, March 13, with "An Accordion Affair" at the First Methodist Church in Plymouth with Detroit's own Peter Soave.

And the official anniversary concert takes place Saturday, April 16, with a movie music spectacular called, "Lights, Camera, Concert!"

This concert features great movie scores and special guest MC Jack Goggin, host of Film Classics on WRCJ-FM (90.9) classical radio. With a nod to its historical roots the concert will take place at Salem Auditorium, one of the early performance venues for the orchestra, and will also feature the P-CEP choirs under the direction of Jennifer Neumann.

For tickets and information for all Michigan Philharmonic concerts and activities, call 734-451-2112 or go to www.michiganphil.org.

Plymouth library closed Friday for training

The Plymouth District Library will be closed Friday, March 11, for a staff training day. Library customers can go to the library homepage, plymouthlibrary.org, to access the library catalog, renew items and place

holds or use the digital research collections for homework, investing info and much more.

Customers are encouraged to try out the Overdrive e-books, Flipster e-magazines or Hoopla e-movies/television collections by

clicking on the Download button on the homepage. Books and materials can be returned in the drive-through book drop at any time, located off the parking lot.

The library will reopen at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 12.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Police nab suspect in knife point robbery

Police say a knife-wielding man robbed a Canton medical facility at knife point and led police on a foot chase before an officer used a Taser gun to stop him and capture him.

The suspect, a 36-year-old Westland man, is facing criminal charges for an incident that unfolded shortly before 4 p.m. March 3 near Ford and Haggerty roads.

Police responded to a call that a man had gone into Village Wellness Center, brandished a knife, demanded money from a 51-year-old worker and fled the building with \$187, a police report said.

Police spotted the man behind the nearby Bob Evans restaurant and ordered him at gunpoint to the ground, but a police report said he continued

to flee toward a nearby construction zone. Police then saw the suspect run back toward Ford Road and try unsuccessfully to get a ride from a plow-truck driver.

Police trailed the suspect to an area near the Baymont Inn and Comfort Suites, on the northeast corner of Ford and Haggerty, where police say he held a knife to his neck and yelled "just kill me."

An officer eventually fired the Taser gun at the suspect and managed to take him into custody. Police retrieved \$187 from the man and returned it to the medical facility.

Police found a pill bottle, a glass pipe and a knife on the suspect, who was arrested as criminal charges were pending.

Facebook threats

A loss prevention employee of the Walmart on Michigan

Avenue in Canton notified police after a retail fraud suspect, nabbed one day earlier, sent him what appeared to be a threatening message on Facebook, a police report said.

The employee received a Facebook message Sunday from the 33-year-old suspect — a Wayne man who was one of two men arrested Saturday for accusations they stole items such as stereo headphones and a universal remote. The suspects were cited for retail fraud and had been released by police after posting bond.

The employee said the Facebook message indicated the suspect "would see him soon" — a statement the employee perceived as threatening. He told police he didn't know how the suspect could have gotten his name to find him on Facebook.

The employee told police he

didn't want to prosecute for the Facebook incident, but wanted to document it.

Traffic stop arrests

A traffic stop on Joy Road, near I-275, led to police taking two passengers into custody for warrants they had in Canton and Westland, a report said.

Police pulled over the driver of a silver Volvo for a defective light shortly before 1 a.m. Saturday. Two backseat passengers told police they had warrants for their arrest and didn't want to go to jail, the report said.

One 31-year-old female suspect gave police a fake name and date of birth, but police eventually learned her real identity and took her into custody on warrants for contempt of court and a probation violation in Canton. She is from Dearborn Heights.

Another suspect, a 30-year-old Inkster woman, was taken into custody for a warrant out of Westland for driving with a suspended license, the report said.

Unemployment fraud

A woman who lives on Glen-garry in Canton notified police in late February after someone filed an unemployment claim using her maiden name, a report said.

The woman told police that documents related to case had been sent to a neighbor's house and were brought to her. She advised her employer of the attempted unemployment fraud.

The police report indicated that a similar incident had happened in January.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Wild ride on Ann Arbor Road leads to arrest

A 50-year-old woman's wild driving late Monday caught the attention of a Plymouth Township police officer and led to the woman's arrest on suspicion of drunken driving.

Police took the woman to a Canton Township clinic, where samples of her blood were taken for testing for the presence of alcohol, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

The report said an officer patrolling in the area of Ann Arbor Road and McLumpha noticed the Subaru Impreza the woman was driving eastbound on Ann Arbor Road just before 11 p.m. Police radar clocked the Impreza at 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, the report said.

The officer followed and the driver braked hard near the Kroger at Sheldon Road, then turned right, from the left lane, into the parking lot.

The woman at first denied having anything to drink, police said, then said she'd had a sip of

cooking wine.

Car in ditch

Another woman, 21, was arrested on a drunken driving charge early Feb. 28 after driving a Mazda MPV into a ditch on southbound Beck near Powell Road, police said.

A patrolling officer spotted the minivan in the ditch, about 20 off the roadway, just before 3 a.m. Feb. 28, police said. The woman, who at first did not notice the officer's presence, said she was trying to drive the car away, police said.

The woman said she'd been trying to return from the home of a friend on Joy Road to her house in Canton, but did not explain how she had come to travel northward, out of her way home, police said.

On a preliminary breath test, the woman registered more than twice the blood-alcohol content level at which drivers in Michigan are considered to have had too much to drink, a police report said.

— By Matt Jachman

Couple indicted in connection with fire

Susan Bromley

Staff Writer

Roger Tam and Ada Mei Lei were indicted by a grand jury Feb. 25 on five counts of harboring illegal aliens, one for each victim that died in a Novi basement fire last month, as well as one count of conspiracy.

The indictment occurred in Eastern District Court in Detroit and paves the way for the federal government to pursue the felony charges against Tam and Lei at trial.

"A grand jury of 23 citizens returned a six-count indictment," said Gina Bayala, public information officer for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan. "They all voted there was probable cause and returned a true bill of indictment."

The first five counts allege that "from an unknown date until on or about Jan. 31, 2016, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Roger Tam and Ada Mei Lei, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien had come to, entered, and remained in the United States in violation of law, did conceal, harbor and shield from detection such alien in buildings and other places for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain."

These counts name each of the victims that were harbored and who died in the Jan. 31 fire in the defendants' Mystic Court residence:



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The owners of Kim's Garden in Novi each face six charges in the Eastern District Court in Detroit.

Brayan Medina Contreras, Leonel Alvarado-Rodriguez, Simeon Diaz-Nunez, Miguel Nunez-Diaz and Pablo Alvaro-Encino.

The sixth count in the indictment alleges that "from an unknown date until on or about Jan. 31, 2016, in the Eastern District of Michigan and elsewhere, defendants Roger Tam and Ada Mei Lei, did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally, combine, conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other, and agree with other persons whose names are known and unknown to the grand jury, to commit the following offense against the United States, to wit: harboring illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain."

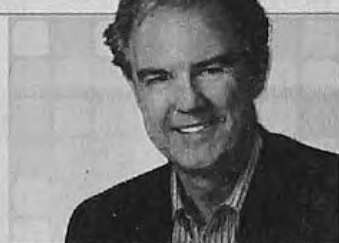
Ask the Expert

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

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

Q: How are cochlear implants different than hearing aids?

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

Q: Are cochlear implants covered by Medicare?

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

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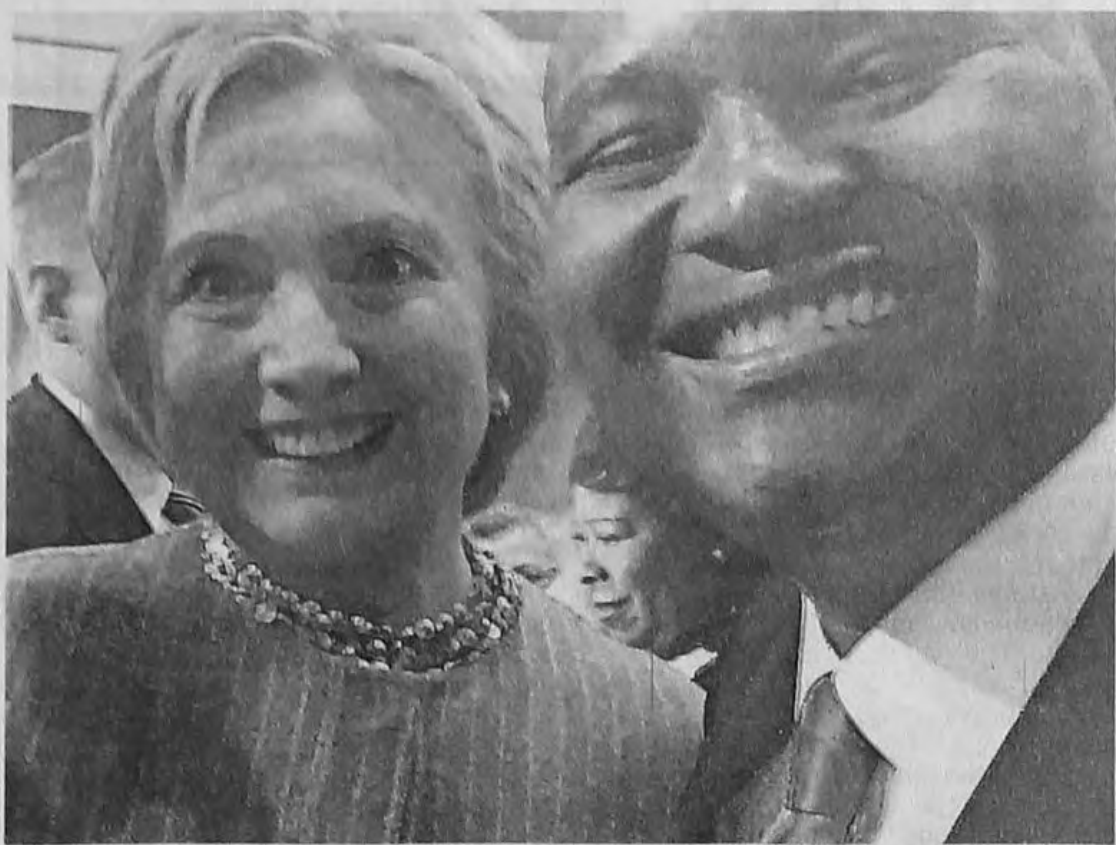
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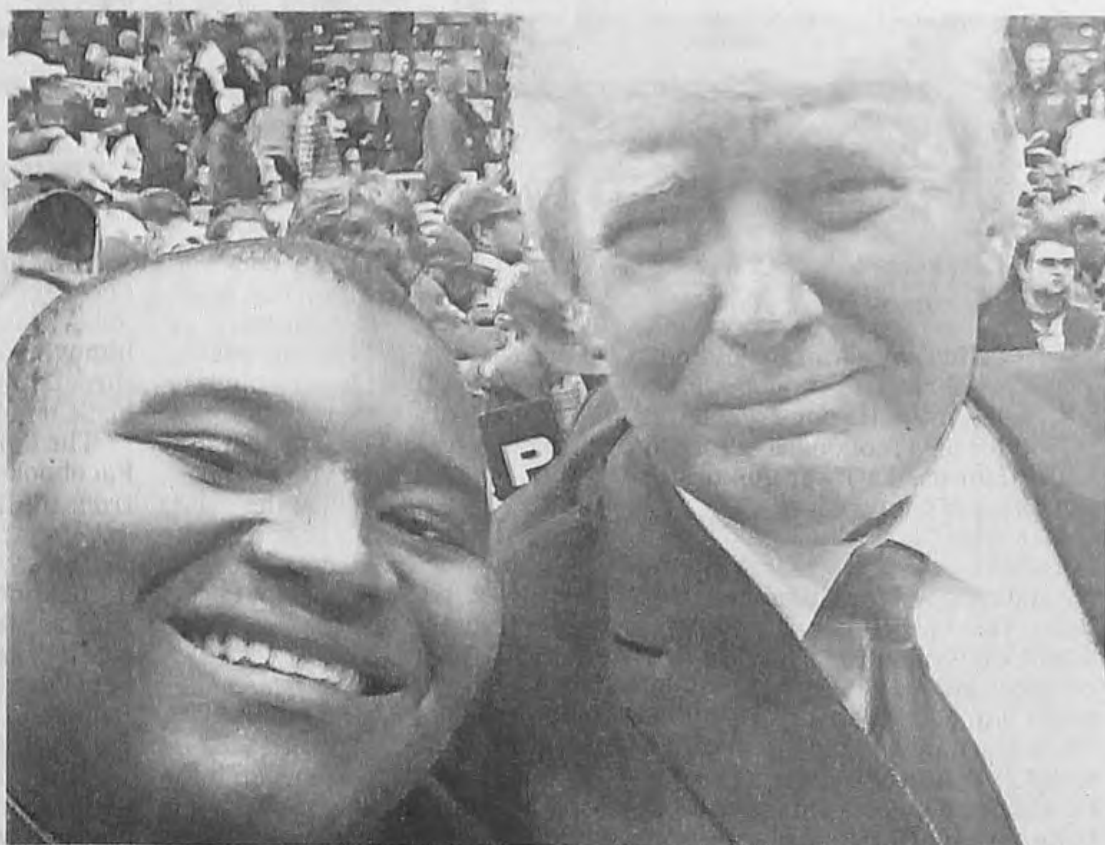
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Dorian Thompson met Hillary Clinton at a pre-debate event Saturday at the MGM Grand in Detroit.



Dorian Thompson met Donald Trump twice.



Dorian Thompson said he worries the programs Bernie Sanders favors will hike his taxes.



Dorian Thompson said he had a brief conversation with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.



Dorian Thompson grabs a selfie with Ohio Gov. John Kasich, the candidate for whom Thompson cast a ballot in his first election Tuesday.

Salem senior completes quest for photos with candidates

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Dorian Thompson has been missing a lot of school lately, but it's not like he's been spending the time playing video games.

And he's got photographic evidence to prove it.

Thompson, a senior at Salem High School in Canton, has been busy pursuing his passion — politics — by attending visits from just about every major political candidate chasing the presidency in the 2016 election.

Along the way, he's collected selfies with everyone except Ted Cruz, whose visit to Grand Rapids came with too little notice to allow Thompson to make it.

"This is my first time voting," the 18-year-old said. "I didn't want to just go by the (newspaper) clips and video (news) footage. I wanted to hear directly from them."

Politics has been a passion of his since boyhood. He said he read a book about presidents when he was 6 years old and has been hooked ever since. He wrote letters to legislators and sat in the front row at a town hall meeting with President Barack Obama when he was 11.

"Dorian is extremely interested in our political process," Salem High School English instructor David Krzysnik said. "I have never met a young man more enthralled with American politics, especially at the state and national levels."

As he prepared for his first election, Thompson started attending visits by the candidates from both parties and documenting them with selfies.

He said the pictures were an important part of his quest.

"I've been playing a lot of hooky from school," he said. "I wanted to be able to show

my teachers I wasn't out wasting time."

His quest probably doesn't come as much of a surprise to any of his friends, family or teachers.

He met with each candidate at speaking engagements, hopping in his car and driving for hours — and miles.

Thompson said he's put some 13,000 miles on his car, including 4,000 just for this quest, in five months.

» **Donald Trump** — He's actually met Trump twice. The first time was in Grand Rapids, when he stood in line for six hours to be in the front row. He used a ruse to get Trump to pose for the selfie.

"I told him, 'Mr. Trump, my grandma wants a picture of us,'" Thompson said, smiling. "He said, 'You got it, man!' in that Trump voice of his."

The second time was at a rally in Warren, for which Thompson woke up at 2 a.m. That time, he said the photo

was for his mother.

» **John Kasich** — Thompson met the Ohio governor Feb. 16 (soon after Thompson's 18th birthday) at the Republican field office in Livonia. Kasich actually called on Thompson to ask a question, so Thompson asked him what he was going to do to keep Americans safe from threats like ISIS.

Thompson said Kasich told him he'd "build a Gulf War-style coalition" and then offered to make Thompson his vice president.

"I reminded him of that the second time I met him," Thompson said, laughing. "He remembered me."

The answer, the rest of Kasich's record and his performance in last week's Republican debate in Detroit were enough to convince Thompson, who cast his vote for Kasich in Tuesday's primary.

"He has a lot of experience

in the public and private sector ... he knows how to balance a budget," Thompson said.

"He knows how to be a legislator, as well as an executive. I think we need that."

» **Marco Rubio** — Thompson knows one of Rubio's campaign workers, who got him a choice spot in the front row at a Rubio rally. Rubio agreed to take the photo and the two had a conversation.

» **Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders** — Thompson met both at a pre-debate reception Saturday at the MGM Grand Casino in Detroit. He got his photo with Clinton as she worked the rope line, then did the same with Sanders when he came out.

Fulfilling the selfie quest fueled Thompson's desire to go into politics.

"I would love to run for office," Thompson said. "I'd like to start locally, make my way to Lansing and then make my way to Washington."

MUSICAL

Continued from Page A1

ily show up at the mansion for the wedding, Billie and her cohorts pose as servants with comedic results.

P-CEP's cast consists of a chorus of 32 and 10 lead actors.

"These performers have worked very hard and have excelled at adding bits of humor, creating comedic moments that are hilarious," P-CEP's director of choirs Jennifer Neumann said.

Many of the musical's cast members are underclassmen, which students said is a rarity for the spring musical.

Although only a sophomore at Salem High School, Hayley Martin has acted in 15 plays and musicals prior to this one and was chosen to play one of the lead roles: Billie Bendix.

"The show, for myself, is specifically fun because I get to play a role that is more masculine than what I am used to portraying," Martin said.

The show is directed by Paul Bird, with music direction from Catherine DePentu, vocal direction from Neumann and choreography direction from Victoria Gilbert; nevertheless, students involved agreed that they were provided with "freedom of expression."

"Everything is student-run," spring musical student publicist Lauren Phillips said. "Paul Bird takes a very hands-off approach, which works because we have a really talented cast."

Performances are at 7 p.m. March 11-12 and 18-19 in the Logan Auditorium at Salem High School. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at tpptc.booktix.com or at the door one hour before each performance.

"This year's musical is unlike any that I have been in," senior and chorus member Kelly Hansen said. "This cast



Hayley Martin and Ryan Wagner are two of the lead actors in "Nice Work If You Can Get It."



Ryan Wagner and dancers in the opening number of "Nice Work If You Can Get It."



"Nice Work If You Can Get It" opens Friday at The Gloria Logan Theater at Salem High School.

is so unbelievably talented and everyone is working so hard to

put on the best show possible. I'm expecting a positive reac-

tion from the audience."

dnalexander@hometownlife.com
248.860.4183

Don't panic — filing for an extension is not difficult

The other day, I received a call from a client who was quite nervous. During these turbulent times, it's not unusual to talk with clients who are uneasy about the current market conditions. This call didn't deal with the market, rather it dealt with the caller's tax situation. Since the client retired about seven years ago, he and his wife spend from mid-March to early June in Arizona. What made the client nervous is the fact that he typically has his tax return done and filed before he leaves, but that's not the case now.

As the client informed me, he is leaving next week and he still does not have all his information. As a result, he cannot complete his tax return and that's what's causing his problem. I suggested that all he would need to do was to file for an extension. When I mentioned the word extension, he even got more concerned.

It's a myth that if you file for an extension it will open you up to more IRS scrutiny. For as long as I've been in the business, I've heard that urban legend. It's not true. As I explained to the client, there is no evidence that filing for an extension increases your audit risk. What would increase his audit risk is to file an incorrect return. After having a discussion with the client, he agreed that filing for an extension would be the best course of action.

Filing for an extension to complete your tax return is not diffi-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

cult and you would be surprised how many people do it. There are lots of reasons why people cannot complete their return by April 15 (April 18 this year). It could be that you don't have all the necessary information to complete your return, you're going to be out of the country or, plain and simple, you're too lazy to file by the deadline. The bottom line is, extensions are automatic and you don't need a reason. By filing IRS Form 4868, you receive an automatic six-month extension to file your return. It's automatic; you don't have to worry about obtaining approval. As long as you file the form, you get the extension.

What confuses people about extensions is that it is not an extension of time to pay your taxes, but only to file your return. I recommended to the client that he estimate the missing information to determine whether money will be owed or he will receive a refund. If you're receiving a refund, all you need to do is file the extension form — that's it. If you are going to owe money, then you can make an estimated payment with your extension.

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



The Canton Chamber of Commerce is planning a rock and roll theme for its latest fundraiser.

CANTON CHAMBER

Chamber to rock out at its biggest annual fundraiser

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

It's not the return of Woodstock or the next Lollapalooza.

It's not an attempt to rock and roll all night and party every day, either. Sorry, KISS.

Canton is cranking up its rock and roll spirit, though, or at least the Canton Chamber of Commerce is.

And Elvis is coming from Kalamazoo or wherever he's been hiding out.

The chamber is staging a rock and roll theme for its 29th annual auc-

tion — the year's biggest fundraiser for a business organization dedicated to helping Canton's economy thrive.

"This is an event where business members can come together and socialize and get to know each other more on a social basis," auction co-chair Tammy Brown said. "It helps build better relations and strong relations are important in the business community."

It all unfolds from 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 16, at Burton Manor in Livonia and is expected to draw hundreds of people — some dressed as their favorite rock stars.

Chamber president Thomas Paden said the auction raises money the chamber needs to provide programs, services and educational development for local busi-

nesses — whether it's a forum on broadening a customer base, a tutoring session on using social media or an evening out to sample Canton restaurants during Grub Crawl.

"Funds raised from the auction are crucial in maintaining our mission to stimulate positive business growth in the Canton community," Paden said.

Chamber rock-and-rollers will have a chance to win prizes such as a trip to Cabo San Lucas, diamond earrings and airline tickets.

"The area businesses have been extremely generous with their auction donations in the past and we know that we can count on their generosity this year as well," Paden said.

Tickets are \$75 per person and available to

the public. Admission includes an open bar, a strolling dinner, entertainment and the opportunity to participate in live auctions and raffles.

For more information, call the chamber at 734-453-4040 or go to www.cantonchamber.com.

"It's a good time for people to get to know each other a little better," Brown said.

Chamber officials say the auction also gives potential new chamber members a chance to join the fun and learn more about how the chamber can help them grow their businesses.

The auction is sponsored by Jack Demmer Ford, Inc., and Beaumont Healthcare Center-Canton.

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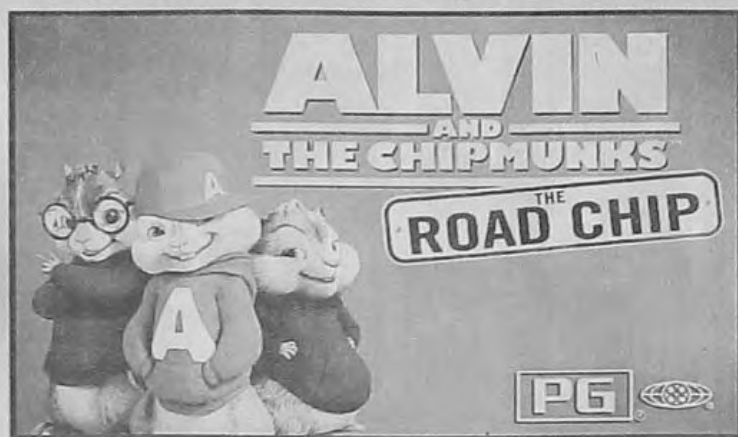


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Find some inspiration for your next home project.

Backyard, Pool & Spa Show opens March 18 at Showplace in Novi

The 21st annual Novi Backyard, Pool & Spa Show returns March 18-20 to the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

"Swim, entertain, exercise and make a big splash this summer for your family and friends with a new or renovated outdoor living space," Richard Martin, president of Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, Michigan Chapter, stated in a press release. "Our show exhibitors can create a new backyard environment or renew an existing backyard with their design, equipment, construction, servicing or refurbishing."

APSP is the event sponsor and a nonprofit local trade association composed of member companies in the pool, spa and backyard living

business.

Hundreds of ideas, products and services are available from the major outdoor living environment categories, including in-ground and above ground pools, spas, swim spas, hot tubs, saunas, decks, patios, fencing, outdoor kitchens and living spaces, landscaping, water features, brick paving, decorative concrete, patio furniture and accessories.

Homeowners will find the information they need about building and buying a pool or spa at show exhibits. Experts are available with tips and advice on purchasing, planning, maintenance, safety and landscaping.

"Every weekend this summer will be a vacation for homeowners with a new backyard

setting," Martin said. "Exhibitors will have a wide selection on display and showcase the latest trends and innovations in action to fit any space or budget for backyard living relaxation and fun."

Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Avenue, between Novi and Beck roads. Show hours are 3-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8; \$4 for children 6-14 and children 5 and younger free. Discount coupons for \$2 off adult admission are available at show's website. On-site parking is available for a fee. For information on APSP, go to www.apspmi.org. For show information, go to www.novipoolshow.com or call 734-398-9700.

It's very important for students to study and prepare for taking SAT

It is true that the redesigned SAT focuses on skills that "matter most for college readiness and success." In other words, if the Common Core State Standards have been implemented in a school, what is being learned in class each day will be much more relevant to the SAT than it was in the past.

Nevertheless, as a former public high school English teacher and now private tutor, I have observed first-hand the need for further college entrance exam preparation, in addition to the daily school curriculum.

Some school districts and/or individual teachers do incorporate SAT review into their courses; however, many do not have that freedom or, for a variety of reasons, choose not to spend class time preparing for standardized tests. The SAT is, after all, a multiple choice test and, with today's highly compet-



Danielle Alexander
STAFF WRITER

itive college admissions, additional study time has ultimately become necessary.

While tutoring, I am often having to teach or reteach basic grammar concepts that were either never taught or taught years ago and now forgotten in order to explain answers to the more difficult grammar questions. For example, students are not going to be able to perform well on subject-verb agreement questions if they are not able to locate the subject and verb in a sentence. Subject-verb agreement is part of the Common Core Language strand, but the length of time devoted to the lessons varies on the district, school, department and, often times, individual

teacher.

Additionally, many of my students will look at the subject-verb agreement question, but have no clue that the question is asking them to select the answer that displays the correct subject and verb match. Unless teachers are incorporating actual SAT practice questions into their instruction, students are not getting exposure to the question format; therefore, even if they understand subject-verb agreement, they may still select an incorrect answer out of confusion.

One-on-one tutoring helps in these situations, since not only am I able to pinpoint the source of the problem, but I also can scaffold my instruction to best serve the needs of a particular individual, as well.

Although private tutoring has its benefits, it can obviously become quite expensive, even in pairs or small groups.

Although private tutoring has its benefits, it can obviously become quite expensive, even in pairs or small groups. Luckily, there are several low-cost — and, in many cases, free — study options available for SAT preparation.

Luckily, there are several low-cost — and, in many cases, free — study options available for SAT preparation.

CollegeBoard, the creator of the SAT as well as the Advanced Placement Program and several other services, offers many print and online practice opportunities for students, such as the Daily Practice phone application, where one is able to answer a question a day covering one of the three sections (reading, writing & language and math). There are also sample questions

covering the three subjects, four complete practice SAT tests with answer explanations and the Instant Practice Test Scoring option, where students can take pictures of their practice test answer sheet and obtain their instant scores.

Even though a variety of companies involved in test preparation have new books and other study materials, I use CollegeBoard's *The Official SAT Study Guide (Redesigned SAT)*, since it authors the test. It includes four practice

tests, in addition to hundreds of pages of study material.

For a more personalized study tool, Khan Academy is also available online to students. On its website, students can watch video lessons, take up to four practice tests and get personalized suggestions; they also have the option to share their PSAT scores with Khan Academy for even more individualized feedback.

Simply familiarizing yourself with the test is helpful, as well. Whether fans of the redesigned SAT or not, it will be given for the first time this spring. It is ultimately counterproductive not to take advantage of extra practice, especially when provided by the creator itself.

Danielle Alexander is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She may be reached at dalexander@hometownlife.com

Protect state's historic districts against proposed bills

Every now and then, Plymouth residents and community leaders should be reminded why, nearly 200 years ago, Plymouth was so named. As the name implies, respect for the past and those that came before was key.

Our lawmakers in Lansing are currently reviewing the proposed Historic Districts Modernization bills, 2016 HB 5232 and SB 720. The core argument of the bill promoters appears to be that historic preservation laws are unconstitutional and directly thwart the recent HUD rule called the "Affordable Furthering Fair Housing Rule," which came as result of the "Disparate Impact" ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court last June.

The first thing that comes to my mind is the phrase "unconstitutional for whom?" Homeowners and residents, citizens concerned about historic districts or neighborhoods or areas? Or developers and architects wanting to build housing projects, strip malls and big box retail? Understanding underlying motives behind the proposed, is at least as important as understanding so-called remedies of any social injustice.

Last June, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision, *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project*. This decision means communities can now be sued if their policies in regard to affordable housing for minorities negatively affect finding such, even if policies are not considered to be racially discriminatory.

Some who promote developments in historic areas are going a step further by implying that, if developers are not allowed by municipalities to come into historic sites with their bulldozers, it



Dan Sabo
GUEST COLUMNIST

implies civil rights violations.

Does the Affordable Furthering Fair Housing rule mean that historic neighborhoods and sites need give way? I have a strong sense of fairness in housing and education for all. I do not believe, however, that fair and affordable housing for all means that Michigan's historic preservation laws should be dismantled, placing historic homes and sites at grave risk.

For everyone

Historic sites and homes are preserved by law, for everyone. Preserved for all ethnic and socio-economic groups, for the greater good and for all time. Affordable and fair housing for all does not mean that the only way to accomplish this goal is to demolish historic homes, cobble up publicly-owned open space or historic sites.

I believe that the motives behind the bill are an unfortunate misrepresentation of civil rights protections as a means for real estate developers and builders to profit from lucrative projects. Such was not the original intent of the Fair Housing Act.

I can say from experience that demolition of historic sites and homes runs counter to the AFFH rule. When I was living in Old Village, the Plymouth population was more than 11,700. Since then, population has fallen nearly 25 percent. During that time, an alarming number of historic homes and sites have been demolished. The population drop is based on many factors, including manufacturing jobs going off-shore, lower birth rates, etc.

Back then, however, the average working stiff could afford to live in Plymouth, which at that time had many more historic homes and sites standing than today. One could logically argue that not preserving historic homes and sites negatively affects housing affordability and fairness.

As a second example, in 1970, downtown Plymouth was thriving without a parking garage on the Saxton's site and without the second level of parking that exists behind the Main Street business block.

Walkable?

Today, with a population of just under 9,000, why then the need for extra parking? Parking on a historic site? In a small city that is promoted as being "walkable?"

Recently, Plymouth Chamber of Commerce president Wes Graff is quoted in the Plymouth Observer as saying that a lack of parking is "choking us." I think a fair question to ask is, who exactly is "us," before another historic site in Plymouth is approved for demolition.

Is the primary goal to promote downtown Plymouth, as an all summer long carnival, with all the celebratory trimmings? Are the concepts of historic preservation and economic progress mutually exclusive? Plymouth residents must decide what the answer is — and soon.

I do not believe that the local catch phrase "Plymouth Rocks," means city leaders need turn historic sites and homes into piles of rubble so that a handful of moneyed and influential folks are made happy. I do not believe that the micro-economy of Plymouth will collapse overnight if earth movers are not allowed to continue their work.

An answer to historic preservation is retooling.

I believe that the motives behind the bill are an unfortunate misrepresentation of civil rights protections as a means for real estate developers and builders to profit from lucrative projects. Such was not the original intent of the Fair Housing Act.

Granted, the construction industry has suffered in the recent economic meltdown. So have most other industries in Michigan. Many industries in Michigan retooled to survive. Devel-

opers and architects, including landscape architects in lieu of subdivision designers whom wish to continue to do business in historic areas across Michigan and be viewed as part of the

Historic Preservation solution, should transition toward rehabilitation efforts. The local debate should continue.

If you are concerned about this proposed legislation, I urge you to contact the offices of your local state legislators and/or Gov Rick Snyder and voice your concerns.

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

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1. Proposed Brownfield Plan for 550 N. Holbrook- Starkweather School Redevelopment Project (parcel ID 004-01-0429-309)

All interested persons are invited to attend and make comment on any part of the proposed plan. A copy of the proposed Brownfield Plan and maps are available in the office of the City Clerk.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
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(734)453-1234, Ext. 206

OUR VIEW

Motorcycle safety takes street smarts along with everybody sharing the road

As spring approaches, more motorcycles will take to Michigan roadways. All motorists, including truckers, need to keep an eye out for motorcyclists and their passengers to ensure their safety.

Motorcyclists, too, have a role to play in getting home safely. Their actions also determine how safely the road is shared.

Improving the safety of motorcyclists on our roads is the primary goal of motorcycle safety classes for all skill levels, the Schoolcraft College website of www.schoolcraft.edu notes. The Detroit Metro Motorcycle Safety Consortium, which includes Henry Ford Community College, Macomb Community College, Monroe Community College, Oakland Community College, Schoolcraft College and Wayne County Community College District, offers hands-on, comprehensive motorcycle safety training.

The website adds that classes are taught by professional, certified instructors, who not only have a passion for riding, but riding safely. State funds from a motorcycle safety grant administered by the Michigan Department of State and federal funds from the



ALAN WARD | MICHIGAN.COM
Michigan State Police staff examine one of at least two vehicles involved in a fatal crash on D-19 south of Howell. It is believed that the driver of the pickup truck shown collided with a motorcycle, resulting in the death of the motorcyclist.

Michigan Office Highway Safety and Planning support this program.

For your protection, all motorcycle courses require you to have a Department of Transportation-ap-

proved helmet (still required for all classes, even though the helmet law brouhaha that brewed a while ago in our state, safety is always the top priority. A motorcycle helmet and appropriate clothing will go a long way in keeping you safe as you enjoy your motorcycle, and reduce your risk in an accident.

Closed-head injuries are a sobering reminder of how the simple act of correct use of a motorcycle helmet is simply smart.

This is especially important with the number of distracted drivers on roadways today, who may fail to notice an approaching motorcycle. Invest in a good helmet (sound advice for bicyclists, as well) and clothing that will make your ride safer and more enjoyable.

LETTERS

Dismayed with Price

I read the Observer article on the Plymouth PARC with great interest. I was at the meeting with Don Soenen and Shannon Price and was dismayed (though not surprised) at Mr. Price's disingenuous comments. His insistence on a business plan and other documentation from Mr. Soenen was nothing but a smoke-screen for political obstruction as it is absolutely clear that the Ply-

mouth Township board will not consider even a discussion of the PARC.

Mr. Price emphasized that the current resolution to refuse to consider the PARC will not be changed. It is, of course, these board members who put Mr. Price in position as supervisor, so he needs to toe the line.

Why on earth should Mr. Soenen waste his time on such detailed documents under these circumstances? He is wise to develop other

means of support for now with the hope that several negative and self-serving Plymouth Township board members will be replaced in the fall. He has plenty of constructive things to do in the meantime.

Speaking of constructive things, I have been a user of the Central Middle School pool for quite a few years. Believe me, it was in bad shape prior to the PARC and the same goes for the building as a whole. Clearly, the school board was not putting one dime into it. The building was actually dirty and infested with cockroaches. I don't know how they justified this unhealthy situation in an active school setting. The PARC has more than turned this around with meaningful maintenance, refurbishment and modest im-

provements.

Jon Pilon
Plymouth

Superintendents' handbook

Superintendent Meritt's statement, "... 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 that work in the coming months," probably comes from her copy of the P-CEP Manual for Superintendents, Chapter 4, page 10: How to Sound Supportive.

The idea of "inviting professionals to collaborate" definitely is from Chapter 6, Strategies to Delay and Prevent Implementing Proven Studies, page 2: "When students offer scientific proof concerning any issue, the

best option is to agree to collaborate with all parties concerned. Also, interviewing students and parents for real-life experiences, reviewing actual teacher records and considering the implications of medical and university studies are not recommended."

Hey, P-CEP graduates, run for school board, get elected and rewrite that manual.

Clare Barwick
Canton

Madam President vs. "unintelligible yelling"

As we approach the November, 2016, election, Hillary Clinton is the most qualified candidate for president. She was a two-term senator, Secretary of State and First Lady. She has a lifetime

of experience fighting for families. She will continue the work of President Obama - getting the economy back from the great recession that occurred under President Bush.

Compare her to the current crop of Republican presidential candidates who are so loud, so full of insults that during the last debate the closed captioning gave up and called it "unintelligible yelling." The contrast is stark. The Republican debates lack substance and Republican candidates' behavior was very un-presidential. Hillary Clinton is smart, experienced and the only candidate prepared to govern from day one. She is the obvious choice for president in 2016.

Lisa DiRado
Northville

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March 16

April 20

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Plymouth to raise downtown booze license cap

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

After years of saying no to new liquor licenses downtown, Plymouth officials are moving toward raising — by one license — the limit established by the city's alcohol management ordinance.

With a 4-3 vote Monday night, the city commission began the process of lifting the "cap" on the number of licenses to sell alcohol by the glass that are allowed in the downtown area. To raise the cap from 14 to 15 licenses downtown, officials said, the alcohol management and zoning ordinances will have to be amended.

Liquor-license applications are ultimately decided by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, but the city has a say in the process and

the city commission annually debates whether the license cap should be changed.

The move is likely to spark heated competition for the additional license, as all 14 so-called Class C licenses currently allowed are owned by existing bars and restaurants and the city has regularly turned away prospective newcomers because of the cap.

At least two would-be license applicants, the Greek Islands Coney Island, which has sought a license for several years, and the soon-to-open Westborn Market on Penniman, were represented at Monday's commission meeting.

"You guys have two great candidates," said Paul Salloum, part-owner of the former bank building at Main and Penniman in which Greek

Islands is located. "Why not reward the people that have been putting a lot of money into the community?"

Representatives of both establishments said they feared allowing just one license would touch off an awkward "arm-wrestling" match between Greek Islands and Westborn to fill that slot. But city officials said the entire process will be opened up and that a request for proposals will set parameters for applicants.

"If we expand the cap, people are going to come knocking on our door," Commissioner Colleen Pobur said. "There will be a lot more than two properties."

Pobur voted to raise the cap, along with Commissioners Joe Valenti, Mike Wright and Oliver Wolcott.

Pobur, a former Mich-

igan LCC member, said there have been no serious incidents related to downtown alcohol sales in a few years, that the downtown bar scene is well-policed and that license-holders are running their businesses well and know they will be held accountable for mistakes when it comes to serving alcohol.

"We are a business community that has to compete," Valenti said.

Commissioners who voted against raising the cap said they were concerned about possible negative effects of having another Class C license downtown, including a strain on public parking, which, they said, is already seen as scarce.

Mayor Dan Dwyer pointed out that two Class C licenses are in escrow and not being used and that should

those establishments start serving alcohol again, the situation could change.

"It's a drain on the city's resources more than any kind of business," Dwyer said.

Of the licenses in escrow, one, for the closed restaurant Bamboo, is in the downtown, while the other, at Plymouth Crossing, is among the 10 licenses allowed for alcohol-serving businesses outside downtown.

Dwyer was joined in voting no by Commissioners Dan Dalton and Suzi Deal.

Bryan Bandyk, representing Westborn, said the store should open in mid-May. It is being built in the former post office building on Penniman, between Main and Harvey.

Bandyk said that, as a store that will be smaller

than other Westborn Markets, the Penniman location is using a different business model, one that includes a cafe with indoor and outdoor seating. Company officials, he said, would like the ability to have beer and wine served with customers' meals.

"We are not trying to be a destination for someone to come in and drink a 12-pack of beer," Bandyk told the commission.

Westborn, Bandyk said, is also seeking a license to sell packaged beer and wine.

The commission took no action on the license cap for areas outside the downtown, leaving it at 10 licenses.

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Bill would let religious leaders talk politics

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, introduced legislation recently that would protect the right of pastors and religious leaders to speak openly about political matters.

"Just because someone preaches from the pulpit does not mean that they should lose their right to free speech," Colbeck said.

Under current Michigan election law, priests, pastors, curates or other officers of a religious society are barred from influencing America's election process; they are not allowed under current law to advise congregants and constituents on voting and policy issues, without the threat of criminal prosecution.

"This stands in strong contradiction to the rights outlined in both the U.S. and Michigan constitutions," Colbeck said. "The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly outlines the right to free exercise of religion for all people: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ...' And Article 1, Section 4 of the Michigan Constitution states the following: 'Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. ... The civil and political rights, privileges and capacities of no person shall be diminished or enlarged on account of his religious belief.'"

Senate Bill 832 would affirm the rights of pastors and religious leaders



Colbeck

to free speech and free exercise of religion under the First Amendment, rights that all U.S. citizens should be able to enjoy.

SB 832 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Elections and Government Reform for further consideration.

Prescribed burns set in Canton through April 1

The Canton Park Division, in cooperation with Canton Public Safety, is set to conduct prescribed burns in designated areas from now through April 1, as weather conditions permit. These scheduled burns will take place at the Flodin Park nature trail, Sheldon and Warren natural area, the Lower Rouge Trail Head, as well as design-

nated holes at Pheasant Run Golf Club, once optimal conditions are met.

Prescribed burns are a native friendly maintenance process often utilized to promote natural plant life. Fire is used as a natural process to promote the growth of native plants. Native species are promoted by the burning of these areas in the spring to remove all non-native plants.

"The main purpose of these burns is to decrease the threat of wild fires, as well as managing wildlife habitats," Canton Parks and Sports Supervisor Abe Vinitski said. "Prescribed burns also help to improve plant community composition and increase ecosystem diversity, all while assisting in invasive plant control."

Area residents can

expect to see and smell smoke in the vicinity, as well as a possible increase in fire vehicle traffic in these areas. Trained personnel will be on site controlling the fire and ensuring proper smoke management and the safety of surrounding areas until all fires are extinguished.

For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5310.

Kroger coin boxes to help support Flint children

People across the country are concerned about the welfare of children exposed to lead during Flint's water crisis. Kroger customers can help meet the children's short- and long-term needs by contributing to coin boxes located at cash registers in Michigan Kroger stores through Saturday, March 26. Coin box donations will be combined with a \$25,000 grant commit-

ted from Kroger's Columbus Foundation to increase the fund's balance.

Kroger will present 100 percent of the money collected to the Flint Child Health & Development Fund, which supports delivery of critical public health, medical and community-based

services and interventions that address issues experienced by Flint.

"Kroger customers who contribute their spare change will help Flint families deal with the short- and long-term challenges their children may face as a result of exposure to lead during

the water crisis," said Jayne Homco, president, Kroger Co. of Michigan. "Now is the time to gather together resources to help ensure these children a brighter future."

For more information about how to help Flint children, go to FlintKids.org.

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Chiefs repeat as regional champs

Park packs one-two punch
as Canton, Plymouth advance

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Another year, another regional title for Canton's varsity gymnastics team.

But veteran Chiefs coach John Cunningham tipped his cap to the other strong squads competing Saturday in the MHSAA regional at Plymouth High School — including the other teams that will make the trip to Rockford next weekend, runner-up Plymouth and third-place Livonia Blue.

"It was a tough region," Cunningham said. "We actually had five teams coming in that had scored above 140. We were really disappointed for Livonia Red, because they had a 138.9; they would have had an opportunity to go."

"But I tell you what, Plymouth had a great meet, Canton had a great meet and Livonia Blue looked really good. So we're going to take probably the best three teams together up to Rockford."

Canton's outstanding depth, epitomized by having four of six in Division 1 all-around qualify for the state finals, led the way with 146.425.

In second with a 143.175 tally was Plymouth, followed by Livonia Blue (third, 141.575), Livonia Red (fourth, 138.825) and Northville (fifth, 137.450).

"That's one of the keys (depth)," Cunningham said. "A lot of teams live on one really, really good girl or two really, really girls."

"The problem other teams have with us is 'Oh, that girl fell on beam.' Yeah, but we still got three more girls to go. And that has happened."

Canton only had one individual regional champion, Kelsea Kernosek in D1 vault with 9.5. But the Chiefs boasted a wealth of performers finishing in the top eight per event (good enough to qualify for the state finals).

"Gymnastics is sometimes a little bit like football, with a bounce," Cunningham said. "It's also known as balance beam. If you don't stay on, you don't win. Today, we stayed on all day, had some really good scores and the kids

See CHIEFS, Page B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS
PHOTO

Canton's Stephanie Cox performs on balance beam at Saturday's regional. She finished second in D1 on beam and in all-around.

BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Northville's Nick Wilds (left) tries to cut off Plymouth's Frank Brown driving to the basket in Monday's Class A district opener.

'CATS RUN OUT OF GAS

Mustangs rev it up in second half,
oust Plymouth from state tourney

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The first half of Monday's Class A boys basketball district opener between Northville and Plymouth was a wild and wacky one, a back-and-forth 16 minutes played almost at warp speed.

Up just 21-20 at the break, the Mustangs used the intermission to exhale

and get back to playing the kind of basketball that enabled them to go 19-1 during the regular season.

Northville indeed did just that, outscoring Plymouth 11-0 to open the third quarter and going on to a 66-45 victory at Salem High School. The win set up an epic contest against 20-0 Canton.

"First game of the district, guys might have been a little tight," said Northville head coach Todd Sander, whose team improved to 20-1. "We really settled in. Kevin Morrissey stepped up huge tonight. Nick Wilds

was amazing, he was not going to let us lose.

"(Justin) Zimbo's always good, (Justin) Gibbons does his thing. We've got a team, it's kind of what we've seen all year with this group."

Busting loose

The Mustangs started the third quarter on a layup by Wilds, followed by a bucket in the lane by Jack Burke (five points). Next came back-to-back field goals by Morrissey (who scored a

See WILDCATS, Page B3

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rocks' tourney hopes crushed

Novi's Maddox fuels 59-56
Class A district triumph

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Traveon Maddox Jr. admitted he needed a little helpful advice to get through the second half of Monday's Class A district boys basketball opener against host Salem.

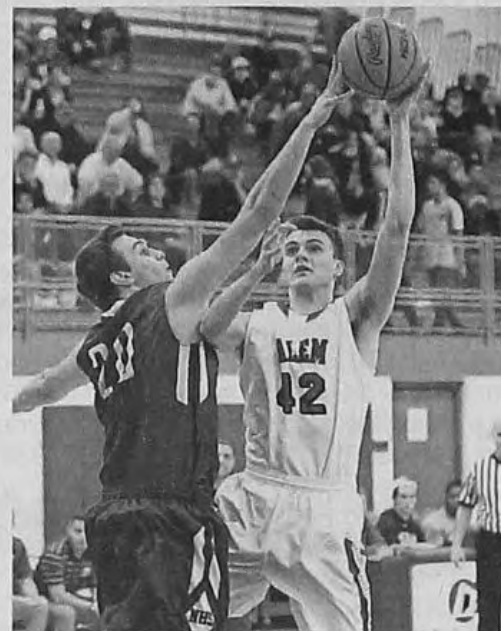
"Tra, he was a little frustrated in the first half," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "And he sort of ask me in the third quarter, 'Hey, what do you want me to do?' I said, 'Play your game, just go out and play, have fun and let the game come to you.' And he looked at me and he winked and I knew that we were going to get something special out of him."

The 6-foot-3 sophomore guard was special, indeed, during the final quarter as he scored 14 of his game-high 21 points to lead the Wildcats (12-9) to a 59-56 win over the Rocks, setting up a semifinal clash against Novi Detroit Catholic Central (12-8).

And Maddox admitted he heard another friendly voice from the upstairs bleachers from his father, Traveon Maddox Sr.

"My dad in the stands yelled,

See ROCKS, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Novi's Jay Duarte (left) goes up for the block against Salem's Kenny Topolovec.

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GIRLS HOCKEY TOURNEY

Blazers' top line scorches Penguins



MICHAEL VASILNEK

PCS Penguins goalie Natalie Nowicki (right) stretches to cover up a loose puck Tuesday while Livonia Ladywood's Cecelia Werner (middle) tries to jab it home.

Three goals by Hayward too much for PCS in Division 1 quarterfinal

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood's top line of Katie Hayward, Sydney Malek and Cristina Rotondo put too much heat Tuesday on the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins at Arctic Edge Arena.

Led by Hayward's three-goal performance, the Blazers defeated PCS, 6-2, in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 girls hockey quarterfinal.

Although there was a flood of late goals, the game did not start as though it would be high-scoring.

Yet Ladywood head coach Ron Predmesky's team, 16-6-1 overall and 13-1-1 in the league, finally was able to get a puck past PCS senior goalie Natalie Nowicki with 3:52 left in the opening period to go up, 1-0.

Nowicki made a handful of stellar stops when the contest was scoreless, but Hayward dished a pass in front that Malek chipped high into the net.

The Penguins kept charging, having an edge in territorial play for a segment of the middle period thanks to three

power plays.

Still, PCS could not find the range against Ladywood goalie Samantha Erickson and, subsequently, forward Brooke Spiegel hammered a centering pass by linemate Cecilia Werner behind Nowicki at 13:50 to take a 2-0 edge into the third.

Breathing room

In the blink of an eye, that lead doubled when Spiegel (from Werner and Jill Jacobs) and Hayward (unassisted) beat Nowicki by the time just 70 seconds had been played in the third.

"We spent a lot of time in their zone, we just couldn't get shots on net," Donnelly said. "After everything, they were gassed."

Then with 10:28 left, Hayward buried the rebound of a slap shot taken by Malek, with Victoria Pilut also earning an assist to pad the lead to 5-0.

Finally, Penguins fans had something to cheer about when forward and senior captain Megan Brace broke Erickson's shutout with 9:44 remaining. Drawing the assists were junior linemates Cathryn VandenBosch and Jessica Marek.

Brace fired a wrist shot from the right hash marks that eluded the Ladywood goalie on the short side.

"It felt good. I was hoping it would rev up the girls a little bit more," Brace said. "We



MICHAEL VASILNEK

PCS Penguins senior captain Megan Brace (middle) is mobbed by jubilant teammates Cathryn VandenBosch (left) and Jessica Marek after Brace scored in the third period Tuesday.

were losing by quite a few at that point and I was hoping it would change the momentum back to our side again.

"But we lost a little bit at the end. I'm really proud of my whole team out there."

Although the Blazers still had a comfortable lead, a potential turning point happened with under eight minutes to go. A PCS player missed a wide-open net and then Hayward went coast-to-coast, faking Nowicki and scoring her third of the contest.

With the score 6-1 and 7:13 to play, Donnelly pulled Nowicki and put in freshman goalie Savina Osann.

"We wanted the team to settle down. They were frazzled, they were all over the place," Donnelly said.

A few minutes later, however, Nowicki returned to play

the final 3:39 of her high school hockey career. The game also marked the end of the prep career for Brace and two other seniors, senior defensemen Gabrielle Godre and Reagan Liberatore.

"We wanted (Nowicki) to finish ... in the net, not on the bench," Donnelly said. "It wasn't her fault, this game. So she deserved to be out there for her last game."

The Penguins then capped the game's scoring just 19 seconds after Nowicki's return, when sophomore defenseman Morgan Gagnon's slap shot from the right point got past a screened Erickson. Assisting was VandenBosch.

While the Blazers gear up for Thursday's D1 semifinal against Catholic League rival Farmington Hills Mercy at 8 p.m. at Arctic Edge, the rela-

tively young Penguins will clear out their locker room one last time after a promising season.

"We placed sixth. That's the best they've placed in the last four years here," Donnelly said. "I came in with the idea it was going to take four years to develop, start with the freshman class and build them up to be a senior class with everything we were trying to teach them."

"And they beat out any expectations we had for them this year in the second year that I've been here."

Concurring was Brace, who called this "an amazing season. This is the best season of hockey I've ever been in and I love these girls."

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USA HOCKEY

NTDP U17s 'Roughed' up by Cedar Rapids

Injury-depleted squad drops two over Military Appreciation Weekend at USA Hockey Arena

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Big and bruising Cedar Rapids took advantage of a depleted U.S. NTDP Under-17 hockey team Saturday night, earning a 3-0 victory at USA Hockey Arena.

The Rough Riders, who are first in the United States Hockey League with a mark of 34-12-3, broke a scoreless tie early in the second period when Jack Ahcan tallied an unassisted goal.

Just over a minute later, at 2:25 of the frame, Matt Filipe also beat U17 goalie and Northville native Dylan St. Cyr to make it 2-0. Cedar Rapids scored again before the end of the period.

Then, with the home team already down to just 10 forwards for the back end of two weekend matchups against the Rough Riders, a 4-minute spearing penalty and game misconduct issued at the end of the middle stanza to Evan Barratt made the rest of the night a line-matching challenge for NTDP head coach Don Granato.

Yet, the U17s (17-25-7) came out in the third with plenty of jump, outshooting Cedar Rapids 12-2, but unable to solve goalie Ben Blacker (31 saves).

"Our most competitive period was the last one," Granato said. "In my opinion we were more aggressive in the third today, progressively we played more competitive."

Granato stressed that his players need to sharpen up their scoring touch, something that he is optimistic will happen with additional practice time.

"That bore itself out as we created chances and couldn't finish," Granato said. "We didn't look comfortable around



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Brady Tkachuk (front) of the U.S. NTDP Under-17 team looks to dish a pass Saturday night, while Cedar Rapids' Taylor Brierley attempts to deny the opportunity.

the net and that's a byproduct of we need to shoot more pucks (in practice).

"Get more reps of shooting, shooting and shooting because we don't have the confidence around the net to score."

According to Granato, a bright spot was the performance turned in by right wing Matt Miller, brought in for the Cedar Rapids games from Canton's Victory Honda team.

"We were down to nine forwards and Matty Miller filled in for us today, a local kid," Granato said. "He did a great job the last two nights to help us out."

Miller, who also filled in for the U17s earlier this season and is committed to play NCAA Division I hockey at Michigan State University, said he thought he had some success over the weekend.

"The pace of the game is a lot faster (in the USHL) and the guys are much more skilled," Miller said. "You have to bring it every game, every shift. I did pretty good, worked when I had to."

He is hopeful that he will get into more games this season for the NTDP. "(Granato) said I could practice with them and he'll get in touch with me later on."

Saying thanks

The contest marked the second of two Military Appreciation Weekend games between the rival teams (Cedar Rapids won 4-2 Friday). Just over 1,200 fans attended each night.

For the games, the NTDP U17s wore camouflage jerseys and socks, which will be auctioned off to benefit Ann Arbor VA Healthcare Systems.

"It's more than a promotion, it's more of a gesture of thanks," Granato said. "Hopefully it was received that way. A big part of life for all of us is the sacrifice that other people make to keep this country what it is."

"We're a bit more sensitive to that because we travel to Europe, and we're pretty proud to wear our USA jersey. Hopefully, the military personnel ... here enjoyed it."

With the MHSAA boys hockey semifinals and finals taking place this week at USA Hockey Arena, both NTDP will be on the road. The next home games are 7 p.m. Friday, March 18 (U17s vs. Sioux Falls) and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20 (U18s vs. Youngstown).

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

"Shoot more Tra, shoot more, set your feet Tra, set your feet," Maddox said. "So that's my dad and your dad tell will tell you right."

With perhaps the most youthful back court going into the tournament after University of Wisconsin-Green Bay signee Kam Hankerson was lost for the season (knee), the Wildcats (12-9) start two sophomore guards, Trendon Hankerson and Maddox, while freshman Giovanni Miles is the first to come off the bench.

And the ninth-grader made a big contribution with 10 points, including a key rebound basket with only 1:38 left to give Novi a 57-54 advantage.

"He played really well defensively," Sinawi said of Miles. "It's his offensive ability sometimes, but he played well defensively and he was leading us in huddles. He was getting after guys. He was talking and he was loud. And he was leading us in that fourth quarter. It was hard for me to take him out of the game."

Salem, meanwhile, had its chances down the stretch. The Rocks missed twice to tie it in the final 10 seconds, with junior Cameron Grace's triple try from the top of the key with only 8.8 seconds remaining rimming off on a perfectly designed play coming out a timeout.

"We got the shot we wanted out of the timeout, so you can't knock that. They did what they were supposed to, you just got to have it fall down and we didn't do it," Salem coach Bob Brodie said.

Salem led 42-41 going into the final quarter following a corkscrew 3-point attempt from junior Camren Barden as the buzzer sounded. But the Rocks, who shot 4-of-13 in the final quarter, couldn't get over the hump after Maddox nailed three consecutive 3-pointers to put Novi ahead for keeps.

"Just staying composed, just staying calm, keep our team in check and just being great (in) clutch factors during the game," Maddox said of his fourth-quarter mindset. "Go to the basket harder, start to draw fouls. The more free throws I shot, the more 3-pointers I shot. Get myself in a rhythm and calm myself down and stop being so frustrated."

Calin Crawford, a senior guard, also added 12 points for the Rocks, who shot 23-of-52 from the floor (44.2 percent).

"We did not play very well, but not to take anything away from Novi," Brodie said. "We made a lot of mistakes. And there are things that we see as coaches and the players know that we just didn't do stuff we were supposed to do. Not only execution, but some mental mistakes."

The teams split during the regular season, with Novi winning the last time out, 67-53, after falling, 55-52, in the first meeting.

"They've got weapons," Brodie said of the Wildcats. "We knew (Maddox) was a good player. We shot ourselves in the foot a little bit and we have to play better than that to win the basketball game."

Salem bowed out with a 12-9 record.

"They survived. They never quit," Brodie said. "They had a good season. They got a championship in a Christmas tournament. They won more than they lost, which is important. But I know they wanted more and we wanted more from a coaches' standpoint. I'm proud of the way they played. We think we had a good season."

Meanwhile, it was survive and advance for the Wildcats, who also got eight points off the bench from senior forward Johnny Davis, along with a big block from senior center Jay Duarte in the final minute that set up two made free throws by Maddox with 22.5 seconds to play.

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BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Plymouth primed for state spotlight

Wildcats sending 10 to state finals in Holland, will compete in three relays

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Kenn Forbes came onto the scene as Plymouth's varsity boys swimming and diving coach when a special group of freshmen also walked through the pool entrance.

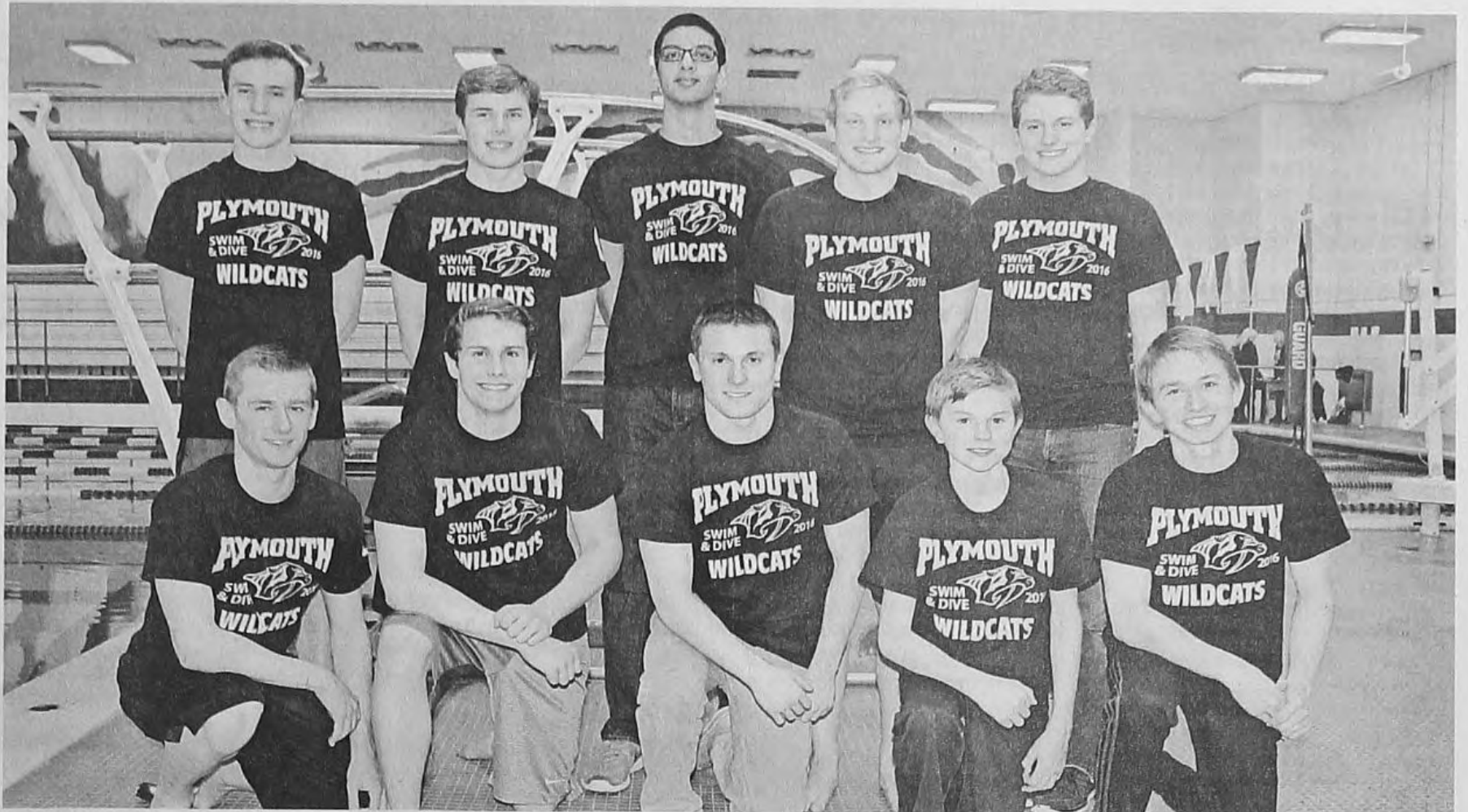
Friday and Saturday, the coach will proudly watch four members of that group get after it under the MHSAA spotlight, competing at the Division 1 state meet in Holland.

"This senior class is the first four-year class I have had with Plymouth," said Forbes, who formerly coached at Redford Union. "And they are by far the best all-around class I have ever had."

Seniors Garrett Beauprez, Keegan Kendall, Bronson Knowles and Aniketh Visai spearhead a talented cast of 10 state meet qualifiers.

Beauprez qualified in four events (200 IM, 1:57.50; 200 freestyle, 1:47.22; 500 freestyle, 4:51.57; and 100 backstroke, 54.68), setting team records in each. But, per MHSAA rules, he only will get to swim in two. "He lowered his own record from last year in the 200 freestyle and beat records held by original team member Mike Conger in the other three events," Forbes said.

Beauprez also helped set a new school mark in the 200 medley relay, along with Knowles, Visai and junior Michael Wischer — one of three



PLYMOUTH SWIMMING

Ten members of Plymouth's varsity boys swimming and diving team will compete this weekend at the state meet in Holland: (front row, from left) Bronson Knowles, Mike Wischer, Matthew Weiner, Ben Kirchoff and Jordan Groves and (back row, from left) Ethan Byrnes, Garrett Beauprez, Aniketh Visai, Nathan Chimka and Keegan Kendall.

relay events in which the Wildcats will swim this weekend.

Also competing for state medals will be juniors Wischer, Nathan Chimka, Jordan Groves and Matt Weiner, sophomore Ethan Byrnes and freshman Ben Kirchoff.

Groves and Kirchoff will perform in the diving finals, while other events in which the Wildcats will compete are the 200 medley relay, 200 free, 200 IM, 50 free, 500 free, 200 free relay, 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke and 400 free re-

lay.

"Though we missed our four-peat of the division (finishing second to Canton in the KLAAs South)," Forbes said, "we were more focused on getting faster and placing at state meet."

"We are looking forward to a fast state meet and being able to place in the top 16 to return for finals on Saturday."

"All of the boys on the state team are ready to set more records and swim best times, both in the individual events

and on the relays and to achieve high dive scores."

No matter what happens in the state meet, it has been a very successful season for the Wildcats.

Other new school records were established by Visai (100 breast, 1:01.69) and Groves (six-dive, 213.90 points; 11-dive, 375.70 points).

Forbes also is enthusiastic about future seasons. He has many reasons to be.

"The younger classes are just as good (as the seniors)

and still have time to get even better," Forbes said. "To me, this is the ideal program. A solid group of hard-working, dedicated and supportive athletes, parents and coaches, all working together to achieve the best for one another."

"We will continue to build off of our successes each year and keep pushing ourselves to the next level."

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WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

team-high 17 points) and Wilds.

Then Gibbons dished the ball to Wilds in the right corner for a trey that opened up a 32-20 advantage and prompted happy hand slaps between the seniors — who scored 12 and 16 points, respectively.

"We score a high amount of points each game, but we only had 21 in the first half," Gibbons said. "We were playing good 'D,' we just weren't making shots and we just opened up in the second half."

"We're a team and we're coming for Canton. We just got to play the way we play."

Northville connected on only 22-of-56 field-goal tries, but 10 of those buckets were 3-pointers.

The big thorn in Plymouth's side was Morrissey, who drained five triples. Also strong from behind the arc for the Mustangs were Zimbo (three triples among his 13 points) and Wilds (two treys).

Couldn't match

"We played really well in the first half. They turned it up a little bit higher in the second half and we just weren't able to get to that level," said Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup, whose hard-working team (9-13) finished one round short of last year's trip to the regional. "Credit them, they made some big



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Northville's Jack Burke (left) picks up his dribble against Plymouth defender Brent Davis.

shots. We tried to speed them up. Morrissey especially did, (with) some dagger threes in the corner against us.

"Good for them, they deserve it. It will be a good game between them and Canton."

The top scorer for the Wildcats was senior guard Brent Davis, who scored 11 points in the first half and 16 for the contest.

Davis said he and his teammates still remembered the 53-25 pounding at the hands of the Mustangs in a KLAAs tournament contest Feb. 18. They came out determined not to experience a repeat.

"We're not a team that likes to lose," Davis said. "We didn't want to lose again. We came out in the first half, our motivation was we didn't want to go home tonight."

"It happened, but we played a heck of a game. You got to

give credit where credit's due. I said the same thing about Canton. (The Mustangs) only lost one game for a reason. They're a good team."

Davis fouled out with about one minute remaining and received warm applause from the home fans, as did seniors Pete Carravallah, Frank Brown and Julian LeDoux when they left the floor.

"It was a bittersweet moment for a lot of reasons," Davis said. "Knowing we won't ever play again at the high school level. Some of us, not at all. At the same time, it was good to get that ovation and know we were appreciated."

In addition to Davis, another senior with an excellent game for the Wildcats was guard LeDoux, who scored 13 points (including three treys).

Brown and Carravallah chipped in six and three points each, while laying it out all over the court on hustle plays.

Sander said it was important for his team to not take Plymouth lightly, stressing that he knew the Wildcats were a much better squad than the one that showed up Feb. 18.

"Plymouth's got a lot of skill," Sander said. "They played a tremendous first half; they made us look really stupid at times."

"But I'm proud of the way our guys responded in the second half."

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mustangs 'school' Plymouth in district semifinals, 45-23

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Although Northville was off school March 2 for a snow day, the Mustangs proved to be in the mood to take their first girls basketball state tournament opponent to school themselves.

Northville did just that, putting on a dominating display from start to finish with a convincing 45-23 Class A district semifinal victory over host Plymouth.

The Mustangs earned a spot in the district final against Canton.

Junior forward Brook Adams was the catalyst in the Northville victory as she scored all 13 of her game-high points during the first half to stake the Mustangs to a commanding 25-8 advantage.

The lead mushroomed to 35-11 after three quarters before Northville coach Todd Gudith emptied his bench in the final quarter.

A majority of Adams' baskets came on high-percentage shots.

"Brook really stepped up in the first half," Gudith said. "I don't think (Plymouth) really had a chance to stop her big size advantage and she really took advantage of that early on, made a few close shots inside. And defensively, we just locked up on them."

Plymouth (8-13) did not

make a field goal for 12 minutes, 38 seconds during the first half before a Chantal LeDoux basket with 30.2 seconds broke the drought.

The Wildcats also committed a total of 21 turnovers and shot only 5-of-28 from the floor (17.8 percent) for the game.

"I just thought our communication was really good," Gudith said of his defense. "Plymouth screens a ton in their offense. We told our kids we've got to be able to switch on those screens and talk each other through it. That was the only way we were going to be able to keep them in front of us. And I thought the communication was outstanding."

Sophomore guard Kendall Dillon and junior forward Jessica Moorman contributed nine and seven points, respectively, for the Mustangs, who shot 19-of-43 from the floor (44.1 percent).

"I think the kids were happy to have the day off today," Gudith said. "It was kind of unexpected, but we were able to come into the gym and get a short shootaround this afternoon to kind of wake everybody up and get loose."

LeDoux, a sophomore, and senior Cassidy Lewis scored nine and eight points, respectively, for the Wildcats.

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CLASS D DISTRICT

PCA boys cruise in tournament opener

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth Christian Academy did everything Monday night the way head coach Matt Windle drew it up in pregame preparations.

The Eagles bolted out of the gates with a 25-4 first-quarter lead and went on to rout Inkster Peterson-Warren Academy, 66-33, in a Class D boys basketball district opener at PCA.

With the victory, the Eagles (10-10) advanced to face Taylor Trillium Academy as the rest of the district shifts to host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

"We didn't do anything special, we executed the game plan," said Windle, in his first season at the PCA helm. "The guys were efficient and I thought they were patient, which was big for us."

"We've had the tendency to

rush things. ... Today we were patient and moved the ball, waited for the right pass and the right shot."

It was a 42-11 game at half-time and 54-15 entering the final quarter, as the Eagles won a district game for the first time since 2013.

Spearheading the PCA attack with 19 points was sophomore Matt Malcolm.

"All of his points were just under the basket, (scored by) attacking and being smart," Windle said. "I think he had one three."

Malcolm was one of 11 Eagles to get into the score book. Chipping in eight points was Ian Hay, while Luke Yakuber, Layne Pries and Brian Schlientz each registered six points.

Helping the PCA cause with four points each were Andrew Fernandes, Phillip Morby, Max Okolo and Jayme Fadden. Also getting points

were Levi Yakuber and Josh DeVries, with three and two, respectively.

"It's our first district win since 2012-13, so we kind of had the motto of one game at a time, breaking down one wall at a time," Windle said.

Growth and improvement in the PCA program is evident just by comparing district games between the Eagles and Peterson-Warren Academy the past two seasons.

"We lost to this team in overtime last year," Windle said. "And Trillum, who we lost to two years ago, we play them Wednesday."

An Eagles win Wednesday would set up a chance to win a district Thursday night.

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth's Cassidy Lewis (left) takes on Northville defender Brook Adams with the dribble drive.

PREP GYMNASTICS

Salem's Williams 'floors' 'em at regional

Sophomore first on D1 vault, one of three Salem gymnasts to earn spot in state finals

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The very last routine of Saturday's MHSAA gymnastics regional at Plymouth High School drew one of the loudest cheers of the afternoon, with good reason.

Salem sophomore Jordyn Williams rocked the house with a 9.850 score on floor exercise, finishing with a flourish and winning the Division 1 regional championship in that event.

"It's my favorite minute and 30 seconds of the whole meet," Williams said shortly after being presented with her first-place medal. "Really great,

amazing."

Her next performance will be this weekend at the individual state finals in Rockford.

"It means a lot, just going out there and knowing all your hard work paid off," Williams said. "Just putting in the work every day and really focusing on the tumbling and the landings."

According to Salem coach Dana Driscoll, it is no surprise to her that Williams — who is going to the state finals a second year in a row — is getting the accolades and applause.



Williams

"She's fun to watch. The kids like watching her, she's a very down-to-earth kid," Driscoll said. "As good as she is, she's not really full of herself. She's friendly with everybody and she just tumbles really effortlessly."

Williams also wants to learn and improve and it didn't matter that as a freshman she tied for third in D1 floor exercise with a 9.6 score.

"Last year she was scoring 9.4s, and said, 'What can I do to bump it up?' and I said we can change these tumbling passes around," Driscoll said. "We cleaned up a couple things. She immediately jumped up to a 9.6, 9.7 for the end of last year."

"She tied for third last year at states and everyone was like, 'Where did she come from? Who is she?' It was because she was a freshman."

That quest to get better remains intact. "Even last week, she was, like, 'How can I fix my floor routine?'" Driscoll said.

By the way, Williams also is competing at the state finals on D1 vault. She tied Plymouth's Samantha Fontana for fifth with a score of 9.050.

The arrival of Williams onto the Salem gymnastics scene isn't the only positive. Also Saturday, freshmen Riley Fisher and Cloe Longeway qualified to compete in Rockford.

Fisher tied for fourth on D2 balance beam with 8.850, while Longeway finished seventh both on D2 uneven parallel bars (8.325) and D2 balance beam (8.750).

"The hope was those three girls would qualify on some combination of events," Driscoll said. "So I was really happy that they did."

"Cloe has been working really hard on bars and, actually, her getting in on beam was a nice surprise because she got in on two events. And then Riley has beam and just missed vault."

That trio has Driscoll looking forward to when the Rocks can match up with teams such as Canton and Plymouth, the top two finishers in the team standings.

"We're getting to the point to where a couple less falls, one or two scores different and they would have been able to break that 140," Driscoll said. "They're close. They're young."

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CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

did just great.

"I am taking kids to state I didn't expect to qualify. Katherine Nadjuk made it, Rachel Socha made it in all-around. They're my good kids, but they typically follow along behind Kelsea, Katie (Dickson), Hailey (Hodgson), Jana (Hilditch), down the line. We just had a really good meet, top to bottom."

Dickson finished second in D1 all-around with a 36.500 score and said having so many talented and competitive teammates pushes her to up her game.

"It really motivates us a lot and our team is super-motivated, so it gets us to really work hard," Dickson said. "I love it. It's so fun, it's just great."

The lone negative for the Chiefs was the absence of yet another strong, versatile performer in senior Maddie Toal. She is out for the season after sustaining a concussion.

Going for it

Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey said her team really got after it in practices leading up to the regional, knowing full well how tough it was going to be to advance.

"It was close, because we didn't know we could do it," Yockey said. "But today, everybody just pulled it together. It was touch and go, because we had quite a few 140 teams in this area that you normally hit 140. We knew we were neck-and-neck with everybody."

"The kids just decided they were going to do it this week, practiced, very, very hard. I mean, they were really, really intense this week. And it really paid off."

Spearheading the Wildcats was senior Haley Metz, who in D1 captured the top spot on bars (9.450), balance beam (9.375) and all-around (36.975).

"Just a very strong performance, with good consistency," Yockey said. "(Metz) was really just right on today. It was wonderful to see."

Metz said the day wasn't a complete breeze, despite her garnering top spot in three categories.

"Definitely bars was the most challenging," Metz said. "Even though it is my personal best event, it was just really nerve-wracking doing it at regionals."

With regional gold medals hanging around her neck, Metz smiled and said it was gratifying knowing that "everything I did this season really paid off" in her success. That also applies to the team as a whole.

"I think just knowing that what we can reach is setting our standards higher each time, so each time we can reach a higher goal," Metz said. "That's how we made it through this season and made it to states."

Livonia Blue head coach Lisa Broomfield, likewise, pointed to her team's work ethic during recent practices as one of the reasons it will compete at the finals.

"They came out, hit their 141 mark, which they needed to get there," Broomfield said. "I can't be more proud of them."

"It's a very tough region. Knowing we had to come in strong and ready to hit our events, practice leading to this we worked really hard on hitting our routines. ... And a lot of these teams we see in our league as well, so we know what we're up against before



CANTON GYMNASTICS

Canton's varsity gymnastics team proudly poses with its MHSAA regional championship trophy Saturday at Plymouth High School.

we get here."

Brianna Rhoad and Jessica Weak were outstanding for Livonia Blue, taking first and second in Division 2 all-around with scores of 36.525 and 35.950, respectively.

Rhoad won on beam (9.250), floor exercise (9.675) and all-around (36.525); Weak was the top performer on bars (9.175).

"I had one and two in all-around in Division 2. My top girl (Rhoad) came out strong and took first on a couple events," Broomfield added. "For her senior year, it's great to come out strong like that."

Challenge ahead

Another outstanding performer was Salem sophomore Jordyn Williams, first in D1 on floor with 9.850, tying a school record.

For as good a day as Canton had, Cunningham said his team will need to match it to have any chance against Rockford in the state finals March 11.

"Rockford is a super team this year," Cunningham said. "But they've been scoring around 146, which coincidentally is what we had."

"I think the only way we're going to win is if they have a bad meet."

Individual state finals will be held March 12.

MHSAA GYMNASTICS REGION 3
March 5 at Plymouth H.S.
TEAM RESULTS (Top three qualify for state finals): 1. Canton, 146.425; 2. Plymouth, 143.175; 3. Livonia Blue, 141.575; 4. Livonia Red, 138.825; 5. Northville, 137.450; 6. Saline, 137.025; 7. Salem, 136.450; 8. Tecumseh, 135.650; 9. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 31.950.

DIVISION 1
Vault (top eight qualify for state finals): 1. Kelsea Kernosek (C), 9.5; 2. Katie Dickson (C), 9.350; 3. Erin McCallum (N), 9.2; 4. Jana Hilditch (C), 9.1; 5. (tie) Samantha Fontana (P), 9.050; Jordyn Williams (Salem), 9.050; 7. (tie) Stephanie Cox (C), 8.9; Julia Hattley (L), 8.9; 9. Hailey Metz (P), 8.8; 10. (tie) Rebecca Simu (P), 8.650; Ava Eliola (P), 8.650.

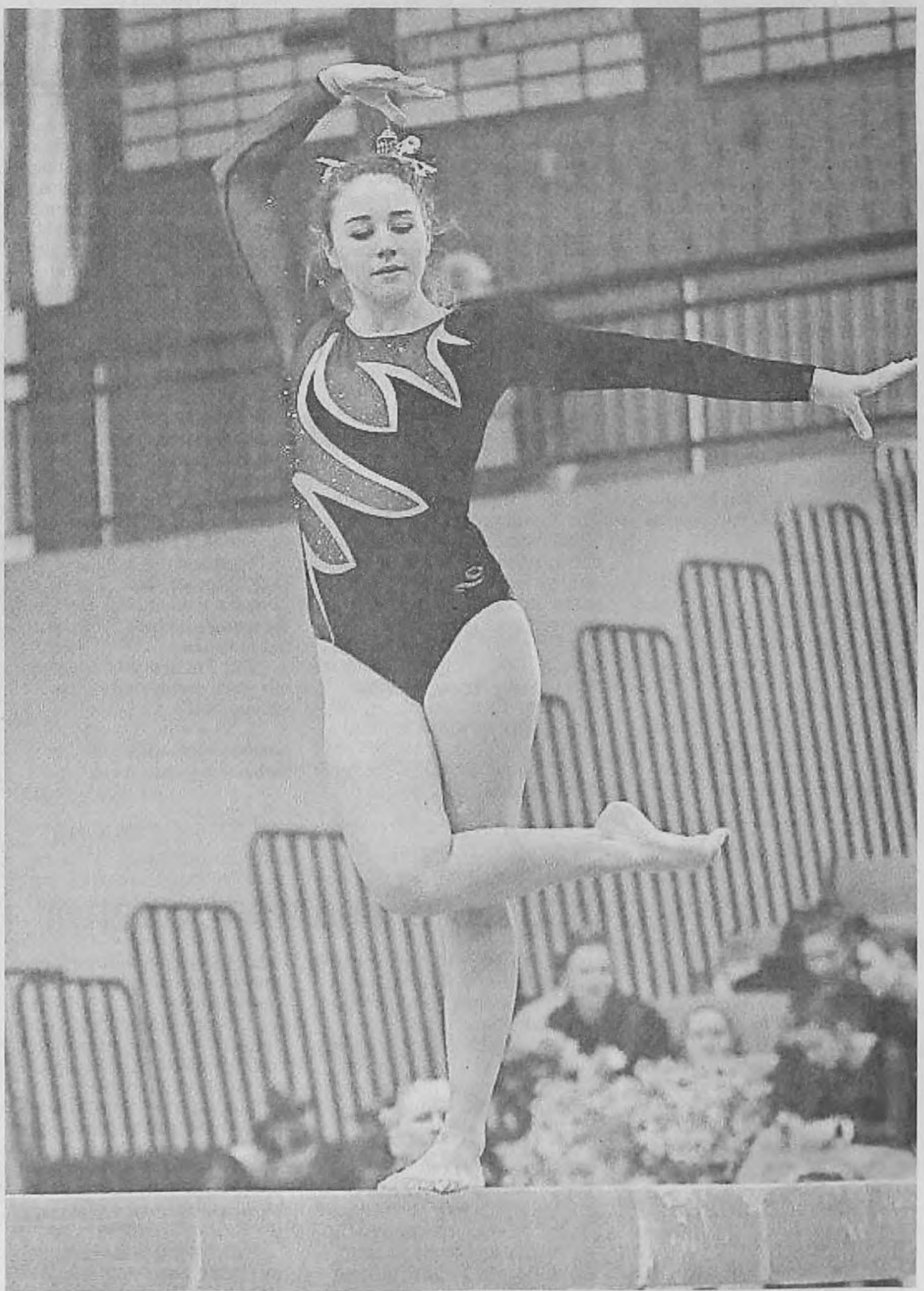
Uneven parallel bars (top eight qualify): 1. Metz (P), 9.450; 2. Hilditch (C), 9.0; 3. Dickson (C), 8.850; 4. Lewis (N), 8.675; 5. Cox (C), 8.6; 6. (tie) Eliola (P), 8.5; McCallum (N), 8.5; 8. Kernosek (C), 8.475; 9. Hosmer (P), 8.250; 10. Hattley (L), 8.025.

Balance beam (top eight qualify): 1. Metz (P), 9.375; 2. Cox (C), 9.325; 3. Dickson (C), 9.250; 4. (tie) McCallum (N), 9.2; Kernosek (C), 9.2; 6. Eliola (P), 8.950; 7. Simu (P), 8.925; 8. Hilditch (C), 8.650; 9. Willson (N), 8.575; 10. Hattley (L), 8.4.

Floor exercise (top eight qualify): 1. Williams (Salem), 9.850; 2. Simu (P), 9.5; 3. Hilditch (C), 9.475; 4. Metz (P), 9.350; 5. Cox (C), 9.250; 6. Kernosek (C), 9.175; 7. Hattley (L), 9.075; 8. Dickson (C), 9.050; 9. Wagner (Saline), 8.9; 10. Willson (N), 8.825.

All-around (top six qualify): 1. Metz (P), 36.975; 2. Dickson (C), 36.5; 3. Kernosek (C), 36.350; 4. Hilditch (C), 36.225; 5. Cox (C), 36.075; 6. McCallum (N), 35.650; 7. Eliola (P), 34.675; 8. Williams (Salem), 34.525; 9. Hattley (L), 34.4; 10. Simu (P), 34.225.

DIVISION 2
Vault (top eight qualify for state finals): 1. Mikaela Hillie (L), 9.2; 2. Brianna Rhoad (L), 9.175; 3. (tie) Jessica Weak (L), 9.150; Emily Welch (P), 9.150; Mackenzie Borman (L), 9.150; 6. Marissa McVey (L), 9.125; 7. (tie) Katherine Nadjuk (C), 9.1; Hailey Hodgson (C), 9.1; Megan Waters (L), 9.1; 10. Claire Chapski (L), 9.050.



MICHAEL VASILEK

Plymouth senior Haley Metz shows why she won Division 1 balance beam and all-around at Saturday's regional.

Uneven parallel bars (top eight qualify): 1. Weak (L), 9.175; 2. Claire Amstutz (Saline), 8.850; 3. (tie) Emily Welch (P), 8.675; Lisa Heider (Saline), 8.675; 5. Emily Chatterjee (L), 8.450; 6. Rhoad (L), 8.425; 7. Cloe Longeway (Salem), 8.325; 8. McVey (L), 8.3; 9. Kelsey Bogrow (T), 8.1; 10. (tie) Hillie (L), 8.175; Olivia Ryktarsyk (L), 8.175.

Balance beam (top eight qualify): 1. Rhoad (L), 9.250; 2. Rachel Socha (C), 9.2; 3. Hodgson (C), 9.150; 4. (tie) Riley Fisher (Salem), 8.850; Sarah Friedrichsen (Saline), 8.850; 6. Weak

(L), 8.775; 7. Longeway (Salem), 8.750; 8. (tie) Chatterjee (L), 8.575; Heider (Saline), 8.575; 10. Borman (L), 8.550.

Floor exercise (top eight qualify): 1. Rhoad (L), 9.675; 2. Hodgson (C), 9.575; 3. (tie) Morgan Cadmus (T), 9.225; McVey (L), 9.225; 5. Chatterjee (L), 9.175; 6. (tie) Carlee Swan (T), 9.075; Katie Tapia (Saline), 9.075; 8. Alaina Carr (T), 9.050; 9. Victoria Silvester (P), 9.025; 10. Brianna Price (T), 9.0.

All-around (top six qualify): 1. Rhoad (L),

36.525; 2. Weak (L), 35.950; 3. Hodgson (C), 35.725; 4. McVey (L), 34.725; 5. Socha (C), 34.675; 6. Welch (P), 34.525; 7. Fisher (Salem), 34.500; 8. Heider (Saline), 34.250; 9. Longeway (Salem), 33.950; 10. Amstutz (Saline), 33.900.

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PREP GYMNASTICS

HILLY'S 'SWEDE' SMELL OF SUCCESS

Foreign exchange student Pihl making most of her one season with Wildcats

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Talk about an actual springboard into a new lease on life and gymnastics, too.

For Hilly Pihl, that's exactly what has happened during her year at Plymouth High School, where the foreign exchange student from Sweden is wrapping up a successful season with the Wildcats varsity gymnastics team.

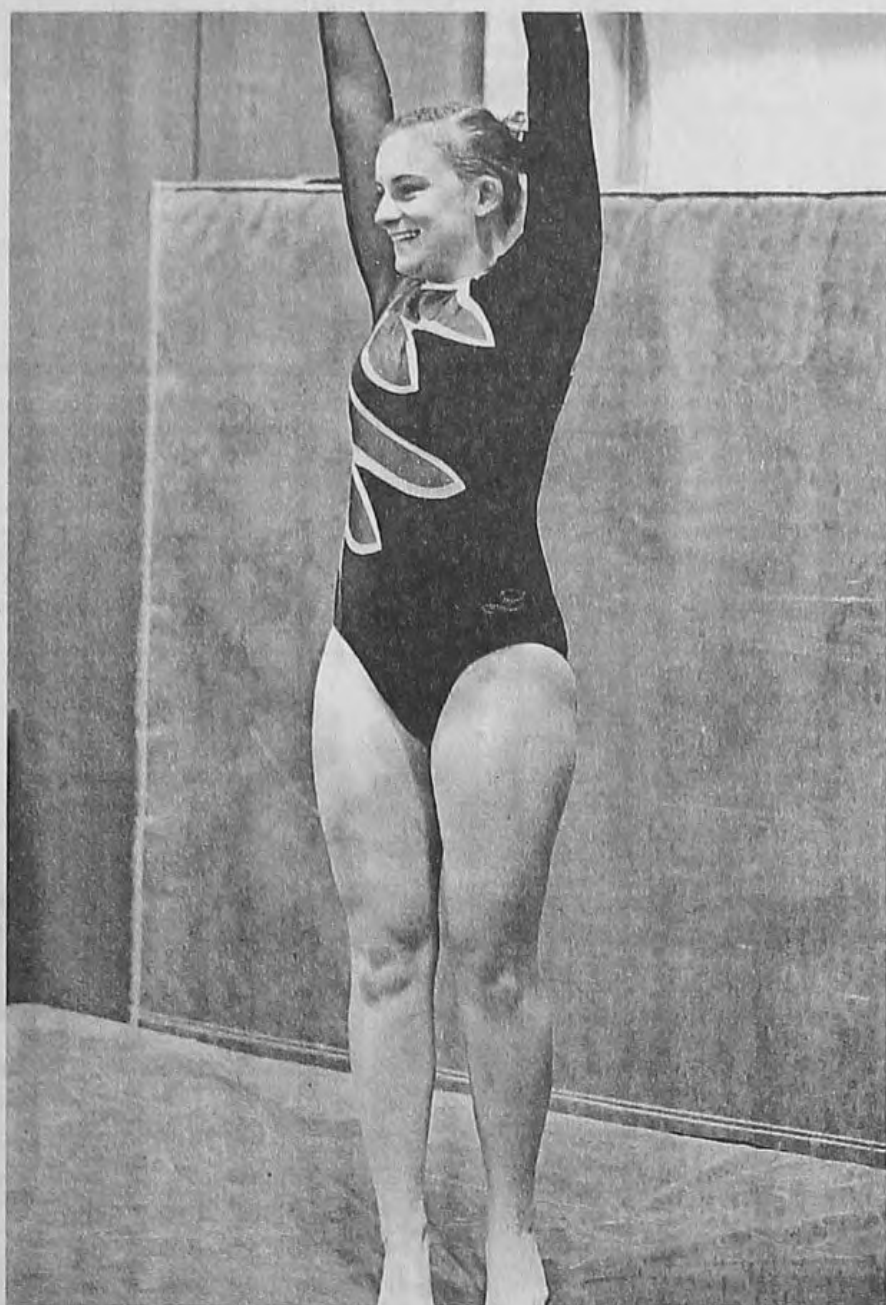
"Well, I like gymnastics and I think this kind of gymnastics is so much cooler than the one I did (in Sweden)," said Pihl, 17. "I figured I might as well try it. I like it so much more than the gymnastics I did back home."

Although "way harder" and more intense than what she previously experienced, Pihl acknowledged being a more-complete gymnast thanks to the experience.

"I did a different kind of gymnastics back in Sweden," Pihl said. "I mean, it's a Swedish kind, I guess, so it's tumbling and it's a mix between a trampoline and a springboard."

When she came to Plymouth High School, the American version of gymnastics almost was an unrecognizable sport to her.

"The vaulting was almost new and then (I'd) never done



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior exchange student Hilly Pihl said her year with the Wildcats helped her immensely as a gymnast.

beam, never done bars, never done floor, either," she said.

With plenty of encouragement from her new teammates

and from coaches Pam Yockey and Shawdi Dasger, Pihl is excelling to the point where she came in 13th on vault in

Division 2 at Saturday's regional with a 8.975 score.

Floor exercise is another one of her strong points and her score of 8.750 was good for 18th place in D2.

Fitting right in

Plymouth finished second in the team standings behind Canton; both will compete at Friday's team finals (the individual finals are Saturday).

"What's amazing is for a student coming from another country," Yockey said, "that performs gymnastics entirely differently than we do and to really take to it so strongly and perform so well, it's wonderful."

Dasger, an assistant coach, said Pihl's transformation has been fun to watch.

"I noticed she's had a great improvement from the beginning of the season until now," Dasger said. "She's throwing bigger tumbling than any of the other girls on the team."

Also important, Dasger said with a chuckle, is that Pihl is "really relaxed, she's very chill. She's European."

Pihl would rather give the credit to her teammates for helping her adapt to new surroundings.

"I think they've helped me a lot, (with) both the language and the sport itself," she said, in perfect English. "They really have been encouraging me and, like, trying to understand what I'm meaning when I don't know the words."

"They're really helpful and they always cheer you on."

She also went from being called Hillevi, her given name, to a nickname favored by her new teammates. "I usually go

by Hilly here," she said.

More to do

There is a reason why one would never know just from listening to Pihl that she is from a European country.

"Yeah, we start learning English in fourth grade," she said.

Her year at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park also included cross country in the fall and, hopefully, track and field this spring. "I want to do 100s" and maybe hurdles, she noted.

"But I don't like walking from school to school (at the Park)," she said. "The weather is sort of similar to Sweden; it's not that bad."

There have been a couple of surprises about American life, however.

"In order to have a good social life, you sort of need a car to get around," Pihl said.

Of no surprise is that Pihl, who carries a 3.8 grade-point average, will be able to walk across the commencement stage with her Plymouth classmates.

When she returns to Sweden, however, she will need to complete her junior and senior years to earn a diploma there.

"We start school a year later in Sweden," she said. "Actually, I will be a junior again because I have to re-do this year. This year doesn't count."

Oh, but will it ever count as far as Hillevi "Hilly" Pihl is concerned, in so many ways.

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PREP WRESTLING

CC grapplers wind up five-for-five at Palace

Senior heavyweight Jenkins spurs Shamrocks day

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Palace of Auburn Hills witnessed a brand new Fab Five in Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 wrestling individual state finals.

Getting titles from a wrestler in each grade, Novi Detroit Catholic Central went five-for-five to duplicate its feat from 2014.

Among those crowned individual champions for the Shamrocks were senior Nick Jenkins (285 pounds), junior Tyler Morland (171), sophomore Ben Kamali (103) and two freshmen, Kevon Davenport (119) and Cameron Amine (125).

"If you look at the five finalists we had, three guys beat guys that they lost to this year already," CC coach Mitch Hancock said. "We just put a plan together for each one of those guys and it worked. Our guys went out and executed the game plans and won."

Jenkins had lost three straight times to Dearborn Heights Crestwood's Ali Wahab dating back to his junior year, but came away with a 5-1 victory in the finals to finish the year 39-10 after winning his first three matches by a total of three points.

It was Wahab's first loss in 61 matches this season.

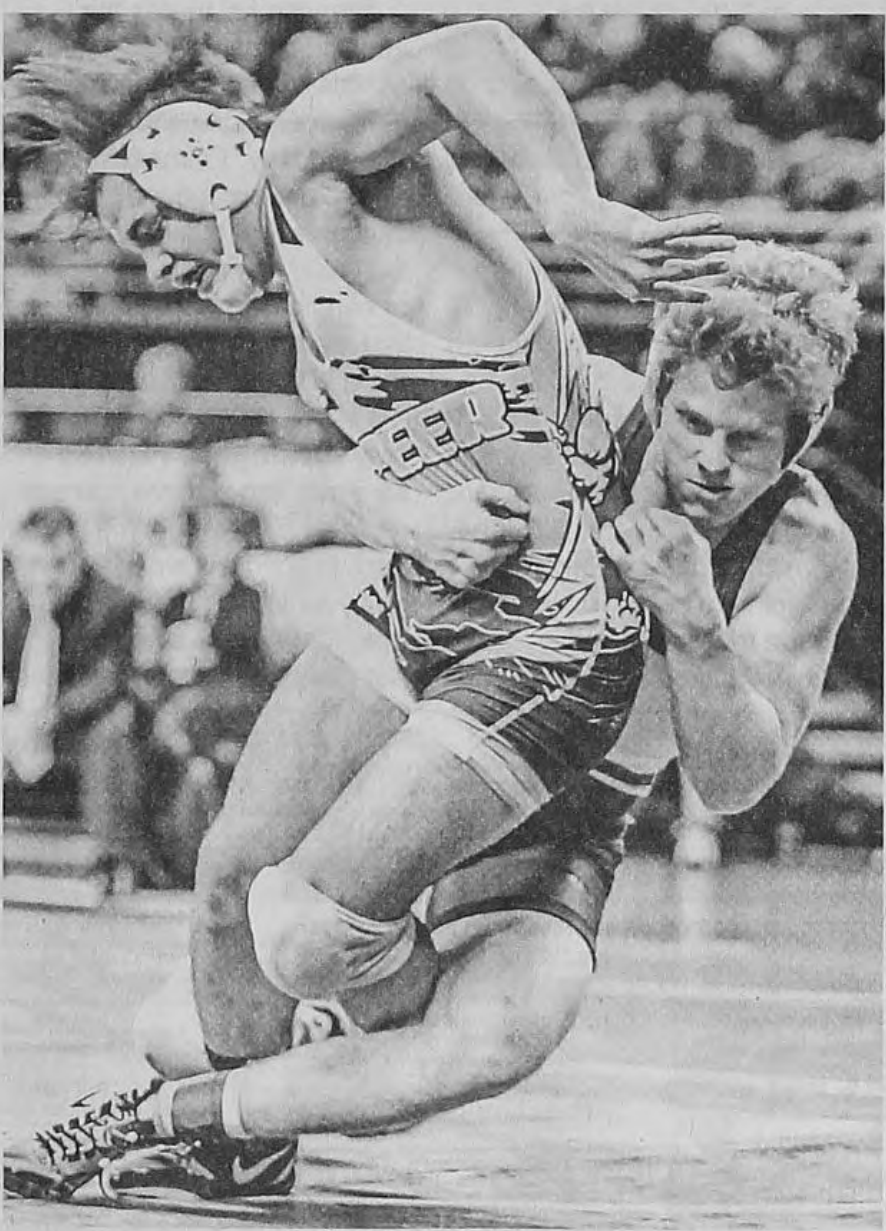
"He went 3-2 with him at the region and we were in deep on a leg attack late in the match," Hancock said of Wahab. "I think that gave (Jenkins) a belief that he could win and beat that kid."

Jenkins, who hopes to wrestle in college, was confident going into the finals.

"I knew that I could beat him, I just had to keep focus," Jenkins said. "The last match was pretty close and I knew I could come out on top this time."

Morland dominated in his four state tournament matches, capped by a 6-2 win over Lapeer's Devon Pingel in the finals. Morland finished the year 45-1.

"Tyler is sort of a tweener," Hancock said. "He's weighs about 178 and he goes up to 189 for us at times and beat McRill earlier this year, so it was a tough choice for him to make on whether to go 171 or 189 to



SCOTT CONFER

Catholic Central's Tyler Morland (right) won the 171-pound Division 1 state title over Devon Pingel of Lapeer.

win a title. He chose to take the tougher route and get that loss back."

Kamali, a transfer from East Lansing, became eligible mid-semester and finished the year 20-1, capped by a 10-8 triumph in the finals over Rayvon Foley of Ann Arbor Pioneer.

"Kamali is special," Hancock said. "His brother was a senior (last year) at East Lansing, so Ben wanted to come to Catholic Central as a freshman, but chose to compete with his brother being a senior at East Lansing."

Davenport, meanwhile, went 47-3 overall, ending with an 8-1 decision over Davison's A.J. Facundo, the Division 1 state champion at 112 from a year ago. In the semifinals, Davenport edged Walled Lake Central's Kaleb Marion, 3-2.

"Kevon is just as confident as they get," Hancock said. "He works extremely hard in

our room. Just believes in himself, believes in his ability."

Amine's draw was one of the most daunting, as he finished the year 39-9 overall.

"I think Cameron's path was a little more difficult in the fact that he had to beat so many quality wrestlers en route to winning it."

Hancock called it "just absolutely remarkable" getting two ninth-graders on the top podium.

Salem duo places

The Salem wrestling team capped off its season with two all-state wrestlers at the Palace. Roy Foster took sixth at 189 while Demetrius Fields took seventh at 171.

"They are two of the best wrestlers in the entire state of Michigan and though I have always thought that now they went out and proved it," coach Jeremy Henderson said.

ON TO NATIONALS

Ocelots get hot just in the nick of time

Rally enables Schoolcraft men cagers to capture District 10 championship

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After a torrid rally to erase a large first-half deficit and reach overtime Saturday, the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team closed out a stunning comeback to nip Macomb Community College, 89-85, in the NJCAA District 10 championship game.

There were many heroes for the Ocelots, including sophomore forward and Canton alum Davon Taylor (19 points) and sophomore guard Dre Black, the Westland John Glenn product who registered 16 points — 10 from the free-throw line — as Schoolcraft (22-10) advanced to the national tourney for the second consecutive season.

"Our sophomores absolutely refused to lose and played their hearts out in the second half," Schoolcraft head coach Abe Mashhour said. "Fortunately, we were able to pull it out in the extra period."

Also stellar were sophomore guards Ja'Christian Biles (20 points) and Tyler Johnson (11 points).

Taylor and center R.J. Coil shared Schoolcraft rebounding honors, with Black grabbing six boards.

Malcolm Cohen and Antonio Capaldi scored 21 and 20 points, respectively, for Macomb (18-13).

Schoolcraft fell behind by 18 points in the first half, trailing 43-27 at halftime. Mashhour said it had more to do with how well Macomb played early on.

"Although we were in a hole at the end of the half, I was not too disappointed with our defensive effort," Mashhour said. "Offensively, we were stagnant and that was a big issue. Consequently, we did not score but eight field goals in the first half and had a season low three assists."

"We have to give great credit to Macomb, who did a fantastic job of guarding on defense and executing on offense; they were terrific."

But the Ocelots proved relentless and in the second

half knocked down 17-of-26 field-goal attempts (65.4 percent), including 7-of-12 from behind the 3-point arc. Regulation ended 74-74 and Schoolcraft carried the momentum into the extra session to close out the victory.

Now Schoolcraft moves on to Danville, Ill., where the squad will compete beginning Monday in the NJCAA Division II tournament.

Mashhour followed up his earlier honors as Michigan Community College Athletic Association Coach of the Year by being named NJCAA District 10's top coach.

Other Ocelots to collect district honors were Black and Biles, both named to the all-tourney team. Black earned tournament MVP accolades, particularly for his ice-water-in-the-veins performance from the charity stripe, nailing 10-of-12 attempts.

Schoolcraft opened the district tourney Friday with a 76-68 win over Wayne County CCD.

Black had 11 points and 11 rebounds. Other Schoolcraft contributors included Biles (15 points), Taylor (12 points, seven rebounds) and Johnston (14 points).

Women end season

The Schoolcraft women's basketball team ended another successful season with a disappointing 59-58 loss March 3 to Macomb in the NJCAA District H tournament semifinals at Delta College.

A buzzer-beater kept the Lady Ocelots from going for the district championship. They finished with a 26-5 record.

T'era Nesbitt and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland were top offensive performers for Schoolcraft, with 22 and 11 points, respectively.

Rikki Scherdt, named to the all-district team, was a catalyst with 16 rebounds (12 on the defensive end).

On March 2 at Schoolcraft, the Lady Ocelots trounced Mott, 69-39. Bland (17 points), Nesbitt (16 points) and Jade Smith (14 points) keyed the Lady Ocelots' attack.

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Study the decision to go back to school

 BY DEANNA HARTLEY
 CAREERBUILDER

When is it worthwhile for individuals looking for a job or seeking career advancement to go back for more schooling, and when does it not make sense to pursue higher education?

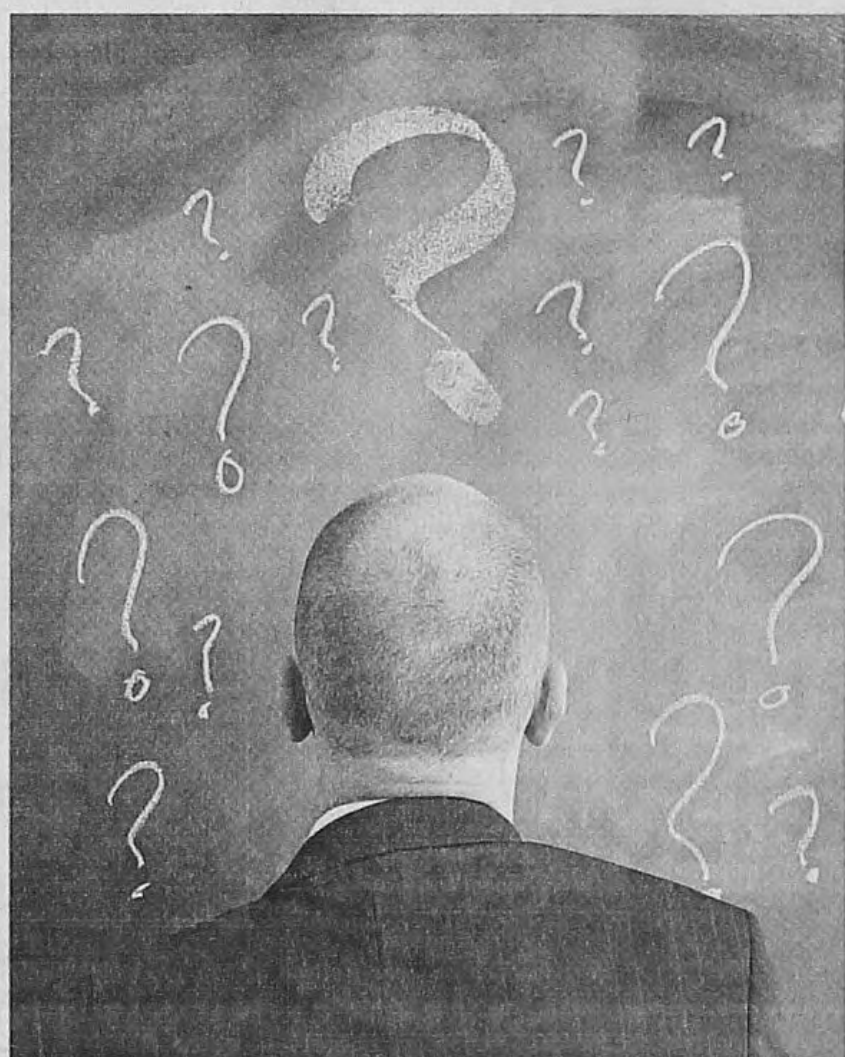
Going back to school is a big decision, so take some time to evaluate your options first.

"Certain situations, careers and jobs warrant additional education, but extensive research, self-reflection, financial evaluation and planning should come first," says Kaitlyn Riley, assistant director of the Starr Career Development Center at Baruch College of the City University of New York.

Ask yourself these questions if you're considering pursuing further education.

Are you making a career transition? "The top reason these days is to help facilitate a career transition for which an educational degree is required," says Steve Bohler, founder of the Oxford Program, a career guidance program. "Going back to school can improve your situation by redirecting the skills and experience you already have with new knowledge and a degree."

Joni Holderman, a professional résumé writer who



THINKSTOCK

founded Thrive! Resumes, echoes that advice. "The best time to go back to school is when it is directly related to a career goal, especially a major transition — (for example) an accountant who wants to become an RN will need additional education to achieve that."

What are others in your industry doing? "It makes

sense to go back to school if your industry is especially technologically fast-moving, because it's easy for a candidate to be ignored due to not knowing the correct software packages," says Joe Flanagan, a career adviser at VelvetJobs.

In some cases, however, returning to school may not be the most viable option. "It doesn't make sense to go back

to school if the job progression is transparent, linear and you see many of your other colleagues who are above you in the company hierarchy getting promoted without going to school," Flanagan says.

Is a degree essential to advance your career or earning potential?

"Your ability to advance in your career may depend on your educational level," says Cheryl E. Palmer, owner of Call to Career and a certified career coach. "You may be in IT, for example, but to move into senior-level management, an MBA may be the best route. That way, you can demonstrate to employers that you have the technical skills as well as leadership skills."

Sometimes, there's the additional financial incentive as well. "Generally speaking, more education usually equals more money," Palmer explains. "There are exceptions to this, of course, but this generally is the case. An additional degree or certification will usually give you more income because of the additional credentials."

Is your degree related to your long-term career goals? "The worst time to go back to school is when you

quit your job to pursue a degree that's not related to your career goals," Holderman says.

"There is significant prejudice in the recruiting world against candidates who are unemployed, and many employers see full-time school attendance by adults over 25 as unemployment, no matter how many degrees they earn."

The notion that you are earning a degree in an unrelated field often perpetuates the stigma that you are unfocused and unreliable, she says.

Do you have compelling internal motivation?

Carolyn Edwards, a career and life coach and graduate professor, explains that individuals should have a strong reason for going back to school before they make that level of financial and time investment.

"There are no guarantees that once you complete your training, degree or certification that you will make more money, get a promotion or successfully change jobs immediately or ever," she says. "Find a clear motivation that will provide joy, fulfillment or a sense of accomplishment that will meet an internal or personal goal."

Deanna Hartley is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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Special Notices

 Charter Township of
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 Notice of Public Hearing

On March 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Canton Board Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan, the Canton Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on two 2016 grant applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Public input is encouraged and welcome. Grant applications will seek funds for:

1. Recreation Passport Grant to fund ball field improvements at the Canton Sports Center, located at 46555 W. Michigan Avenue, Canton, MI 48188
2. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for the construction of a trail/pathway connector located along Cherry Hill Road, adjacent to the Historic Ford Factory now known as the Village Arts Factory.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Canton Human Resources Department - ADA Coordinator at (734) 394-5260. All interested persons are invited to attend and offer comments orally at this public hearing. Interested persons unable to attend this hearing may submit written comments by March 22, 2016 via email to leisure@canton-mi.org or by mailing: Canton Leisure Services, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. Questions regarding this public hearing should be directed to Greg Hohenberger, Operations Manager at (734) 394-5360.

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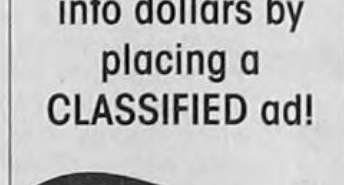
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WESTLAND Priced to Sell
Vini sided home. Kitchen with breakfast nook. Living room with French doors to huge fenced yard w/2 car GA \$19,000
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	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.5	0	2.75	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.40	0	2.625	0
Ameriplus 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	107718	(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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Open House



S. Lyon OPEN HOUSE Sun. 3/13/16
1-4pm. Beautiful home on 1.23 acres. 116 ft. of lakefront on All Sports Crooked Lake. 3 bds ba w/ over 2300 sq. ft., 1st flr master bed, new kitchen. \$420,000 Call Ken Neal 313-550-6743

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Auto Parts & Services

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734-223-5581

Cars



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You can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run, under the classification you choose. The cost for the photo will be \$10, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used. Email or mail your 3x5 or 4x6 photos. Call for addresses. Photos will not be returned. Prepayment required no refunds. To place your ad & get more info call:

MICHIGAN.COM
Observer & Eccentric
800-579-7355
Mon. thru Fri., 8:30-5pm
Some restrictions may apply

Vans

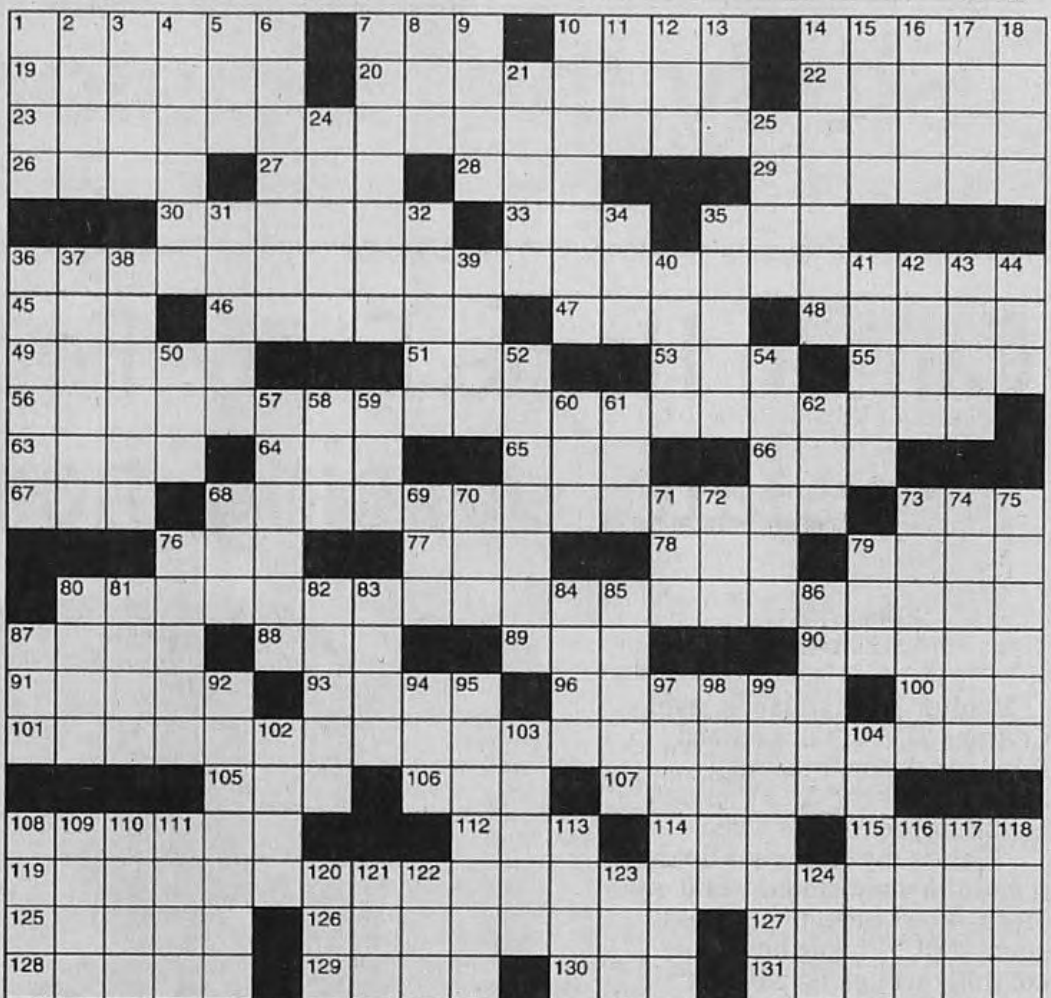
HANDICAP 10 BEAUTIFUL LOW FLOOR MINI VANS UNDER \$15,000, CALL US IN LANSING 517-230-8865

Get results. Advertise in CLASSIFIEDS!

YOUR AD HERE
Let us help you sell!

THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Bible book between Zephaniah and Zechariah
7 Largest New Deal agcy.
10 "The Wizard"
14 In the slightest
19 Radiant
20 Vacillating response
22 Olive-green bird
23 Start of a riddle
26 iPod model
27 Musician Brian
28 From Jan. 1 until today
29 Disagreeing (with)
30 Tomorrow, to José
33 Essen article
35 Santa — winds
36 Riddle, part 2
45 Former WB rival
46 Classical music record label
47 Cope d'—
48 Rises rapidly
49 Overjoy
51 Grafton's "— for Evidence"
53 By way of
55 Impel
56 Riddle, part 3
63 Within: Prefix
64 Weapon
65 Special span
66 Lang. of the U.S.A.
67 IRA options
68 Riddle, part 4
73 "... Mac — PC?"
76 Buddhist discipline
77 Letter after pi
78 Pass along, as an email: Abbr.
79 Male deer
80 Riddle, part 5
87 Minestrone, e.g.
88 Moo — pork
89 Pewter metal
90 Reformer Sinclair
91 Wide open, as a mouth
93 Wide-mouthed fish
96 Lassos
100 Co. name
101 End, often
102 End of the riddle
105 Imitate a wolf
106 "— hawl"
107 Morally base
108 Lipstick messes
112 "Evil"
114 Riddle-me—
115 Actress Rowlands
119 Riddle's answer
125 Lopez of pop music
126 More smart
127 Straight, as an arm or leg
128 Praise
129 Trig calculation
130 Gridiron pts.
131 When wages are given
10 Phrase on a thin coin
11 New Deal prez
12 Add: — (extras)
13 Wildlife park
14 Incarnations of deities
15 Jazz great
16 Very dry
17 Advance, as money
18 Captains' journals
21 More fitting
24 "For want of —, the shoe was lost"
25 Half of Morik's sign-off
31 Poker stakes
32 Feel likewise
34 Insect snare
35 Be part of, as a film
36 Montreal's province
37 Elevated region
38 Puts into law
39 Tobaccoless smoke
40 Sitarist Shankar
41 Like a child
42 Toad feature
43 Jason's ship
44 Reverse of NNW
50 Boxing ref's ruling
52 Be sure the job is done
54 Docket
57 Spoils
58 "— longa, vita brevis"
59 Big maker of SUVs
60 Mr. Capote, to pals
61 Tartan cap
62 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
68 "I'm talkin' to you!"
69 Munic. law
70 "Quiet down!"
71 Little newt
72 "So adorable!"
73 Ear malady
74 Kid-lit "pest"
75 Part of NSA
76 With 109-Down, one of five famed comic brothers
79 Big name in fuel additives
80 For takeout
81 Red Scare
82 "Hot dog!"
83 Oahu feast
84 Sorvino of Hollywood
85 Monogram, e.g.: Abbr.
86 Japanese fish dish
87 Used a bench
92 Involve in conflict
94 Pig's place
95 Honey
97 Loving ones
98 Drowsy
99 Made sense
102 Part of 44-Down
103 Trojan beauty
104 Move past carefully
108 Place
109 See
110 Send forth
111 Latin "year"
113 "Think nothing —"
116 One — jack
117 "99
118 J.D. holder
120 NFL players who pass
121 Mentalist Geller
122 Swimming star Thorpe
123 Blushing hue
124 — big way



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

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

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

2	9	1	9	8	6	4	2	8
4	8	8	2	1	9	6		
2	6	9	8	1	4	9	8	2
8	9	2	9	4	8	2	6	1
6	8	2	1	2	8	9	9	4
1	4	9	2	6	9	2	8	8
8	2	8	4	9	1	6	2	9
9	1	6	8	2	2	8	4	9
9	2	4	6	8	9	8	1	2

CRAFTY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ACRYLIC
ARTISTIC
BAKING
BEADING
BRUSHES
CARDBOARD
CARRYING
CASE
CLAY
CRAFT
CREATE
DESIGN
DESK
HOBBY
HOOK
JEWELRY
KNITTING
MARKERS
MOLDING
PAINTS
PAPER
SCRAPBOOK
SEALANT
SEWING
SHELLAC
SPRAY
STICKERS
STRING
STYLE
SUPPLIES
TABLE
VELLUM
WOODWORKING
YARN

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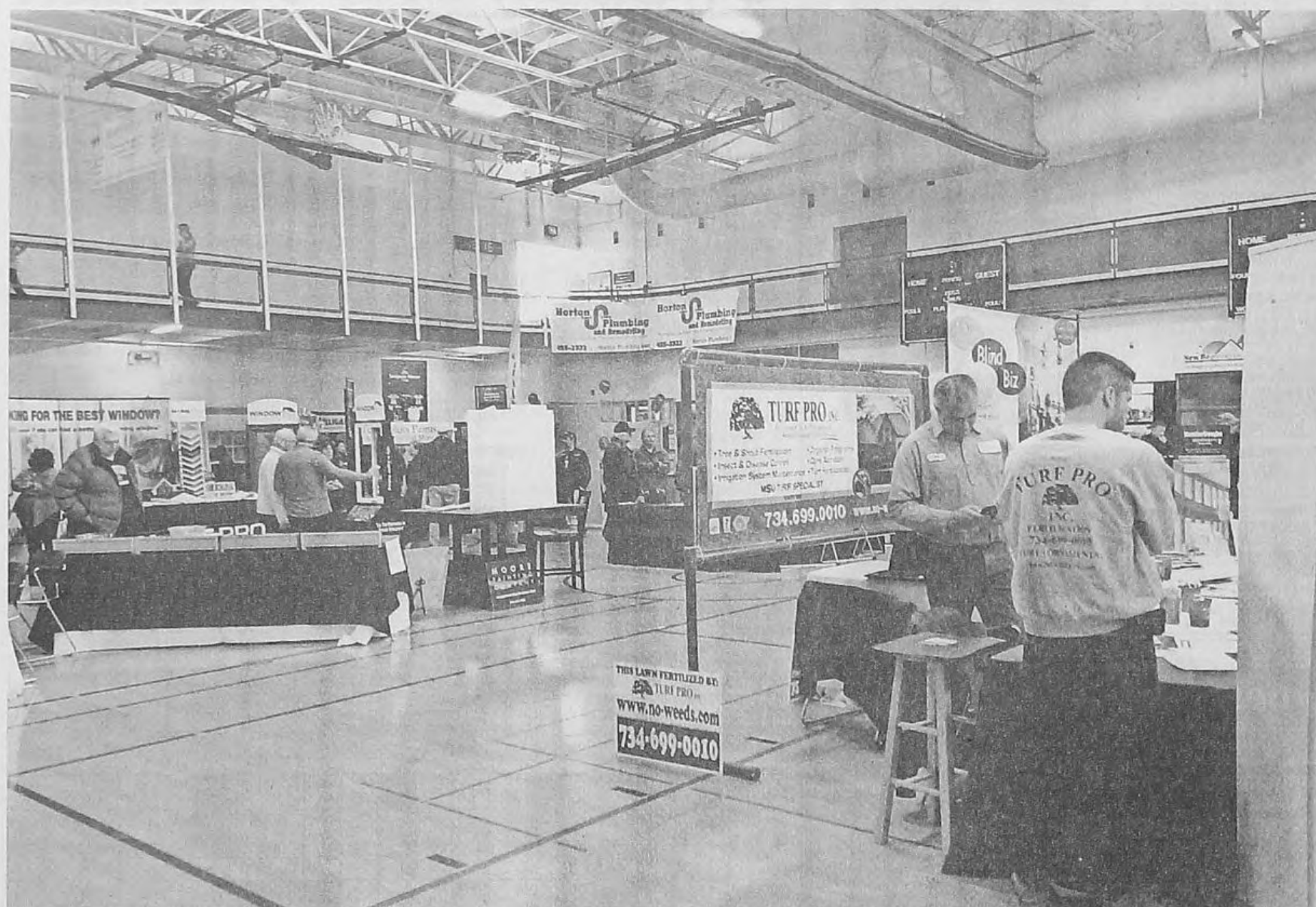
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers
HAGGAI WPA OFOZ ATALL
AGLEAM YESANDNO VIREO
WHENAMANI IMPERSONATOR
NANO ENO YTD ATODOS
MANANA EIN ANA
QUEENSINGER MERCURY WAS
UPN TELARC ETAT SOARS
ELATE EIS VIA URGE
BACKSTAGEGETTINGINTO
ENTO ARM ERA ENG
CDS HIS COTUME AND ORA
ZEN RHO FWD STAG
THEY TOLD HIM IT WAS TIME
SOUP SHU TIN UPTON
AGAPE BASS RIATAS INC
TOCOME OUTWHATIDIDHESAY
BAY YEEE SORDID
SMEARS ELO REE GENA
IAMNOTOUIETEFREDDIEYET
TRINI BRAINIER UNBENT
EXTOL SINE TDS PAYDAY

Word Search Answers

ACRYLIC
ARTISTIC
BAKING
BEADING
BRUSHES
CARDBOARD
CARRYING
CASE
CLAY
CRAFT
CREATE
DESIGN
DESK
HOBBY
HOOK
JEWELRY
KNITTING
MARKERS
MOLDING
PAINTS
PAPER
SCRAPBOOK
SEALANT
SEWING
SHELLAC
SPRAY
STICKERS
STRING
STYLE
SUPPLIES
TABLE
VELLUM
WOODWORKING
YARN



Some 70 vendors were featured at the Canton Home Improvement Expo March 5-6 at the Summit on the Park.

JULIE BROWN

Canton Home Expo: Focus on local real estate, building, home upgrades

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Realtor Desiree Heck, with Century 21 Premier on Ford Road in Canton, was busy Saturday, March 5, at Canton's Home Improvement Expo.

"This is my first year doing it and I'm very excited," said Heck, who's been in her field since 2001. "People have been coming through nonstop. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and network with other business professionals."

She works with husband Scott Heck, a mortgage loan officer, and notes that husband-and-wife Realtor teams are common but their arrangement less so. "We're always on top of everyone's deals and loan processes," she said.

Heck agreed with other Realtors the market's strong. "Amazing," she said. "I'm swamped. Homes are selling in two to three weeks when they're priced properly and staged right." Market analysts tell her the market should be strong in the coming years, she said, helped by low interest rates.

"Events happen that affect everything. I'm thinking positive and see nothing but a bright horizon for home buyers and sellers. And inventory is low," she said. "Canton is extremely popular. Plymouth, Northville. Right now, there really isn't a bad area in western Wayne County and south Oakland."

Heck said people getting back to work impacts home sales. "Definitely the economy and the employment level affects people's ability to buy a home. We're seeing people moving into the area," she said.

She gives people she works with at least three recommendations on a lender, and doesn't always work with her husband on that. "It works out well. We like it a lot," she said of their work.

Toll Brothers, based in Horsham, Pa., also had a booth at the Expo. "We're premiering two new locations for Toll Brothers" in Canton, said Kendall Henaughen, sales manager for one of those, Hamlet Pointe.

She works with Nadia Mekled, senior sales manager for the other Canton site, Westridge Estates. Henaughen, who grew up in Plymouth and lives now out of the area, said, "We're super-excited to be in the market."

The Canton luxury home sites have a couple hundred lots between them, she said, with a handful of spec houses. Most people will buy and build themselves through Toll Brothers.

"We've been wanting to come to the area for a long time. Canton is booming. So we wanted to become part of the market," said Henaughen. Toll Brothers is now in Northville, Novi and Ann Arbor



JULIE BROWN

Realtor Desiree Heck of Century 21 Premier in Canton works with husband Scott Heck, a mortgage loan officer. They were among some 70 vendors at the Canton Home Improvement Expo.

"and then many more coming," she said.

"What's great is we have just about every product you're looking for," Henaughen said. Hamlet Meadows will come to Canton soon. "That's going to be even more affordable," she noted.

The Home Expo is offered by Canton Township's Building and Inspection Services Division the first weekend of March. Partners include the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor," also participated in the Saturday and Sunday, March 5-6, event at Summit on the Park.

Some 70 vendors were present, along with a steady stream of visitors including Mary Smith of Canton with her daughter, Lauren.

"Oh, I like it," said Mary Smith, who also attended a few years ago. "We're looking for new countertops for our kitchen. There are a lot of vendors to get information from."

Smith agreed the annual event's a good reminder spring is approaching. "I just wish spring was here," she said, noting the snowfall outside the nearby window. "Next week, it'll be 60s."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com Twitter: @248Julie



JULIE BROWN

Home Depot offered fun building projects for kids, a popular part of the Canton Home Improvement Expo.

Eminent domain: Due process due to all

Q: I hear the politicians talking about eminent domain, something they seem to be arguing over. What exactly is it?

A: Eminent domain is a legal concept whereby a public authority, normally a governmental agency, can condemn or take property from a private individual under the authority vested in the public authority but can only do so if the recipient receives due process and just compensation under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Frequently eminent domain is used to condemn property for highways and governmental buildings but the controversy arises when the governmental entity condemns the property for utilization by a private industry, which was the case in Michigan regarding the GM Hamtramck auto factory. There are various types of what is called a "taking" by the government of one's private property which has resulted in volumes in legislation and cases.

Q: I understand that there has been a bill introduced into the Michigan House, Bill 4919, dealing with the issue of abrogating the requirement of a two-thirds vote of co-owners before litigation can be commenced by a condominium association. What is the basis for this type of legislation?

A: Many community association documents contain provisions drafted by developers attorneys which make it next to impossible for a condominium association to bring a lawsuit against anyone other than for non-payment of assessments and bylaw enforcement without obtaining a two-thirds vote of the co-owners and jumping through a number of other generally unreasonable hoops imposed upon the association and its retained counsel. This legislation is an attempt to circumvent a Court of Appeals decision which supported this type of requirement. If you are interested in the particular rights of a community condominium association, you will seek to have this bill brought before the Legislature, passed and signed by the governor.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

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

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

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

Short sales

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

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

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

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH

BREAKFAST

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

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

Details: French toast, ham, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: 734-425-4421

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: 3-5 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Location: InsideOut Church, 1075 Venoy, Garden City

Details: The event will include carnival games, photos with the Easter Bunny, Easter candy and chances to win a prize package worth \$100, for families with children, fifth grade and younger

Contact: 734-983-8376

EASTER FUN

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

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, 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 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: 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13

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

Details: Children will hunt for plastic eggs filled with small, wrapped candy. There will also be cookie decorating and crafts. Free.

Contact: 734-422-6038

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

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

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

Location: Rosedale Gardens

Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

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

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

FISH FRY

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

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

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

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200

GRIEF SHARE

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

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

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

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

JEWS FOR JESUS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16

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

Details: Alexander Adelson presents "Christ in the Passover." Free will offerings will be accepted

Contact: 734-459-3333

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

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

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

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

Contact: 248-626-2515, ext. 117

LIVING TRUST

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

Location: Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia

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

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

PILGRIMAGE

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Time/Date: Registration deadline is March 23

Location: Turn in registrations at St. Raphael, 31500 Beechwood, Garden City

Details: Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Regional School is accepting registration for pre-school through eighth grade. Registration forms are available at St. Raphael and St. Genevieve School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Contact: 734-425-4420; divine-mercyregionalschoolinfo@gmail.com

SOUP SUPPER, SPEAKER

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

Location: Resurrection Catholic Parish, 48755 Warren Road, Canton

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

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

SPRING CARNIVAL, SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

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

Location: Concordia Lutheran School, 9500 Levee, Redford

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

Contact: 313-937-2233; concordials.org

SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE

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

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, 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

VESPERS

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

Location: St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, March 20; St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen Road, Southfield, March 27; Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

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

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

WHY BE CATHOLIC?

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

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

Details: Kim Steelman tells her personal story about moving from a life shaken to its core by abuse and widowhood to a new life founded on the teachings and social justice doctrine of the Catholic Church

Contact: livoniastmichael.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 22

Location: AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: Movie and lunch at Bahama Breeze. RSVP by March 20

Contact: Elaine at 734-717-0303

APRIL

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMuera, Farmington Hills

Details: Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected

Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityfarmingtonhills.org

DEVOTIONS, SWIECONKA

Time/Date: Starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 12:30 p.m. Mass, 1:20 p.m. exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 1:45-3 p.m. silent adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 p.m. praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a spiritual talk, 3:30 p.m. benediction; followed by Swieconka Polish Easter meal at 4 p.m. Menu includes ham, kielbasa, potato salad, blessed hard-boiled eggs, beet horseradish, rye bread, butter lambs, salad, babka, lazy perogi, beets, cheesecake and beverages. Cost is \$15 per person. Meals must be paid in advance. Send a check or money order payable to

WSDPAHS, to Laurie A. Gommulka, 32040 Grand River Ave., Unit #47, Farmington, MI 48336. Include number of attendees. Must be received by March 26. Sponsored by the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society

Contact: 855-POLONIA; detroit-polonia.org

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

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

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

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

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

Faith Community Wesleyan

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

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

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

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

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

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

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

formation, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

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

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

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

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

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mideathnotices.com

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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 Julie Petschler-Dauzet. Dear 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 was held at Michigan Memorial Park. To share memories, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

FOX



REV. CHARLES FOX, JR. Age 85. March 5, 2016. Loving husband of Barbara Fox. Cherished father of Brenda (Eric) Lampela, Mark Fox, and Bethany (Curtis) Kalina. Dearest grandfather to seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Visitation was Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 4-8 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 block W. of Farmington Rd.). Funeral service was on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 11 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48335. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. John Lutheran Church Music Program.

www.thayer-rock.com

May you
find comfort
in family
and friends

GUNN



RICHARD LEE Age 92, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on March 6, 2016. Beloved husband of Lorna for 68 years. Loving father of Judy (Terry Boyar) Gunn, Sharon (Patrick) Davis, Brenda (Harry) Ganas, Charlotte (Tom) Leffler and Beverly (Mark) Vines. Dear grandfather of 15 and great grandfather of 5. Richard was a WWII Army Air Force Veteran, serving as a pilot in the 494th Bomb Group, 864th Squadron, in the South Pacific for 41 missions. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Thursday from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Celebration service at 7 p.m. concluding with honor service and taps. Memorials may be directed to Cedar Campus, P.O. Box 425, Cedarville, MI 49719. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com

KAPPEN



HELEN March 5, 2016. Age 77 of Livonia. Loving wife of Orville. Dear mother of Karen (Joe Chase) Kappen, Kathleen (Mike) Vaughn, Kurt (Noelle), and Kari (Roger) Berrey. Sister to John (Kay) Sterbling and Nancy (Tom) George. Also survived by nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Visitation Friday at 10 a.m. from Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 6 Mile Road (W. of Haggerty) until time of Service at 1 p.m. Care and services entrusted to L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 734-522-6200. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com.

MCLEAN



NORMAN age 87 formerly of South Lyon and Dearborn. Cherished husband of the late Virginia. Loving father of Michael (Monica), Thomas (Kerry) and Jerry (Lori). Proud grandpa of eight and great-grandpa of four. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Funeral Mass was held Wednesday. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. Please visit online guestbook

fredwoodfuneralhome.com



Your Invitation to Worship

Dialing in a passion for coffee



Dan Dean

CAMERAS
& COFFEE

The aroma of fresh ground coffee, the whirling buzz of a grinder, the swooshing sound of steaming milk ... ah. The familiar sights, sounds and smells of the local coffee shop? Not anymore. Welcome to my house.

There is plenty written about brewing espresso at home. And most of those doing the writing will tell you it is expensive and difficult to achieve this elusive elixir anywhere other than a fancy third-wave, hipster-loving coffee shop. I was in agreement before.

That is, until I recently discovered a couple of buddies from an online running community, who also happen to be self-acclaimed coffee geeks. Both also own home espresso machines. Neither one paid anywhere near the \$1,000 I had thought was required to achieve success at home. I had my doubts. I freely admit I am a true snob when it comes to espresso. I take only a smidgen of milk (macchiato), if any, no sugar or any flavoring. If you are going to serve me espresso, well, it damn well better taste really good.

Seeing is believing

I had to give one of these machines a try, so we set up an in-home coffee play date (seriously, what else can you call it?). With his eBay-found \$200 Gaggia Classic in tow, Steve arrived and, within minutes, we had brewed a tasty shot of espresso. Here in my basement, with an inexpensive home espresso machine, we brewed a better espresso than what is served at most coffee shops – at least franchise giants and independents not served by bow-tie and vest-wearing geeks. I was amazed. This machine new is only about \$380 and is made with some pretty hefty components usually found in commercial machines.

I prepared for the arrival of my own Gaggia Classic found in the Amazon warehouse site by rearranging the basement counter. I polished and I cleaned. I found a new home for the Chemex and found a new spot for the Hario ceramic dripper. I put the AeroPress on display and dug out the old La Pavoni espresso grinder from storage. I was like a collector waiting to add the final piece to a long-sought collection. Oh, I also roasted three pounds of coffee, but that is another column – stay tuned.

When my Gaggia Classic finally arrived, I was in coffee-geek heaven. While I prefer sweatpants over skinny jeans, and slippers instead of Converse sneakers, I did weigh beans by the gram. I adjusted the grind and tamp pressure. I timed and weighed each shot, taking notes. I tasted sour shots and flat shots. Shots that dripped a couple of grams and shots that gushed way too fast. I tasted them all. And it wasn't too long before I was hitting a sweet spot that I liked.

The journey continues

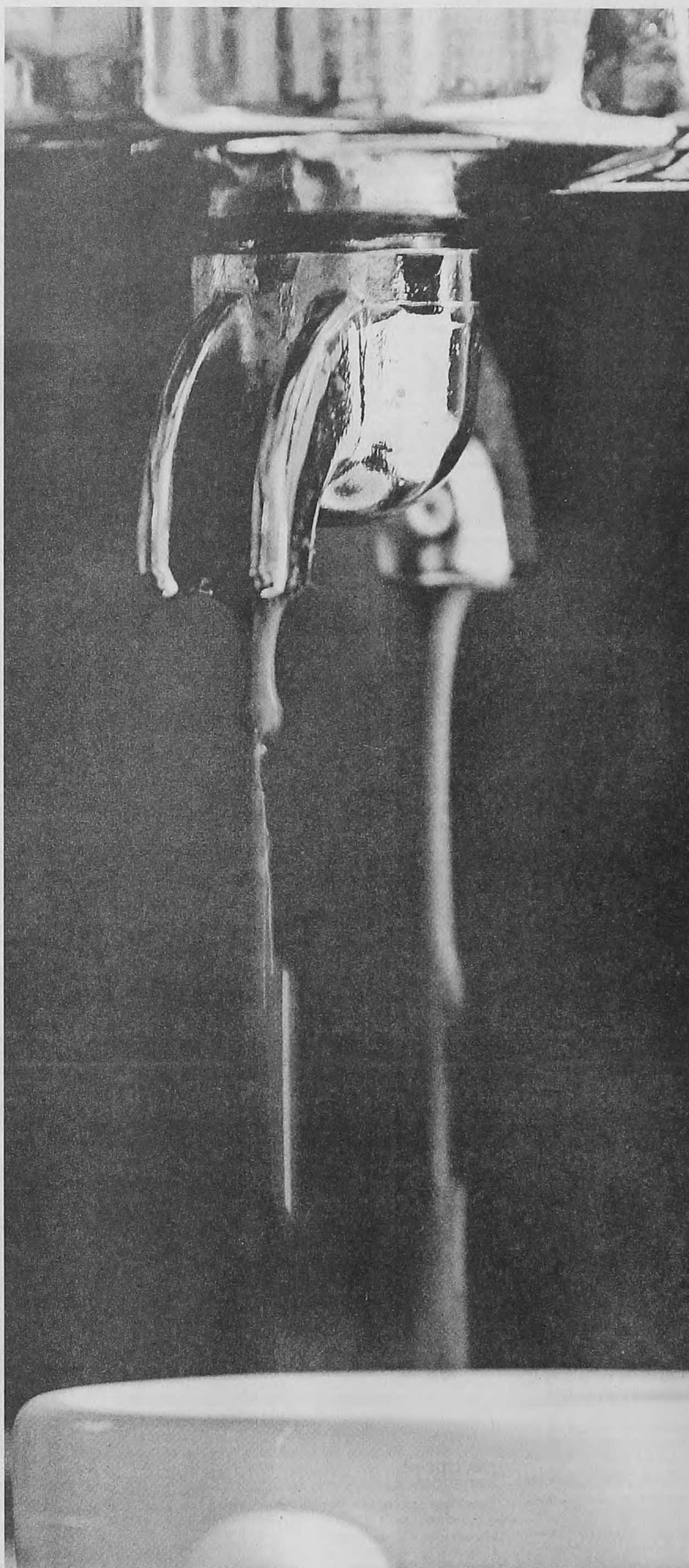
This was definitely a hallelujah moment in my coffee journey.

Is the machine perfect? No. At this price range, steaming milk and brewing have to be done separately. But the machine quickly heated up to steaming temperature. The supplied "Panarello" milk frother does not do milk justice and really needs to be replaced with a Rancilio Silvia steam wand. There are plenty of discussions online about how to do this. For me, steaming milk is of little concern, except I will need to be able to do so for friends and family.

For one who works mostly from home, having the ability to walk a few steps and brew a shot of espresso – one that is arguably better than I can get at all but the best third-wave shops – makes sitting in front of this computer at all hours of the day just that much more rewarding.

My coffee journey is dialed into a new milestone, but in no way is complete.

Dan Dean is assistant managing editor, former staff photographer and coffee shop owner. He is a devoted geek of the bean and lens. He can be reached at ddean@hometownlife.com.

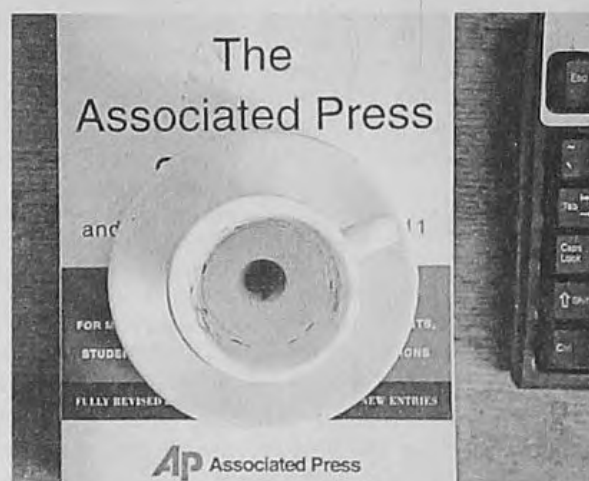


Espresso brewing on the Gaggia Classic.

PHOTOS BY DAN DEAN



It did not take long to dial in a tasty espresso, here served with a little steamed almond milk.



A worn AP Stylebook doubles as a coaster.



A shiny new 58 mm tamper.

GEEK NOTES

The machine: Gaggia Classic, \$380 from various online retailers

The grinder: La Pavoni espresso grinder, but any quality burr coffee grinder will do. Various models and makes from \$80 and up.

The water: Brita Water Pitcher for removing chlorine taste from tap water.

Accessories: Nice 58 mm tamper, cleaning brush, 58 mm blind filter for back-flushing, Rancilio Silvia version 1 or 2 steam wand.

More information: gaggiausersgroup.com, sweetmarias.com, seattlecoffeegear.com and wholelattelove.com



Spent pucks of coffee after many attempts to dial in espresso on the new Gaggia Classic home espresso machine.

MILESTONES IN A COFFEE JOURNEY

- » Tasting fresh-roasted, freshly ground coffee for the first time.
- » Learning the story of coffee, how it grows on trees as cherries, and learning to appreciate the manual labor required to get coffee from the tree to cup.
- » Tasting great coffee directly sourced based on its quality.
- » Going from drinking coffee as a required caffeine fix to enjoying and appreciating nuances and flavors of different beans based on terroir aspects.
- » Dropping half & half.
- » Learning to brew quality sourced beans, freshly ground and weighed to specific parameters.
- » Learning to brew a good shot of espresso.
- » Buying a roaster and roasting quality coffee at home.
- » Buying a home espresso machine and brewing espresso with home-roasted beans.



The Gaggia Classic does an admirable job of brewing espresso for a machine costing less than \$400, even if its ability to steam milk is limited with the supplied "Panarello" milk frother.

Milford entrepreneur offers 'Abundance' to community

Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

Linda Skemp believes good bread begins with wholesome, natural ingredients that grow from the ground up.

A Village of Milford resident, Skemp founded Abundance Breads out of her home kitchen after deciding it was time to break away from a long

career in business.

On Saturday, March 12, she'll be at Acorn Farm – the popular kitchen and gift store in downtown Milford where it all began – offering several varieties of her bread for sampling or purchase.

Beginnings

Abundance Breads got its start with an experimental

recipe – carrot quinoa bread – after Skemp attended an artisan bread-making demonstration at Acorn Farm in 2013.

"I just really connected with the method," she said, noting she was in a transitional period in her life at the time, but, while she'd long been thinking about starting her own business, wasn't actively pursuing specific entrepreneurial oppor-

tunities. "I'd never found a method of making bread that I really liked; other recipes I'd tried seemed more fussy. But after seeing the demo, I went home and tried a recipe or two."

The carrot quinoa bread, she explains, is based on a carrot salad recipe containing fresh organic carrots, along with organic red and black

quinoa, to provide a vegan source of complete protein and beta carotene.

"I got this crazy idea," she said. "What would happen if I put that in the bread?" So I tried it, and it was really good."

Today, Skemp offers 14 varieties of Abundance Breads, which she bills as

What's on the menu from Chef Oppat? Seafood

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you love coastal cuisine check out Andiamo corporate executive Chef Jim Oppat's recipe for Hazelnut Crusted Scottish Salmon with Tomato Pineapple Relish.

Don't feel like cooking? You'll find the dish on a limited-time menu of Italian-inspired seafood appetizers and entrees at Andiamo restaurants.

The special menu is available through March 26. Appetizers range from \$5.95-\$13 and include duck fat seared sea scallops with sweet corn coulis, Meyer lemon oil and braised greens; lump crab cakes crabmeat with sweet corn, tomato aioli and micro greens; and calamari fritti served with banana peppers and three dipping sauces.

Entrees range from \$26.95-\$54. In addition to the Scottish

salmon, the menu includes Georges Bank sea scallops, char-grilled Acadian red fish, pan-roasted fillet of open blue cobia, a half-pound of Canadian lobster tail, and a surf and turf selection with filet mignon and split lobster tail.

Oppat is a graduate of Schoolcraft College. He joined the Joe Vican Restaurant Group in 2007 at its Andiamo Dearborn location and two years later was promoted to corporate chef. In addition to daily operations, he has developed menus for many promotions and offsite catering events, including Detroit Grand Prix and created the Andiamo Lean, a gluten free, allergen free, low calorie menu.

For Andiamo restaurant locations and full menu, visit andiamoitalia.com

Here's Oppat's salmon recipe:

HAZELNUT CRUSTED SCOTTISH SALMON WITH TOMATO PINEAPPLE RELISH

Recipes courtesy of Andiamo Chef Jim Oppat. The item is featured on the Coastal Cuisine menu

Serves: 4

Hazelnut Crusted Scottish Salmon:
4 ounces of cooking oil
1½ pounds salmon
4 ounces ground hazelnuts
8 ounces wild mushrooms
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
8 ounces chicken stock
1 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons fresh basil chiffonade
2 tablespoons Italian parsley chopped
8 ounces acini de pepe pasta pre-cooked
2 teaspoons salt and pepper
8 ounces Tomato Relish
4 ounces arugula

Portion the salmon at 6 ounces. Season and dust with ground hazelnuts to sear until golden and crisp,



SUBMITTED

Hazelnut Crust Scottish Salmon served with wild mushroom-pasta ragu, tomato-pineapple relish and arugula slaw.

finish in oven until medium-medium well doneness.

In same hot pan, add the butter and wild mushrooms, cook until just tender. Add the chicken stock and the creme, herbs and salt/pepper. Cook until reduced.

Toss with the pre-cooked pepe pasta to make a ragu. Plate with mushroom-pasta ragu on bottom and top with the salmon fillet, garnish cross-wise with the pineapple relish tossed with arugula.

Tomato Pineapple Relish:
1 pound bulk tomatoes diced
½ pineapple diced
2 ounces lime juice juiced
1½ ounces fresh basil chiffonade
1 teaspoon cracked black pepper fresh milled
2 tablespoons Italian parsley
¼ cup olive oil
2 tablespoons basil pesto
salt and pepper to taste
honey to taste

Dice the tomatoes and place in large mixing bowl. Add the diced pineapple, lime juice, herbs and spices.

Add the liquids to form a relish and season as needed. Season the relish with salt and pepper and a small amount of honey if the pineapple is not real sweet or fully ripe. Toss with arugula just before serving, about 3:1 relish to arugula.

BREAD

Continued from Page B11

"unique specialty breads loaded with healthful and delicious ingredients."

While carrot quinoa is consistently her best seller, other popular selections include her zucchini Parmesan bread, made with zucchini with garlic, herbs and Parmesan, as well as the French onion bread, made with caramelized onion and Gruyere cheese combination.

"Everything in the soup is in the bread," she said. "It's like turning the soup inside out."

Other savory varieties of her dense, hearty breads include, for example, harvest, green goodness, pumpkin kalamata rosemary, lentil coconut curry and cucumber yogurt dill.

No matter the variety, Skemp says she uses Michigan-sourced organic non-GMO whole wheat flour, in addition to whole food ingredients – organic whenever possible – and no added sweeteners, eggs, milk or preservatives.

Breakfast bread-type selections include banana muesli, cherry millet and blueberry



LAURA COLVIN

Linda Skemp of Milford founded Abundance Breads in 2013.

cinnamon oatmeal.

Abundance

While she contemplated making the switch from the nine-to-five business world, Skemp knew whatever direction she chose had to be something she could connect with; something with a deeper, personal meaning. Something she could believe in.

When she started using wholesome ingredients to create recipes and make artisan breads, she found that connection, and Abundance Breads was born.

"After spending my whole career in business, it felt really good to get out of my head and do something with my hands," she said.

"I want to uplift and inspire

others to appreciate and share the abundance in their lives through the breaking of bread, noting every loaf includes a quote about abundance. "We tend to focus on obstacles and problems and all the stressful things going on and we forget to tap into abundance that's all around us."

As she began bringing her breads to local farmers markets early – she regularly appears at the Milford Farmers Market – Skemp found herself reaching out to educate customers about her product.

"A lot of people are afraid of bread," she said. "I want them to know they can eat it."

"I wanted to create something people can feel good about," she added. "Not only something that tastes good while you're eating it, but something you can feel good about later, knowing you ate something healthful."

Growing business

In the beginning, Skemp was working under cottage law out of her own home kitchen. As the business grew she began using the kitchen at a local church, but found the space wasn't quite meeting her needs.

Last year, she obtained a license and began working in a commercial kitchen, which allows her to distribute her breads to stores and shops. Beginning in mid-March, local residents can find Abundance Breads at Veggie Pails market in Highland.

She is also involved with FoodLab Detroit, a diverse group of local food business owners who support one another in the process of growing and improving our individual businesses.

Through the group, Skemp has endeavored to become a "triple bottom-line business," with a goal of sourcing ingredients locally, partnering and doing businesses with other like-minded businesses and co-marketing where mutually beneficial.

Currently, she is in the early stages of seeking out other distributors.

For more information about upcoming events or to place an order, contact Linda Skemp at abundancebreads@aol.com or follow Abundance Breads on Facebook.

lcovlin@hometownlife.com
48-390-7396 Twitter:
@MilfordReporter



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Two Muses Theatre stages Pulitzer Prize-winner play

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Diane Hill promises the new play she's directing at Two Muses Theatre will make you laugh a lot and cringe at least a little.

"You'll laugh, but it also will make you uncomfortable. It will give you a lot to talk about when you leave the theater," Hill said. "It's a good, intelligent script."

"The main character is in her 30s and talks directly to the audience, telling the story, 'how I learned to drive.' But you discover there's an inappropriate relationship. Her uncle falls in love with her and she kind of falls in love with him."

In "How I Learned to Drive," the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Paula Vogel, the main character, Li'l Bit, narrates her own memories. They include flashbacks to her teen years when she took driving lessons from Uncle Peck, with whom she also had an inappropriate relationship. Dani Cochrane of Detroit plays Li'l Bit and Dennis North of Grosse Pointe Farms is Uncle Peck in the Two Muses production, which runs April 1-17.

Quick changes

Sarah Burcon of Ann Arbor, Amy Morrissey of Northville and Melissa Beckwith of Ferndale portray the Greek chorus, with each taking on several characters, including Li'l Bit's dysfunctional family members and friends. Part of the humor is in watching the actresses change character.

"It's a one-act play and it goes quickly from one memory to another," Hill said. "I cast Uncle Peck and Li'l Bit with no auditions because I knew they two actors would be fantastic in the roles. Casting the Greek chorus was challenging because they have to play so many different roles. They don't change costumes. They change physicality and voices."

Hill plans to schedule a talk-back event after at least one of the performances to give audience members a chance to discuss the play and its subject matter. She believes the Li'l Bit character will resonate with audience members. "You see her uncle teaching



Uncle Peck (played by Dennis North of Grosse Pointe Farms) gives Li'l Bit (Dani Cochrane of Detroit) a driving lesson on the complicated road of life in Two Muses Theatre's production of "How I Learned to Drive."

her to drive and scenes at the kitchen table with her family talking about how she is developing too soon. She develops early. We were that girl or we remember that girl when we were in seventh or sixth grade," Hill said. "Examining how people treated her is part of this story."

New theater

"How I Learned to Drive" is Two Muses' first play in its new venue at Monster Box Theatre in Waterford. Midway through its fifth season at Barnes & Noble in West Bloomfield, the building owner terminated the book store's lease. The store closed at the end of December 2015 and Two Muses packed up at the end of its musical production in November 2015.

"It was hectic," Hill said. Monster Box Theatre offered space, which includes a much larger storage area than was available at the book store's theater. Hill hopes Two Muses will continue to draw its established audience, as well as new members from the Waterford area. Theater attendance went from 20-35 persons at each performance five years ago, to 100 or more the past few years.

Hill has returned money to a few season subscribers who decided not to follow Two Muses to its new location. The Monster Box Theatre is approximately 20 minutes north of the former Barnes & Noble site.

"I won't know until 'How I Learned to Drive' opens if this move will build more audience or if we'll be starting over," she said. "We had such great momentum. I don't want to start over."

Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday, for three weekends, April 1-17, at The Monster Box Theatre, 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road. The play is for mature audiences only. Advance general admission tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for students and senior citizens, 62 and over. Tickets are \$2 more at the door. Buy tickets at TwoMusesTheatre.org or call 248-850-9919.

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

GET OUT!

O'Malley's remodel raises the bar on entertainment offerings

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The recent remodel at O'Malley's - Supper, Spirits and Song Bar & Grill not only changed its look and menu, but raised the bar on entertainment offerings.

"We have been featuring music since before the remodel, but we've really kicked it up with a weekly Thursday night jazz event, open mic night on Wednesday and Saturday night blues on a semi-regular basis," said spokesman Mark Gaskill, in an email.

The Livonia restaurant was closed from mid-August and reopened Dec. 31, 2015. Since then the quantity and quality of shows has increased, according to Gaskill. He said the restaurant's mission is to bring "unique, high caliber artists of a wide variety of music styles" to the community. There's no cover charge for the performances.

The music schedule this month includes The RJ Spanner Quintet with blues and jazz at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, Jill Jack Band with Ameri-



Members of The Flutter & Wow will perform a Patsy Cline tribute, along with special guests, Saturday, March 12 at O'Malley's - Supper, Spirits & Song Bar & Grill. For more Get Out! visit www.hometownlife.com.

cana at 9 p.m. March 19, Zap Toro, a "world groove project," 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24, The Sugaree's, with folk, rock, roots and Americana, 9 p.m. Saturday, March 26 and Meri Slaven Quintet with jazz, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 31.

The St. Patrick's Day Celebration, beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 17, will feature John Latini from 9 a.m.-noon, Jill Jack Band from noon-3 p.m., Shamus Whiskey

Celtic Band, from 4-8 p.m., and Twistin' Tarantulas from 9 p.m.-midnight.

Three members — Tasha Lord, Chris Brantley and Ken Pesick — of The Flutter & Wow band will take the stage at 9 p.m. Saturday, March 12 with special guests, Jimmy DeHeno on dobro and banjo, and Danny Kimosh on drums, for a Patsy Cline tribute. The group also will play a mix of its original songs and classic and modern Americana.

Gaskill said the restaurant changed half of its menu, adding Irish food items, such as bangers and mash and Shepherd's Pie, and tripling the number of craft beers on tap.

"The restaurant was completely redone, we removed everything from the inside except the four walls. Brand new kitchen, seating, stage, state-of-the-art sound and video systems, new bathrooms, chilled keg taps and exterior façade."

For more information about upcoming performances at O'Malley's visit its Facebook page. O'Malley's is located at 15231 Farmington Road.

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

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

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

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

Bunnyville: Egg hunts, Jelly Bean Jamboree, games, whisker painting, photos with the Easter Bunny, "The Bunny Follies" musical, treats and zookeeper talks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 25-26. Visitors with canned or other non-perishable food donations for Gleaners Community Food Bank, will receive a reduced zoo admission price of \$9

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through April 8; reception 6-8 p.m. Friday, March 11

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Night and Day" exhibit features new work, including landscape and portraits of other local artists, by Taurus Burns

Contact: 248-473-1859

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL

Time/Date: Through April 22; artist talk is 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, March 14

Location: 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Works by local artists Pamela Alexander and Susan Warner

Contact: 248-473-1859

HERITAGE PARK STABLES STUDIO

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

Location: Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

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

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

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

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

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: 10th Annual Member Exhibition

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

U-M MUSEUM OF ART

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

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

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

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

FESTIVAL

CHINESE SPRING FESTIVAL

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

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

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

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org

IRISH FEST

Time/Date: 3 p.m., Thursday, March 17

Location: Hellenic Center, 36375 Joy, Westland

Details: 32nd annual St. Patrick's Day celebration includes Irish food, music, song, and dance with the Ardan School of Irish Dance, Detroit Square Dance Society, Highland Pipes, Eddie McGlinchey, Ray Maguire, members of the Conor O'Neill's Session Band, and Mick Gavin's Crossroads Ceili Band. Corned beef and cabbage dinners, Irish stew, hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for purchase. \$10 admission, kids 12 and under accompanied by parents enter free

Contact: 313-537-3489

FILM

MJR DIGITAL CINEMAS

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

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

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

Contact: mjrtheatres.com

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 11-12, 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 13, and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: "Concussion," \$3

Coming up: "Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens," 7 p.m. Friday, March 18 and Thursday-Friday, March 24-25, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 19-20, and Saturday, March 26

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

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