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CANTON
OBSERVER

SUNDAY 04.10.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Canton slashes its legacy costs

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Township has slashed its unfunded health care price tag by nearly 20 percent in just two years, as local officials tackle so-called legacy costs tied to employees and retirees.

Canton shed \$14.3 million in unfunded health care costs from 2012 to 2014, the latest figures show, pushing the township's obligations down to \$58.3 million from \$72.6 million.

That's less money taxpayers owe. "I'm pleased," Finance and Budget Director Wendy Trumbull said. "The

township has done a lot of work to try to control our costs and stop the bleeding at some point in time."

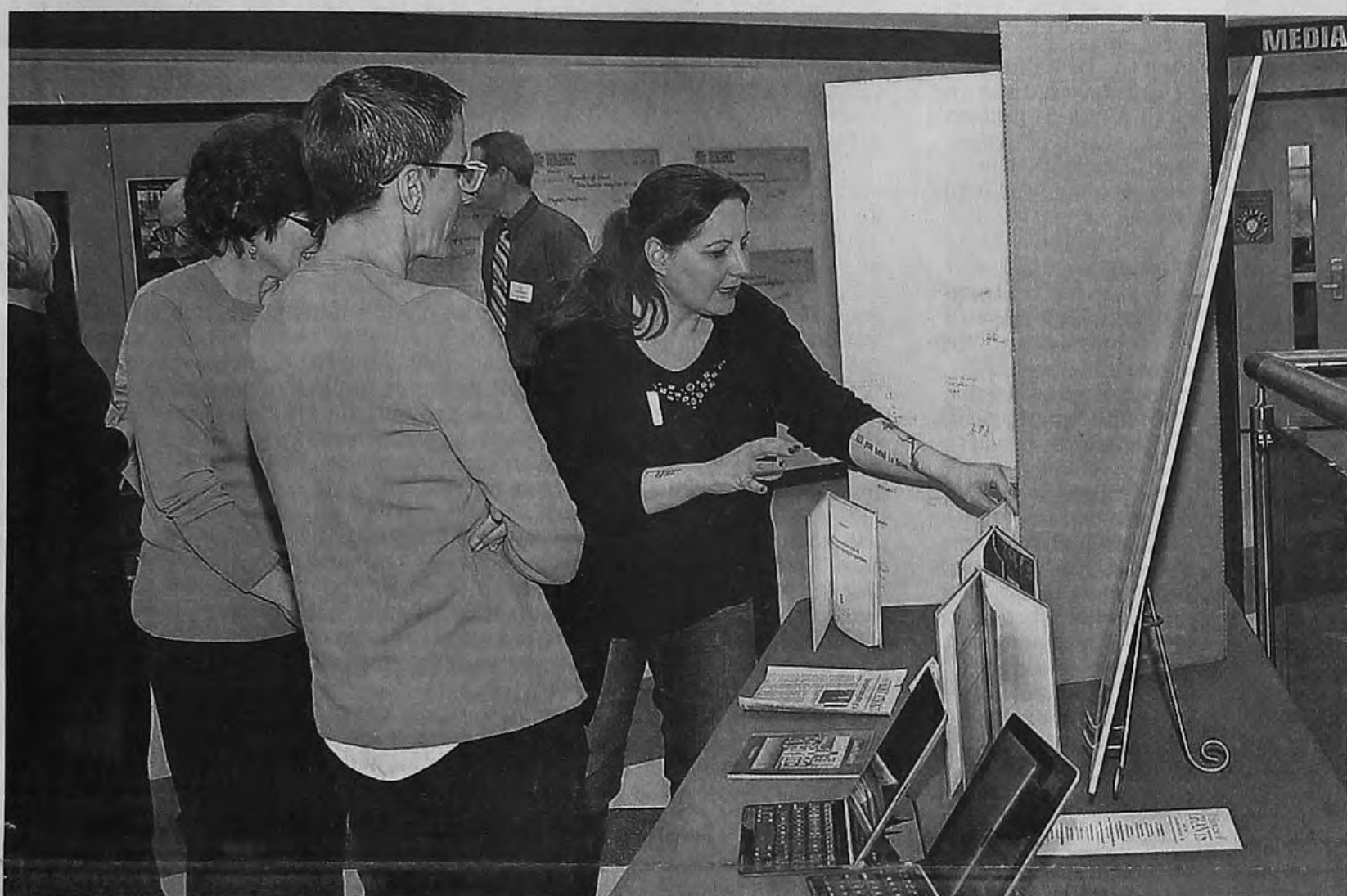
Consider:
» Canton changed the way it pays for health care, shifting to a self-funded option rather than a fully insured plan. That means Canton pays medical

costs for what employees actually incur, such as a hospital stay, rather than a flat amount for every worker, even those who don't get sick.

» Canton has increased employee cost-sharing for health care.

See LEGACY, Page A2

Showcasing innovation



Sheena Clark of Starkweather Academy demonstrates the Children's Book Project that EEF funding helped make happen.

KELLY DOBSON

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS LATEST CYCLE OF TEACHER GRANTS

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Starkweather Academy Principal Kevin Lane knows all about budget restrictions and what's unavailable to help teachers enhance their lessons with creativity.

"Teachers come to us all the time with great ideas," he said. "Instead of saying, 'No,' I can say, 'Write the grant.'"

Lane is referring to the grants awarded by the Plymouth-Canton Educational Excellence Foundation. The nonprofit that exists to provide additional financing and support to students provides three grant cycles during which teachers are awarded money for innovative projects.

Salem High School language teacher Kathy Rokakis held up a yellowed cassette recorder to show guests Thursday night at the EEF's Showcase of Grants the equipment of yesteryear that today's students continue to use. "You should see these techie kids try to use these," Rokakis said.

And that's if the old recorders are working.

Rokakis was awarded a grant Thursday that has allowed her to buy some digital voice recorders for her language students.

Meanwhile, Joline Valentine at the curriculum center in Field Elementary received a grant to buy more eBooks for students, while Kimberly DelProposto earned a grant to purchase ma-



KELLY DOBSON

Spanish teacher Pam Purcell and district Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt talk about the new games purchased with EFF funding to help students to learn and retain foreign language.

INSIDE

Plymouth-Canton EEF annual wine-tasting fundraiser on tap, A9

materials for students to learn about the 2016 election.

"Teachers apply for grants and we

award the grants," said Gretchen Ward, EEF executive director, adding that EEF board members can see their fundraising efforts come full-circle when grants are awarded.

Added Stephanie Goecke, EEF board president: "We are grateful to bring their ideas to fruition."

On Thursday, the EEF provided \$5,500 in grants and, last fall, \$20,000 in grants to teachers such as Derek Kendall, who teaches AP environmental science at Canton High School. With the grant he received, he created a program - Salmon in the Classroom - with the purchase of salmon eggs and the necessary equipment that has allowed students to follow the birth of salmon and the species' life cycle.

Salmon in the Classroom touched on a variety of environmental science topics, including climate change, habitat destruction, invasive species, nutrient cycling, erosion control and resource exploitation.

"I think the teachers are so darned creative," P-CCS Board of Education member Sheila Paton said, as she introduced chemistry teacher Scott Milam, who earned grants to work with his students on modeling.

"It's kind of a better way of teaching," Milam said.

Grants awarded Thursday include:

» Kathy Rokakis, Salem High

See GRANTS, Page A9

Fire chief tapped as public safety director

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Fire Chief Joshua Meier has made history by becoming the first fire official chosen to lead the Canton Public Safety Department, the umbrella over the police and fire departments.

"I'm very humbled and I definitely appreciate all the support I have received during my career," Meier, 40, said.

Meier rose through the ranks during his 18 years with the Canton Fire Department and was confirmed Thursday as township Supervisor Phil LaJoy's choice to become public safety director.

"He has done an incredible job (as fire chief)," LaJoy said, citing Meier's leadership skills.

Meier replaces departing Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler, who leaves April 30 for a job in Northville Township.

"Public safety is in good hands with Josh Meier at the helm," Mutchler said.

Meier was one of six candidates for the job following an internal search. A three-member panel narrowed the field to three and LaJoy picked Meier after he conducted interviews.

"It was a tough decision," LaJoy said. "I feel good about the decision."

Meier's salary has been set at \$127,846 a year, pending approval by the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Meier becomes the first fire official selected as director since Canton's police and fire departments - though separately staffed - became a nominally consolidated public safety department in 1987.

Meier becomes the fourth public safety director since then, following John Santomauro, Pat Nemecek and Mutchler - all of whom had backgrounds in police work. He will lead a department that has 83 sworn police officers and 65 firefighters, among other personnel. He also will oversee emergency management and ordinance units.

Township Trustee John Anthony, a retired FBI special agent, served on the three-member panel that conducted initial interviews with the candidates.

"Josh Meier is well-respected, he's intelligent, hard-working and will be around for a long time," Anthony said. "The public safety department is going to be in great hands for the foreseeable future."

Meier started his career in Canton as a dispatcher and rose to the highest job in the fire department. He said he will



Meier

See MEIER, Page A2



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MDOT to host I-275 construction public meeting

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Will motorists learn the start date for construction of one of the region's busiest freeways this Tuesday?

The Michigan Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting starting at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Davenport University, 19499 Victor Parkway in Livonia. That meeting will consist of an hour-

long presentation done by MDOT and will consist of displaying project locations, types of work, and detours. Information on the project's schedule is also expected to be shared, according to a notice sent by MDOT Thursday. A repeat of the same presentation will be given at 6 p.m.

The I-275 project will consist of major repairs along the freeway from Five Mile in Wayne Coun-

ty to the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange in Oakland County. The project will see the southbound lanes shut down for several months while crews work on them, followed by the northbound stretch, which will most likely begin in the middle of the summer.

The official shutdown date has not been announced and could be announced Tuesday. During a presentation to the

Livonia Chamber of Commerce last month, MDOT said the earliest the freeway could shut down was April 15.

Some preliminary work was scheduled to begin this weekend, with two lanes in both directions seeing closures over the weekend and at night. Eastbound Seven Mile will be closed over I-275 starting at 11 a.m. Monday for about a week. Those who exit at Seven

Mile from southbound I-275 will only be able to head westbound. Once the eastbound work is complete, westbound Seven Mile will then be closed in the same stretch.

Meadowbrook in Novi will be closed starting at 10 a.m. Monday for a week and a half, with traffic being detoured at 12 Mile and Grand River Avenue.

After Meadowbrook

reopens, Haggerty over I-96/I-696/I-275 will be closed from April 23 to May 1. Detours for that road will be posted.

The work will consist of the replacement and repair of pavement along the stretch of road, as well as repairs done to concrete shoulders.

For more information on the project, MDOT has set up a website, which can be reached at revive275.com.

MEIER

Continued from Page A1

work with Mutchler for a smooth transition and strengthen relationships — described as already strong — with the police department, including its command staff.

"There's always going

to be a learning curve in anything we do in life," he said, adding that he will tap into the expertise of other leaders, including "two great deputy police chiefs," Scott Hilden and Debra Newsome.

Meier foresees a lengthy career as public safety director, saying he has "a long time left here

in Canton."

He grew up in Canton and is a graduate of what was then Plymouth Salem High School. He and wife Lisa have two sons, Jacob, 12, and Joseph, 9.

Meier said he doesn't expect to make sweeping changes in his new role.

"The foundation has been set for the Canton Public Safety Depart-

ment," he said, "and I don't expect to make any radical changes. We will focus on continuing to strive to make public safety even better in Canton Township."

Canton Public Safety has consistently received high marks from residents, based on past surveys conducted by outside consultants.

Canton Human Resources Kerreen Conley served with Anthony and Santomauro on the panel that interviewed applicants for the director's position. She just started her job in mid-March.

"I came in with a fresh set of eyes," she said, "and Canton has some very talented employees with really good

experience."

She said the process for replacing Meier as fire chief hasn't been decided. Township officials will meet with the Canton Merit Commission to develop the process.

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CANTON OBSERVER

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LEGACY

Continued from Page A1

» Since 2012, the Canton Township Board of Trustees has set aside about \$1 million a year toward retiree health care, further chipping away at legacy costs.

» Employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013, will no longer have taxpayer-funded health care when they retire. Rather, they receive \$50 every two-week pay period now and will be on their own.

Canton has 326 employees and 159 retirees who factor into health care costs. They are generally living longer than past generations and, therefore, the township's costs have increased over time.

Officials say careful budgeting and employee concessions during contract talks have

helped to reduce health care legacy costs. New projections indicate those legacy costs could peak by 2023 — in just seven years — allowing Canton to slowly close the gap between what it owes and what it can afford to pay.

"It's a move in the right direction and it could not have happened without the help of everybody on the team," township Trustee Pat Williams said, adding later, "We want to move forward as much as possible without jeopardizing the delivery of services."

Canton's unfunded price tag for pensions is significantly less than the health care tab. Of a total \$106 million price tag for pensions, \$31 million is unfunded, Trumbull said.

To combat pension costs, Canton has reduced the multiplier — or formula — it uses to calculate employee

pensions, a move intended to save money.

And while the state Municipal Employees Retirement System, or MERS, would prefer Canton and other communities be fully funded for pensions, Trumbull said Canton is positioned where it needs to be, by law, on its pension obligations.

To tackle health care and pension legacy costs, township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and his administrative team years ago began drafting a long-range budget plan that projected revenue and expenses for several years out. That, he said, has paid off.

"It was a job well done by everyone in the (Canton Township) organization," LaJoy said. "We have taken steps to try to relieve the problem. We are continuing to try to find ways to get at those legacy costs. We've all been

pulling together."

Amid the last recession, LaJoy had said Canton could have faced a "catastrophe" if officials and employees hadn't taken steps to reduce expenses. The township board also imposed two public safety taxes totaling 3.25 mills within a four-year period, most recently a 1.75-mill tax in 2014 that cost the owner of a \$200,000 home an additional \$190 a year.

Officials called it necessary to avert a potential deficit of \$15 million or more.

Going forward, officials say Canton has put into place policies that will allow the township to continue to close the gap on legacy costs. The problem wasn't created overnight, officials say, and its solution will not come quickly.

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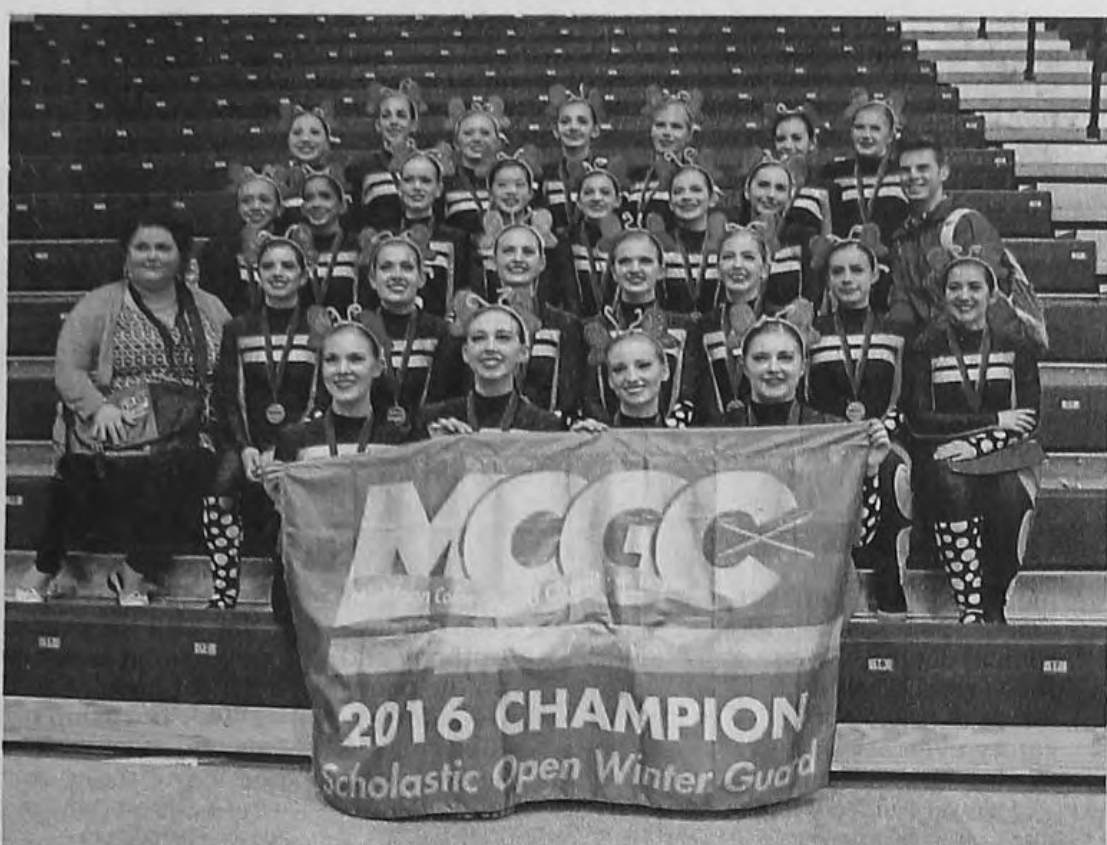
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Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard wins state championship



Dawn Pyko
Correspondent

The Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard took the top score at the state championships last weekend.

Seventy-five color guards from across Michigan gathered to compete in five distinct classes. Plymouth-Canton ranked first in the most challenging class – Open Class Scholastic competition. The team executed a beautiful performance of its show, “Flight of the Monarch,” and scored 78.15 points, followed by Jenison High School with 75.55, Reeths-Puffer High School with 74.20 and Walled Lake Central with 71.55.

The Michigan Color Guard Circuit also presented scholarships. This year, the Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard had three recipients of the prestigious awards. Enya Chen, Gina Dossantos and Hailey Deptula each received a scholarship to

provide the opportunity to develop their technical skills. Several members of the guard will travel to summer camps in Michigan and Indiana, allowing them to focus on mastering technique and improving on a variety of different equipment, including flag, rifle and saber.

P-C director Rachel Nelson and her staff are incredibly proud of the team’s accomplishments. Rory Duffey and Lucas Schmidt have been coaching, along with Nelson, all season and were thrilled with the team’s performance.

“To say I’m proud of the members is an understatement,” Nelson said. “To see their growth over the past four months

is the best part of teaching; it’s extremely rewarding! The girls are right on track to deliver their best performance to date at WGI (World Guard International) World Finals this week. Now all they need to do is stay focused, determined and believe in themselves.”

The team will board the bus April 6 for the trip to the World Finals in Dayton Ohio. Members have worked hard and have high expectations; they hope to wrap up the season with a strong preliminary performance, qualifying them for semifinals. Their dream is to represent P-CEP and their community in finals competition Saturday, April 9.

The winning Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard includes (front row, from left) Christina Christenson, Amelia Brave, Madeleine Hoke and Jenna Craven; (second row, from left) director Rachel Nelson, Sydney St. John, Alaura VanNest, Anna Berry, Catherine Christenson, Lauren Garvey, Tori Row and Gina Dossantos (third row, from left) Hunter Martin, Prairna Pannu, Allison Mattson, Enya Chen, Francesca Mitrano, Autumn Short, Hailey Deptula and Lucas Schmidt; and (fourth row, from left) Rori Kennedy, Madison Rosol, Lauren Wegrzyn, Kaleigh Pyko, Sophia Aneshansel, Grace Chinitz and Amanda vanRuiten.

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P-CEP Winter Drumline captures first place

The P-CEP Winter Drumline took first-place April 3 in the state Percussion Scholastic Open.

The drumline competed against 32 percussion ensembles from across Michigan. The drumline competed in eight categories. Plymouth-Canton scored 85.40 points, with Lake Orion taking second place with a score of 84.38.

Their drumline’s show, “Heavy Metal,” uses the music of Igor Stravinsky and Metallica. Stravinsky is one of the most important 20th century Russian orchestral composers. He has also been named as a large influence on today’s heavy metal music.

The show begins as though members are



The P-CEP Winter Drumline includes (bottom row, from left) Armando Saucedo, Sarah LaDuke, Rachel Elliott, Matt Rich, Jess Shoemake, Jessica Sivic, Chrissy McMaster and Heidi Daugherty and (top row, from left) Kyle Dandurand, Colin Hoffman, Evan King, Jack Flood, Nathan Rodwell, Sam Peterson, Marshall Rhea, Austin Luttermoser, Westin Fields, Joe Diacovo and James Sparling.

attending an orchestra concert. As the team moves through the show, members begin to over-

lap heavy metal music with the orchestral music of Stravinsky. This continues until they end the

show at a heavy metal concert reminiscent of Metallica.

Sparling is assisted by his staff, including Meredith Bailey, Noah Bellamy, Amanda Watson, Kevin Howard, Katie Hanka, Timon Sherman, Jackson Hammond, Matt Poulos, Jack Roberts, Beth Sample, Robyn Hagle, Justin Easley, Domenic Santini, Ross Taylor and Tyler Lindemier.

The P-CEP drumline was confident going into the state finals and had come off of four days of rehearsal and two performances. It won the regional championship in Dayton in February.

The 18-member team will attend the world finals April 14-16 in Ohio.

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By Sam Potter
Health
Correspondent

Special Observer & Eccentric Reader Offer Local doctor brings THE Jaw Pain Solution to Livonia

As many as 30% of people will suffer with jaw pain at some point of their life. While the condition itself usually isn’t serious or “life threatening” the symptoms which often include significant pain in the face and head as well as the jaw itself, popping or clicking when chewing or speaking and difficulty eating really can seriously affect your quality of life.

If you’ve ever had jaw pain you may have sought professional advice and you may have heard that the actual cause is called TMJD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the frustrating thing is that while it is an easily diagnosed condition most professionals are poorly educated about how to cure the problem and it can take months to get better by itself. In severe cases, you may not be able to eat solid food in that time period.

It’s doubly frustrating because you look absolutely normal and healthy to anyone that looks at you, but it can be a very debilitating and embarrassing condition leaving you to order soups and soft foods when you go out with friends..!

When my husband suffered with the condition we found it very difficult in getting the right treatment because it is generally not fully understood why people get TMJD. We did a lot of research and saw many “experts” but most of their advice seemed to be totally useless for my husband, it just didn’t get him better..

However, eventually after weeks of suffering we happened across an expert in TMJD that seemed to genuinely know what he was talking about. He assured us that with appropriate diagnostic testing and treatment it was possible to shorten the period of disability and pain significantly.

But for most people, all too often, the standard clinical tests ignore a vital potential cause of TMJD and the real cause of the problem may never be uncovered.

The consequence of being left with a non-specific diagnosis for TMJD is that you’re left to struggle back to health painfully and very slowly...

With so many people, suffering from this debilitating condition, it is vital that we find the best solution; and this is where it can start to get complicated because TMJD can be caused by so many different things. It could be one of the tendons of the jaw muscles, damage to the cartilage or capsule of the joint, problems with the closely related nerves of the neck, even problems with the cranial bones surrounding the TMJ and a number of other things...

Perhaps most importantly it could be as a result of a problem that has developed with your cervical (neck) nerves. These nerves are very vulnerable and when something has gone wrong with the upper cervical nerves they usually also affect the

function of the jaw leading to TMJD.

This is the potential problem that is so poorly understood that it often remains completely undiagnosed as the cause of TMJD even in cases where it is the sole cause. The key to solving TMJD quickly is to either rule out or confirm nerve damage as primary or secondary cause; if not, you are going to be wasting a lot of your time waiting for it to heal.

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Kramer Chiropractic is your nearby specialist in determining functional problems of the jaw. Their team of specialists use a combination of advanced analysis of the neck and jaw and a protocol for resolving your jaw pain that is unique to the Livonia - Farmington area. With it, they can diagnose what is causing your jaw problems and find you the very best approach for ending the suffering.

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After years of seeing a need for a better solution to solving to TMJD, Dr. Kramer has learned a unique, world leading program of natural treatment that provides safe, long-term relief. This is not about treating symptoms the way injections or drugs do.

Dr. Kramer will determine what is the source of your jaw problem. Then he and his team will carefully reconstruct the damaged area – all without

surgery, injections, or drugs!

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Over the years, he’s treated dozens of patients with jaw problems. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who’ve suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and get a full and thorough evaluation of your jaw and neck nerves for just \$39, the normal cost of such an exam is \$190 so you will save!

Don’t suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your jaw problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now on 248-615-1533 and cut out or tear off this valuable article now and take it to your appointment. You’ll be entitled to a comprehensive evaluation to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you’ll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don’t delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answering machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don’t pick up right away do leave a message. For obvious

reasons they can’t help everyone at this reduced price, so please call soon to secure your special opportunity.

Call 248-615-1533 NOW and leave a message if it’s the weekend or the line is busy - they promise they will get back to you as soon as they can. So call now at 248-615-1533 and quote this special discount code: TC37TMJD1

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Doctor Greg Kramer DC says: “After 20 years of practice and seeing 1000s of patients, I hadn’t found a satisfactory way to deal with TMJD. So I searched out and found the best doctors around the world and learned their system for helping TMJD. In my clinical experience there is nothing better than the protocols I have learned for taking care of the jaw pain caused by TMJD.”

P-CEP choir, Festival Singers perform in Italy

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

After months of preparing and practicing complex music, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's 2015-16 Festival Singers visited and performed in Italy during spring break, March 25 through April 1.

"From the day I got there until the day I left, it felt like a dream," Plymouth senior Mackenzie Grosse said.

Over the course of the week, the choir performed four times, three of which were at Mass, including one Easter Sunday.

Of the four performances, director of choirs Jennifer Neumann said that many would agree the "highlight" and "pinnacle" took place that Tuesday, during a mass at St. Peter's Basilica, where Grosse added there was not a "dry eye in the room."

"The students performed with such soul and heart there," Neumann said. "Every-

thing just connected, both musically and educationally. It was a very emotional experience for everyone."

Canton sophomore Connor Wright agreed: "That was the point where we all realized how lucky we were. Beforehand, I guess we didn't really realize how special the experience was, but that was the moment it just hit us."

Of the 87 who traveled, 50 were adults.

"What truly impressed me was how well the performers conducted themselves," parent chaperone Amy Rhode said. "They were respectful, attentive and, at times, deeply moved by the beautiful art, history and faith represented in the locations we visited and performed. Strangers from all over the world asked to have pictures taken with them and were taking videos of their performances. It was truly a global experience!"

Neumann said she is grateful for all of the chaperones



P-CEP's 2015-16 Festival Singers performed four times in Italy during spring break.

and visiting relatives, since they became the students' own "fan club."

"Students realized that it was not just me, their teacher, who supported them, but also that they had all this other

adult support," Neumann said.

Next school year, all choirs, composed of all four grades, will be going to Cedar Point, Neumann said her goal for the following year, though, will be Austria.

"There is just so much musical history there and it's Mozart's birthplace," Neumann said.

dnalexander@hometownlife.com
248-860-4183

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Name: Sheila Weber
School/department: Liberty Middle School counseling and Plymouth High School athletics

Position: Counselor, volleyball coach

Name of nominator: Kyle Meteyer
Quote from nominator: "Sheila is a fantastic educator who teaches, advises and helps our students from both an academic and athletic standpoint. She is a real go-getter and we are proud to have her as a counselor and coach in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools."



Weber

I am currently reading: "The Caleb Years" by David Ingerson.

The last movie/show I saw in the theater was: I went to see "Sisters" (but not my choice). I really want to see "The Revenant."

In my spare time, I like to: Run, play volleyball, shop and spend time with my family.

The hardest part of my job is: Knowing I can't always change the circumstances for a student.

What motivates you: Living healthy and honestly, giving my best effort, standing up for what is right and helping kids be their best.

The best part of my job is: Working with kids everyday.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Earned scholarship

Allison Lennig of Plymouth High School was one of seven recipients of the Zeal Credit Union's scholarship program. She received the \$500 William Allen Scholarship.

Zeal Credit Union recently announced recipients of the credit union's scholarship program. Scholarships totaling \$14,000 were awarded to seven 2016 graduating high school seniors in metro Detroit. Now in its 22nd year, the scholarship program honors longtime credit union volunteers and recognizes outstanding students who are Zeal Credit Union members. Nearly \$220,000 has been awarded since the program began.

Scholarship recipients and their parents were honored at Zeal Credit Union's 61st annual



Anthony Carnarvon, president and CEO of Zeal Credit Union, congratulates 2016 scholarship recipients (from left) Hannah Schwartz, Samantha Sievers, Ashley Cavagnetto, Isabelle Rosales, Allison Lennig and Anna Brown.

membership meeting in March.
Phillips Exeter Academy

Canton resident Sarah M. Liberatore, ninth grade, earned honors for the winter 2016 term.

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Domestic violence victims to get gift-filled purses

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Staci Reynolds was on Facebook when she found a simple way to help women living in domestic violence shelters — collect gift-filled purses for them.

She and daughter Rebecca, 16, are doing just that.

Reynolds, systems administrator for the Canton Public Safety Department, stumbled upon a Facebook group organizing the Mother's Day Purse Project. It is named after Carol Atkins, who died in 2013 after she helped start a domestic violence shelter in Manistee.

The goal is to turn the purses over to domestic violence shelters, where children can give them as gifts to their mothers on Mother's Day.

"I thought it was a unique volunteer project," Reynolds said. "I know these women are walking into these domestic violence shelters with nothing."

Reynolds and her daughter, involved for her National Honor Society project, have collected about 20 purses. They hope to collect as many as possible by April 24.

They are asking for gently used purses filled with items such as toothpaste, lotion, perfume, hairbrushes and shampoo. They also ask that gift-filled purses be placed in gift bags with tissue paper.

"Some people are buying new purses, but that's totally not necessary," Reynolds said.

She said anyone wishing to help may take the gift-filled purses at any hour to the front desk of the Canton Public Safety Department, 1150 S. Canton Center.

Jill Popovich, who works as a community response survivor advocate for First Step, which helps victims of domestic violence, said the small token of a gift-filled purse can send a strong message.

"Victims of domestic violence aren't used to getting things without strings attached," Popovich said. "When people give something just because they want to support victims of domestic violence and their children, that is a totally different feeling for some women. It's a whole new concept for them."

Popovich works out of the Canton police station to help victims of domestic violence.

"Women who are victims of domestic violence feel very isolated," she said. "They don't believe that other women are going through a similar thing. When they go to a shelter, then they start to understand that they are part of a bigger problem. Only then do they understand that they are not alone."

And when they receive gifts from complete strangers, she said, they are moved by it.



Rebecca and Staci Reynolds are collecting purses to help victims of domestic violence.

"It's just a very rewarding experience, this generosity of strangers," Popovich said.

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Gift-filled purses have been placed in gift bags for victims of domestic violence.

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PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting April 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

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Publish: April 10, 2016 LO-000275788 2x3

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Pathfinder solid choice for crossover SUV; find one at Nissan of Canton

Cars.com Staff

With its stylish cabin and respectable fuel economy ratings, the 2016 Nissan Pathfinder is a solid choice for a seven-passenger crossover SUV. You can check out the available models at Nissan of Canton located at 42175 Michigan Ave., just west of I-275.

Vehicle overview

The Nissan Pathfinder was redesigned for 2013 and switched to a unibody platform from a body-on-frame design to improve gas mileage and driving refinement. The seven-seat Pathfinder is powered by a 3.5-liter V-6 engine and comes with front- or four-wheel drive.

New for 2016

A Cold Package with heated cloth front seats, a heated steering wheel and heated side mirrors is optional for the SV trim level. The SL model gains a heated steering wheel.

Significant standard features

- » 260-horsepower, 3.5-liter V-6 engine
- » Continuously variable automatic transmission
- » Seats up to seven in three rows
- » 60/40-split second row with tip-up seats
- » Keyless entry and push-button start
- » Tri-zone automatic air conditioning
- » Easy-Fill Tire Alert system alerts driver when correct air pressure is achieved
- » Three-row side curtain airbags
- » Required in every new car: front airbags, anti-lock brakes and an electronic stability system



Nissan Pathfinder seats up to seven in three rows.



Available options include rear entertainment system with two 7-inch screens.

Significant available features

- » Front- or four-wheel drive
- » Power liftgate
- » Dual-panel moonroof
- » Leather seats
- » Heated and cooled front seats
- » Rear entertainment system with two 7-inch screens
- » Navigation system
- » Backup camera
- » Surround-view camera system
- » Blind spot warning system with rear cross-traffic alert



The Nissan Pathfinder features 60/40-split second row with tip-up seats.

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LO-988827165

Park Players Theatre stages drama 'The Library'

The Park Players Theatre Co. presents the drama "The Library" at 7 p.m. April 15-16 and 22-23 in the Canton High School DuBois Theater. Tickets are \$10.

"The Library," partly inspired by the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School, is about the aftermath of a high school shooting. This play doesn't make the mistake of trying to find clear motivations for that crime. Instead, it considers how such events warp and contaminate those who survive them.

The culprit, in this regard, is no deranged assassin. It's a media-driven culture that searches for instant heroes, while turning tragedy into profit as fast as it can. The show isn't concerned with the tragedy itself, but with the stories people tell afterward, from he said/she said

testimonies to the search for perfect victims.

"The Library" also doesn't consider that the murderer purchased his weapons at a garage sale and a Walmart store. It lacks interest in stirring debate about the ready availability of guns or the root causes of senseless violence. It focuses on the impact of such events and the conflicts that can arise among those who endure them.

Regrettably, school shootings are a modern-day phenomenon. The author, Scott Z. Burns, is brave in showing how disaster brings out the pettiness in people, in addition to more heroic traits. The play questions the facile abuse of words like "healing" and "closure."

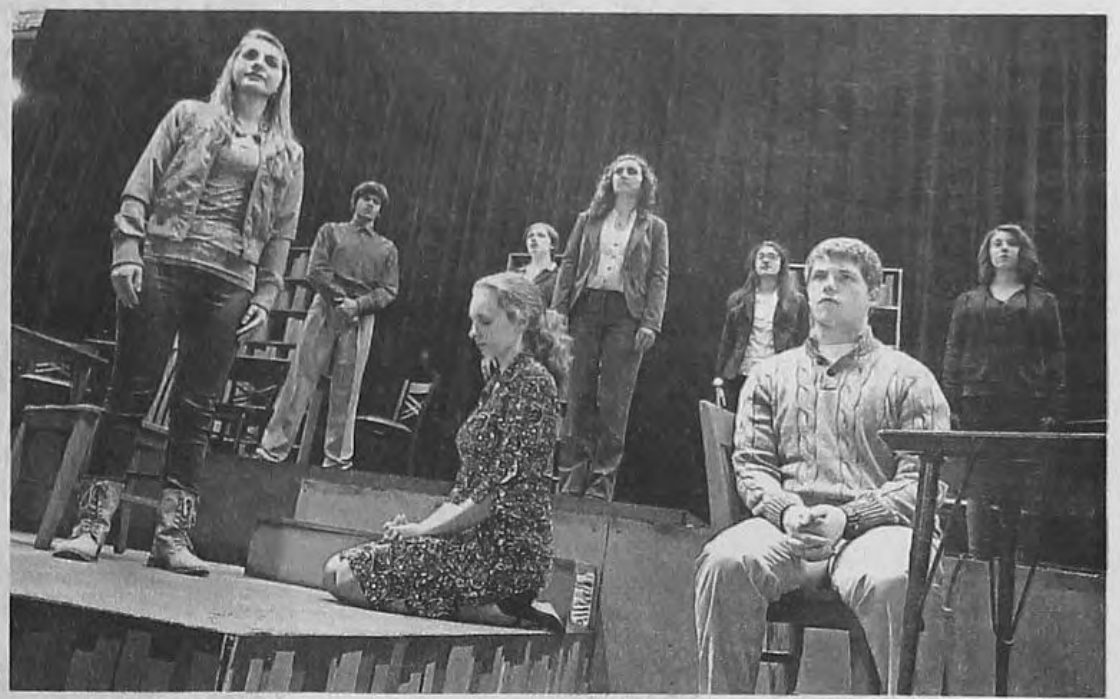
The aim of "The Library" is to consider responses to calamity and the alternate narratives



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

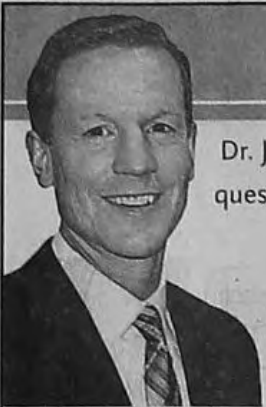
In search of the truth about the shooting, Detective Washburn (Sarah Bondy) interviews Caitlin (Amanda Barberena).

that can emerge under the sometimes misguided banner of healing. The community of this fictional town is completely focused on the blame-game - which one of two terrified girls instinctively tried to survive an incomprehensible horror. They are a people who choose one truth and who, even in the face of the facts, stay committed to that journey.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Park Players Theatre Co. presents "The Library," a drama about the aftermath of a school shooting. Caitlin Gabriel (Amanda Barberena) is blamed for telling the killer where the students were hiding. Dawn Sheridan (Madison Fifer), kneeling, is the mother of a dead student coming to terms with the reality of the tragic events. Ryan Mayes (Samuel Wilmarth), an eyewitness, blames Caitlin for the loss of life. Nolan Gabriel (Muhammad Anwar), in background, is Caitlin's father. The publisher (Sam Schikora), Detective Washburn (Sarah Bondy) hopes to uncover the truth. Ms Thornton (Samiha Akbari) is the social worker. Pastor Dunstan (Madeline Damron) wants to help through faith.



Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart is a general dentist in Livonia, MI. Today, he answers a question about what we can do to maintain fresh breath.

BAD BREATH

Dear Dr. Stewart: Why do we get bad breath? Can we do anything to fight it besides breath mints?

Dr. Stewart: While breath mints can mask halitosis, the results are very short-lived. What you need to do is address the source of bad breath. There are several factors behind halitosis, including drinking coffee, smoking, issues with digestion, and sinus infections. However, poor oral hygiene is one of the most common causes. When you don't brush and floss properly, food particles remain behind to be broken down by bacteria. In addition, cavities and infections can lead to bad breath as well. Proper oral hygiene also includes brushing or scraping your tongue. Simply put: To enjoy fresher breath you need to take better care of your smile.

If you have a question about combating bad breath then contact Dr. James Stewart by calling 734-425-4400 or visiting jamesstewartdds.com.

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PARC goes blue for Autism Awareness Month

The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex lit the front of its building blue Saturday, April 2, in honor of both Autism Awareness Month and its new tenant, Autism Compass Consulting.

By lighting the building blue, the PARC and Autism Compass wanted to raise awareness of autism in Plymouth and throughout Michigan.

The event was also intended to welcome Autism Compass to the PARC and to the Plymouth community. Autism Compass provides diagnostic services, professional guidance, training and social skills groups for individuals and families impacted by autism and other developmental disabilities. It also provides professional training and consulting



The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex lit the front of its building blue Saturday, April 2.

to autism service providers and other organizations, including local healthcare providers,

looking to better serve the autism community. PARC president Don Soenen said he is thrilled

to see such an important provider move into the building. "Autism is a serious problem for so

many of our kids," he said. "We are pleased that Autism Compass has selected PARC for its new home."

Founded in 2010 by autism expert and certified autism specialist Jamesena Ingram, who lives in Plymouth with her husband and three children, Autism Compass boasts a team of highly-qualified autism professionals, including Megan Cox, a board certified behavior analyst, who will oversee social skills groups and offer ABA consulting. Taraneh Breisacher, also a social worker, will conduct social skills groups, while Dr. Susan Risi, a licensed psychologist and co-creator of the ADOS tool for diagnosing autism (considered the gold standard), will handle

diagnostics and adult social skills groups.

Autism Compass moved April 1 into the PARC and is welcoming new clients. The first social skills group begins in early May and will run eight weeks. These groups are designed to help individuals with social cognitive challenges, including autism, gain necessary life-long social skills to succeed in school, young adulthood and beyond.

To register for a social skills group, make an appointment for any another service or for more information, contact Autism Compass at 844-273-4273 or go to www.autismcompassconsulting.com.

For more information about the PARC, go to www.plymouthparc.com.

'Shoot the Gap' multi-sport clinic set for April 23

"Shoot the Gap" is P-CEP athletics' first-ever, free multi-sport clinic for special-needs students, similar to Plymouth football's Sunshine Skills and Drills clinic held over the summer.

The event is 1:30-3:30 p.m. April 23 at Ply-

mouth High School, where there will be different stations set up for volleyball, basketball, soccer, hockey, baseball and softball and track and field.

Each special-needs student will be "buddied" up with a student volunteer from either

National Honor Society or P-CEP athletics and they will travel to the various stations. Each station will be led by P-CEP athletes and coaches, who will teach students the basics of each sport.

This event is a way to bring sports to life for

students who may not always get the chance to play them. The National Honor Society group in charge of this event also hopes that afternoon of bonding, this event will help lessen or "shoot" the gap between the special-needs students and other students.

Oscar winner's play comes to Westland's Inspire Theatre

Inspire Theatre in Westland is bringing the work of an Oscar winner to life.

From Cormac McCarthy, author of "No Country for Old Men" and "The Road," comes a two-character drama about the choice people frequently make. Set in a New York tenement, "The Sunset Limited," which opens April 15, is a philosophical debate with high stakes. Souls are bared and secrets

shared. The conflict reaches a shattering conclusion that will leave you thinking.

"The Sunset Limited" is directed by Eastern Michigan University graduate student Anthony Petrucci, who is preparing to graduate with a master's of arts degree in interpretation/performance studies.

Petrucci chose "The Sunset Limited" because of the relevant common ground that can be found

even by two people that are complete opposites. It covers topics such as race relations, religious freedom, and dealing with death.

Petrucci has been in the last two plays at Inspire Theatre.

"I am thrilled to be able to bring this play to Inspire," he said. "I enjoy working there and like what they do. And this allows this show to be seen by a wider audience. Not a lot of people

know about it. It's rarely done and I think that's a shame."

The show opens Friday, April 15, and runs through Sunday, April 17. Show times are 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are available at inspiretheatre.com. For more information, call 734-751-7057.

Inspire Theatre is in the Westland Center for the Arts at 33455 Warren Road.


Community Scrapbook



Kathy Marick

KATHY MARICK


Watchful eye: A Canton resident sent this photo of a coyote that was resting - or watching - in her yard.



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GRANTS

Continued from Page A1

School, World Language Handheld Digital Voice Recorders

» Susan Timmerman, Smith Elementary, Social Skills Game Club

» Joline Valentine, Curriculum Center, Field Elementary, eBook Extended Learning Launch

» Kimberly DelProsto, Starkweather Academy, Election 2016

» Jan Coratti, East Middle School, Innovation Makers Week

» Scott Milam, Plymouth High, Magnetic Model Kits

» Casey Swanson, Plymouth High, Psychology Library Choice Reading

Teachers and the projects for which they previously received grants that were showcased Thursday include:

» Cathy Avis, Central Middle School, Any Book Electronic Reader

» Sheena Clark, Starkweather Academy, Children's Book Project

» Mark Trzeciak, P-CCS middle schools, Design and 3-D Modeling

» Jamie Terlaak, Canton High, Extensive Reading

» Susan Kraft, Central Middle School, Junior Scholastic Current Events Magazines

» Jan Douglas, Curri-

"Teachers come to us all the time with great ideas. Instead of saying, 'No,' I can say, 'Write the grant.'"

KEVIN LANE
Starkweather Academy principal

culum Center, Making the Thinking Behind Scientific Argumentation Visible

» Tracy Stop, Central Middle School, Mathematics Strategic Problem Solving Games

» Mike Frantsen, Canton High, Metal Fabrication/Paint Refinishing

» Derek Kendall, Canton High, Salmon in the Classroom

» Pam Purcell, Central Middle School, Spanish Verb Drill Games

» Gerald Lickey, P-CEP, Starter Kits for Diagnosing Electrical Problems

» Deb Stephens, P-CCS Middle Schools, The Physics of Fling

» Deb Stephens, P-CCS Middle Schools, The Physics of Fling

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The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Educational Excellence Foundation's 2016 wine-tasting, strolling dinner and auction is Friday, April 22. It's a fundraiser for the EEF, which a mission to provide extra resources for the district.

Foundation wine-tasting will raise money for P-CCS extras

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A strolling dinner, wine and craft beer samples, live jazz music and an auction of everything from grocery gift cards to Disney passes to tickets to major athletic events will highlight the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Educational Excellence Foundation's sixth annual wine-tasting and silent auction.

The event, \$50 a person, is 7-11 p.m. Friday, April 22, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center. An online auction, which can be found at www.pccseef.com, closes Sunday night; items, tickets and services up for bid at the silent auction can be viewed at the same site.

Items available at the live auction only include two tickets to the Oct. 29

University of Michigan-Michigan State University football game, a golf foursome at Fox Hills and a one-night stay at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Detroit.

The Educational Excellence Foundation was organized to provide extra resources that the district might not be able to afford, but will help P-CCS students prepare to compete in the global economy, said Jim Harb, EEF trustee and event chairman.

An example, Harb said, is an after-school tutoring program at the middle school level that has proved successful and is in its second year. "You've got a lot of kids who've benefited from that," he said.

EEF-funded projects were showcased Thursday at the new Liberty Middle School (see related story).

The wine-tasting and auction is the EEF's biggest fundraiser, bringing in more than \$175,000 in its first five years, Harb said.

"All the dollars that we raise stay in the district," he said. "The money's not leaving."

This year's wine-tasting menu will feature dishes from 18 different event sponsors — area restaurants and food businesses — including Busch's Fresh Food Market, Beirut Bakery, the Courthouse Grill, Noodles & Co., the Mexican-food restaurant On The Border, Happy's Pizza, Dearborn Sausage and the Rusty Bucket.

The Fox Hills pro shop will be turned into a tasting room for up to 30 different craft beers, there will be a shrimp and salmon table and visitors can select a random bottle of wine, by

drawing numbered corks for \$20 each, from the event's "wall of wine."

Jazz ensembles of students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools will be performing during the evening and complimentary valet parking will be provided.

Harb said the event is usually a sellout, attracting about 600 people.

Tickets are available at the Busch's in Plymouth Township, 15185 Sheldon, at the Showroom of Elegance, 6018 N. Canton Center Road, and in the EEF office at 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth.

Fox Hills is at 8768 North Territorial, west of Gotfredson.

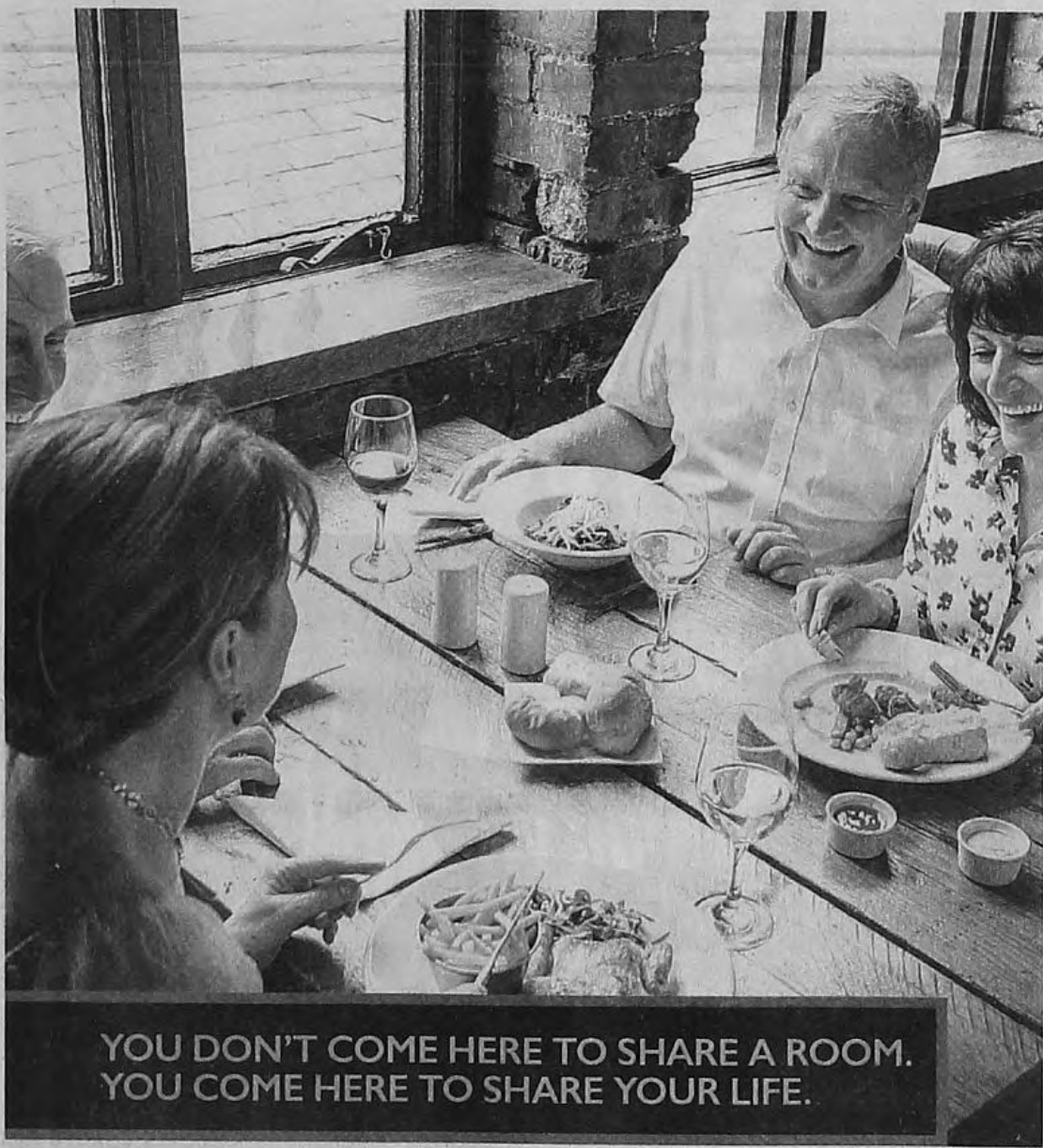
For more information, email Harb at harbjj@gmail.com.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman



KELLY DOBSON

Mark Trzeciak of West Middle School's tech department said he is very thankful for EEF funding to help purchase some new shop equipment for repairing and painting cars.



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City's historical personalities to tell their stories

Personalities from Plymouth's past will walk again Saturday, April 23, during the Plymouth Historical Museum's Ghosts of Plymouth Walk in Kellogg Park.

The annual walk, typically one of the museum's biggest fundraisers, brings to life such early Plymouth characters as photographer Romeo Wood, Civil War soldier and shopkeeper Calvin Crosby, Eleanor Kellogg, whose husband John donated land for the park named for him, and Sarah Fuller Shattuck, daughter of Michigan Anti-Slavery Society leaders.

Even anti-saloon activist Carrie Nation, who visited the area, will make an appearance.

Walks begin at the downtown Plymouth park at 5 p.m. and one will leave every 15 minutes, circling the park to listen to the stories of the characters played by costumed actors.

Each walk will last approximately 90 minutes. Participants should meet for walks by the Kellogg Park fountain; the last walk will leave at 7 p.m.



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

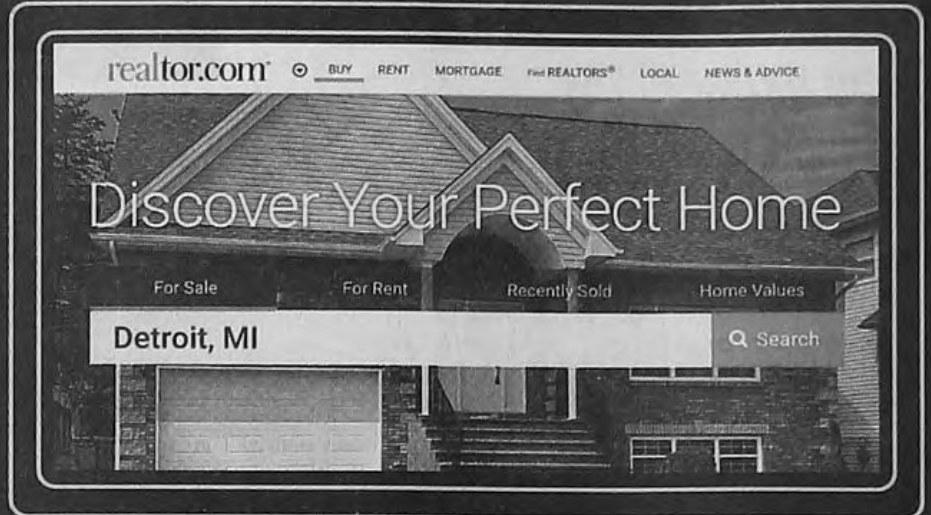
Robert Taylor portrays George Richwine, a harness-maker in early Plymouth, in the 2015 Ghosts of Plymouth Walk. This year's walk, a Plymouth Historical Museum fundraiser, is April 23.

Tickets are \$10 a person (\$5 for children under age 10) and can be purchased through the museum's website (plymouthhistory.org) using PayPal or at the museum during open hours: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The museum is at 155 S. Main.

Tickets will be available at Kellogg Park on the day of the event for \$15 each (\$10 for children under 10).

For more information, go to the museum website or call 734-455-8940.

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BOYS TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW - PART 2

ARMED AND READY

Salem throwers key season-opening triumph; team boasts depth in most events

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

All winter, Salem senior throwers Jannik Schmitt and DeAngelo Meredith excelled during their winter indoor track season — qualifying for the New Balance Indoor National Championships held last month in New York City.

And Wednesday, both picked up where they left off as they helped Salem's varsity boys track and field team defeat Hartland 90-47 to get the regular season off to a good start.

Schmitt won both the shot put and discus events with throws of 52-feet, 1-inch and 144-8, respectively while Meredith's throw of 128-9 in the discus earned him second place.

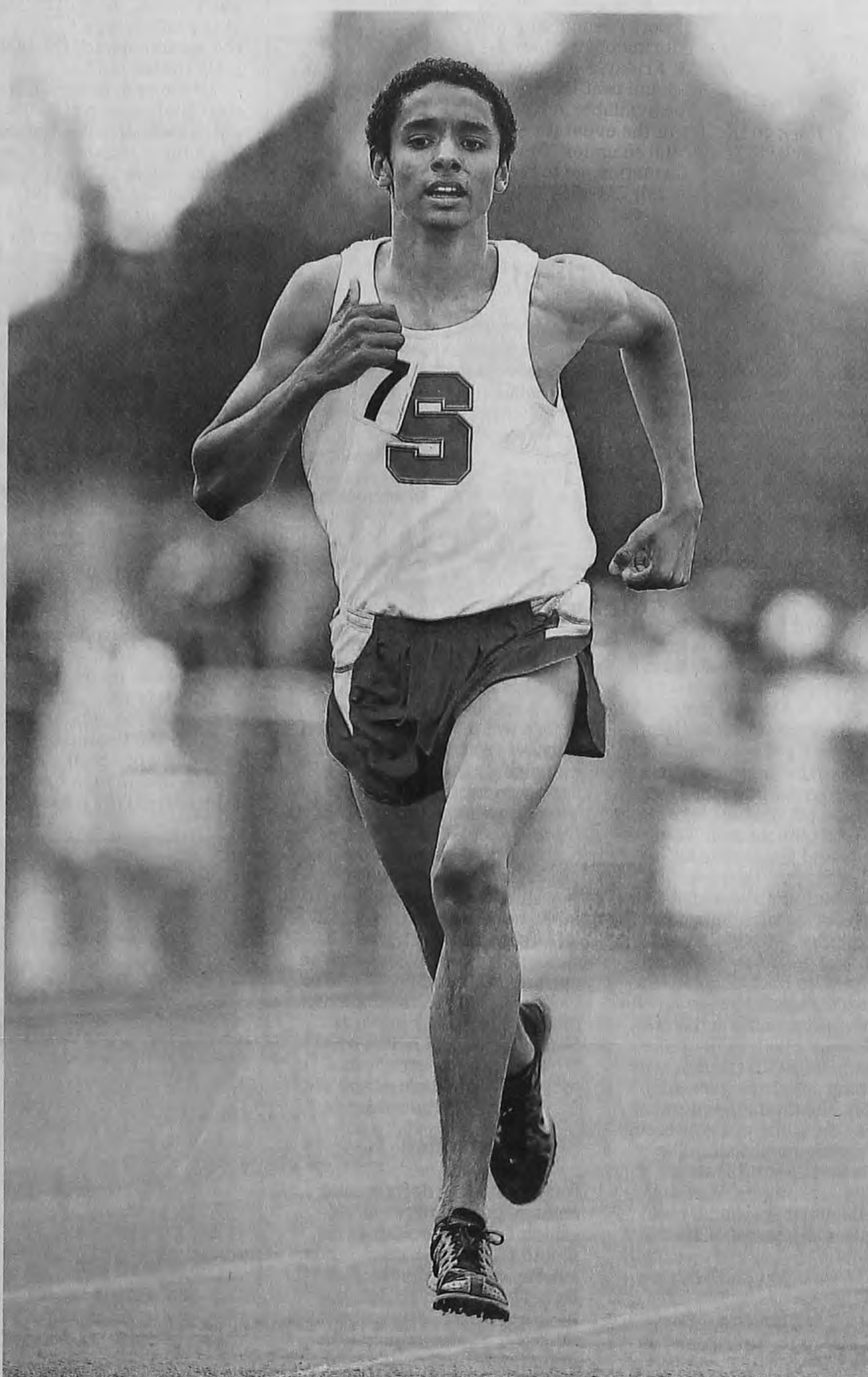
Also stellar for the Rocks was sophomore Alex Howie, who finished second in the shot put (42-04) and third in the discus (127-09). Senior

See SALEM, Page B4



SALEM ATHLETICS

Throwers Jannik Schmitt (left) and DeAngelo Meredith are carrying over their success during indoor track season to the Salem Rocks.



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Salem distance runner Chaz Jeffress again will be a team catalyst as the Rocks attempt to repeat as KLAA Central Division champions.

GIRLS TRACK PREVIEW

'Cats look to hit the ground running

Loss of Davis aside, Plymouth boasts plenty of talent

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After narrowly missing on winning last year's Division 1 varsity girls track and field regional, the Plymouth Wildcats have intentions of finishing the job this time around.

It won't be easy, due to the loss of senior Jewel Davis — out for the season after suffering a stress fracture during the indoor club season.

But seventh-year head coach Ricky Styes has a wealth of other talented athletes who have the potential to overcome the adversity of Davis' unfortunate injury.

"We have a young, but experienced team in many events this year," Styes said. "We have a great senior class and captains that will be up to the task of helping lead our team in the beginning of the season so that our younger athletes will be able to mature through big meet experience."

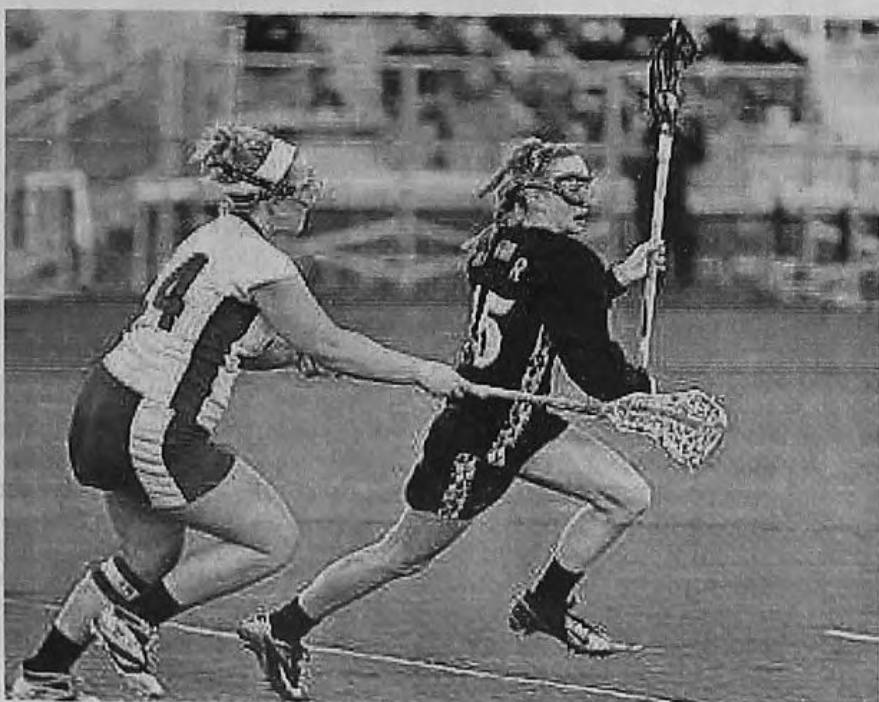
The Wildcats, who finished 3-2 in the KLAA South Division, fourth in the Kensington Conference meet and second at the regional, will bank on returning standouts in sprints, distance and field events collecting plenty of points while several talented

See WILDCATS, Page B4



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Plymouth's hopes for the 2016 season took a hit when standout sprinter Jewel Davis, shown from last season, suffered a stress fracture that will knock her out of the lineup.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth's Cathryn VandenBosch (right) tries to escape the defensive pressure of Salem's Megan Finkbeiner during a 2015 varsity girls lacrosse match.

GIRLS LACROSSE PREVIEW

Nucleus ready to lead Wildcats

Plymouth veterans return to build off of 12-4 season

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth's varsity girls lacrosse team looks to build off a 12-4 season, with a standout nucleus leading the charge.

At the top of the list for the Wildcats, coached by Jake Wieloch, are senior co-captains Natalie Nowicki, Marissa Cirino, Abigail Bolterman and Sabrina Shiftar.

Nowicki and Cirino — last

year's top two scorers — are midfielders who already are slated to play at the collegiate level (Ursuline College, Siena Heights, respectively) while Bolterman leads the Plymouth defense.

Certain to spark Plymouth in the Kensington Conference will be Shiftar, an attacker who missed last season due to a knee injury.

"(Shiftar) will give us a huge boost in energy and athleticism," Wieloch said.


The Wildcats also return a number of junior players who gained valuable experience as sophomores during the 2015 season.

Those are attacker Madeleine Caswell, midfielders Cathryn VandenBosch, Cierra Steiner, defenders Megan Eschelbach, Emily LaBlanc, Shelby Strawn and goalie Elizabeth Elliott.

Wieloch also has high hopes for varsity newcomers such as juniors Reagan Woodward (attack), Jessica Curtis (defense), Grace MacLellan (defense) and Claudia Saveski (goalie), sophomores Michelle Cirino (attack) and Catherine Sandberg (defense).


"All have shown the hard work and dedication to play

See WILDCATS, Page B4



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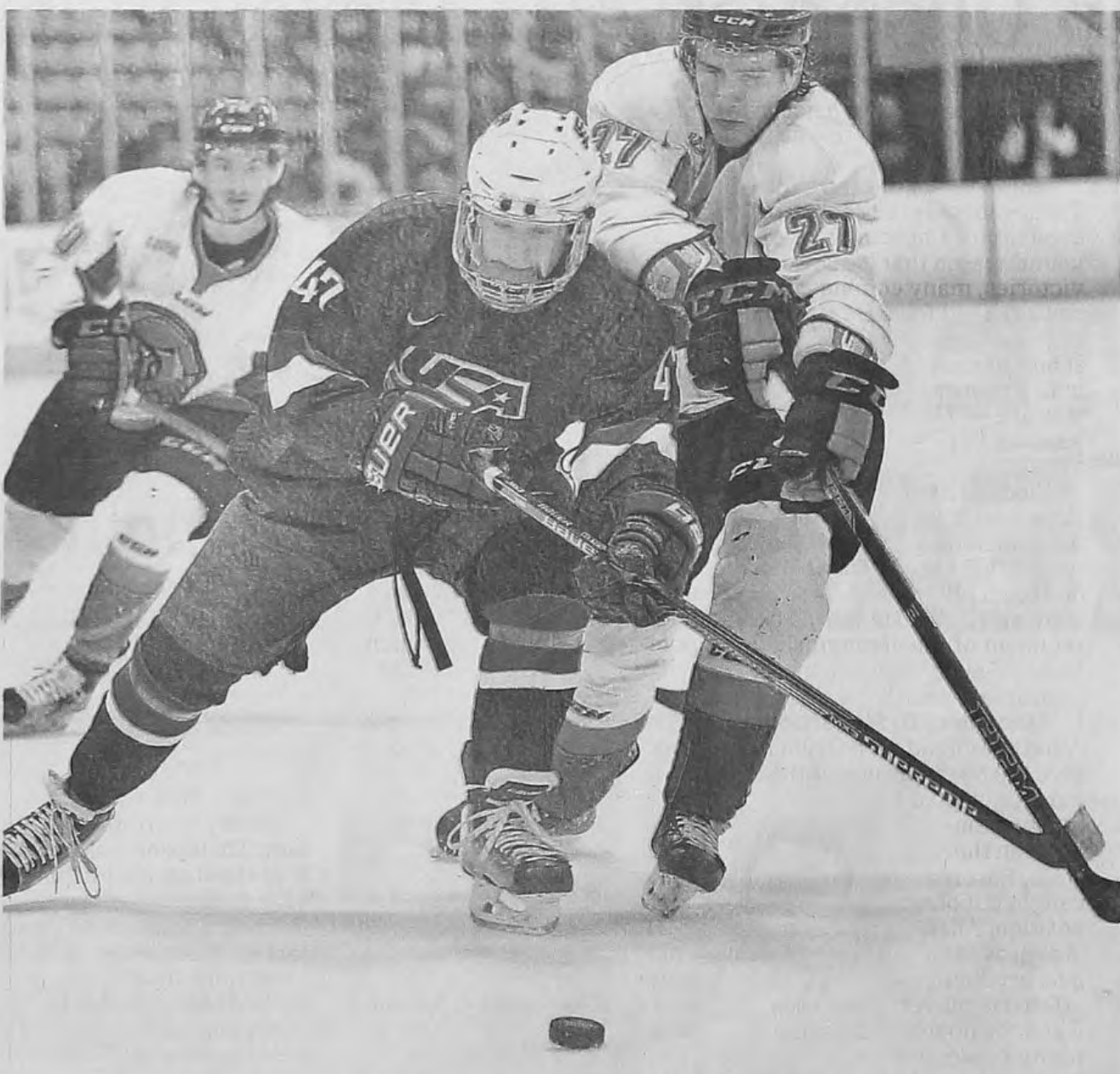
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fighting for possession of the puck Friday night at USA Hockey Arena are Logan Cockerill (No. 47) of the U.S. NTDP Under-17 team and Youngstown's Kris Myllari (No. 27). Cockerill is a Brighton native.

USA HOCKEY

NTDP Under-17 team routed in home finale

Youngstown buries Team USA with avalanche of goals, 12-0

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Friday marked a changing of the guard at USA Hockey Arena, but it wasn't much of a send-off.

During the day, the 2016-17 U.S. National Team Development Program Under-17 team was unveiled and later the current U17s took the home ice for the final time with interim head coach Nick Fohr behind the bench.

The United States Hockey League contest against Youngstown was decided early on, to the chagrin of the 1,344 fans on hand for the finale as the Phantoms broke out to a quick 3-0 lead and rolled to a 12-0 victory.

"The outcome really wasn't indicative of how the game went, in my opinion," Fohr said. "I thought we actually played well for 35 minutes of the game. We just couldn't get anything behind their goaltender (Ryan Bednard)."

"Had we got a couple in there early, it would have nev-

er gotten the way it did. And when they got opportunities they put the puck in the net."

Youngstown (30-20-9) set the tone off the hop, scoring on the first shot against U17s goalie and Northville native Dylan St. Cyr. Defenseman Luke McInnis slid a shot from the left side that eluded the 5-7 netminder, with 16:25 to play in the first period.

Back-to-back shots by forward Yushiro Hirano — who scored four goals in the contest — upped the Phantoms lead to 3-0, with the markers coming just 1:16 apart. At 13:55, Hirano snapped a shot from the right circle over St. Cyr's left shoulder and he followed up at 15:11 with a short-side snipe.

Drawing assists on both goals was linemate Chase Pearson.

Team USA (22-31-4-2, including games by the U18s and U17s) put pressure on Bednard (38 saves) during a subsequent power play, with a handful of quality shots turned aside. Bednard denied a point-blank attempt by forward Randy Hernandez and got in front of defenseman Nate Knoepke's drive.

Youngstown then chased St. Cyr at 3:38 of the second period when defenseman Connor

Moore walked in and launched a rocket from the right circle that cleanly beat the Team USA netminder.

Fohr switched goalies, but Adam Scheel didn't fare any better. The second shot he saw was an unassisted tally by forward Cameron Morrison to make it a 5-0 deficit with 11:27 left in the middle stanza.

The Phantoms scored in the closing minute of the frame to go up 6-0 and the onslaught continued in the third with five goals in 7:46 — two by Hirano — to force Fohr to mercifully pull Scheel and put St. Cyr back in the game.

Roster unveiled

As for next year's U17s, 12 forwards, eight defensemen and two goaltenders were selected. On the roster is Plymouth native Will MacKinnon, a defenseman from the Detroit Honeybaked 16U program.

Other Michigan players to make the squad included Birmingham's Bode Wilde (Chicago Mission), Rochester's Jonathan Gruden (Honeybaked 16U) and Blade Jenkins (Detroit Compuware 16U).

Wilde is a defenseman while Gruden and Jenkins are forwards. Slated to coach the team is current NTDP U18s head coach Danton Cole.

GIRLS SOCCER

Battle of the elements: Chiefs best Northville, 1-0

Mustangs fall in frigid season opener

Tom Morelli
Correspondent

Sometimes it's just the way the ball bounces.

And with unforgiving snow to match the frigid 34 degrees Thursday night at kickoff between Northville and Canton, the ball bounced every which way in what was the season opener for both girls soccer teams.

In the end, however, it was the Chiefs who were able to catch more breaks, but none were more important than junior Raquel Church's spontaneous drive in the 19th minute that turned out to be the difference maker for Canton in a 1-0 victory over the host Mustangs at Tom Holzer Field.

As the Chiefs employed a hefty attack inside the Mustangs' box, Northville attempted to clear the ball out of the area, only to have it fall right into the path of Church for a smooth finish from point-blank range.

"It was definitely a matter of being in the right place at the right time," Church said. "Those easy ones are sometimes easy to miss."

Canton nearly doubled their lead three minutes later, but Church's crossing pass to senior Mary Galm was broken up by the Mustang's defense.

Northville picked up the pace in the second half with a handful of scoring opportunities, including a blast by Abby Henzi off a feed from

Sydney Schembri that went just left of the net in the 62nd minute.

The first official shot on net for the Mustangs came with three minutes remaining, as Schembri's laser from 20 yards out was denied by Canton goalkeeper Sarah Hammond.

A stutter step by senior Alissa Moore warded off Chiefs defenders in the final minute of play en route to a 10-yard attempt, but Hammond negated it to preserve the win.

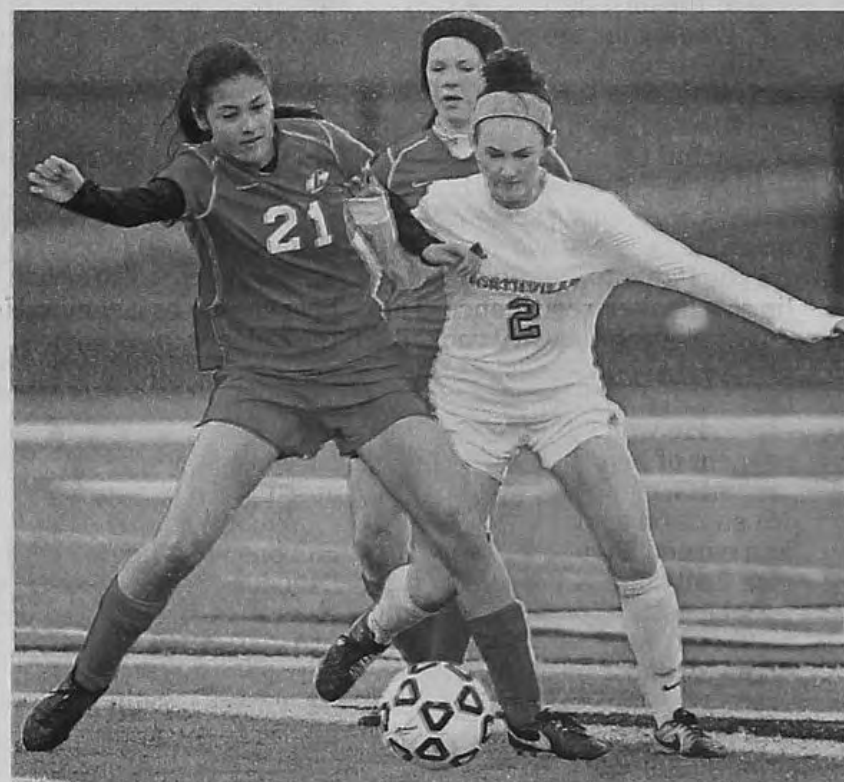
Jordan Anheuser and Hammond each played a half to earn a shared shutout for Canton.

"It was definitely crazy weather," said Canton assistant coach Mark Zemanski. "Northville's a really good team. We got the early goal and we were able to hold them out. They had some quality chances, but that's the way soccer goes."

Although Northville coach Eric Brucker was happy to see his squad come alive in the second half, he believes that they could have taken more chances.

"We strung a couple more passes together and had opportunities, but we didn't adapt to the high-style their backline was playing," he said. "The space was behind them and we didn't use it. We generated more scoring opportunities, but based on how Mother Nature was treating us, we should have had more."

Sophomore goalkeeper Charlie Castiglione stopped 5-of-6 shots for the Mustangs.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Nicole Doucet (left) fends off Northville's Megan Williams in Thursday's match.

GIRLS SOCCER

Salem edges Churchill in opening game

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

A strong all-around performance Wednesday night enabled Salem's varsity girls soccer team to defeat Livonia Churchill 1-0 in the Rocks' opener.

Salem (1-0-0) broke a scoreless tie midway through the second half on a goal by junior forward Bailee Soper, capping off a nifty passing play.

After a Churchill foul gave the Rocks a re-start from just outside the 18-yard box, senior

midfielder Miranda VanDerRoest jumped high to redirect the ball in the direction of Soper.

"As Bailee ran on to the ball she took a small touch to force the keeper to hold her ground and then shot a laser beam," said Salem head coach George Tomasso, describing Soper's winning marker.

At the other end of the pitch, Salem junior goalkeeper Skyler Brant was solid, making eight saves for the shutout.

Providing her with defensive support were seniors

Pamela Beas, Kamrey Dingelday, junior Gabby Teodorescu and sophomores Gabriella Mazzuca, Rhona Nicol and Brittney Simpson who "did a great job stopping Churchill's attack," Tomasso noted.

The coach added that another plus was how well the Rocks possessed the ball all night long, minimizing opportunities by the Chargers.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Plymouth football info meeting May 3

The Plymouth Wildcats football staff and boosters is holding a mandatory meeting for 2016 players and parents, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 at Plymouth High School.

The meeting, which will take place in the cafeteria, is for all levels.

At the meeting, the entire football staff will be intro-

duced and they will answer any questions pertaining to the upcoming season.

Also, important paperwork will be handed out and there will be a discussion about "the expectations and responsibilities of becoming a Plymouth Wildcat football player."

Booster president Mike Humm will speak about the

importance of getting involved with the club, along with fundraising responsibilities.

Team merchandise will be available to purchase before and after the meeting.

Any questions or concerns please contact Coach Mike Sawchuk at 734-765-1766 or email michael.sawchuk@pccsk12.com

PREP BASEBALL

Wildcats lose grip on game in seventh, 9-5

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For six innings Friday, Plymouth junior pitcher Mike Matovina handcuffed University of Detroit-Jesuit's varsity baseball team.

The Wildcats took a 3-1 lead into the seventh inning and head coach Jason Crain then went to the bullpen. But that's when the wheels fell off as the Cubs plated eight runs and went on to claim a 9-5 non-conference victory.

"We'll play better, just a few untimely mistakes today," Crain said. "A couple softly hit balls fell in (during) the seventh inning and it snowballed from there."

"They (Cubs) took advantage of our mistakes and we lost because of it. But I'm confident when the weather turns, guys will fill into their roles."

Matovina gave up just five hits and one run while striking out six for Plymouth (1-2).

"Mike pitched a great game," Crain said. "We were up 3-1 and we just couldn't finish it."

At the plate, Brenden Lacorato slammed a two-run homer and collected three

RBI's while Pete Carravallah (3-for-3) and Ryan Elliott (2-for-2) also had solid games.

Thursday, the Wildcats dropped a 5-4 decision to Novi Detroit Catholic Central, as the bullpen coughed up a late lead, Crain noted.

Plymouth's season opener was a 18-1 rout of Ann Arbor Skyline. Carravallah and Evan Claggett each went 2-for-3 while Lacarato had a 2-for-5 day at the plate.

Registering three hits each were Kyle Wolter and Austin Scheffer.

The Wildcats are scheduled to host South Lyon East at 4 p.m. Monday, weather permitting. Rain is in the forecast.

Chiefs prevail

Canton edged Hartland 1-0 with a run in the ninth inning on a suicide squeeze bunt.

Noah Spencer earned the win in relief of Mitch Zeleznak, who tossed six shutout innings against the No. 1-ranked team in the state.

On the offensive end, Lou Baechler had a double and RBI for Canton (3-1).

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

All-stars abound on Observerland hockey team

FIRST TEAM

Chase Wallis, F, Franklin:

Wallis closed out his high school career by piling up 34 goals and 25 assists and a plus-38 plus-minus mark — statistics that earned him Division 2 all-state and first team all-KLAA honors.



Chase Wallis Franklin

Adam Olson, D, Stevenson: Olson bounced back from a scary season-ending cut to his leg last winter to post a spectacular senior year. The multi-talented skater registered six goals and 25 assists while earning Dream Team, first team all-state and all-KLAA accolades.



Adam Olson Stevenson

Joe Wozniak, D, Churchill: The junior captain helped spearhead a turnaround season for the Chargers by providing rock-solid leadership and recording two goals and a team-high 30 assists.



Joe Wozniak Churchill

Cullen Barber, G, Stevenson: The senior followed up his spectacular junior season, during which he was named the state's best goalie, with a lockdown senior campaign. Playing against a high-level parade of opponents, Barber finished 16-6 with a 1.73 goals-against average and a .925 save percentage. He registered three shutouts and anchored the Spartans to their second straight run to the Division 2 title game. In addition to joining Olson on the Dream Team, he was voted first team all-state and all-KLAA.



Cullen Barber Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

Joe Alcantara, F, Stevenson:

The instinctive senior was an offensive lightning bolt for the Spartans, netting 19 goals and 18 assists for Stevenson's incredibly-balanced attack. Alcantara scored several critical late-game goals and earned first team all-state honors.



Joe Alcantara Stevenson

Jason Petras, F, Farmington: A four-year varsity player, the speedy center had his best season as a senior. He led the Falcons in goals scored (28) and points (47). He also had a career-high 19 assists.



Jason Petras Farmington

When the Falcons won the Division 3 state championship two years ago, Petras scored both goals in the 2-1 win over Sault Ste. Marie in the final game.

In the last three seasons, the second-team all-state choice accumulated 118 points with 66 goals and 52 assists.

"He had a phenomenal year," coach Bill Newton said. "He worked so hard during the off season to make sure he was going to have a great year. When you work hard, you get the benefit from it, and he certainly did."

"He was the straw that stirred the drink for us. When he was on his game, which was

most nights, we were a hard team to play against. He came to play every game."

Nolan Cioch, F, Churchill: The senior was the offensive catalyst for Churchill's rebound season that led to 20 victories, many coming against state-ranked foes. He finished his final high school season with a robust stat line of 27 goals and 21 assists.



Nolan Cioch Churchill

Cioch's list of accolades was deep, including team MVP, second team all-state all-KLAA. He was also a recipient of the distinguished Hobey Baker High School Character Award.

Alec Allen, D, Stevenson: Allen combined with Olson to give the Spartans one of the most-respected defense tandems in the state. Rarely caught out of position, Allen also proved to be a productive offensive player when the opportunity presented itself, netting three goals and 17 assists. Allen was a second team all-state honoree.



Alec Allen Stevenson

Zack Weiner, D, Plymouth: He moved from forward to defense for his senior year and that proved to be a winning move as he scored seven goals and 20 assists while being named an all-KLAA and all-state honorable mention choice.



Zack Weiner Plymouth

"He had a great ability to move the puck up ice and make a great first pass out of the zone," coach Gerry Vento said. "While Zack excelled in many aspects for us this season, his effect on the power play was crucial to our success."

"Putting up 27 points is an impressive number for any player, but when you take into account that it came from a defenseman playing his first year at the position is rather impressive."

Andrew Broyles, G, Churchill: Broyles had a brilliant junior season, carving out a 17-4-1 record with a 2.99 goals-against average and a .905 save percentage. Thanks to lightning-quick reflexes and stellar instincts, he was the backbone of the Chargers' air-tight defense.



Andrew Broyles Churchill

THIRD TEAM

Ben Kowalske, F, Stevenson:

The senior captain's impressive statistics — 11 goals and 21 assists — only scratched the surface as to what he provided to the Spartans during their Division 2 surge to the state title game. A two-year member of the MHSAA's



Ben Kowalske Stevenson

Student Advisory Council, Kowalske's never-wavering leadership skills fueled his teammates during good times and adversity.

Shane Leonard, F, Stevenson: Leonard proved to be a dangerous offensive threat during every shift, racking up 17 goals and 19 assists for the Spartans' balanced scoring unit. A second team all-state honoree, Leonard scored several key goals at clutch times and had a knack for dishing the puck to the open player when opposing defenses squeezed him.



Shane Leonard Stevenson

Joe Majoros, F, Farmington: A three-year varsity player, Majoros came into his own as a senior and skated on the top line with Jason Petras and Tanner Neill.



Joe Majoros Farmington

He led the Falcons in assists (27) and was second in goals scored (15).

"Joe is another young man who put hours in during the off season to make himself bigger and stronger, and he reaped the benefits of that," Newton said. "Joe was our best forward."

"You couldn't ask anything more of Joe. He just never took a shift off; he never took a practice off. He was 100 percent work ethic at all times. "He's just a great, quality young man, and he's going to have a great future in whatever he decides to do."

James Baldwin, F, Plymouth: One of the KLAA's all-around standouts, the senior center notched 16 goals and 22 assists (leading the Wildcats in both categories) and earning all-KLAA and honorable mention all-state honors.



James Baldwin Plymouth

"He played in all situations and was a player that we wanted on the ice whether we were up a goal or down a goal," Vento said. "It was obvious early on that James came into the season with the mindset of being an impact player for us and no doubt that he was."

Matt Schaumburger, F, Salem: The junior tallied a team-leading 17 goals and 19 assists for 36 points and played his best in big games.



Matt Schaumburger Salem

At the Traverse City tournament in late December, Schaumburger — an all-KLAA selection — garnered 12 points in three games and also scored two tourney goals for the Rocks as Salem came close to another regional title.

"Matt is one of the most skilled forwards in the area," Ossenmacher said. "He has a good blend of strength and skill that allows him the ability

ALL-AREA HOCKEY

- FIRST TEAM**
 F Chase Wallis, sr., Franklin
 F Evan Newel, sr., Salem
 F Brendan Whitney, sr., Franklin
 D Adam Olson, sr., Stevenson
 D Joe Wozniak, Jr., Churchill
 G Cullen Barber, sr., Stevenson
- SECOND TEAM**
 F Joe Alcantara, sr., Stevenson
 F Jason Petras, sr., Farmington
 F Nolan Cioch, sr., Churchill
 D Alec Allen, sr., Stevenson
 D Zack Weiner, sr., Plymouth
 G Andrew Broyles, Jr., Churchill
- THIRD TEAM**
 F Ben Kowalske, sr., Stevenson
 F Shane Leonard, sr., Stevenson
 F Joe Majoros, sr., Farmington
 F James Baldwin, sr., Plymouth
 F Matt Schaumburger, Jr., Salem
 D Jordan Hoke, sr., Farmington
 D Kyle Kozler, sr., Plymouth
- HONORABLE MENTION**
 Salem: Colin Goleniak, Nick Callegari, Austin Rehling, Zach Goleniak. Plymouth: Ricky Covault, Jake Silvester. Canton: Brian Oldani, Isaac Salinas. North Farmington-Harrison: Andrew Nathan, Brandon Glasser, Tyler Magdich, Thomas Bacon, Jack Cikra. Farmington: Cam Noseworthy, Franklin: Trevor Lassaline, Nick Salisbury. Stevenson: Nate Sudek, Nick Beers, Jake Beaune, Alex Siroky. Churchill: Tyler Haydu, Jordan Venegoni.

to create his own space."
Bailey Thompson, D, Salem: Thompson was a defensive standout during his senior year as the Rocks held the fort against numerous top-ranked teams.



Bailey Thompson Salem

He scored three goals and five assists for eight points, losing time to injury, but there was no doubt who was the team's No. 1 defenseman down the stretch, Ossenmacher said.

"He plays with tremendous energy and speed and was invaluable in all situations," Ossenmacher said. "At the end of the season, he was playing every other shift and logging almost 30 minutes of ice per game."

Jordan Hoke, D, Farmington: Hoke was a three-year varsity player who spent the first two seasons playing forward. At the request of his coach, Hoke moved to defense for his senior season to shore up that end of the ice.



Jordan Hoke Farmington

Hoke added depth to the defense and helped Farmington win a share of the OAA Red Division championship. He also moved forward on the attack, scoring 13 goals and assisting on nine more.

A member of the school's state championship team in 2014, Hoke ended his prep career with 66 points, which included 25 goals.

Kyle Kozler, D, Plymouth: The senior captain had another excellent season on the blue line, earning team MVP honors while helping the cause with two goals and 16 assists.



Kyle Kozler Plymouth

"He didn't have the numbers that jump out at you," Vento said. "But if you watched him play, you realized he was constantly on the ice against the opposition's top players, which took away from his offensive production."

"What made Kyle so special was his willingness to sacrifice personal glory for the benefit of the team."

GIRLS LACROSSE

Marlins seek to extend lacrosse success

Mercy returns majority of team that played in Division 2 state semifinal

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

After making a run to the Division 2 state semifinals last year, coach Lindsay Hoyt and the Farmington Hills Mercy lacrosse team are hoping for more of the same.

The Marlins have the potential to get there again despite some key graduation losses.

On the other hand, they return the majority of their team, having lost only seven seniors on a 25-player roster.

Brooke Ottaway was a scoring machine throughout her varsity career, and Mercy will probably have a more balanced offense this time.

Senior center Lilly Blake is a veteran offensive player who was the second-leading scorer and a nice complement to Ottaway.

Junior attackmen Evie Drukker and Natalie Masopust are capable of taking on greater

responsibility in the offense and will be expected to do so.

Hoyt looks for returning senior Chandler Pincheck, a tri-captain with Blake and senior Caitlin Somerville, to have a bigger role in the offense, too.

Junior Maria Bowen also scored a goal in the state semifinal, although her regular position is on defense.

"Brooke was the leading scorer, but we have a strong group in our offense," Hoyt said. "I think we're going to have a well-rounded offense, working as a team to get the points."

"Blake had quite a few goals last year. She's coming up from the midfield. Drukker was a good player in the offense, too. Hopefully, she'll be even more of a force this year."

"(Including Pincheck and Masopust), those are my standouts right now. We have a lot of new girls coming up with the potential to do really well this

year."
 Somerville, who was a goalie on Mercy's championship hockey team, returns at defensive mid and will anchor the midfield with junior Tori Ottinger.

A pair of sophomores with expanded roles in the midfield are Lara Zammit and Catie Coffman. Both moved up to the varsity during Mercy's tournament run.

Sophomore Grace Canty transferred from Livonia Ladywood last summer and will help at either midfield or attack.

Bowen, seniors Mary Allor and Erin Gormley and junior Hannah Roegner, who missed most of last season with a knee injury and is healthy again, will anchor the defense.

"We have a lot of experience and talent back there," Hoyt said. "We have some girls who are new and will be coming in and playing defense. We'll try to move some of them to mid-field."

"With experience and strong leadership skills, hopefully, we'll have a strong defense."

Mercy also lost its starting goalie to graduation, Sara Henning, but her backup, senior Hannah Cohen, is ready to assume the role, according to Hoyt.

"She was in the rotation," she said of Cohen. "She was a good goalie last year and has a real positive attitude."

The Marlins, who finished 10-6, lost to the eventual state finalist, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, in the semifinal game.

Mercy begins the new season at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at Notre Dame Prep. It goes to Grosse Pointe North two days later for a 6.30 p.m. game.

"We have a good amount of experience," Hoyt said. "We have a very talented group of younger ladies who are very motivated. Hopefully, as the season goes on, we'll be able to



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Senior center Lilly Blake returns as Mercy's leading scorer.

compete at a high level.
 "As each game comes up, that's our focus and to improve as we get closer to the state tournament. I think we have the talent and will to (make another run).
 "We're still looking at our first game of the season, but that's our goal to get back."

BOYS TRACK & FIELD - PART 2

Shough likes makeup of promising Chiefs

Veteran coach points to mix of returnees, newcomers as reason for hope

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton's varsity boys track and field team is poised to make noise in the KLAA South Division, according to third-year head coach Jess Shough.

The Chiefs (3-2 in the division, fourth in the conference and regionals in 2015) has an impressive cast of returnees who Shough expects to lead on and off the track.

"Although still quite young," Shough noted, "the team is returning a good number of experienced underclassmen who will make a tremendous impact this season along with an outstanding core of senior classmen."

"The senior leadership has done an excellent job so far this early season to help get the team prepared to meet their goals."

Those seniors include Darren Davis (third in conference in 200-meter dash), Derek Triebwasser (eighth in confer-

ence in pole vault), Peter Bruchnak (eighth in regionals in 800 run), Alan Jones, Jr. (sprints), Xavier Reinders (mid-distance, distance events) and Luis Orozco (sprints, long jump).

That group has plenty of support from underclassmen.

Ready to rack up points are returning juniors Jemal Vau-nado (second in conference and regionals, state qualifier in 300 hurdles), Andrew Koenigsknecht (fourth in conference and fifth in regionals in pole vault), Zachary Clark (eighth in regionals in 3,200-meter run), Caleb Moraw (eighth in regionals in 400 dash), Brennon Pelland (sprints, hurdles), Logan Leinbach (hurdles, high jump) and Nick Socha (distance).

Also back are sophomores Dirk Thornhill, who was third in the conference and fifth in the regionals in the 400 dash, and Shane Andrews (distance).

On the horizon

The Chiefs will give a number of newcomers the opportunity to be noticed.

On that list are senior Malcolm Hunter (throws), juniors Danual Johnson (jumps), Markus Sanders (sprints), Julian Thornton (sprints), sophomores Patrick Lenczewski (throws), Marquis Reed (throws), Sam Reinders (distance) and freshmen James Deese (throws), Luke Fenstermacher (jumps, hurdles), Braden Heimbaugh (distance), Travis Lu (distance), Alex Poe (mid-distance), Vinson Sigmon (sprints) and Steven Walker (sprints, jumps).

Another plus for the program is what Shough said is an "outstanding" coaching staff in Matti Kilpelainen (vaults), Paul Rakovitis (distance), Devin Thomas (sprints), Nia Henderson (throws) and newcomer Chad Smith (hurdles, sprints and jumps).

Shough, previously a long-



Canton's Jacob Mallad (left) and Dirk Thornhill team up on a relay last season. Thornhill is one of the Chiefs' top returnees.

time coach at Westland John Glenn, added that Smith is a renowned national champion athlete and expert coach who "adds a whole new dimension" to the team.

"We hope to continue to improve on the successes of last season where an additional number of relays and individuals were very close to qualify-

ing for the State Finals," Shough said. "We are very excited about the prospects for this season and look forward to some exciting competition."

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GIRLS LACROSSE PREVIEW

Chiefs eager to turn things around

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

What goes down must come up, and that's what Canton's varsity girls lacrosse team is pinning its hopes on for the 2016 season.

The Chiefs struggled to a 1-15 finish last spring. But with the lone notable loss to graduation being all-state honorable mention player Jordan Church (Albion College), coaches point to the tough year being a learning experience for those who return.

"Last year we had trouble with everything — scoring, midfield play, defense, you name it," said sixth-year head coach David Bower. "This year, our scoring should be more balanced, and our defense should be stronger, with a much improved, faster and stronger midfield to lead the way."

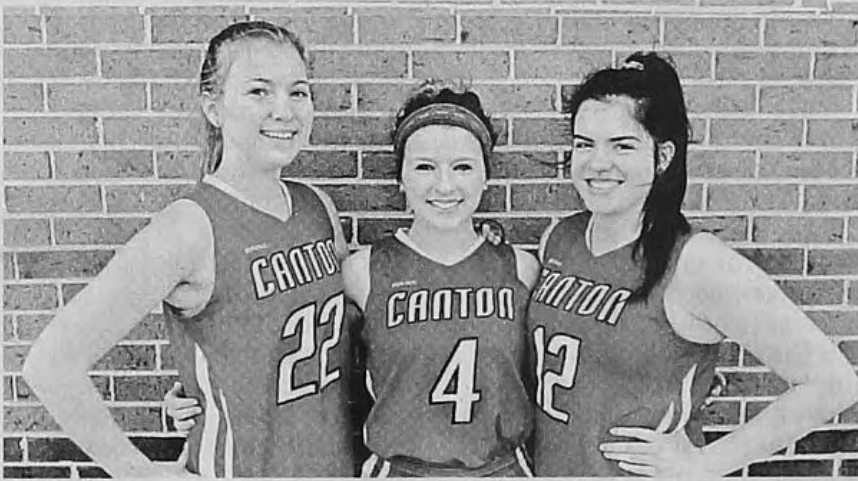
Helping put 2015 squarely in the rearview mirror will be several solid returning midfielders and defenders.

Those include senior midfielder and co-captain Katja Nuler, senior defender Rianna Pfau, junior midfielders Lauren Rippey, Olivia Adamic and Maignan Byers.

"Our strength will be in the midfield," Bower said.

Also back is senior attacker and co-captain Casey Bower, who will lead the offense along with senior co-captain Andrea Simons and junior transfer Marissa Barman.

Meanwhile, in addition to Barman, the Chiefs will plug some promising newcomers into the lineup.



Canton's varsity girls lacrosse team will be led by senior co-captains (from left) Katja Nuler, Casey Bower and Andrea Simons.

Sophomore midfielders Caroline Currie and Kristen Wiseman will provide additional depth at the important position.

Joining Pfau on defense will be seniors Brenna Wayne, Hollyann Stewart and sophomore newcomers Lauren Grendysa and Zoe Stirrett.

Handling goalkeeping duties will be sophomore newcomer Kendall Gregory.

Bower's staff includes assistant coach Doug Pfau, beginning his second season, and Sarah Tiderington, starting her fourth year as JV coach.

Salem outlook

The Rocks finished 9-10 overall and 2-4 in the Kensington Conference last season and welcome a new coach as Nicole Jacobs takes over from Dave Medley.

Salem's hopes hinge on a strong midfield — spearheaded

by junior Leah Tardiff and senior Colleen Shortal — and defense, with senior Mikeala Berg the steady factor. Backstopping the squad will be junior goalkeeper Maddie Johnson.

Augmenting those players will be promising newcomers, including junior attacker Madison Mullins, junior midfielders Kayla Goleniak and Stephanie Miller.

"The 2016 Salem girls lacrosse team intend on taking advantage of every opportunity given and constantly improving," Jacobs said. "We have a strong midfield led by Leah Tardiff, Colleen Shortal and Stephanie Miller as well as a strong defensive unit with Maddie Johnson in goal, and senior Mikeala Berg on defense."

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SALEM

Continued from Page B1

Christian Pearson chipped in with a throw of 41-09 in the shot put for third place.

"This group of throwers have been working hard during the offseason on their technique and their strength," Rocks' throwing coach James Crabill said. "The hard work has continued into the season and I am excited to see how well we can do."

"When you mix hard work and dedication with outstanding talent, great heights can be reached."

Breaking through

Of course, for Crabill, new head coach Dale Maskill (who takes over from Steve Aspinall) and the rest of the Salem staff, there were many other highlights from the opening meet to take stock of as the team looks to defend its KLAA Central Division title.

In sprinting events, senior Vershawn Patrick picked up where he left off last season by winning the 100- and 200-meter dashes (11.79, 24.24 seconds, respectively) and running the anchor on the 400-meter relay (first, 44.64).

Senior Gino Persicone, meanwhile, had what Maskill called a "breakthrough performance" by finishing second in the 400 dash (53.98) and running an 800-meter split of 2:02 to spark the Rocks to first in the 3,200-meter relay (8:33.12).

"Gino also ran the lead leg of the winning 4-by-400-meter relay," noted Maskill, about the quartet prevailing in 3:48.66.

The Rocks again will boast a strong distance lineup, spearheaded by senior all-stater Chaz Jeffress and early returns didn't disappoint.

Jeffress won both the 800 (2:04.03) and mile runs (4:35.17), with sophomore teammate Derek Skaff pushing him with third-place finishes in both events (2:14.70, 4:52.71).

In the two-mile run, senior Jacob Kubinski and sophomore Ryan Exell challenged for the top spot with respective times of 10:25.03 and 10:26.84. Prevailing with a time of 10:21.05 was Hartland's Noah Kramer.

Salem's hurdles lineup could be one for opponents to reckon, with Wednesday's results underscoring that point.

Sophomore Eseosa Arhebamen took the top spot in the

110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.67 while, in the 300 hurdles, sophomores Sharriff Dyer and Arhebamen placed 2-3 with respective times of 44.98 and 46.51.

Closing out the meet, junior Cameron Grace finished second in the high jump (5-08), while sophomore Jonathan Bilko registered a 9-06 to take second in the pole vault.

Another Salem sophomore, Cody Tapp, tied for third in the pole vault with a mark of 9-feet even.

And, in the long jump, the Rocks managed a fourth-place showing with freshman Saad Syed tallying a 16-07 mark.

"The strength of our team this season will be our depth," Maskill said. "We have outstanding athletes in most events and really solid performers behind them."

"The advantage of having depth takes the pressure off of the top athletes and allows them to compete without added pressure."

Salem will open divisional competition Tuesday against South Lyon East at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

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WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

newcomers get acclimated to varsity speed.

"We have a number of athletes who will be asked to step up in different ways this year," Styes said. "Our goal is to be competitive in all of the meets that we run this year and be in the mix for the division, conference, and regional championships."

Options abound

Styes emphasized that sprints will be Plymouth's primary strength, even with Davis injured.

"We have a lot of depth here and hope to use this to take pressure off of other parts of the team," Styes said. "Our sprinters will be led by (junior) Ryen Draper, (senior) Bailey Brown and (sophomore) Faith Washington."

"Ryen was a state qualifier last year and has had a great indoor season," Styes said. "We expect great things from her and I think she is eager to leave her mark on the Plymouth record board."

Hurdles also look to be in good shape, with senior Nadine Saleme, junior Kayla Dudek and newcomer and two-time state qualifier Erin Bradley, a junior who transferred to Plymouth this year.

Leading the distance team will be junior Annie Bonds and seniors Genieve Mitranon and Emma Radke.

"Our distance team will be young this year," Styes continued. "We will lean on our upper classmen leadership to help our distance runners improve during the season."

Senior high jumpers Brown, Kat Harris and Jillian Betts headline an impressive field events lineup.

"Kat is coming off of a all-state season last year," he said. "And Jillian and Bailey could help us be one of the best high jump teams in the area."

Senior Elise Wehmer will take care of shot put and discus duties, with Brown also asked to step in at long jump.

The Wildcats boast two pole vaulters in senior Emily Welch and sophomore Emily Caragay who qualified for states in 2015.

"Both of these girls could be two of the best vaulters in the area," Styes said. "We also hope to see a lot of growth from (sophomore) Natalie Janke this season in the vault."

Although the veterans bring a lot to the mix, Styes is confident that a quartet of freshmen will have immediate success.

Those include sprinters Reghan Draper and Cora Wallen, Emerson Recto (jumps) and Ana White (jumps/distance).

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Plymouth's Ryen Draper (left, shown from an undated meet) is one of the team's top returning performers.

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

critical roles in the success of this year's Lady Cats."

Wieloch noted that the Wildcats have the talent, experience and determination to be a contender in the KLAA Kensington Conference, which Northville claimed last year with a 6-0 mark.

Plymouth finished fourth in the conference with a 3-3 record.

"This year's team has a tremendous amount of athleticism and experience," Wie-

loch said. "I expect us to compete in all of our games even though the schedule this year has some very good teams on it."

"We will need to understand how to control the pace of the game to best use our athleticism."

"The girls that are new to the varsity game will need to come up to speed quickly and our returning players must play to their potential. If we do these things, we will be a very difficult team to beat."

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GC Library offers 'Art Garden Is Coming!' presentation April 13

The Garden City Public Library, 31735 Maplewood, is offering Don Wakefield's Art Garden Is Coming! presentation and fun artistic activity at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the library. This free event is open to all ages and registration is requested by calling 734-793-1830.

Don Wakefield is an artist from California known for creations from large-scale art pieces to furniture to sculptures. Most recently, he petitioned Mayor William Wild and the Westland City Council to vote for the transformation of the unoccupied Hawthorne Valley Golf Course (near Hines Drive) into a year-round family and cultural art

center. Some of the highlights that he has envisioned include bonfire pits, cross country skiing and maintained paths through the 14-plus acres. He calls this creation The Art Garden.

Part of Wakefield's process to bring this vision into existence included creating a petition on the website Change.org. There he stated: "There are no art centers in the region and this project will benefit the citizens of Westland more than anything else at this site. We are starting this petition to encourage the mayor and council to work with our group on this project."

In June, the Westland City Council voted in favor of the art center

with Wakefield and publicly posted: "With a few more details to complete we should be on our way to having the most exciting art center in the state of Michigan."

The Garden City Public Library encourages all who are interested in this center to attend April 13.

The Garden City Public Library is available to answer inquiries during normal business hours in person or over the phone at 734-793-1830. When visiting, enter the Baltimore side of Maplewood Center located at 31735 Maplewood, Garden City. Library hours are Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday-Saturday noon to 5 p.m.

As simple as black and white

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) Founders Junior Council (FJC) knows how to throw a great soiree. And their recent Cirque 2016 was no exception. Inspired by New York's legendary Black and White Ball in 1966, the FJC's Masquerade Gala kicked off the DIA's spring season and the newest exhibition, Dance America Art: 1830-1960 that will run through June 12.

And downtown Detroit was certainly hopping on Friday with the Tigers season opener followed by a Speakeasy Dance Party at the DIA.

You have a chance to meet new DIA director Salvador Salort-Pons, unmasked, 7-9 p.m. April 11, at the Rochester Hills Public Library. Salort-Pons has been hosting a series of meet and greets throughout Metro Detroit to get some feedback from the community.

And next up for the family at the DIA is Sensory Friendly Saturday on April 16 and two puppet performances, Reverse Cascade, at 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 24 in the First Level Lecture Hall.

And finally, and very appropriately, DIA-goers have their last chance to see "Detroit Weather: 365 Days" which closes on April 16.

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-645-3579.

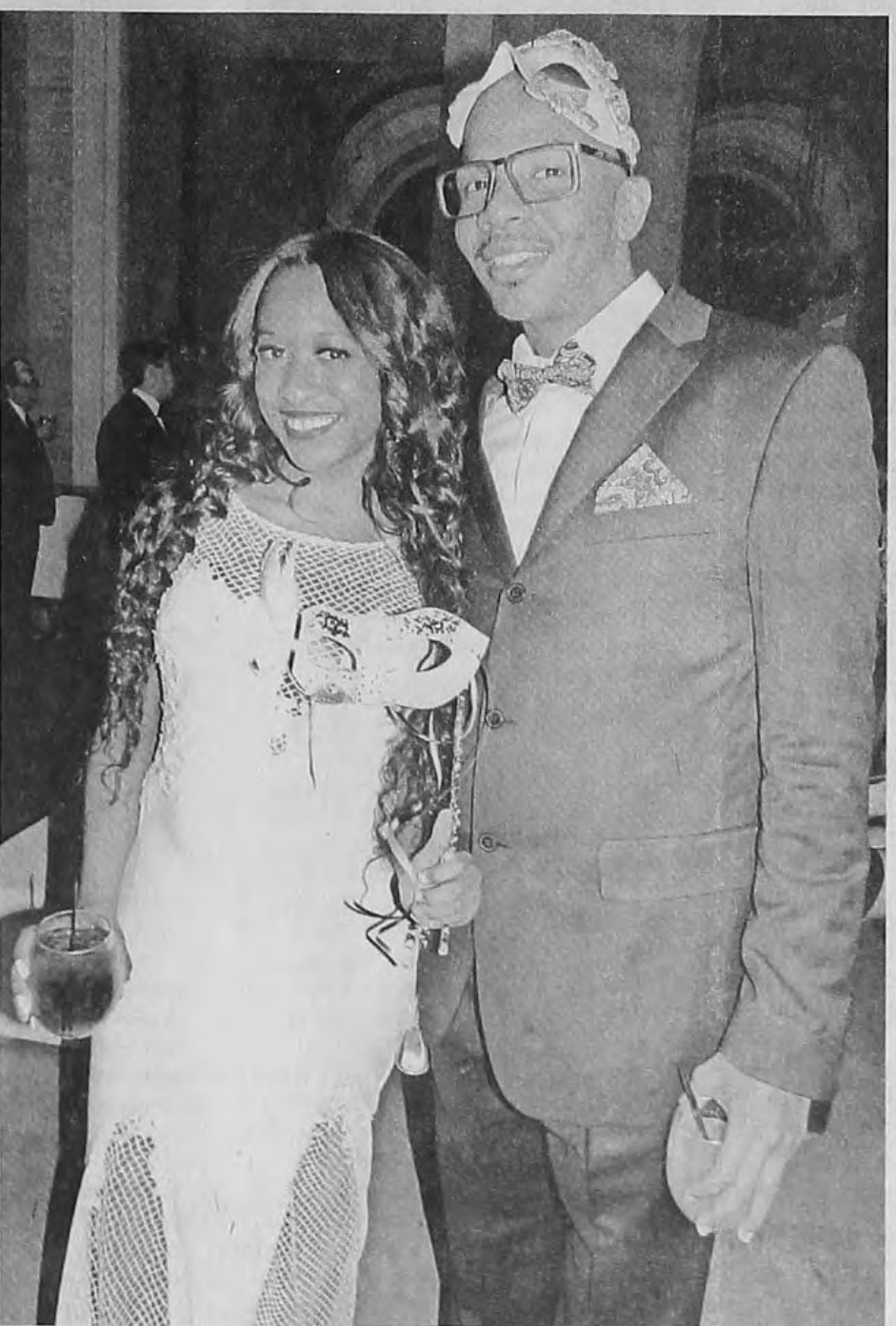
JULIE YOLLES
Canton resident
Jade Sykes and Detroit resident Joshua Taylor at the Cirque Black and White Ball.



Canton residents Emily Higgins and Christopher Garrett attend the DIA's Cirque Black and White Ball, presented by the DIA's Founders Junior Council.



Meghan Carey of McCann in Birmingham, John Rogers of Morgan Stanley in Farmington Hills and Nina Fabian of Michigan State University, enjoy the Cirque Black and White Ball.



WEDDING

O'BEIRNE-MONFETTE

Colleen O'Beirne and Nathan Monfette were married Saturday Sept. 12, 2015 at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton. Mass celebrant was the Rev. Christopher Maus.

Colleen is the daughter of Dennis and JoAnn O'Beirne of Canton. Nathan is the son of Richard and Donna Monfette of Fraser.

Colleen's sister, Kristen Naszradi, was matron of honor. Megan Monfette, sister of the groom, Pamela O'Beirne, sister-in-law of the bride, Charline Hunt, Rachel Thomas, Gwen Higgins, Siera Strickland, and Lisa Greger, all friends of the bride, were bridesmaids.

Nathan's friend, Cameron Hunt, was best man. Kevin O'Beirne, brother of the bride, Nicholas Naszradi, brother-in-law of the bride, Leo Russo, Matthew Everett, Aaron Hamel, and Justin Russo, all friends of the groom, were groomsmen.

Anna O'Beirne and Emma Naszradi, nieces of the bride,



Nathan Monfette and Colleen O'Beirne on their wedding day

were flower girls. Grant O'Beirne, nephew of the bride, was the ring bearer.

Colleen is a graduate of Salem High School and Madonna University. She graduated with a bachelor of art degree in communication in 2014. She works at Gift of Life as an administrative assistant.

Nathan is a graduate of Fraser High School

and Lawrence Technological University. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 2013. He works at Magna as an electrical engineer.

A dinner and dance reception was held at Cottonwood Barn in Dexter. Colleen and Nathan went to Turks and Caicos for their honeymoon and have made their home in Westland.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

GRAM



DR. CHRISTINE E. February 11, 2016 Beloved mother of six children, Bob Harris (Bridgette), Jeanne Harris (Robert Groth), John Harris (Holly Barrie, deceased), Jim Harris (Cindy), David Harris, and Greg Harris (April), and two stepchildren, Peter Gram (Harriet), and Steven Gram (deceased) (Cheri). Loving grandmother of fifteen grandchildren. Cherished aunt of ten nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Her Life will take place on April 16th, 2016, at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. with the service at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at the church fellowship hall.
www.thayer-rock.com

LANGE



GERALD J. age 84 longtime Birmingham resident passed away April 4, 2016 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. Gerald graduated from Baldwin High School and attended Lawrence Institute of Technology. He also served in the Navy at Norfolk, Virginia. Gerald was an electrical engineer for General Motors Truck & Coach Division for 30 years. He is survived by his wife Arlynn (nee Bader) and daughter Lynn Christie Lange. Services will be held privately. Memorial tributes to the Alzheimer's Association. View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com

OSTLUND

ARNE OLOF JOHAN of Canton passed away March 26, 2016 at the age of 90. He is survived by his beloved wife, Anna Mae, which they recently celebrated 70 years of marriage. Arne was born in Sweden and came to the United States at the age of four through Ellis Island. He became an American citizen and proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He often shared many stories of adventures in the South Pacific during the war and attended many submarine reunions. He and Anna married in San Diego, CA and after a brief stay in Chicago, made Michigan their home. Arne started a plumbing business in 1959 and helped mentor many individuals who eventually learned the plumber's trade and opened their own businesses. He was a devoted Catholic man making sure his family attended weekly Mass. Arne was the life of the party and always made everyone feel welcome and part of the family and known for his quotes "you look good, how do I look?". He was a loving family man and enjoyed daily calls and visits from them. He is preceded in death by his son, Kevin, and daughter-in-law, Charlene. He is survived by his beloved wife, Anna; sons: Keith (Carla) Ostlund and Alan (Jacqueline) Ostlund; and daughter, Nancy Ostlund; as well as 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He will be greatly missed though would want all to live life to the fullest in his memory. Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 14 from 1-4 & 6-8 P.M. and Friday, April 15 from 2-4 & 6-8 P.M. at the Keehn Funeral Home, Brighton. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, April 16 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Hamburg at 11:30 A.M. with visitation beginning at the church at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project with envelopes available at the funeral home. Please visit Arne's Book of Memories at www.keehnfuneralhome.com

KOPP



THOMAS ANTHONY Died suddenly at the age of 46 on April 5, 2016. Loving father of Reanna Kopp. Son of Linda McKeown and the late Walter Kopp. Grandfather of Jaxton Martin. Brother of Kimberly Evans. Uncle of Niguel, Noah, and Nya Evans. Loved and adored by many family and friends. He is now at peace with his father, may they ride strong together. Visiting Saturday April 16, 10 a.m. until time of service 11:30 a.m. at MANN'S-FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME 17000 Middlebelt (S. of 6 Mile). Share a memory at mannsfuneralhome.com.

PELCHAT

LOUIS WILFRID "FRED" 92, of Derry New Hampshire, died on April 7, 2016 surrounded by his daughters. He was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada but was raised in Detroit, Michigan and lived most of his life in Livonia, MI. Fred was a US Army veteran of WWII and received the Bronze Star medal. Beloved husband of the late Mary Helen (Welsh). Father of Patricia, Christine, and Amy. Grandfather of Joslyn, Jaclyn, and Jeanette, and great-grandfather of Hunter, Hadley and Miriam. Preceded in death by his sister, Audrey (Koroly), and survived by his brother, Paul Pelchat, and many nieces and nephews. There will be no funeral service. Memorial donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, PO Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301 (<https://www.dav.org/>)

PETRASZEWSKY

JOHN Passed away, April 1, 2016, in Hillsboro Oregon, at the age of 90. Preceded in death by Norma, wife of 54 years. Survived by daughter Connie (Robert) Meier, granddaughter, Callie (Sean) Gearin, great-grandchildren, Emry and Shay; granddaughter Leah (Matthew) Cowen, great-grandchildren Louis and Olivia. Graveside burial, 11:00 a.m., April 13 at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia.

SEOG

MARK A. 66 years old, formerly of Livonia, MI, passed away at his residence in Clearwater, Florida on March 17, 2016. He is preceded in death by his father, Joseph V. Seog; mother, Dorothy Belle Burk Seog; and brother, Bruce H. Seog all of Livonia, MI. Mark is survived by his son, Mark A. Seog of Leonard, MI; grandson, Zachary Seog; brother, William Seog (Wanda) of South Lyon, MI; brother Greg Seog of Tilton, New Hampshire; sister, Donna Clayton (Don) of New Bern, North Carolina; and sister, Lori Seog of Franklin, NH. Arrangements were handled by The Neptune Cremation Society, Clearwater, FL. Mark will be placed with his parents and brother at a future date. The family requests any memorial donations be made to a charitable organization of your choice.



Wishes of peace to you and yours in this time of sorrow.



May you find peace in your time of sorrow.

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Redford author says the 'new' old maid has fun, freedom

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

"You've NEVER been married? Never?"

Redford playwright and actress Maureen Paraventi has often tried to sidestep that question by steering the conversation in another direction.

Now she's responding with a Facebook page, Twitter account, blog and nearly-finished book about single, over age 40 women who are "new" old maids. She counts herself among them.

"I got the question just one too many times," she said, explaining why she embarked on her newest writing project. "The subtext always seems to be, what's the matter with you? And even if people follow it up, as they often do, by saying oh, but you are so attractive and you have such a great personality, how come some man didn't snap you up, there is still the implication that something's wrong with you.

"I love my life. I'm living a happy life. I think there is a perception out there that to be an old maid is to be unhappy ... or lonely or unfulfilled."

Paraventi saw other "never married" women her age and older, living "active, vibrant lives." She set out to document their stories and their views on relationships, marriage and the single lifestyle.

She interviewed women across the country, finding them mostly through referrals.

Lots of old maids

"I was actually worried I wouldn't find enough women to talk to. There must be so few old maids out there," she said. "It couldn't be farther from the truth. I think the results are going to surprise a lot of people."

She interviewed women age 42-68, including a corporate leader, ski bum, entrepreneurs, teachers, a psychic medium, nurse, fashion designer, house cleaner, former beauty queens, a retired firefighter, a stockbroker and others. Paraventi said they were forthcoming and willing to share "extraordinary stories."

One woman moved to Australia for a new job at age 60 and suggested that lifelong single women tend to live more adventurous lives.

Another woman said she travels alone to Stratford, Ont., every year to attend plays and eat in fine restaurants. She recalled encountering two couples at dinner who were surprised she was vacationing by herself.

Freedom

All of the women told Paraventi they relish their freedom and autonomy.

"What they said was I can do what I want, when I want to do it. I can spend my money anyway I want," Paraventi said. "I don't want to imply that being single is the best thing ever. There is a downside to it. But there is more of an upside than people have acknowledged. And one of the upsides is freedom."

She said most of the women she interviewed are open to the possibility of marriage on their own terms. A 68-year-old woman with a boyfriend said she wouldn't tie the knot if it meant giving up her condo and living with a husband 24/7.

A few women cited childhood experiences such as divorces, or relationships that compelled them to avoid marriage. None of the women she interviewed regretted never marrying. Some said they felt lonely occasionally, but the feelings didn't last.

"The other thing that may surprise people is that a lot of the women I talked to have had plenty of relationships, plenty of boyfriends. They didn't end up in marriage and often that was because the woman didn't want marriage."

Social media

Paraventi started interviewing women and writing the book more than a year ago. She recently signed with a literary agent and is in the process of finishing a book proposal. A "New" Old Maid Facebook page and Twitter account followed. She also blogs on the topic at maureenparaventi.com. The social media pages give her a platform to continue discussing the topic with others and shows publishers she has the digital goods to support a new book.

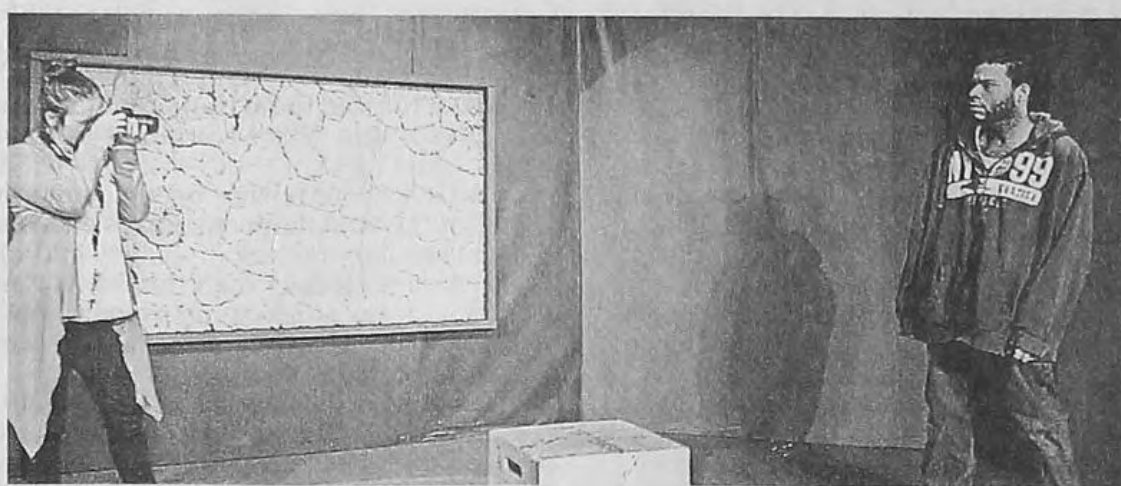
The social media and eventually the book are meant to counteract "that obnoxious question" she and other single women often hear. But she also hopes women embrace the equally negative term, "old maid."

"I think unmarried women should take that term and own it. And take the term spinster and own it in order to get rid of the negative associations," she said.

Paraventi wants the writing project to be seen as a "positive." She stresses that it's not meant to be anti-men nor anti-marriage.

"Someone on Twitter recently said 'I hesitate to ask about the inspiration for your current writing project ... I'm a little scared of this spinster army.'"

"There is nothing to fear.



A scene from Maureen Paraventi's play, "Ruin Porn."

OTHER MAUREEN PARAVENTI PROJECTS



Paraventi

» Paraventi portrays one of four characters in "Phillip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread," a one-act play by David Ives that parodies the minimalist-style compositions of Phillip Glass with short phrases and repeated rhythms. See it April 22-May 5 at the Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline Blvd., in Ann Arbor. btensemble.org for more information.

» Her first full-length play, "The Bucket List of Booze Club," runs weekends, Oct. 21-30 at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth. Two longtime friends find themselves locked in a bitter competition that plays out during weekly gatherings of the "Club," which consists of friends who sample exotic liquors and talk about their problems. Jen is a successful lawyer; Collette, a divorced Mom. Collette's battle with cancer forces her to confront a lifetime's worth of regrets and face the fact that her smart, ambitious daughter takes after her "Aunt Jen," much more than herself. The four main characters are "50-something" women. justgobarefoot.com for more information.

» Paraventi has won awards for several of her plays, including third place audience favorite award for "Who Goes to Russia," at the 2013 Canton One Act Festival; first place audience favorite award at both the 2015 Canton One Act Festival and the 2015 West Coast Players One Act Festival for "Such a Small Word;" first place Michigan Playwright Award for "Ruin Porn," at Two Muses' 2015 Women's Playwriting Festival; and first place audience favorite award in 2015 for "Scene in Black and White," for Detroit Fringe Fest.

We're not taking over the world yet. You've got to have a sense of humor about these things."

Check out her Facebook page at facebook.com/TheNewOldMaid/

sdargay@hometownlife.com



SUBMITTED

Maureen Paraventi may look like the classic "old maid," but she's in costume for a show that was staged previously at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

Local business helps animal shelter with van repairs

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Gail Montgomery wanted to hug Neil Adrian over the phone.

"It's so heartwarming for someone to approach you wanting to help you, rather than you having to beg," said Montgomery, co-founder and director of Almost Home Animal Rescue League and Haven, in Southfield. "It's very unusual and kind."

When two of her animal transport vans needed repairs recently, Adrian offered to help. He owns Adrian's Collision Centers, which has six locations, including Farmington Hills and Southfield. He heard about the shelter's needs from a new business acquaintance.

"I reached out and found out what was happening. When an opportunity presents itself, we try to help out when we can," said Adrian, who owns a soft-coated wheaten terrier and has been a lifelong dog owner. He paid the insurance deductible on one van and made extensive repairs for free on the other, enlisting the help of 1-800-Radiator, Autoglass Services in Redford, and PPG Industries for parts. He's also brainstorming other ways he can help, including the possibility of playing a video about the shelter in his lobby or posting photos of adoptable animals on his business Facebook page.

"Almost Home is our neighbor. I'm sure though this we will end up saving a couple more animals, along with keeping their vehicles on the



SUBMITTED

Marla Weingarten (left), Almost Home manager holds Taco; Lauren Montgomery Anchill, co-founder of Almost Home with Tula; Gail Montgomery-Schwartz, co-founder of Almost Home with Vaughn; Neil Adrian owner of Adrian's Collision Centers holds Moshie; and Karissa Parrin, assistant manager, with Biscotti.

road."

His generosity enables Montgomery to spend money — approximately \$2,500 — on animal care rather than vehicle repairs.

Making them adoptable

She estimates Almost Home's medical costs at approximately \$100,000 annually. "The animals come to us in need of being rehabbed and most come in ill. We make them adoptable."

She said a trainer works with dogs that have behavioral problems every week, but the rehabbing process takes time and money. Animals with med-

ical problems also get a second chance. Montgomery describes Almost Home as a "never kill" facility that euthanizes only if an animal is so sick it will have no quality of life no matter how much medical treatment it receives.

Almost Home was granted the former City of Southfield animal control building in 2006. Montgomery said the rescue is required to take in all stray dogs and cats found by police or the animal warden within the city limits. It also takes owner surrenders from Southfield residents as well.

"We take everything in



SUBMITTED

Cinder is in a foster home after spending two months in a hospital being treated for eye atrophy, swollen, infected gums, alopecia, a hernia, Cushings disease and mammary tumors. She was found lying on the side of a busy road by a police officer and brought to Almost Home.

Southfield," she said. "Bernard, (a dog), was found on the road. He couldn't gain weight. He couldn't lift his head or stand up. He had to be on supportive care. He had intravenous feeding, a million tests. He has to be on medication."

"Cinder was lying on the road and a police officer stopped and brought her to Almost Home. One of her eyes was atrophied. She had mammary tumors, a hernia, Cushings disease. Her ears were messed up. She was a total mess."

After extensive treatment Cinder is in a foster home and will be ready for adoption

soon.

Go Fund Me

Almost Home posted stories of Cinder, Bernard and several other dogs and a cat with medical issues, along with photos of their progress, on the organization's Go Fund Me web page.

Montgomery hopes to raise \$35,000. As of April 8, the campaign had raised \$2,760. It's Almost Home's first Go Fund Me campaign. The organization often reaches out to its 65,000 Facebook followers for both donations and prayers.

"We thought we'd try something different because we're so desperate. Wally the cat, whose head was burned by cigarettes and his head was bashed in, is doing great now. But it cost us a fortune."

Bernard, who was in the hospital a month with a poor prospects for survival, is walking and "almost completely recovered," although his vet bill is \$6,000.

"I believe every life is precious," Montgomery said, explaining why she rarely gives up on a sick animal. "Our hearts bleed for them."

Visit adrianscollision.com for more information about Adrian's Collision Centers.

Visit Almost Home's Go Fund Me page at gofundme.com/almosthomeanimals. Visit the organization's website at almosthomeanimals.org.

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Joe Gagnon dreams of a world with no junky appliances

I not only live my life dwelling on major home appliances, I also dream about them a lot.

In columns written last September and December, I wrote that General Electric was bailing out of the appliance industry by selling to Electrolux, and then followed it up with a move in Washington to ban that particular sale. Now I find out that GE has successfully sold out to Haier, a Chinese major manufacturer of appliances. This sale is to be consummated by mid-June barring any hiccups from Washington.

And now, my dream: My darling Valorie had passed away and all I did was stick around the house feeling miserable for myself and waiting for the good Lord to take me so I could be with her again. One evening I received a phone call from China and this gentleman with a serious flaw in his English wanted me



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

to fly to Louisville, Ky., to meet with him at the GE factory. Greeting me as I got off the airplane was a group of Chinese men with big smiles. They escorted me to this huge office and sat me down on a chair fit for the Queen of England and offered me the office of president of GE and a salary big enough to exceed Trump's earnings. I quickly accepted the offer and immediately asked, why me? They replied that I was the only one who could gear Haier to the ultimate goal of customer satisfaction and my way would be etched in stone.

I wasted no time in setting up a meeting with the whole of the engineering staff. I pointed out that with all of the

secrets obtained with their purchase of GE, success could be a sure thing if they followed some new procedures in production of major home appliances. I started with the subject of JUNK. I told them their reputation in the United States of shipping nothing but junk into our country has been devastating and that consumers are angry at the lack of quality in their products and that I was tired of announcing so many recalls on Chinese products.

The first thing I wanted was a much smaller office and a salary no more than \$100,000 per year with no bonuses. With GE employing 12,000 workers I wanted no layoffs to occur and I wanted each employee to be satisfied with his or her yearly earnings. Any engineer who approved one component that proved to be junk would be sent to Japan for punishment or moved to the assembly line

for life.

Manufacturing quality

Knowing what the manufacturers had done just a few years ago by reducing the warranties to only one year on products, Haier would immediately offer a 10-year full warranty on their products only because we could now offer quality like never before. As an example, I wanted a clothes dryer that could last 30 to 40 years without fail. The engineers argued that we eventually would go downhill on dryer sales. I countered with the fact that for the next 10 years everyone in America would purchase a GE dryer and in 10 years we would have some sort of laser beam that dried the clothes in seconds.

I made it absolutely clear that I would walk the factory assembly line, talk to our parts suppliers and go out on service calls with technicians. I wanted opportunities for

Amish families to be employed at our factories so that the pride of workmanship would be second to none. It is surprising to see how well an Amish person can build a product. I wanted appliance service schools set up across America to teach a trade to young people that could assure them of work wherever they went. I wanted a sound money arrangement with Washington that would be agreeable to all parties and provide China with a great sense of pride in acquiring the great name of General Electric. Together we could turn the appliance industry into what it was in yesteryear compared to what it is today.

THEN I woke up and made sure Valorie didn't die on me and yelled, NO MORE JUNK.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twml.r.com

Seaholm High School hosts Women in Leadership conference

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

It was a day of girl power. Seaholm High School students had the opportunity April 1 to meet with a distinguished panel of women who are in positions of leadership in the local community. Students had the chance to quiz the panel and learn from role models who have carved out successful careers.

"I really enjoyed it," Birmingham Police Sgt. Kate Long said. "We had a great group of students there with insightful questions and I thought it was a very positive experience for everyone involved."

Other members of the panel included Deborah Piesz, an assistant superintendent with Birmingham Public Schools; Kia Hagens, with the Michigan Education Association; and Baldwin Public Library Trustee Ashley Marie Aidenbaum, with the Skillman Foundation.

Aidenbaum applauded the school for bringing together various student groups (Black Student Union, Gender and



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kia Hagens with the Michigan Education Association was one of several panelists who participated in a women in leadership conference at Seaholm High School.

Sexuality Alliance, Girls Promoting Positivity and Seaholm Girls Speak Up) to participate in the panel discussion. "I truly enjoyed talking to



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A distinguished panel of women met April 1 with students at Seaholm High School. The panel included Kia Hagens with the Michigan Education Association (far left); Baldwin Public Library Trustee Ashley Marie Aidenbaum; Birmingham Police Sgt. Kate Long; and Deborah Piesz, an assistant superintendent with Birmingham Public Schools.

these future leaders," Aidenbaum said. "They created a great space for all of us to reflect on issues around women in leadership and to learn from

one another. As women, we have accumulated insight through our experience over time, but youth have just as much to bring to the conversa-



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Seaholm High School student Hannah Shiner participates in a panel discussion.

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Cold-calling contacts takes preparation and personalization

BY DEANNA HARTLEY
CAREERBUILDER

Professional networking requires tact, good timing and, often, mutual connections — though the latter is a luxury many job seekers don't have. If you aren't well-connected in your desired field, that doesn't mean you can't put your best foot forward and grow your networks.

If you're trying to connect with professionals you don't know, here are some tips to keep in your back pocket.

Do your homework.

You need to be prepared before you make contact, just as you would for a networking event or job interview.

"Telling me you are looking for a job is not helpful. What *exactly* are you looking for? If it is a position within my company, I will likely direct you to the proper website or person who handles that job vacancy," says Suzanne Garber, author of "SAFETY NETWORK: A Tale of Ten Truths of Executive Networking."

What can you do to prepare? "Do some research on certain firms you are going to contact and find out any information you can," says Mike Smith, founder of SalesCoaching1. "Maybe they are opening in France or Spain and you can speak French or Spanish. Perhaps they have top-level management that went to the same

schools as you. Find common ground and use it."

Personalize your approach.

Garber warns that some people — including herself — flag impersonal cold calls on social media sites as spam. "Simply sending me a copy/pasted note with what your needs are is not going to cut it. Personalize it to me," she says.

That's why it's important to be concise and specific. "Tell the individual why you are reaching out and in what way your common connection felt this introduction would be worth both of your time," says Andrea Donlon, founder of The Constant Professional, a personal branding and career firm. "Don't send a long intro email explaining how you came to reach out to this person. Make the introduction short but impactful."

Be relevant.

If you have already submitted an application, Matt Paddock, general manager of the digital agency Grow, says you can try to connect with someone at the company to reinforce the fact that you'd be a good fit.

"It's a good time to address anything you would normally put in a cover letter, such as why you feel you're a fit, to explain relocation or to name-drop a mutual contact that referred you to the company," he says. "Direct out-



THINKSTOCK

reach can be a powerful way to bring attention to your application — (but) just make sure you're not bringing the wrong attention to yourself."

Try a long-term approach.

Beth Bridges, author of "Networking on Purpose" and founder of the Networking Motivator, suggests adopting a long-term strategy.

"If you reach out to someone (and) then immediately ask for a job interview, try to sell them something or otherwise close the deal, that reduces the effectiveness of the introduction and takes it from networking to cold-call selling," she says. "Reduce the 'cold' aspect by referring to a mutual friend or a mutual interest. Once you're connected, they should start seeing your regular contributions to the networking site. If you're regularly posting, commenting or sharing, and they have the opportunity to see that and interact

with you, the 'cold' aspect of the networking will quickly warm up."

Don't forget to say thank you.

A little appreciation can go a long way — and you could even offer to return the favor.

"Regardless of whether or not this person can help, (a) thank-you goes a long way, and it's often forgotten in the haste and excitement of the introduction," Donlon says. "Reciprocity is an amazing equalizer. Making yourself open to helping this person when the time comes shows your respect for their time (and) investment in you and your willingness to go the extra mile."

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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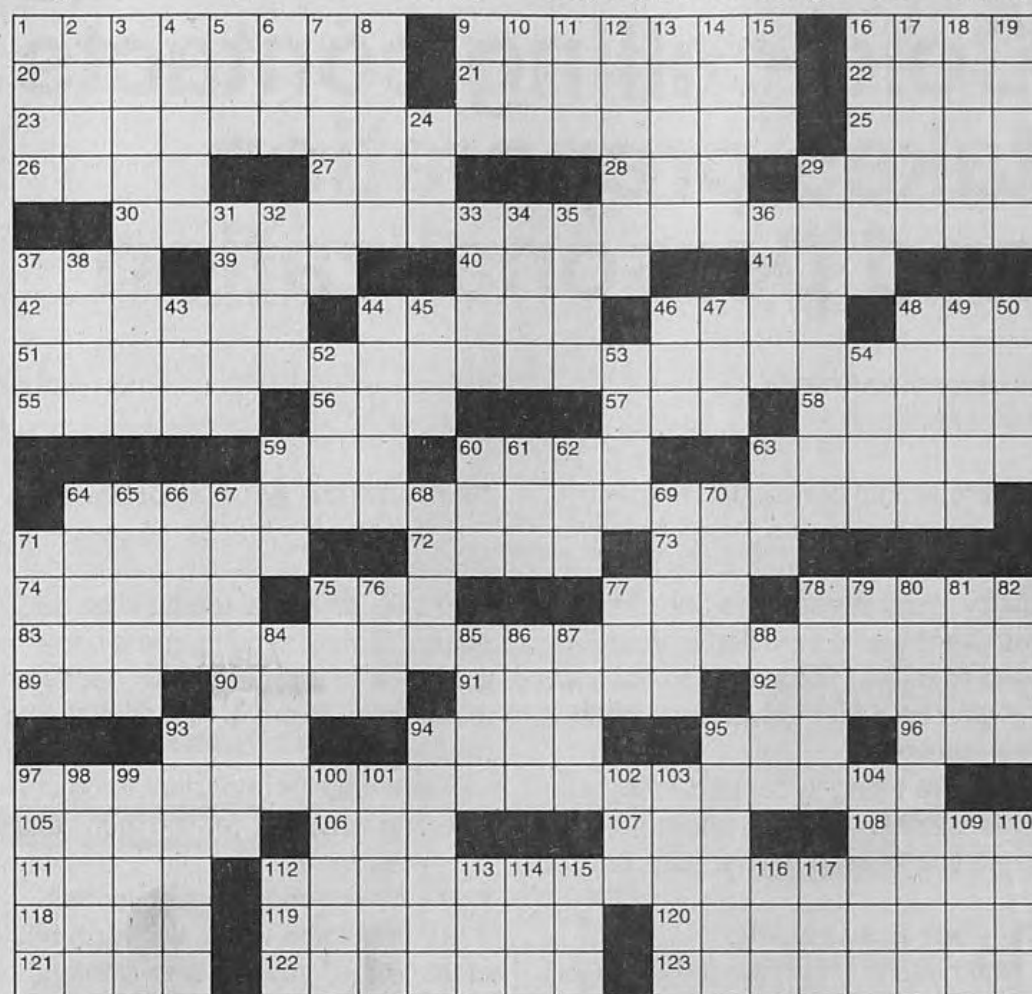
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gallery events for buying works
 - 9 Acting in a Broadway show, e.g.
 - 16 "High Voltage" rock band
 - 20 Most calm
 - 21 Exposed to danger
 - 22 Shift course
 - 23 112-Across, #1
 - 25 German river
 - 26 Toothed tonsorial tool
 - 27 Punker/folkie DiFranco
 - 28 French for "summer"
 - 29 Trample (on)
 - 30 112-Across, #2
 - 37 Sidekick
 - 39 Olds of old
 - 40 Uplifting poems
 - 41 "Go, toreador!"
 - 42 Ultimatum concluder
 - 44 Inedible orange type
 - 46 Son of Adam
 - 48 Timber tree
 - 51 112-Across, #3
 - 55 Ruhr industrial city
 - 56 Pro Bowl org.
 - 57 Former GI
 - 58 Spay, say
 - 59 Bring to court
 - 60 Lorain's lake
 - 63 Paige of the stage
 - 64 112-Across, #4
 - 71 2006-12 Mexican President Calderón
 - 72 Like seams
 - 73 — room (Ping-Pong place)
 - 74 Make right
 - 75 Nothing
 - 77 Skull section
 - 78 Milk: Prefix
 - 83 112-Across, #5
 - 89 UV blockage stat
 - 90 All 52 cards
 - 91 Alarm
 - 92 Turn around
 - 93 Lemon
 - 94 Be alarmed by
 - 95 Tippler's hwy. offense
 - 96 — Paulo
 - 97 112-Across, #6
 - 105 Tiny skin openings
 - 106 Place to buy tkts.
 - 107 "Total Recall" director
 - 108 "It happens to the best —"
 - 111 Be a drifter
 - 112 This puzzle's theme
 - 118 Price to play
 - 119 1970s cop show
 - 120 Mechanic's crowbar
 - 121 Not brush off
 - 122 Nothing-but-net sounds org.
 - 123 Least lenient
 - 11 Married Mex. woman
 - 12 Bathroom floor installers, often
 - 13 Supreme Court justice Samuel
 - 14 "— while they're hot!"
 - 15 Joseph who co-founded an ice cream company
 - 16 Indisposed
 - 17 Tabloid topic
 - 18 Prohibit
 - 19 Set of beliefs
 - 24 Espionage org.
 - 29 Fish story
 - 31 Firing crime?
 - 32 Bog plant
 - 33 Kvetch
 - 34 Chisel part
 - 35 Tolls, e.g.
 - 36 Garden implements
 - 37 With 78-Down, Best Director of 2012
 - 6 See 5-Down
 - 7 Misيسي or Nueva York, por ejemplo
 - 8 Wasp wound
 - 9 N-R linkup
 - 10 Modern, in Germany
 - 48 Ludicrous
 - 49 Script unit
 - 50 Present
 - 52 "Move — a Little Higher"
 - 53 Nights of anticipation
 - 54 Verve
 - 59 "Isn't — Lovely!"
 - 60 Relative of "speak"
 - 61 Sudoku part
 - 62 Place to stay the night
 - 63 And other things: Abbr.
 - 64 All upset
 - 65 "Half — is better than none"
 - 66 Skating area
 - 67 Velocity increases
 - 68 Kauai, e.g.
 - 69 Obliterate
 - 70 Lizardlike amphibian
 - 71 Web pages for newbies
 - 75 "Siberia" network
 - 76 Really pester
 - 77 Shake up
 - 78 See 37-Down
 - 79 Singer
 - 80 Truce
 - 81 "So long!"
 - 82 Spread in the dairy section
 - 84 Start over on
 - 85 Totally lost
 - 86 Chrysler line of the 1980s
 - 87 Do field work
 - 88 Santa —
 - 93 Viewed to be
 - 94 Blaze features
 - 95 "Shoot!"
 - 97 Winfrey of "Beloved"
 - 98 Not a soul
 - 99 Packing box
 - 100 "Hogwash!"
 - 101 Fetal homes
 - 102 1970s foe of Frazier
 - 103 Chaps
 - 104 "Baywatch" actress
 - 109 Aliens' craft
 - 110 Shipped off
 - 112 About half of a fluid oz.
 - 113 Numerical suffix
 - 114 Noshed
 - 115 Repeated syllables in "Hey Jude"
 - 116 Tantalite, e.g.
 - 117 —de-lance



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

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

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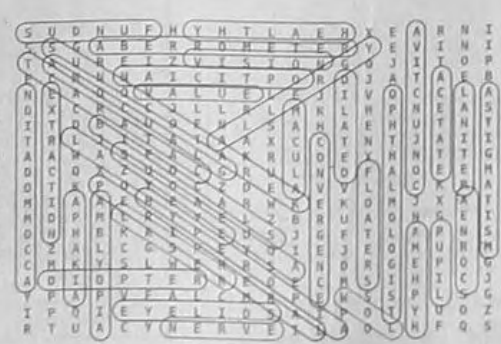
WORDS

- ABERROMETER
- ACCOMMODATION
- ACETATE
- ALLERGY
- AMBLYOPIA
- APHAKIA
- AQUEOUS
- ASTIGMATISM
- BIFOCALS
- CATARACT
- CONJUNCTIVA
- CONVERGENCE
- CORNEA
- DILATED
- DIOPTER
- EXTRACTION
- EYELIDS
- FLOATERS
- FUNDUS
- GLAUCOMA
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- KERATOCONUS
- LASER
- LAZY EYE
- LOW
- MACULA
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- PUPIL
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- VALUE
- VISION

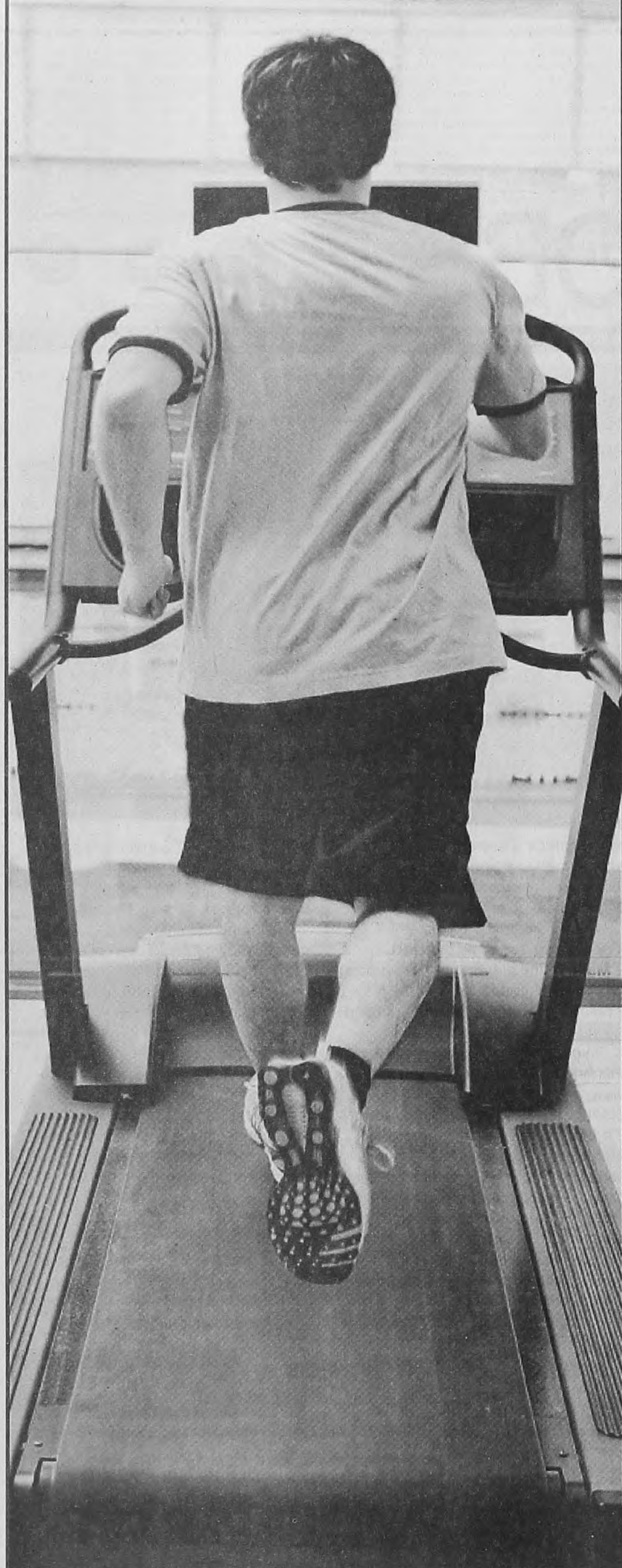
Crossword Answers

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

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Car Report

Buick's Growing Success Forces Rivals To Look at Another New Model: Its Winning Marketing Campaign



By Dale Buss

Every automaker can learn at least a couple of things from the ongoing success of Buick. First, there's nothing like timing the right vehicle

for the right segment to set off a sales explosion. And, second, a clever, relevant and consistent marketing campaign, executed with fidelity and determination, really can move the needle on brand perception.



The Buick brand is shining these days thanks to vehicles and marketing.

And now Buick is trying to pull off a third major feat: finally, decisively moving its demographics younger and more female. The brand has been making stabs at doing so for years, but now with the new 2017 Encore, the ongoing launch of the never-before-seen Cascada convertible, and the continued evolution of its marketing efforts,

success seems in the making.

Thus the Buick TV ad running during its sponsorship of NCAA March Madness creates no cognitive dissonance at all. Millennials are using the onboard 4G LTE WiFi in "Tina's new Buick," a spacious Enclave SUV, to drop in via teleconference on a meeting back in the office, whereupon their boss discovers that they're out getting smoothies. It's only one of a handful of well-aimed spots, on TV and online video, that Buick hatched for the annual men's basketball tournament and its sponsorship of this demographically rich event.

"What we've done differently this year," Molly Peck, Buick's marketing director, told me, "is taken this whole kind of vernacular that goes with March Madness and created a 'game time glossary' which takes terms like 'Cinderella story' and 'underdog' and 'sleeper team' and created digital content with a Buick twist" which runs in pre-roll video on web sites that are streaming the games.

Buick was smart and fortunate to introduce Encore, an all-new nameplate, in 2014 just in time to benefit not only from Buick's improving brand vibe but also from the increasingly voracious appetite of American consumers for compact crossover vehicles.

Encore took the segment by storm, and this year, through March, it easily ranked as Buick's best-selling overall vehicle, with sales up again by 23 percent over 2015 levels for the year. And in March, Encore was the only one of Buick's nameplates that existed last year to register any sales gain at all over last year.

By contrast, of course, Buick's more-premium sibling brand, Cadillac, still lacks a compact CUV, and the GM luxury brand and its sales have suffered mightily for the deficit.

Which brings us to Buick's marketing. In 2014, it launched a completely new campaign and positioning under the rubric, "That's not a Buick," with a hit series of commercials showcasing the wonderful vehicles Buick was making and selling — and humorously underscoring that the typical consumer remained disbelieving that any of them could be a Buick.

After the campaign's initial success, Buick doubled down. "We started by asking that question, and piquing consumers' interest and curiosity," Peck said. "And then, last year, we started to tell people what they could expect from Buick, with built-in WiFi and our 24 Hours of Happiness test drives. We started to make a promise. And this year it's paying off."

Thus, with this March



Emily Ratajkowski and Odell Beckham Jr. -- and the Buick Cascada in the background -- starred in a Super Bowl ad.

Madness season, Buick ads have pivoted to asking, "Is that a Buick?"

"It's making more of a declaration that, yes, this is what you can expect from Buick," Peck explained. "Great technology, a brand-new convertible called Cascada, and the Buick remote-link app."

Interestingly, Buick's attempt to redefine itself has been much more successful, at least in its consistency, than the "Find New Roads" tag line that Chevrolet unveiled three years ago. It never has been really clear what "Find New Roads" actually means, and Chevy has found itself just slapping the phrase on everything it does. What has worked for Chevrolet is its "Real People" ads

in which a host uses stunts with actual consumers to get them to conclude that the vehicle they really want is ... a Chevrolet. Chevrolet might as well jettison "Find New Roads" for the good it's doing.

At Buick, the theme they concocted two years ago just keeps working better. "It's taken a lot of discipline," Peck said. "It's tempting to go off-strategy and try new creative. But focus is something we're really committed to. Then you see it pay off, and its easier to stick to it at that point."

As for millennials, a great Buick TV ad for Cascada called "Wedding," which ran during Super Bowl 50, made it clear that the brand is going hard after them with the new drop-top.

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Offer expires 4/30/2016
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Great Value 2 bdrm vinyl ranch, bsmt w/possible 3rd bdrm & Lav, Oak Kitchen w/dishwasher, 2 car GA \$11,000
A lot of Home for the Money 1,685 sq ft ranch home, formal dining & living room, mud room or den, finish bsmt w/full bath & fireplace \$15,840
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REDFORD - Great Corner Lot
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