

CANTON OBSERVER

THURSDAY 04.14.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MICHIGAN PHIL GOES TO THE MOVIES

ENTERTAINMENT, B9



Elected officials take 5-percent pay cut

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton's elected leaders have cut their own wages by 5 percent to make them more comparable to pay levels in other suburban communities. New salary levels take effect next Jan. 1 after a

sweeping decision Tuesday evening by the seven-member Canton Township Board of Trustees.

"This keeps us competitive with other communities," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "These are definitely fair amounts of money."

The changes come after a

three-member panel — township Clerk Terry Bennett and Trustees John Anthony and Tom Yack — examined salaries among suburban communities and recommended pay cuts as follows:

» The supervisor's salary will drop to \$116,295 from \$122,416, a decrease of \$6,121.

» Wages for the township clerk and treasurer will fall to \$99,586 from \$104,827, declining by \$5,241.

» Wages for the four part-time township trustees will decrease to \$12,094 from \$12,731 — a \$637 difference.

In all, the pay cuts will save Canton taxpayers \$19,151 a

year. While it's not a huge pot of money, officials say it was the right move after township employees in recent years took contract concessions amid an economic recession.

"Our employees stepped up and took wage and benefit

See CUT, Page A2



Terry Jacek and husband Steve Jacek spin the wheel to earn a prize from Alexis Dickinson of USA Hockey.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Police urge residents to turn in unwanted pills

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

In a move to thwart prescription drug abuse, the Canton Police Department has confirmed it will become a one-day drop-off point where residents can rid their homes of unused or unwanted pills.

Prescription pills may be placed in a drop box inside the Canton police station lobby, 1150 S. Canton Center, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 30, part of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration drug take-back initiative.

"The reason we do this is to remove all those dangerous prescription drugs from homes so they don't get into the hands of our children or people who may misuse them," said Officer Patty Esselink, the police department's community relations coordinator.



Esselink

Canton alone collected 86 pounds of prescription drugs during the DEA's most recent effort last Sept. 26. Thousands of Americans across the nation discarded more than 350 tons of drugs that day. In all, 3,800 federal, state and local partners joined the DEA to collect 702,365 pounds at more than 5,000 sites across the United States.

It marked the 10th drug take-back initiative since 2010. Cumulatively, the events have collected 5,525,021 pounds of drugs — a move local and federal officials say can save lives.

"The numbers are shocking — approximately 46,000 Americans die each year from drug-related deaths," then-acting DEA Administrator Chuck Rosenberg said after last September's take-back effort. "More than half of those are from heroin and prescription opioids."

He said four out of five new heroin users start with prescription medications.

Canton police say residents can drop off prescription pills — no questions asked — during the four-hour period April 30. Esselink said drugs should be emptied into the drop box, but not the pill bottle — a move to protect privacy. She said the DEA picks up the pills.

See PILLS, Page A2

SHOWCASE 'NOTHING BUT GREAT' AS BUSINESS MARKETING EVENT

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Marketing returned to its roots as a person-to-person endeavor — no social media, online campaigns or fancy "branding" here — Monday at the Showcase and Taste of Plymouth.

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's annual expo brought nearly 100 Plymouth- and Canton-area organizations and businesses,

including about 20 restaurants, to The Inn at St. John's, where hundreds of visitors packed the aisles to talk shop, sample the wares and socialize.

"It's been nothing but great," said Edward Smythe, of the Moo Cluck Moo on Ford Road in Canton. It was the restaurant's first visit to the Showcase.

Smythe, Moo Cluck Moo's director of product development and catering, and his crew were giving away bite-

sized grilled chicken sandwiches and they were going fast. "We're getting a lot of good reviews," Smythe said.

Smythe said he'd seen Moo Cluck Moo regulars at the Showcase, including some who were representing other businesses there.

"The Showcase is just getting better every year," said Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. "For the second straight year, we had

about 600 people join us and they are from a broad cross-section of the community."

Graff said restaurants, caterers and sweet shops use the event to show off some of their best menu items.

"It is like a Food Network challenge, with the winners being the attendees who get to discover some of

See SHOWCASE, Page A7

Canton High graduate creates positive brand

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

Positivity reigns. Tough times don't last. Look up, be proud.

These are the words that metro Detroit clothing brand Head High Detroit promotes.

Head High Detroit owner and 2010 Canton High School graduate Darius Beasley is working to spread this message via its name and logo, not only in the Detroit area, but also both nationally and internationally.

Beasley, 23, said he always

wanted to start something like Head High, but never knew how to go about it. He said the idea for his brand actually came to him after one of his childhood friends was murdered three years ago. At the funeral, he told his deceased friend's mother that he was praying for her and to keep her "head high."

"While working one day, it hit me," Beasley said. "That's it. That's the name."

Once the name was chosen, Beasley contacted his friend,

See BRAND, Page A2



On Nov. 20, Head High Detroit joined the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.



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Remodeled homes tour includes Plymouth, Canton

The 2016 Tour of Remodeled Homes, presented by NARI of Southeast Michigan, showcases 10 homes that have been remodeled throughout the Ann Arbor and Plymouth-Canton areas. The event is 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday April 23, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

This showcase of remodeled homes is an extremely valuable event for anybody who has

remodeling or new construction plans in their future. This event offers the opportunity for attendees to see how local design build professionals have worked within existing constraints to produce new and vibrant living spaces.

This year's tour offers an eclectic mix of design aesthetics, ranging from traditional additions to very contemporary kitchens, as well as sev-

eral whole home transformations. Attendees will see some of the latest trends in the remodeling industry and how those trends can be applied to their own homes.

The tour is sponsored by Mans Lumber & Millwork. Family owned since 1900, the Mans family has serviced the lumber and building needs of the metro Detroit and Ann Arbor communities.

Admission is \$10 per person, with children 5 and under free. Tickets are available at all nine of the Tour of Remodeled Homes projects; tickets must be validated before entering and are good for use on both days of the tour. Each ticket sale is accompanied by a tour guide, complete with project map.

Tickets are on sale online www.narisemich.org.

HOME TOUR STOPS

- » DJL Builder, 1025 Palmer, Plymouth
- » Sharer Design Group, 121 Woodward Road, Canton
- » Giraffe Design Build, 1150 W. Clark Road, Superior Township
- » Architectural Resource & Alpha Design + Build, 1706 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor
- » Giraffe Design Build, 3990 Calgary Ct., Ann Arbor
- » Forward Design Build, 304 S. Revena Blvd., Ann Arbor
- » Meadowlark Builders, 2938 Newport Road, Ann Arbor
- » Dexter Builders, 3124 Fawnmeadow Ct., Ann Arbor
- » Michael A. Rogers Building & Home Improvement, Inc., 3374 Bluett Drive, Ann Arbor

CANTON OBSERVER

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PILLS

Continued from Page A1

It has become a popular program.

"We get a ton of calls every time that we put this out there and make it available," Esselink

said.

Employees in the Canton police station's records bureau have said they receive numerous inquiries from residents awaiting the drug take-back program.

Esselink said only pills — not liquids and needles — can be accept-

ed.

Federal studies have shown that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends — often from the home medicine cabinet. Authorities say flushing drugs down the toilet or tossing them in the trash

can pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information, call Esselink at 734-394-5194 or the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400.

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CUT

Continued from Page A1

cuts," Anthony said. "It's only fair that we match the way they handled their contracts. It's fair all around."

The salary cuts come as two township officials — LaJoy and Bennett — have said they are not seeking re-election.

LaJoy assembled the three-member panel to examine pay levels of area elected officials. Officials sought to adopt pay levels prior to the April 19 filing deadline for township board seats, in the spirit of fairness to all candidates.

Anthony said the pay cuts reflect Canton's

"Our employees stepped up and took wage and benefit cuts. ... It's fair all around."

JOHN ANTHONY
Canton Township trustee

ongoing push to rein in expenses when possible.

"Economically in the township, our heads are above water," he said, "but we don't want to endanger the very fragile economic growth we are experiencing now."

LaJoy said Canton's elected officials last took a salary cut in 2008,

when pay levels were slashed 9.2 percent for the supervisor, 4.7 percent for the clerk and treasurer and 4.3 percent for trustees. Salaries have gradually increased since then to their current levels.

According to numbers compiled by Canton officials, here's a closer look at how some of Canton's current pay levels, prior to the 5-percent cut, compare to other communities.

» Canton's supervisor pay of \$122,416 compares to supervisor salaries of \$90,000 for Shelby and Macomb townships, \$90,987 for Waterford, \$114,913 for West Bloomfield, \$111,384 for Plymouth Township and \$84,171 for Clinton Town-

ship.

It also compares to city manager pay levels of \$158,105 in Troy, \$142,105 in Novi, \$137,971 in Southfield and, for mayors, \$108,297 in Westland, \$108,200 in Livonia and \$144,575 in Dearborn.

» Canton's clerk pay of \$104,827 compares to clerk salaries of \$85,000 in Shelby, \$81,963 in Waterford, \$85,000 in Macomb, \$96,900 in Northville Township, \$111,618 in West Bloomfield, \$101,410 in Plymouth Township and \$81,024 in Clinton Township.

It also compares to clerk pay levels of \$90,658 in Troy, \$99,050 in Novi, \$99,500 in Southfield, \$103,140 in Westland, \$75,000 in Livonia and \$79,992 in Dearborn.

The study found similar differences comparing the Canton treasurer's salary with those in other communities.

» Part-time Canton trustees wages of \$12,731 were higher than some communities such as Waterford (\$10,976), Plymouth Township (\$11,745) and lower than others such as Clinton Township (\$13,985). Canton trustee pay levels also were less than what city council members are paid in Southfield (\$17,000), Westland (\$15,471), Livonia (\$16,932) and Dearborn (\$14,409).

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Head High Detroit's logo was drawn by Trevor Coates; Beasley said he wanted something universal.

BRAND

Continued from Page A1

Trevor Coates, with ideas for a corporate logo, which he agreed to draw for him. He also hired both an assistant, Olivia Henry, and an event planner, Yorel Huckleberry.

"We do events and I make it a goal to do some community service every month," Beasley said.

In November, Head High Detroit was asked to join the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. Its apparel is now sold in the Michigan Science Center and is frequently worn by University of Michigan basketball players, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park faculty and students and many others.

For more information on the brand or to purchase apparel, go to www.headhighdetroit.com, follow HeadHighDetroit on Instagram or "like" the Facebook page, Head High Detroit.

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Price joins township race: 'I believe in my community'

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Shannon Price, a former Canton resident who was appointed Plymouth Township supervisor a year ago, announced recently that he is running for a full elected term.

Speaking to several dozen supporters at the new Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Price, a former Wayne County Commissioner member, unveiled a new slogan, "Plymouth Township: It's where you want to be." He said the words reflect the township's positive environment for businesses, family life and local schools. "It's where I want to be," he said.

Price faces state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, and Trustee Chuck Curmi in the contest for the Republican nomination for supervisor in the Tuesday, Aug. 2, primary. There are no Democratic candidates for supervisor so far; the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.



MATT JACHMAN

Shannon Price announces Wednesday that he is running for supervisor in this year's Plymouth Township election. Price was appointed supervisor a year ago this month to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Richard Reaume. His campaign kickoff with several dozen supporters was at the new Holiday Inn Express & Suites.

Heise, a lawyer and former director of the Wayne County Department of Environment, is in his third two-year state House term and cannot seek re-election because of term limits. Curmi, a mechanical engineer who specializes in program management in the automotive industry, is a five-term town-

ship trustee.

Price told supporters he plans a positive campaign, despite warnings from opponents that it will be a negative township election season.

"I'm not going to subscribe to that," he said. "I'm going to talk about the positive things we've done."

But, he added, "We're

going to fight for what we believe in and I believe in my community."

Lists high points

He touted several pluses for the township, like being named the second-safest community of its size in the state and having the lowest tax rate of any community in Wayne County, plus recent economic developments: the addition of about 3,000 jobs in the township in 2015 and plans for a major automotive supplier to bring 600-800 jobs to the vacant Automotive Components Holdings plant on Sheldon Road.

Price and his family moved to the township from Canton Township in February 2015 and he was named supervisor by a 4-2 Board of Trustees vote last April after Richard Reaume, in the middle of his third four-year term, announced his resignation. Price had been a Republican member of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, in a district that includes

Plymouth Township, and had been elected to his second two-year commission term in November 2014.

After his announcement, Price said he wants to build on a record that, so far, has included improvements to recreation facilities, increased programming for senior citizens, a new Christmas tree-lighting event and a projected budget surplus for this fiscal year, the first since the economic downturn that began in 2007.

'Working to build trust'

Price said he recognized he inherited a difficult situation when he was named supervisor; Reaume's resignation came amid a failed attempt to bring to the ballot a measure to recall Reaume, Clerk Nancy Conzelman, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustee Kay Arnold, who died later in the year. But Price said he is working on building good relations with residents by

meeting with homeowners associations and individuals and by having regular monthly open office hours.

"I am working every day to build trust in this community," Price said.

Price has two major issues on his supervisor's plate: A legal dispute with the city of Detroit over the ownership of 190 acres at Five Mile and Ridge and negotiations with Plymouth officials over the roughly \$3.7 million that township officials contend the city owes it in retiree insurance and pension costs stemming from the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which served both communities from early 1995 through 2011.

He said he hopes to have both wrapped up by the end of his current appointed term in November.

Price and his wife Jacki have a daughter, Maddie, and a son, Brady.

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City commissioner wants to succeed Heise

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Touting her experience at the city, Wayne County and state levels, Colleen Pobur of Plymouth announced Monday her candidacy for the Michigan House of Representatives.

A Plymouth City Commission member, Pobur is running as a Democrat in the 20th District, which includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township and part of eastern Canton Township. Current Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, cannot seek re-election because of term limits and is running for township supervisor.

Speaking to a small

group of supporters at the Plymouth District Library, Pobur said her experience working with people of different backgrounds and political affiliations will give her an edge should she be elected. Republicans currently have a 63-46 House majority, but Pobur said she expects those numbers to get closer after the election in November.

"I've worked with people of all persuasions since the day I got into this business," said Pobur, 57.

Pobur is in her eighth year as a city commission member; she served from 1997 to 2003, then was appointed in September 2014 to fill a vacancy

and won a full four-year term last fall.

County, state roles

She worked for the Detroit-Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, first in its noise-abatement program and then as director of the concessions program at the McNamara Terminal as it was being planned and built. From 2008-12, Pobur was on the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, a job that, she said, gave her insight into both state government and how small businesses operate.

Pobur began her career in sales in the private sector.

"All those different experiences will give me

the background to hit the ground running," she said.

Pobur listed several policy goals she'd have if elected: supporting small businesses rather than giving "giant tax breaks" to big corporations, working to end disparities in state funding for public education and working to make higher education more affordable.

She said changes that would bring more equality to public school funding will have to be "incremental," but that she senses there is agreement in both political parties that changes need to be made.

Pobur is the only Democrat in the race so far;



MATT JACHMAN

Colleen Pobur, a Plymouth City Commission member, with supporters Monday as she announces her candidacy in the Michigan House of Representatives' 20th District.

the primary is Tuesday, Aug. 2, and the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

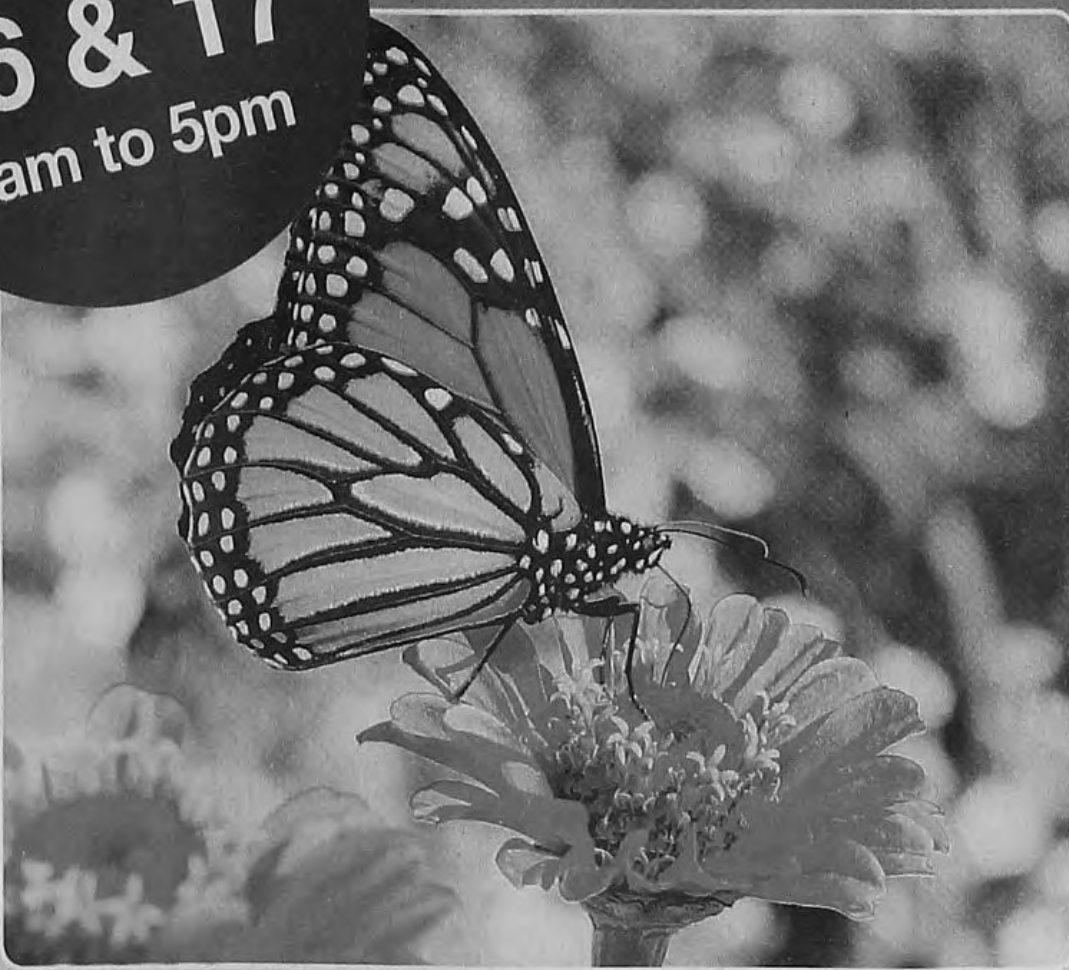
There are three Republicans, so far, vying to succeed Heise: Jeff Noble of Plymouth Township, a local pastor; Chris Roosen, a former North-

ville Township trustee and an auto industry veteran; and Joe Smith of Plymouth Township, office manager at an Oakland County landscaping firm. The 20th District includes Northville Township and part of the city of Northville.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Uber passenger ends up
with a ride to jail

An unlucky Uber passenger, riding with a bag of marijuana and a credit card that wasn't his, was arrested after Canton police stopped his 70-year-old driver for having no headlights.

Police say the incident unfolded about 11 p.m. April 6, when the Uber driver's Chrysler PT Cruiser was spotted with no headlights on Belleville Road, near Michigan Avenue.

Police detected the odor of marijuana, prompting the passenger, a 24-year-old Detroit man, to say he smokes it for back pain, even though he conceded he has no medical marijuana card.

The suspect told police he had hired the Uber driver because he has no driver's license

and needed to get to a friend's birthday party. Police learned the suspect had warrants for speeding in Huntington Woods and for driving with a suspended license in Hazel Park and Ferndale.

A police report indicated the suspect had a retail bag containing three new iPhones, four gift cards, two credit cards, a small bag of marijuana and a digital scale that he said he uses to ensure he gets a fair deal when buying marijuana.

He told police he bought the iPhones for relatives. One of the credit cards had someone else's name on it, prompting him to tell police that a friend had left it in his car — even though he already had said he doesn't drive because he has no license.

The traffic stop ended with the suspect being arrested for possession of marijuana and

for illegally having the credit card. Police confiscated the credit card and gift cards as the investigation continued.

Hoodie swindle

A 19-year-old Livonia man told police he had gone Sunday afternoon to Canton to sell his A Bathing Ape brand hoodie to someone for \$420 — only to be ripped off.

The victim had arranged to meet two Canton teens about 1 p.m. near Cherry Hill and I-275 to make the sale. He told police one of the teens tried on the hoodie and then ran for a black SUV, driving off without paying.

The victim said no weapons had been seen during the incident and he was not assaulted. He gave police the information they needed to track down the teens, who agreed to meet police outside a Canton bank to

return the hoodie.

A police report said the victim didn't want to prosecute the case; he just wanted his hoodie back.

Fraudulent cards

Police nabbed two suspects accused of trying to use fraudulent gift cards to make purchases at the Meijer store at Ford and Canton Center, a report said.

The incident unfolded about 4:15 p.m. April 6, after a Meijer employee notified police that the two suspects had been swiping several cards to try to get one to work, before leaving in a Dodge Challenger.

Police spotted the vehicle on eastbound Ford Road and stopped it, advising the suspects they were under investigation for fraud. A police report identified them as Detroit men, ages 24 and 22.

Police found two gift cards and a Green Dot card during the investigation — cards that a Meijer employee confirmed as fraudulent. Police took the suspects into custody as the investigation was continuing.

Lost backpack

Police went to the Marathon gas station at Michigan Avenue and Haggerty after receiving reports that a backpack had been left near a gas pump, a report said.

Police received the call about 9 p.m. Friday. Nothing suspicious was found inside the backpack — only clothing and miscellaneous items, but nothing to identify its owner.

The backpack was placed in the police station's property room in case someone reports it missing.

— By Darrell Clem

Livonia man wielding gun shot by
police officers during traffic stop

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A 23-year-old Livonia man is in the hospital and police custody after Livonia police say he pointed a gun at an officer during a traffic stop early Sunday morning.

Police say the man was pulled over at about 2 a.m. Sunday near the intersection of Lyndon and Farmington after he was observed driving erratically near I-96 and Farmington by a caller who dialed 9-1-1.

Police say the suspect, who was driving a white Ford Explorer, was swerving in and out of traffic and was then followed

by police. After the driving behavior was confirmed, the officer pulled over the vehicle under a suspicion of drunken driving. A second patrol car arrived as backup during the stop.

As the officers approached the vehicle on foot during the stop, the driver pointed a long gun out the window. The officers responded by firing their weapons at the driver. The driver then pulled the gun back inside the vehicle and the officers retreated to cover.

Police gave the suspect multiple commands to leave the vehicle without the gun, which he then did. He was taken into

custody and later transferred to an area hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound.

Police say the injury sustained by the driver was not life-threatening and he was in stable condition as of Sunday afternoon.

Police have not released any more details, including if any charges had been filed. As of Tuesday morning, the case was still being reviewed by the prosecutor's office. The investigation remains ongoing, according to police.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Valuables stolen in locker break-in

Cash, a wedding band and a \$750 cellular phone were reported stolen April 5 from a locker in the men's locker room at the new LA Fitness on Ann Arbor Road at Haggerty.

The victim told police the locker was broken into while he worked out there between about 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. April 5, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. He had used a lock on the locker, he said, but it had been removed.

House egged

A house on Grant Drive, in the area of North Territorial and Ridge Road, was egged Saturday night, police report.

A resident told police he woke up, shortly before 10:30 p.m., to loud sounds coming from the front of his house, a police report said. He went outside, he told police, to see three broken eggs and an orange that had apparently struck the house. There was no visible damage to the siding, police said.

License suspended

A 24-year-old Detroit man was arrested Monday night on a charge of driving with a suspended license during a traffic stop on Ann Arbor Road, near I-275.

A police report said the driver was pulled over because the Ford Explorer he was in had a temporary license that was obstructed from the officer's view. The driver, in addition to having a suspended license, had no registration or insurance for the vehicle, police said.

Police said he also had two outstanding warrants, out of Bloomfield Hills, for failure to appear in court.

— By Matt Jachman

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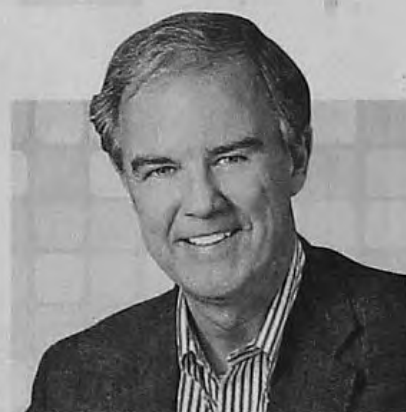
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You may be asking yourself: "What are hearing implants and will they work for me?" While these answers lie in the hands of a qualified Hearing Implant Specialist, there are some telltale signs that may mean a hearing implant is right for you. Get to know the facts. It's the first step to better hearing.



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

Dr. David C. Kelsall, a hearing implant surgeon and medical advisor to Cochlear, the world leader in hearing implants, answers common questions about hearing implants.

Q: Is a hearing implant right
for me?

A: If you have tried hearing aid after hearing aid and nothing seems to work, it may mean a hearing implant is right for you. Other signs may include having difficulty hearing in noisy environments (such as restaurants) or on the phone. Be sure to discuss these signs with a Hearing Implant Specialist in your area. Hearing aids are typically worn before implantable solutions are considered.

Q: How are hearing implants
different than hearing aids?

A: While hearing aids only amplify sounds, hearing implants help make them louder and clearer. Improving the clarity of your hearing may help you better understand speech in both quiet and noisy situations.

Q: What kinds of hearing implants
are there?

A: There are hearing implant solutions for many types of hearing loss. They include cochlear implants, Hybrid™ Hearing and bone conduction implants. Visit your Hearing Implant Specialist to determine which one may be right for you.

Q: Does Medicare cover hearing
implants?

A: Yes, hearing implants may be covered by Medicare and most private insurance.*

Q: Do hearing implants require
surgery?

A: Yes, surgery is required. However, in most cases it is a short, outpatient procedure.

Q: Am I too old to get a cochlear
implant?

A: No, it's never too late to begin your journey to better hearing.

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

Visit Cochlear.com/DET to take an online hearing quiz.

*Contact your insurance company or local Hearing Implant Specialist to determine your eligibility for coverage.

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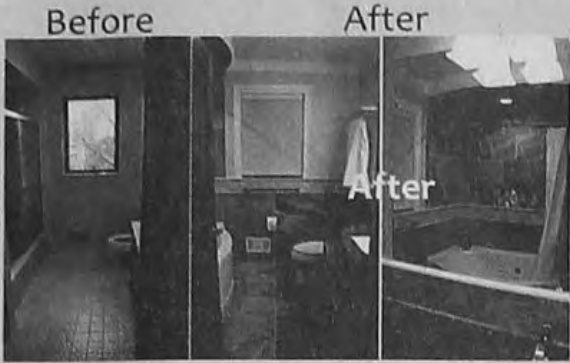
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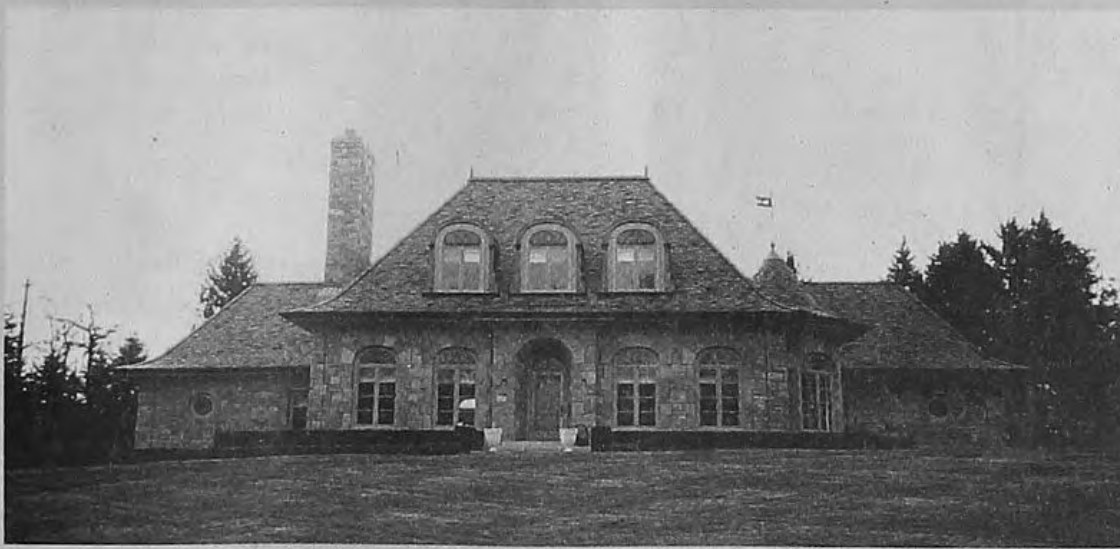


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Schoolcraft Nursing student Erin Brashear checks I. Britt's blood pressure. Brashear is from Belleville. Britt lives in Westland.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hundreds attend annual O&E Spring Expo

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Getting the newest information, especially for seniors, was a big theme April 5 at the Observer & Eccentric Senior Spring Expo at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. That's what drew Plymouth Township resident Kathie Gornica to the event.

The 82-year-old ballroom dance instructor, who teaches many seniors out of her home, said she comes every year to the event in Livonia to gather info and pass it along.

"I like to recommend to my students who, a lot of them are seniors, that are going to have problems," she said. "I'm giving them brochures to look into it."

Gornica was one of hundreds who filled Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center for the annual event. Attendees sought information from the many vendors in attendance, including health care providers, estate planners and senior living facilities, among many others. Some seminars held during the event saw standing-room-only crowds to hear some of the speakers.

One such provider was Mercy Elite Sports Performance, a Livonia-based sports medicine facility located at 13245 Newburgh just south of I-96 and part of the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Employees as well as local golf officials were on hand to examine attendees' golf swings and see what, if anything, could cause injury or other ailments while out on the links.

Terry Welsh, the outing and marketing coordinator for the city of Livonia's golf division, said it's important for those golfers to know what ails them, as golf pros don't typically go out and ask golfers about their health status on the golf course.

"As a golf pro, my first question isn't always, 'Hey, do you have any preexisting injuries or have you had hip replacement surgery?'" he

said. "It's 'What do you want to work on in your golf game?' This is the most important step, getting the body ready for golf so that I can maximize the golf swing, get the most potential out of one's golf game."

Nursing students station

A new station this year was several tables of Schoolcraft College nursing students checking vital signs for visitors and talking to them about health. Students came and took blood pressure, among other measurements, from patrons and talked to them in a casual setting. The event replaced the students' clinicals for the day, and gave them experience working with the public out in the field rather than in a medical setting.

"This is more of a preventative-type event," said Rachel Morrow, a Westland resident and first-year nursing student.

One of those in attendance was Farmington Hills resident Rose Lehnerer, who wanted to be aware of what she and her husband needed to do to get their affairs in order.

It's something she hopes isn't needed for a long, long time, she said.

"My husband and I were interested in estate planning," she said.

"There's a certain amount of denial that you really need this."

"We all feel like we have an unlimited amount of time."

Ingrid James of Canton said the event was the second Senior Spring Expo she's attended. She came last year and decided it was worthwhile to return this year.

She recommends others to come next year, because of all the access to information she picked up.

"I'm always trying to keep abreast of what the latest things are," she said. "This is a good place to go to find out."

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Mary Traub of Plymouth won a gift basket from Westland Nursing and rehab's Jude Aschoff.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



As the standing-room only crowd leaves the auditorium, Beverly Brenner of Northville asks Rick Bloom for clarification of financial advice.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Ralph Schwedt of Livonia learns about Cedarbrook Senior Living, under construction on Haggerty Road in Northville, from Fran Finsilver.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Steve Kemp helps George Korody of Northville.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Katie Kowalski, with Huron-Clinton Metroparks, shares a park map with Carol Yates of Plymouth.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The Doctor is in. Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, is ready with advice.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Don and Joyce Muno of Beverly Hills leave the expo with good advice, lunch, and some swag.



Arbor Hospice announces new officers, board

Canton, Plymouth and Northville residents are among those serving with Arbor Hospice and The Arbor Hospice Foundation, which have announced officers and board members.

Elected officers to the Arbor Hospice Board of Directors are chair Pat Jannausch of Ann Arbor, principal at Core OD Consulting, LLC and treasurer Lee Ann Myers of Canton, vice presi-

dent and chief financial officer of Hospice of Michigan.

Joining them on the Arbor Hospice board as elected members are:
» Gloria D. Brooks of Ann Arbor, president of Arbor Hospice and The Arbor Hospice Foundation.

» John Evangelista, CFP, of Ann Arbor, principal at Evangelista & Associates.

» Denise Hoffman of

Milan, director of nursing practice, quality and support at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

» Michael Jasperson of Northville Township, vice president, chief marketing officer, Hospice of Michigan.

» Dr. Kathleen Wade of Ann Arbor, director of social work and associate hospital administrator, UMH Operations, and assistant dean of hospital social work

services, School of Social Work.

Elected officers to the The Arbor Hospice Foundation Board of Directors are:

» Chair, Jackie Silhanek of Ann Arbor, executive director of strategic clients at GE Healthcare.

» Treasurer, Greg Hawkins of Ann Arbor, executive director at Northwest Ohio ACO.

» Secretary, Dean

Marble of Ann Arbor, director, finance at DTE Energy Services.

Joining them on The Arbor Hospice Foundation board as elected members are:

» Charles Borgsdorf of Ann Arbor, attorney at Hooper Hathaway.

» Gloria D. Brooks of Ann Arbor, president of Arbor Hospice and The Arbor Hospice Foundation.

» Melonie Colaianne

of Northville, retired president, MASCO Corporation Foundation.

» Marcie Hillary of Grand Rapids, vice president, chief development officer, Hospice of Michigan.

» Mike McCarthy of Plymouth, financial adviser at Rehmann.

» Chris Prisky of Saline, senior vice president and investment group manager at Bank of Ann Arbor.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Live music from Dennis Carter II and Ellen Breakfield-Glick, members of the Michigan Philharmonic.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jan Bowler of the Rusty Bucket in Northville is ready to serve big handfuls of mac and cheese.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
An overview of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's 27th Showcase and Taste of Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Zochowski of Plymouth grabs for flying cash in the booth sponsored by Monroe Bank and Trust.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don't mess with Leslie Ryder of the Plymouth Historical Museum, who is holding a classic Daisy Red Ryder.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chelsea Earley, sous chef at Independence Village, prepares Asian-style gravlax on crispy wonton.

SHOWCASE

Continued from Page A1

the best food in our area," he said.

The Curves women-only gym, which has locations on Five Mile in Plymouth Township and on Cherry Hill in Canton, was making its third Showcase appearance. Claire O'Connor, a Curves coach, said the event is a good way to attract new clients and explore options for cross-marketing with other businesses.

O'Connor had even run into some former Curves customers. "I think we convinced 'em to come back," she said.

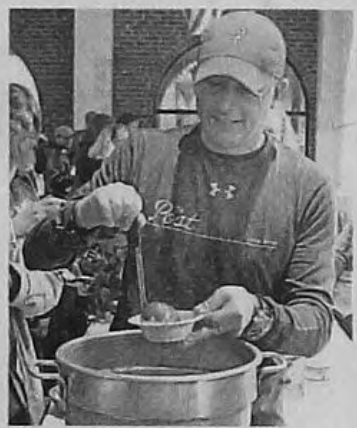
Several community organizations were represented at the Showcase, including the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, the Michigan Philharmonic and the Plymouth Community United Way. Even the Northville City Fire Department, which serves Northville and Plymouth, had a booth.

At a table featuring Simply Fresh Mediterranean Grill, Anthony Warra was handing out sampler plates. He and his father Sam own the restaurant on Penniman in downtown Plymouth; it was Simply Fresh's first time at the Showcase.

"Everyone I talk to seems to enjoy it," Warra said. Like Smythe at Moo Cluck Moo, Warra was seeing regular Simply Fresh customers at St. John's.

"This is actually a very good experience," Sam Warra said, adding the event exposed Simply Fresh to many visitors from outside the community. "Definitely a plus."

The Showcase included the chamber's volunteers of the year awards, which honored 27 people for their service to local community and civic groups.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Pindzia ladles up samples of chili from the Post Local Bistro.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marilyn Messina of Canton Township enters a contest for gift cards, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Smythe and Teri Bauer, of the Canton restaurant Moo Cluck Moo, tell John Bailey about the business and their chicken sandwiches — gluten-free, no less.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ava Barszczowski, 3, and brother Zachary, 7, enjoy some of the samples offered by local restaurants at Monday's Showcase and Taste of Plymouth.

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OUR VIEW

Robotics competition a win-win for students, schools and business world

Educator Mark Skodack put it well during a recent robotics competition. Of his Hackbots team, which includes teens from Farmington Public Schools' Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools, teacher/coach Skodack said, "It's almost like a small business. A business has to market, a business has to be safe. Six weeks to build a robot is tight for these kids. It gets their focus razor-sharp."

The Hackbots were among more than 40 school systems, public, private and charter, at the March 24-26 FIRST in Michigan District Event at Livonia Churchill High School. FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

The students built robots with a robotic arm, designed to throw a ball through a target. This year's medieval theme proved popular with participants.

Churchill was crowded with high school students, teachers/coaches, mentors, volunteers and spectators on those March days. What they observed was students learning together and from each other in the competition, in which veteran teams are encouraged to help newcomers, such as Garden City High School, hone their skills.

Isolina Carlini is team leader and coach for the Livonia Public Schools' Warriors. She's a middle school teacher in Livonia, at Holmes, and is proud both of the many LPS high schoolers — from Stevenson, Churchill and Franklin — as well as the district's middle school feeder program.

Competition leads to "Worlds," coming up soon in St. Louis, a goal the teams at Churchill shared. Seeing the students, educators and mentors from engineer-

ing and other business backgrounds come together was rewarding.

Said host Carlini, "I think it gives them a hands-on example that simply is not possible in the classroom. It positions kids for success and scholarships and internships. Kids that like this kind of stuff, it really appeals to them."

Students face an increasingly complex world to navigate as they grow up and technological know-how developed through FIRST robotics competition will serve them well. One young woman, Avery Cosier, 17, of Farmington High plans a dentistry career, with many other students set on engineering.

Not all FIRST students will become engineers, but the knowledge, skills and friendships they have gained will serve them well in years to come.

Thoughts on third-grade reading education, instruction

In fiscal year 2016, the state of Michigan will spend \$14.2 billion of taxpayer funds to educate 1.5 million K-12 students. That works out to \$9,466 per student or \$255,600 per classroom of 27 students (Michigan average). And that does not include federal grants allocated directly to schools. What do we get for this money?

According to the latest statewide assessment, only 50 percent of Michigan third-graders are proficient in reading at a third-grade level. That's right — only 50 percent!

The achievement of third-grade reading proficiency is an important



Patrick Colbeck

GUEST COLUMNIST

milestone. It marks the transition from learning to read to an education that depends upon reading to learn. So how do we fix this problem? Let's teach our kids to read. That is the purpose of House Bill 4822. To achieve this purpose, the bill includes provisions for "Literacy Coaches" for teachers, mandatory "Reading Intervention Programs" and state-driven grade retention policies. Do we really

need a state law to teach teachers how to teach? Has it really come down to this?

Why do we need "Literacy Coaches?" A state requirement for "Literacy Coaches" presupposes that our teachers do not have the skills necessary to teach our kids to read. Why do we need remedial education for teachers? What are teachers being taught in universities that offer education degrees? Or, more to the point, what are they not being taught?

Why do we need to require "Reading Intervention Programs?" A state requirement for "Reading Intervention Programs" presupposes that teachers are not currently working on ways to teach struggling students how to read. Why do we need a state law that says that teachers need to teach kids to read?

One would think that

there would be an uproar from the education community at the suggestion that teachers need "Literacy Coaches" or that teachers need to be told to develop "Reading Intervention Programs." Quite the contrary is true, however. While the state-driven mandatory retention provision has met significant resistance from the education community, I have yet to hear any concerns voiced regarding state requirements for coaches or plan development. Why is that?

Simple. State education mandates or "recommendations" translate to more funding. In fact, in the FY 2016 budget, almost \$2.5 million was earmarked specifically for early learning programs. This is chump change in the grand scheme of things. Last year alone, \$128 million was spent on professional development for educators. The fact is most

teachers do not need professional development instruction like racist White Privilege Seminars. The time teachers spend on professional development would be better spent teaching students how to read. The money spent on professional development would be better spent on those teachers who teach well.

So rather than ask why we are accepting teachers in our classrooms who need "Literacy Coaches" or need to be told by the state to develop "Reading Intervention Plans," taxpayers are being asked to throw more money at the problem. Sounds eerily familiar to the problem-solving approach taken for the roads, doesn't it? Instead of improving the quality, we just threw more money at the problem.

We should be asking why some teaching degrees require only two

credit hours on how to teach kids to read. We should be asking why some teaching degrees do not feature any practical classroom training. We should be examining whether or not our teaching certification bureaucracy is fundamentally flawed. The answers to these questions will help us to solve the root problem of our third-grade reading deficiency crisis.

Our students deserve a quality education. Our teachers who are paying for education degrees at universities with expenses that increase at four times the rate of inflation deserve a quality education. Our taxpayers deserve respect, not another crisis-driven shutdown.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck represents the 7th Senate District, which encompasses the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne, as well as the townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth.

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Plymouth woman earns Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Thirteen years ago, Plymouth resident Sharon Schleif stopped smoking. Unlike many who try to kick the habit and add food to the day's regimen, she opted for martial arts.

"I knew if I quit smoking I needed something to distract me and not think of smoking," Schleif said.

She took a martial art class and stuck with it. Today, Schleif is the first woman in Michigan to attain the rank of black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. The black belt means she is a master of the art and holds the highest rank in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, a combat sport and a self-defense system that focuses on grappling and ground fighting. Schleif was awarded the rank in February by the legendary Rigan Machado of RCJ Machado Jiu-Jitsu in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"I just stuck with it," said Schleif, who has trained for 13 years — right back to the time she



Sharon Schleif of Plymouth demonstrates Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

quit smoking. "It is a great workout."

Brazilian jiu-jitsu requires plenty of thinking and is not competitive, yet strengthens a

body's core while providing self-defense strategies. "A small woman or man can take down the biggest guy," she said. The self-defense com-

ponent of her art strikes an important chord with Schleif, who was raped when she was 18 years old. "It has stayed with me," she said.

Teaching women strategies for self-defense is a part of what drives Schleif. She is head instructor at Nomads in Jackson and trains with other Machado black belts at Plymouth Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Academy, Vision Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Wixom and Bushido Martial Arts in Ypsilanti. She also trains women in her Canton studio, Joy Pilates. Schleif will lead a free introduction to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for Women workshop at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 24, at Bushido in Ypsilanti. It is open to girls and women ages 8-80. No registration is required.

When Schleif started training, there were no other women at her school. She began a class to attract more women to the sport. "Jiu-jitsu is for everyone, including women. It is a super way to stay fit and it's good for your mind, too," Schleif said. At the very least, the training can change your demeanor. "My husband has said I carry myself differently

now. I am more upright. You really need a strong core. This really helps your stomach."

There's also the bonding that comes with people in the classes. "You really make good friends," she said. But Schleif also cautions that those interested in Brazilian jiu-jitsu or any form of martial arts should research the available schools because it is easy to hurt yourself.

Yes, Schleif works with women who have been attacked and is committed to teaching women how to defend themselves. The training allows women to know what to do if they are pushed to ground. "We all have to be aware of our surroundings," she said. "Walk with a friend. Keys are good weapons. Stop texting or being on the phone and look around. If you pay attention, most people will not mess with you."

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Miller Woods: Spring wildflower walks April 17 and 24

The flowers will be blooming soon and you are invited to take a guided tour through Miller Woods, Plymouth Township's only nature preserve. The tours will take place 2-4 p.m. Sunday April 17, and (possibly) Sunday, April 24. The tours last about 60 minutes, are free and leave from the entrance

of the woods every 30 minutes.

No dogs or strollers are allowed.

The entrance is on Powell Road, between North Territorial and Beck roads. Check the website for last-minute weather changes or directions at millerwoods.com or call 734-459-7666.

Meeting the April 18 tax deadline

It's hard to believe that it's April and tax returns are due within two weeks. Most people have already completed their returns and, thus, have no problem. For people who have not yet completed their returns, time is ticking. In that regard, you have two options to consider.

The first option is to complete and submit your return on or before April 18.

This year because of the Emancipation Day holiday (observed April 15 in Washington, D.C.), we have a little extra grace period to file our returns. Therefore, you still have a couple of weeks to complete your return. If you generally have a professional do your return, they may not be able to have the return completed and available for you to review before the April 18 deadline. If that is the case, or if for some reason you just don't have the time to complete



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

your return by April 18, then your only other option is to file for an extension.

An extension to file your tax return, whether federal or state, is simple and automatic. To extend your return for the Internal Revenue Service, all you need to do is complete Form 4868. You do not have to give a reason for the extension and it doesn't have to be approved by the IRS. It is automatic. The extension gives you an additional six months to complete your return. Therefore, if you find for whatever reason you are not going to have your return completed by April 18, the proper course of action is to file for an extension.

Although extensions are automatic, it is important to keep in mind

that the extension is for additional time to file your return, not to pay your taxes. Your taxes are still due by April 18. Therefore, even if you are going to do an extension, you must estimate your tax situation to determine if you're going to get a refund or if you're going to owe. If you find that you are going to get a refund, all you need to do is file Form 4868. On the other hand, if you find you are going to owe money, you want to pay that additional liability with Form 4868.

With regard to the state of Michigan, your federal extension will automatically apply there as well. If you file Form 4868 with the federal government and you expect a refund, there is nothing you need to do with regard to the state. If you find you will owe the state money, you want to make an estimated payment.

Whenever I recom-

mend an extension to someone, they almost always question me about whether an extension will raise their audit risk. The answer is a resounding no. There's no evidence whatsoever that filing an extension will increase your audit risk. What typically increases audit risk is returns that have mathematical errors, failure to report income or general sloppiness. What all too often happens is people rush to meet the tax deadline and, thus, they make mistakes on their returns and that is what causes problems. You would be much further ahead to file an extension and then make sure your return is accurate.

Good luck!

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

Two teens charged in Eloise fire

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Two teens have been charged with setting a fire that destroyed the former bakery building at the historic Eloise property.

Trevor Bauer, 18, of Wayne was arraigned in



Bauer

Westland 18th District Court on charges of third-degree arson and possession of burglary

tools. A not-guilty plea was entered for him and his bond was set at \$10,000/10 percent.

A 16-year-old Westland boy was also charged in connection with the April 6 fire. Due to being charged as a juvenile, the teen's name isn't being released.

Wayne-Westland firefighters responded to the fire at the vacant building about 2 p.m. April 6. They were joined by firefighters from Garden City and Inkster.

Due to the fire coming through the roof of the two-story building, firefighters reported the fire likely started on the upper floor. Firefighters were not able to enter the building while bat-

ting the fire due to the second-level and third-level floors sagging.

The former bakery building is west of the Kay Beard Building and the Wayne County Family Center. It's expected that the burned building will need to be demolished.

Wayne County owns the Eloise property and has offered it for sale.

The Wayne County Family Center and a building with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office road patrol division and a county clerk satellite office are not part of the sale.

At various times, the property housed the county poor house, a hospital for tuberculosis patients, a mental institution and a general hospital. At its peak, Eloise was a self-contained community with barns, a greenhouse, cattle herds, a piggery, a bakery, a cannery, its own post office and fire department.

Over time, various buildings were closed and most were demolished. The psychiatric hospital closed in 1979, followed by the closure of Wayne County General Hospital in 1984.

Bauer is scheduled April 14 for a probable cause conference in 18th District Court, with a preliminary examination set for April 21.

Judge: 'Some of them are from your block'

Panel in Livonia talks human trafficking

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The story of how Joyce Haskett was abused as a child and eventually made a victim of human trafficking has been one she's told many times across the state. Tuesday, that story still brought out a range of emotions during a panel discussion on human trafficking held in Livonia.

She talked about her experience being sexually assaulted as a trafficking victim, including one night where she was beaten so badly, she needed to go to the hospital. She was wrapped in a sheet and dropped off at Henry Ford Hospital, she said, and left on a back dock until a maintenance worker noticed her. She was in the hospital for about two weeks, when she was eventually set for release.

"When it was time for me to go home, they released me to the per-

petrator," she said. "So there was no one to rescue me. I knew that I could not continue to do this."

She later decided to shoot and kill her trafficker, a move that landed her with a first-degree murder charge. She was sentenced to serve life in prison, but was released after serving 17 years behind bars.

She now works as a social worker after earning her degree from the University of Michigan while in prison, an accomplishment, she said, which made her the first female prisoner to earn a degree from the Ann Arbor school while locked up.

Haskett was just one person on the panel dedicated to educating the crowd on human trafficking. The event took place at Livonia's Bell Creek Church and was moderated by Livonia resident Laura Toy, a former city treasurer and state senator, as well as a recent city councilwoman who left her post in December.

The panel had in-

formation from many individuals, including representatives from the court system, the federal government and local groups looking to eradicate human trafficking. About 75 people attended.

'Some of them are from your block'

Wayne County Circuit Judge Deborah Thomas said she recently began noticing a pattern in the auto theft docket down at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. She saw women and girls being charged with taking keys from men and driving away from them in their vehicles. Seeing an uptick in those kinds of crimes made her more aware of the issue and she decided she'd try to launch a human trafficking court in Wayne County's Third Circuit, the busiest circuit court in the state.

She knows that if it can work here, it can work across Michigan.

"We have to have a foundation in place. So this is one of the list of things to do," she said.

"There is a need for more public education."

Thomas plans on taking the message of human trafficking awareness to the airwaves next month, saying she's been given time 8-10 a.m. May 14 to talk about the issue on WFDF-AM (910), including with various guests.

More information on human trafficking can be found through the Institute on Human Trafficking Education, a Livonia-based group Toy runs. They are in the midst of setting up a website and currently have a Facebook page.

It's important to note that trafficking doesn't just take place in big cities such as Detroit or Grand Rapids, Toy said. Cases have been in towns such as Livonia and even more remote places such as Mackinac Island.

That perception, Thomas said, is part of the important message she hopes to get across.

"They're not all from overseas. Some of them are from your block," Thomas said. "You just don't know it."

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal For Student Pictures for Canton High School, Plymouth High School and Salem High School. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, and Plymouth Canton Community Schools at kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **Tuesday, April 26 2016 at 10:00 am.** Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed - "Photography Service Bid". The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Kate Borniniski

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant of Michigan Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being Sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
Academy Board of Directors, 2015-6 Board Meeting Calendar, New School High, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth MI 48170, Tel: (734) 386-6601, Website: newschoolhigh.org

PUBLIC HEARING
TIME: 6:30 pm DATE: Wednesday, April 27, 2016

LOCATION: New School High, 46250 Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth MI 48170

The 2016-17 School Budget under consideration is available for public inspection at the meeting. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A copy of the meeting minutes is available for public inspection at the Academy office address within 8 business days for proposed minutes and 5 business days for approved minutes. The Academy shall comply with subtitle A of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, 42 USC 12101 et seq or any successor law. Should you require specific accommodation(s) please contact Cynthia Burnstein at (734) 386-6601 prior to the meeting.



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TITLE BOXING CLUB

SWING TIME



Canton's Aleasha Peck joined TITLE Boxing Club when it opened last summer and now hits the gym — and the punching bag — three times a week. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Unique Canton gym gives added 'punch' to burning carbs, building muscle

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The earbuds-wearing trainer stood in the middle of a forest of 100-pound leather punching bags, barking out instructions during an afternoon Power Hour at TITLE Boxing Club in Canton.

"OK, 3-2-1 hit it!" he said to the group of about 25 sweat-drenched participants. "Hit it, pop-pop-pop! Three rights, work-work-work!"

Among those kicking, punching and jabbing in unison was 39-year-old Canton resident Aleasha Peck, who joined the facility located on Sheldon Road, north of Ford Road, when co-owners Mike Kemsley and Jerry Kim opened it last July.

"I still enjoy it. I love it," Peck said, wrapping tape around her hands as she pre-



Mike Kemsley (left) and Jerry Kim are the proprietors of TITLE Boxing Club in Canton. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

pared for the session. "It's a really good workout. I've lost a lot of weight. I've been

struggling at other gyms to lose the weight for quite a while now.

"And I came here and got a lot of it off right away, because it's a really good workout."

Peck said she and other family members checked out several gyms before finding out about TITLE Boxing's Canton launch.

"We've been members to a few gyms in the area and just trying to find something new and different," Peck said. "It just looked like fun ... kick-boxing with a bag, with some resistance instead of just being in a studio punching air."

The facility is drawing a variety of people — youngsters, high school athletes, adults looking for a new and physical challenge. Even major league baseball, hockey and football players have

See TITLE, Page B2

PREP LACROSSE

Chiefs keep the goals coming

Pakula nets seven as Canton boys rout Howell, 16-4

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After stumbling early in Friday's varsity boys lacrosse match-up against host Howell, the vaunted Canton offense went to work and rolled to a 16-4 victory.

After falling behind 2-0, the resilient Chiefs got on the board when sophomore midfielder Nick Polydoros blasted one home. Howell got it back a half-minute later, but Canton senior attackman Carson Pakula (seven goals) cut the deficit to 3-2 just before the end of the opening quarter.

It was a 7-4 Canton lead at halftime, following single goals by Polydoros, Micah Rinke, Chase Meredith and two goals by sophomore midfielder Connor Flannigan.

Canton (2-0) didn't waste any time relaunching the offense in the third quarter as Lukas Pashigan drilled a shot into the Highlanders' net just 30 seconds into the quarter.

Soon it was 10-4 following back-to-back goals by Pakula. Minutes later, Pashigan sent a feed over to senior midfielder Aditya Joshi in front of the Howell net and he did not miss.

The Chiefs kept the goals coming, taking a 15-4 lead into the fourth on three more goals by Pakula and one by Pashigan.

During the snowy fourth quarter, strong defense came to the forefront, with the lone goal scored by Pakula on a fast break after taking an outlet pass from goalie Trevor Stahl (11 saves).

Helping to close out the convincing win was Canton's starting defense of senior Kumar Johnson and juniors Steven Szymusiak and Reid McDonnell.

SALEM 11 (BOYS), SHRINE 9: The Rocks built a seemingly comfortable 8-4 halftime lead Saturday before Royal Oak Shrine bounced back to tie the

See LACROSSE, Page B2

GIRLS SOCCER

Rocks, 'Cats overcome the elements

Campus rivals Salem, Plymouth battle to 3-3 deadlock on cold, rainy night

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's varsity girls soccer team let a lead slip away Friday night against Plymouth, but the Rocks showed enough push-back to make their coach proud.

After a 2-0 lead turned into a 3-2 deficit in the second half, the Rocks found a way to score the equalizer and earn a hard-fought 3-3 tie at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The tying goal came with about eight minutes remaining in regulation. Nikki Pilon sent a ball across the pitch to Katie Coleman, who threaded her

way between two Plymouth defenders and took an 18-yard shot that deflected in.

"What I was impressed with is how we overcame adversity," Salem head coach George Tomasso said. "We showed how they can prevail in an adverse situation. I believe this is what builds a strong foundation."

Displaying plenty of intensity, Salem battled the Wildcats tooth-and-nail and had early success when Bailee Soper scored. Setting up the goal with a nifty crossing pass was Anna Faybrick.

Later in the opening half, Salem went up by two goals

when Marisa Martin scored. Tomasso said Caroline Simko set the play up, chipping the ball following a 40-yard restart.

But the Wildcats came out a different team in the second half.

"(Plymouth) coach Jeff Neschich did a great job rallying his team and they started the second half with a high level of intensity and urgency," Tomasso said.

About 10 minutes into the half, Plymouth scored the first of three successive goals to take a 3-2 advantage.

See SOCCER, Page B4



Salem's Anna Faybrick (left) and Plymouth's Morgan Gooden vie for a 50/50 ball during Friday's game. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

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BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Shamrocks run past Cubs

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Just being outdoors was a victory in itself as host Novi Detroit Catholic Central launched its dual meet season Monday afternoon with a 97-31 Catholic League boys track and field win over University of Detroit-Jesuit.

"That's our first experience at running a dual meet this year," CC coach Tony Magni said. "Because of the weather so far, we've haven't done anything at all. And I thought our kids responded pretty well. We hadn't really done anything since Friday, Saturday or even yesterday because of the weather,

so we tried to get everything together and be ready to go and they responded very well."

Catholic Central won 13 of the 17 events, led junior Andrew Levens, who figured in three first-place finishes.

Levens swept the 110- and 300-meter hurdles with times of 16.5 and 44.2, respectively, while also teaming with junior Haden Kasdorf, sophomore Brandon Smith and junior Zach Chops for a victory in the 800 relay (1:38.0).

The Shamrocks also made a strong showing in the field events, led by senior Shane Joyce and junior Chris Bradbury, who placed first and second in the shot put

and discus.

Joyce captured both events with marks of 47 feet, 0.25 inches and 126-0, respectively, while Bradbury was runner-up with throws of 121-10 and 46-7.

Other field event winners for CC included Brandon Smith in the long jump (19-10.25) and Brendan Downs in the high jump (5-4).

Other first-place finishers on the track for the Shamrocks included Nick Gessler, 400 (55.43); Scott Smith, 800 (2:06.0); Avery Felty, 1,600 (4:38.9); and Ty Buckley, 3,200 (10:09.1).

CC's 3,200 relay team of Mark Borek, Buckley, Ben Racine and Scott Smith took first in 8:49.4,

while the foursome of Gessler, Quinn Smolinski, Racine and Ben Lockhart took the final event of the meet in the 1,600 relay (3:45.2).

The Shamrocks return to action Saturday at Ortonville Brandon in the Blackhawks Athletic Department Tri-County Invitational before traveling Monday to face defending Catholic League A-B Division champion Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

"We're looking forward to going to Orchard Lake St. Mary's," Magni said.

bemons@hometownlife.com
bemons1@twitter.com



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Catholic Central's Jim Broderick makes an attempt in the long jump in Monday's dual meet against University of Detroit-Jesuit.

LACROSSE

Continued from Page B1

varsity boys lacrosse match-up in the second half.

That didn't deter Salem, cranking up team defense and ultimately coming away with the victory.

"During the final stretch of that game, our defense really pulled through and played as a group who could execute their assignments," Salem head coach Corey Mattingly said.

PLYMOUTH 13, SALEM 2 (GIRLS): On a snowy Saturday, the Wildcats romped to victory over the cross-campus Rocks behind a four-goal game by Marissa Cirino.

Other Plymouth contributors were Natalie Nowicki (three goals), Cierra Steiner (two goals), Madeline Caswell, Michelle Cirino, Cathryn VandenBosch and Kari Schoen (one goal each).

Plymouth improved to 2-1 overall and 2-1 in the division.

PLYMOUTH 19, CANTON 4 (GIRLS): Bouncing back from the loss to Northville, the Wildcats featured a balanced attack with nine players scoring in the April 8 win over the Chiefs.

Registering four goals each were Marissa Cirino and Natalie Nowicki, while Madeline Caswell, Regan Woodward, Cathryn VandenBosch and Michelle Cirino scored two goals each. Single goals were collected by Cierra Steiner, Sabrina Shiftar and Emily LeBlanc.

NORTHVILLE 10, PLYMOUTH 7 (GIRLS): Emma Dietrich scored four of her six goals in the opening half April 5 as the Mustangs (1-0, 1-0) opened KLAAC Kensington Conference play with a hard-fought win over the host Wildcats (0-1, 0-1).

Northville trailed 2-0 early and then took a 6-4 halftime lead before Plymouth rallied in the second half to tie it a 7-7 with 10 minutes remaining.

Junior Sarah Chase then put Northville ahead for keeps with a goal. Dietrich and junior Ally Blough followed with late insurance goals to secure the victory.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL

Friday, April 15
Novi at Canton, 4 p.m.

Salem at Plymouth, 4 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Friday, April 15
Novi at Canton, 4 p.m.

Salem at Plymouth, 4 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday, April 14
Ladywood at Mercy, 6 p.m.

Friday, April 15
Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Canton at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 16
Bishop Foley at Ladywood, 1 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS

Thursday, April 14
Plymouth at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.

Franklin at South Lyon, 4 p.m.

Salem at Canton, 4 p.m.

Divine Child at Ladywood, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 16
JV Invite at Canton, TBA

BOYS LACROSSE

Thursday, April 14
Canton at Belleville, 7 p.m.

Salem at Mott, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 16
Canton at W.L. Central, 1 p.m.

F.H. Northern at Plymouth, 1 p.m.

Salem at Caledonia, TBA

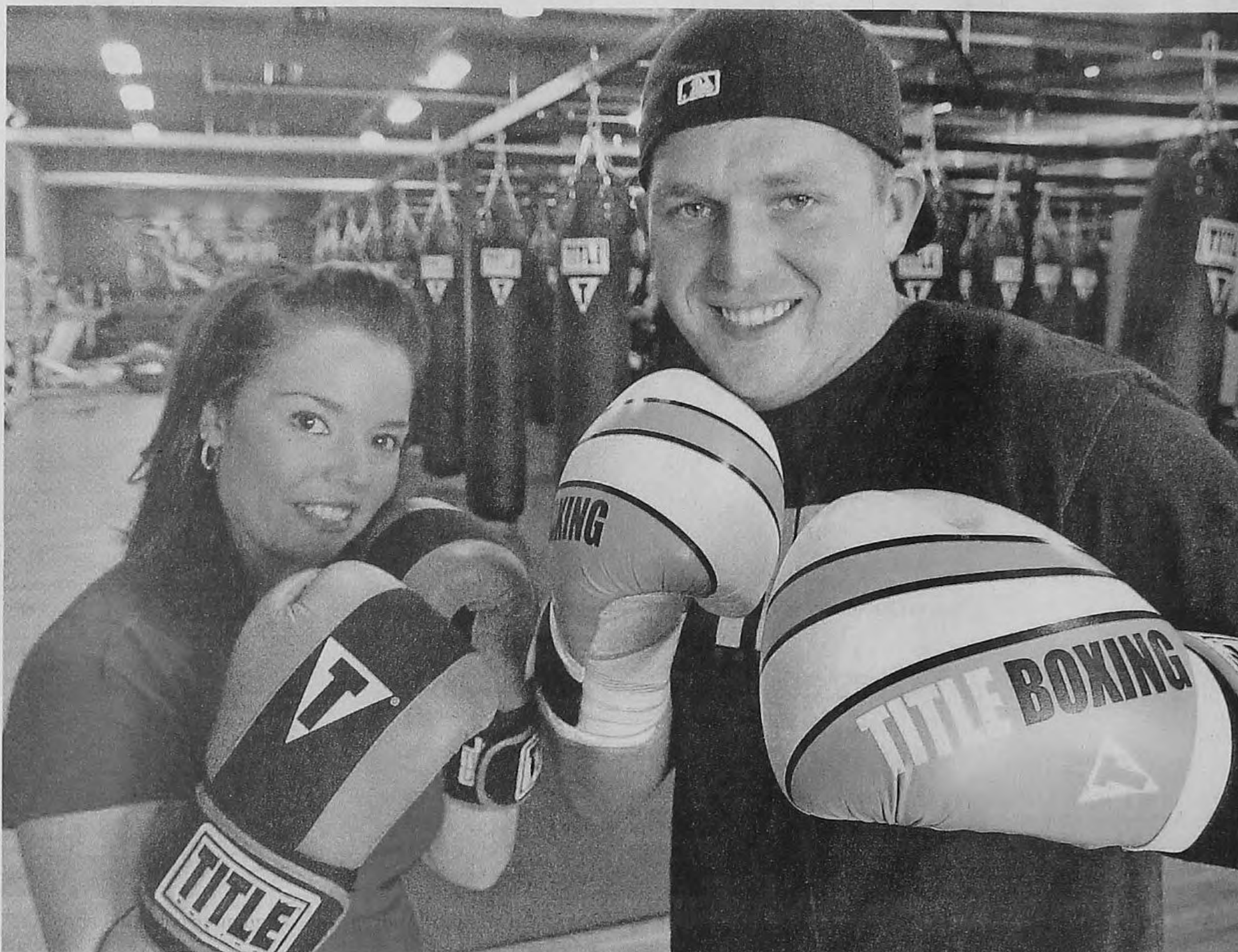
GIRLS LACROSSE

Thursday, April 14
Salem at East Lansing, 6 p.m.

Friday, April 15
W.L. Northern at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.

Mercy at Canton, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 16
Holt at Salem, 1:30 p.m.



Meet TITLE Boxing trainers Graciela Otero and Devin Skrumbellos.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TITLE

Continued from Page B1

signed up and sing TITLE Boxing's praises.

"People say this is, out of all the workouts they've done, this is the best cardio exercise," Kim said. "And these are people who have been to gyms, they've done other type of high-intensity training."

Here we go

After a basic warmup featuring stretches, pushups, jumping jacks and the like, TITLE Boxing members such as Peck then go into the Power Hour — namely eight three-minute sessions with one minute of so-called "active rest" in between.

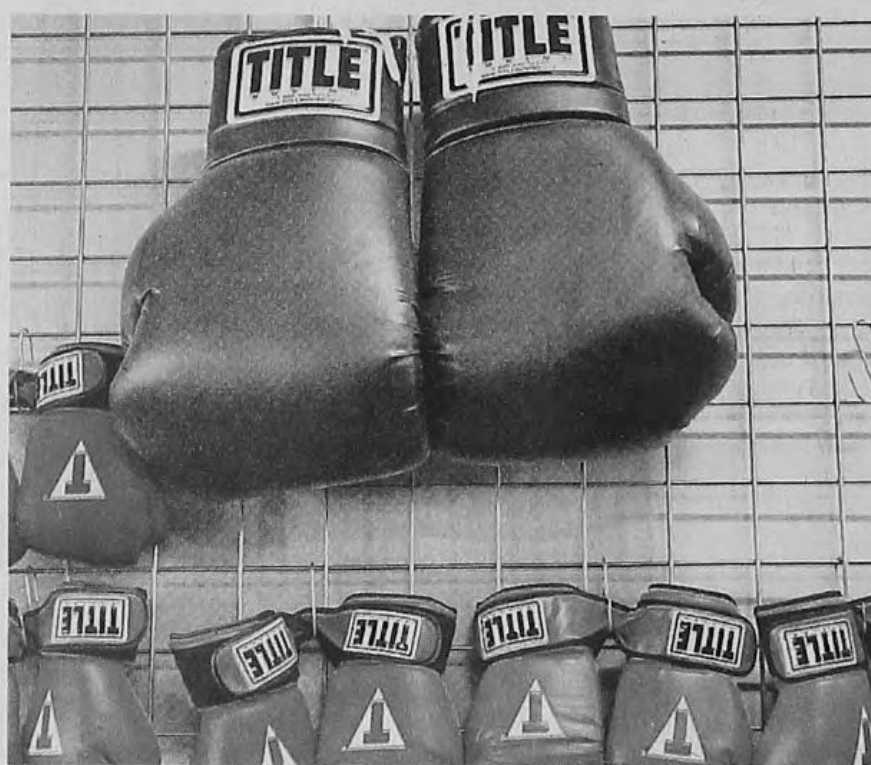
Then comes a 15-minute core workout to cap off the hour, exercises designed to sharpen up a proper leg kick or deliver a powerful punch.

"One person to a bag, everybody has their own bag and the instructor will warm everybody up," Peck said. "You start off without your gloves on. Once warmup's done, everybody grabs their gloves and then you go into the rounds."

By the time the total-body session concludes, the studio filled with 60 punching bags is drenched in perspiration — exactly what Kemsley and Kim said is the driving force behind a gym that has more than tripled in members since last summer to more than 200 of all ages and fitness goals.

"You don't need to be in shape (to join), you don't need to have a six-pack, eight-pack or be Superman," Kemsley said. "This class is so diverse. ... The most common thing, and this is why everyone loves it, is everyone's pushing you. All the peers around you. Looking over, seeing someone just wailing on the bag, it motivates you to get going, too."

"So everyone at the end of the class, the one common thing everyone has, is the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TITLE Boxing is located on Sheldon Road, north of Ford Road, in Canton.

sweat. The floor is covered in sweat. You're covered in sweat. And that's the biggest takeaway from everything."

Changing it up

And the secret might be that the trainers constantly shuffle pieces of the workout puzzle — called combinations — so that nothing happens by rote.

"With this exercise, it's not routine at all," Kim said. "Because you have a variety of different trainers, they give you a different combination for each of the rounds."

"So it's like, when you walk in, it feels like there's a surprise there, where you really have to think about 'OK, now I have to do this kind of combination.' Rather than just being routine, being on the treadmill or whatever."

Kim added that following trainers' change-on-the-fly instructions, "next thing you know you're sweating without even knowing it. Because your mind is so entrenched in doing the combinations and then you have to switch."

According to Kemsley,

GET INTO THE RING

What: TITLE Boxing Club.

Where: 5848 N. Sheldon Road in Canton, on east side of the street, north of Ford Road. The facility opened in July 2015 and membership has tripled since then; there currently are more than 200 members.

Owners: The franchise is owned by Mike Kemsley and Jerry Kim, who oversee a customer-friendly business where they make a point to know people's names and workout goals.

Classes: Individual memberships begin at \$59 per month, with family plans beginning at \$109 per month. Also available are \$20 drop-in sessions and two-week unlimited sessions for \$50.

Info: Go to canton-sheldon.titleboxingclub.com for more information or call 734-207-0337.

said. "Because they associate the boxing with getting punched or the physicality workout of it."

"At TITLE, we don't condone any type of physical contact with one another. So after we give them a tour and explain to them what happens, you can just see a breath of fresh air. 'OK, I don't have to be super physically fit, not everyone around me is going to be intimidating.'"

And for Peck and others who are TITLE Boxing regulars, a plus is the personalized approach.

"Most of the time, when you go other gyms, you walk in the front door, it's a 'Hey, how you doing?'" Kemsley said. "You put your headphones on and you never see them again."

"We'll sit here and have conversations with everyone. People come in on their lunch breaks. I'll go back there and walk with them (on the treadmill). ... We really try to connect on that level and I think that's what makes us unique."

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Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

ALL-OBSERVER BOYS BOWLING TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Conner Weber, Wayne: Weber was a strike machine for the Zebras, rolling his way to a 212 average in KLAAs matches. He teamed with fellow all-area honoree John Willet to win the Clarenceville Doubles Tournament. Weber capped his season with a 17th-place showing at the individual state meet, falling just five pins short of qualifying for the 16-bowler match-play event.

"Conner had an outstanding season for us," Wayne coach Bob Jawor said. "I look for Conner to have a great career as an adult in the game of bowling."

Mitchell Rusinek, Salem: One of the top reasons for the Rocks qualifying for the team state finals, Rusinek finished 10th in the Division 1 individual regionals with a total of 1,182 pins.

At the D1 individual finals, the junior's 1,235 tally earned him 20th overall.

Rusinek was Salem's anchor, earned all-conference honors with a 200 average and was named to the scholar-athlete team.

"He was so consistent and always maintained that calm demeanor," coach Kathie Hahn said.

Tyler Pozan, Canton: Pozan finished seventh at the D1 individual regionals, posting a 1,233 score. At state finals, his 1,147 tally earned him 35th place overall.

The hard-working senior averaged 190.5 during the regular season and was named a scholar-athlete recipient.

"Tyler loves the competition on the lanes and was always up for the challenge," coach Karl Brubaker said. "He is a great team player and one of our leaders."

Justin O'Shaughnessy, Plymouth: The junior was consistent all season, averaging 201, including a 279 high game. He tallied a three-game series of 651.

At D1 individual regionals, the all-KLAA selection finished 13th with a score of 1,149.

At the Plymouth-Canton-Salem tournament Jan. 9, O'Shaughnessy threw a pair of strikes in the 10th frame and the Wildcats went on to win their first-ever tourney.

"Justin is a tremendous talent and great pressure bowler," coach Scott Kapke said. "He was an integral participant in all three of the Plymouth tournament wins this season."

Mitchell Zelenak, Canton: The senior and fourth-year player earned all-conference and scholar-athlete honors after averaging 200 to lead the Chiefs. At D1 individual regionals, Zelenak finished 14th with a score of 1,146.

"Mitch has been a solid player for our team for four years ... and a leader," Brubaker said. "He is always working hard on the lanes and as a coach you like to see that effort."

SECOND TEAM

Jacob Kurth, Salem: The senior co-captain averaged 200 for the Rocks and earned all-conference and scholar-athlete honors. Kurth followed his strong regular season helped the Rocks qualify for D1 team finals and posted a 1,060 total at individual regionals.

"Jake was usually our lead-off bowler," Hahn said. "That was the position that he liked to play, because he could set the pace for the rest of the team and he did this well."

John Willet, Wayne: Willet enjoyed an outstanding senior season, winning the Clarenceville Doubles Tournament Weber, helping the Zebras qualify for the state tournament and averaging a stellar 197.

"Johnny is one of the nicest young men I have had the pleasure of coaching in my 10 years," Jawor said. "He's a complete team player. I wish him all the best as he moves on to LTU."

Dominic Gibson, Farm. Unified: Gibson completed his third varsity season with a league average of 203, which placed him eighth among 100 boys in the OAA.

He increased his league and overall averages by more than 10 pins this season and by 42 pins since his freshman year. Gibson, who will attend the University of Arizona, had a high game of 245 and high series of 446.

"Dominic's league average shows his desire to compete and win championships," coach Dennis Hermani said. "His driving motivation is to compete at an elite level."

"As a model of consistency, Dominic shot a 400 series in all but one of our league matches in which he bowled both games."

"His work ethic — no one has worked harder on 10-pin conversions — and infectious, positive attitude rubbed off on all of his teammates."

Tyler Shady, Farm. Unified: Shady finished the season with a 202 league average and a 197 season average over 55 games. That represents an increase of more than 40 pins in his prep career.

Shady, who will attend Ohio Northern University, had a high series of 487 in winning the Canton tournament. He placed fifth in the OAA singles tournament, averaging 224 for the day.

"Tyler shared the anchor duties and performed extremely well," Hermani said. "In his 55 games, he bowled 22 games over 200, which gives him 43 in his last 105 games."

"Tyler will be missed greatly after providing three years of consistent efforts at the back end of our formidable lineup."

Brian Martin, John Glenn: Only a sophomore, Martin established himself as one of the most promising bowlers in the area as he led the Rockets with a 198 average. He qualified for the individual state meet last year as a freshman.

"Brian is plain and simple an athlete," John Glenn coach Ron Staples said. "He also excels in baseball. Brian is very coachable and a pleasure to have on our bowling team. He lead our team in spare conversion and likes the pressure moments."

THIRD TEAM

Zach Gonyea, Salem: Capping off a stellar prep career, the Rocks' senior and team captain finished 15th at D1 individual regionals with a tally of 1,141.

Gonyea averaged 189 during the regular season, including nearly 198 in KLAAs matches.

"Zach had a true passion for the game, he knew when to have fun and when to get down to business," Hahn said. "Zach will be missed by the whole team and we wish him well in his future at Central Michigan University."

Nick Ray, Plymouth: The senior captain averaged 188 in 45 matches and tallied a 1,081 score at the D1 individual finals to finish 27th.

Ray had some highlight-reel moments, including a 258 high game and three-game series of 651.

And at the Wayne County tourney, he came up clutch with a strike in the ninth frame to lock up a Baker game victory over Salem.

"Nick was the inspirational leader of the team in every way," Kapke said.

ALL-OBSERVER FIRST TEAM
Conner Weber, sr., Wayne Mem.
Mitchell Rusinek, sr., Salem
Tyler Pozan, sr., Canton
Justin O'Shaughnessy, jr., Plym.
Mitchell Zelenak, sr., Canton

SECOND TEAM
Jacob Kurth, sr., Salem
John Willet, sr., Wayne Mem.
Dominic Gibson, sr., Farm. Unified
Tyler Shady, sr., Farm. Unified
Brian Martin, soph., John Glenn

THIRD TEAM
Zach Gonyea, sr., Salem
Nick Ray, sr., Plymouth
Malik Felder, jr., Farm. Unified
Damien Strohschein, John Glenn
Kyle Keating, sr., Redford Union

HONORABLE MENTIONS
Farm Unified: Evan Yaros; N. Farmington: JD Maynard, Ryan Darnell, Joe Damiani, Elden Palmer; Canton: Andrew Pascual, Jack Watson; Salem: Joshua Hall, Brendan Kwapis; Plymouth: Alan Brown; Wayne Memorial: Ty Weber, Brennen Maldonado; John Glenn: Jared Stevens, Michael Pizzuti.

Malik Felder, Farm. Unified: Felder finished his second year on the varsity with a 185 average in 51 games. His league average was 193, which was an improvement of 16 pins over last season.

He was ranked among the top 18 varsity bowlers in a field of 100 in the OAA. Since his freshman season, Felder's average has increased more than 25 pins per game.

He had a high game of 246 and a high series or 451. His career high is a 300, shot during practice last season.

Damien Strohschein, John Glenn: A captain for the Rockets, Strohschein barely missed qualifying for the individual state meet. A 4.3 (grade-point average) student, Strohschein was voted his team's MVP after never bowling competitively until his freshman year of high school.

"Damien listens to any advice that the coaches give him," Staples said. "His nickname was 'The Professor.'"

Kyle Keating, Redford Union: A junior, Keating emerged as the catalyst of the second-year Panthers' varsity bowling program, qualifying for the state meet after placing fifth in the team's regional tournament. Keating carries a 197 average and — even more impressive — a 4.7 grade-point average.

"Kyle is very consistent and rarely gets rattled — at least that he shows," RU head coach David Battistelli said. "The thing that makes Kyle such a good bowler and great athlete to have on the team is that he is a sponge. He soaks up any suggestion you give him to make him a better bowler, and he is willing to make adjustments throughout his game."

PREP SOFTBALL

Mercy poised to defend title

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

As a follow-up to a great softball season, the Mercy High School coaches and players are hoping for more of the same in 2016.

The Marlins won the Catholic League Central Division title and went as far as the Division 1 state semifinals in the postseason, finishing with a 27-4 record.

"Honestly, at the beginning of every year, you practice and prepare — and everything is done — to try to win a state championship right from the beginning," Mercy coach Alec Lesko said.

"Our hard work is going to be done day by day, pitch by pitch, but we're keeping our eyes on the ultimate goal."

Despite some key losses, the Marlins remain a talented team with eight returning

players and have all areas of the diamond covered with capable people.

The big loss to graduation was that of Alex Sobczak, who won the Miss Softball Award last year and was a perennial all-area selection.

Sobczak, who played every position on the field during her prep career and moved from third base to catcher in the middle of last season, is playing regularly for the University of Michigan.

While the Marlins are trying to settle on a new receiver, they return their No. 1 pitcher in senior ace Andrea Elmore.

She made the all-Observer team after compiling a 16-3 record with five shutouts and a 1.57 earned-run average. Elmore had 153 strikeouts and 27 walks in 124⅓ innings.

"Anytime you have your starting pitcher back in high school, it's always a good

thing," Lesko said. "Andrea worked hard in the off season and came back in good shape. We're hoping she can continue where she left off."

Leading hitter

Mercy will miss Sobczak's bat in the lineup, but the return of senior first baseman Abby Krzywiecki will ease the pain of that loss.

The power-hitting Krzywiecki, who signed with South Alabama and was another all-area pick, batted .574 with six doubles, two triples, 12 home runs and a team-high 57 RBIs.

"She'll probably bat in the three spot again," Lesko said. "She seems real comfortable there. Abby has put up big numbers and been real consistent over her career."

The team's only other senior is veteran utility player Cari Padula, who is one of three getting a tryout at catcher. She batted .333 with three home runs and 19 RBIs.

"She caught a little bit until we moved Sobczak back there," Lesko said. "She does bring a lot of versatility, which

is going to come in handy this year, especially until we settle in to where we want to be."

The Marlins are solid in the middle of the infield with the return of juniors Nicole Belans and Shannon Gibbons at second base and shortstop, respectively.

Belans was the fourth-leading hitter with a .407 average, four triples, one homer and eight RBIs. Gibbons, who batted .338, scored 22 runs and Belans 21.

"Both have really honed their games," Lesko said. "We thought about moving Nicole to third base, but the way the two look together in the middle, at this point, I think we'll leave well enough alone."

The Marlins must replace Jordan Johnson, who hit .366 with four homers and 42 RBIs, at third base.

Sophomores Anna Dixon, who started in right field, and Megan Satawa, who was on the JV last year, are competing with Padula at catcher and with freshman Sarah Cassidy at the hot corner.

All-area outfielder

Junior Sophia VanAcker landed a spot on the all-area first team after batting .547 with three triples and 30 RBIs. The 33 runs she scored were second only to Sobczak's 58.

VanAcker, who is one of the leading scorers on Mercy's championship hockey team, might stay in left field or move to center as the replacement for Molly Murphy.

Junior Mary Reeber, another returning varsity player, could be the new center fielder as Lesko looks "for her to step up and get some more time on the grass this year."

The right fielder could be Dixon, Cassidy or one of the other varsity newcomers. Mercy doesn't have a JV team this year.

Sophomores Julia Kleismit, Madison Kestin, Emily Rzepecki and Sydney Puda and freshmen Madigan Langlois, Colleen Thomson, Elizabeth Ziembra and Kristin Rzepecki are new to the varsity.

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JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Andrea Elmore returns to the pitching circle for the Marlins, following a superb junior season.

Schoolcraft signing



SCHOOLCRAFT ATHLETICS
Victoria Porter, a senior from Canton High School, recently committed to play softball at Schoolcraft College. Porter, a catcher now in her final season with the Chiefs, will focus on general studies when she begins attending Schoolcraft in the fall.

GIRLS SOCCER

A LITTLE TOO MUCH MERCY

GC stays close for half against Marlins

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Garden City's girls soccer team followed the game plan to a "T" during the first 32 minutes of Monday night's home game against powerful Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Cougars battled the Marlins to a scoreless draw until the waning minutes of the first half, when Lauren George's goal spearheaded a rush that ultimately led to a 4-0 Mercy victory.

The result left Garden City with a 1-1-1 mark — and good vibes for Cougars head coach Jeff Szyplula.

"We played them neck-and-neck for most of the first half; our defensive formation was outstanding," Szyplula said. "It was a great team effort — everybody had everybody else's back."

"Mercy is such a solid, technically sound team. If you make even the smallest error, they find a way to capitalize and that's what they did in the second half."

Although the Marlins tacked on three

second-half goals, George's goal with approximately eight minutes to play in the first half was the game-changer, Szyplula emphasized.

"We we could have went into the half tied 0-0 or even with a lead. That would have been huge for us," he said. "Once we fell behind, we tried for force things a little more and that gave them some open space."

"Last year we lost 7-0 to Mercy, so we're making strides."

Mercy's Maranda Konja scored nine minutes into the second half to expand the

Marlins' advantage to 2-0. Chloe Woodbeck and Allia McDowell also scored to ice the win for the visitors.

Junior goalkeeper Tatum Spears played solid between the pipes for GC, turning away 10 Mercy shots. The Cougars put seven shots on goal.

"Once of the big differences was that we had zero corner kicks and they had seven," Szyplula said. "It's tough when you don't get at least a couple set pieces to generate some offense."

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Farmington Hills Mercy's Missy Hunt (left) and Garden City's Alyssa Metcalf battle for possession of the ball during Monday's game.

PREP BASEBALL

Plymouth pitching comes through

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The combination of steady veterans and versatile newcomers is starting to pay off dividends for Plymouth's varsity baseball team, head coach Jason Crain said.

But Monday, the veterans led the way as the Wildcats earned a 6-4 win over South Lyon East to square their record at 2-2.

Pitching 5⅓ strong innings for the victory was senior Josh Sulak, who gave up just one earned run while striking out six.

Another senior pitcher, Regan Fleisher, then chipped in 1⅓ innings of hitless relief for the save.

Leading the offense were seniors Kyle Wolter (2-for-3) and Pete Caravallah (triple in three at-bats).

"We got a much-needed win to start our league schedule," Crain said. "Our focus every year is to win the division and we have difficult opponents within it."

"Our new additions to the team are providing versatility that will be fruitful through the grueling stretch of the season."

The Wildcats will host Salem at 4 p.m. Friday in a cross-campus match-up.

» Salem also was victorious Monday, crushing Wayne Memorial, 15-2. Adam Pitcole was the winning pitcher for the Rocks.

CC edges Stevenson

Novi Detroit Catholic Central exploded for four runs in the top of the seventh inning Monday to post a 5-3 victory over host Livonia Stevenson.

Both teams used five pitchers throughout the well-played



Delivering a pitch in this undated file photo is Plymouth pitcher Josh Sulak. He pitched the Wildcats to Monday's win over South Lyon East.

contest. Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the sixth, the Spartans knotted the score before the Shamrocks got their offense in gear in the final inning.

Stevenson nearly rallied, scoring twice in the bottom of the seventh.

Chris Tanderys had a solid opening game at the plate for

Stevenson, going 2-for-4 with and double and a run scored. Brandon Posky also had two hits, while Frank Carlin went 1-for-4 with an RBI.

Danny Morris, Bobby Cavin, Mark Petterson and Nick Beers all contributed a hit apiece to the Stevenson offense.

Matt Stinehiser led the

Shamrocks with three hits and an RBI.

Staff writer Ed Wright contributed to this report.

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PREP TRACK AND TENNIS

All-around excellence sparks Salem girls thinclads

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Stellar performances across all areas lifted Salem's varsity girls track and field team to a 105-32 victory Tuesday over South Lyon East.

Kyndra Parker won the discus, throwing 104 feet, 4 inches. Other standouts included freshmen Kaitlyn Mockaitis (first in high jump, 4-8) and Gabby Mancini (first in the 3,200-meter run).

Also prevailing for the Rocks (2-0) was senior Kaya

Knake in the 800 and 1,600 runs.

Next up for Salem is Saturday's Blue Devil Relays in Lake Fenton.

» Plymouth's varsity girls track and field team opened the KLAAs schedule Tuesday by losing a tough 82-57 meet against Livonia Churchill.

Girls tennis

Getting the varsity girls tennis season off to a rousing start were the Plymouth Wildcats, with a 7-2 victory Tuesday over host Livonia Franklin.

Freshman Jessica Braun won 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles for her first-ever varsity match win, while the No. 1 doubles tandem of Bei Li Martin and captain Alyssa Lopez earned a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

» Tuesday's 7-2 loss to Novi wasn't indicative of how competitive Salem was, according to head coach Ty Moss.

Prevailing at No. 1 singles for the Rocks was senior and co-captain Chelsea Yu, winning 6-3, 6-0. Also winning her match was freshman and No. 2 singles player Lizzy Lu, by a

6-4, 7-6 tally.

Bianca Ghita lost at No. 3 singles, but not until taking her opponent to three hard-fought sets.

Meanwhile, newcomers to the Salem doubles lineup, Rachel Zhou and Sharon Chen, lost 3-6, 4-6, but "made a great statement with their strong play."

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Canton football meeting on tap

The Canton football season doesn't kickoff until August, but the first official order of business is just around the corner.

On Tuesday, May 10, Canton football staff members and the boosters club are holding a mandatory meeting for all 2016 players and their parents.

At 6 p.m., players and parents new to the program will convene in the Canton High School cafeteria. All returning players and parents will join them at 6:30 p.m.

Coaches will be on-hand to give information and expectations about the program and answer any questions. Team merchandise also will be available.

One of the topics to be discussed is an overview of off-season workouts.

Any questions can be directed to head coach Tim Baechler via email at tim.baechler@pccsk12.com.

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 introduced 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

SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

Scoring for the Wildcats were Bre Pfeiffer (who also had two assists), Lexi White and Eve Davis.

Midway through the half, however, Tomasso's squad regained its composure and began generating some scoring chances. That ultimately led to Coleman's tying goal.

"I was very proud of how our girls played in the first half against a strong Plymouth team," Tomasso said.

He also liked how they bounced back after Plymouth's second-half surge.

W.L. NORTHERN 3, PLYMOUTH 2: The Wildcats lost Monday to Walled Lake Northern despite goals by Catherine Gordon and Lexi White.



Fighting for the ball Friday are Salem's Sara Hawks (left) and Plymouth's Anna DeBiasi.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

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RELIGION CALENDAR

APRIL BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 17
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice, \$3 for adults; \$1.50 for children, 2-10
Contact: 734-425-4421

CARNIVAL

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15
Location: St. Michael Catholic School, 11311 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Kid's Carnival will feature free hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream, face painting, crafts, and games, for families of students entering the Junior 4's Program, Kindergarten, and 1st grade in September or those just interested in finding out more about the school's programs
Contact: 734-421-7360, ext. 225; school@livoniastmichael.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14
Location: Northridge Church, 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Details: MercyMe, a contemporary Christian music band performs. Tickets are \$50, \$35, and \$25
Contact: 800-965-9324; ticket-s.com

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16
Location: St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opydyke, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Features Aeolian Chorale, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Milito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ, John Sittard, conductor. Presented by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will offering will be accepted
Contact: 248-644-5460

MOM-TO-MOM SALE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23
Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30 a.m. Admission \$2
Contact: 734-397-1777

PASSOVER SEDER

POTLUCK
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, April 22
Location: Congregation Bet Chaverim, 321 Ridge Road, Canton
Details: Cost is \$5 per person, ages 5 and older. RSVP by April 15
Contact: Michelle Driscoll at 734-718-7029; betchaverim@yahoo.com

PRAYER, EDUCATION, ACTION

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21
Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Details: Janet Stankowski, O.P. will talk about the implications of Pope Francis' Encyclical, "Laudato Si," regarding environmental issues, with an overview of the poor. Stankowski is the co-founder of Voice for Earth Justice, a faith-based network with a mission to pray, educate, and act on behalf of the Earth. Free
Contact: Sharlene Borke at sharborke@gmail.com

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, April 15
Location: The Salvation Army, located on Main Street south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth
Details: Proceeds benefit the "Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group."
Contact: Major Colette or Sandy at 734-453-5464

RUMMAGE, BAKE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, April 29, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 30
Location: Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: From 1-3 p.m. Friday all items will be half off; \$5 bag sale, along with 50 percent off in boutique on Saturday. Tax-deductible donations may be

dropped off at the church's back door 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-

Wednesday, April 25-27. No furniture, television sets, com-

puters, electronics. The church also is collecting used ink car-

tridges, eye glasses and cell phones for recycling

Contact: 248-626-7906; antiochela@sbcglobal.net

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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AUSSICKER

LAVONNE MAE 80, of Kalkaska, passed away Friday April 8, 2016. Lavonne was born in Detroit to the late William and Trillis (Radcliffe) Flath on June 16, 1935. She later married Ralph Aussicker on October 10, 1953 and together they had 2 children. Lavonne demonstrated unconditional love and always saw the best in others, especially her children. She loved her faith and her family, even during times of struggle her faith only deepened. Lavonne loved the outdoors, gardening, music, and playing the piano and organ at church. Lavonne is survived by her husband Ralph, son David (Darcy) Aussicker of Holly, MI and daughter Brenda (Steve) Storey of Highland, MI, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, infant daughter Susan Elizabeth, and sister Shirley Hovermale. Visitation will take place at the Kalkaska Funeral Home 152 S. Cedar St., Kalkaska, on Thursday April 14, 2016 from 2-8 p.m. The funeral service will be on Friday April 15, 2016 at the Kalkaska Church of Christ, 1725 W Kalkaska Rd NW, Kalkaska, at 12 p.m. with final visitation beginning at 11 a.m. A Celebration will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Grace Church, 220 Bogie Lake Rd., White Lake, MI. Burial will follow on Saturday at Highland Township Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

JACOBS



WILLIAM R. Age 88, of Livonia, passed March 10, 2016. Husband of the late Evelyn J.; Father of William C. Jacobs, Karen L. Gasinski and Nancy L. Jacobs; Grandfather of William D. (Oosa) Jacobs, James A. Jacobs, Wendy (Ben) Molenhouse, Kristi (Adam) Magy, Rebecca (Richard) Keeling, Nicci (Desmond) Li, Robert (Carrie) Gasinski and Amanda Wroblecki; Great Grandfather of Christopher, James, Grace, Charlie, Esther, Mina, Henry and Allysa. William (Bill) was born March 26, 1927 in Elyria, Ohio to Eleanor and William Jacobs. He is predeceased by his siblings Wilma, Ruth, Robert and James. Bill was in the Navy during WWII, retired from Ford Motor Company and settled in Florida for several years before coming back to live in Livonia, Michigan to be nearer to his family. The family is planning a memorial service on Saturday, April 23rd at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard St, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Visitation 10:00am-12:00am, Service 12:00pm.

MCKELVEY



DOUGLAS P. Age 27 of Plymouth passed away suddenly from injuries sustained from an automobile accident. Beloved son of Joyce and Mark Feick and Scott and Tammy McKelvey. Caring brother of Jeffrey and Crystal McKelvey, Step-brother Erik Feick. Uncle of Ella, Maggie, and Violet McKelvey. Grandson of Janet (the late Jim) Williams, Harry and Bev Luce, Clark and Janet McKelvey, Raymond and Louise Stapleton, Gaylord and Donna Feick, and loving boyfriend of Allissa Constantine. Also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins. A 2006 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School. After high school, Doug attended Western Michigan University earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business. After college, he worked at General Motor-Powertrain Division as a Buyer. Doug's hobbies included the love for golf, hunting, Detroit Red Wings and Michigan Football. Doug was loved by many and his enthusiasm and contagious smile will forever be missed. Memorial contributions can be made to the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. The Memorial Visitation will be Thursday, April 14th from 2 - 9 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth, MI 48170. The Memorial Service will be Friday, April 15th at 11 a.m. at NorthRidge Chapel, 12401 Ridge Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Family and friends will gather on Friday from 10 a.m. until the Memorial Service. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

SANSONE



JEAN DRULIA Of Pinellas Park, Florida, died Friday evening, April 8, 2016. She was 91. Jean was known for her open heart, her generous spirit, her sometimes flamboyant ways, and her sense of fun. Jean participated in a multitude of community causes and events, first in her home state of Michigan and later in Florida. She performed in community theater, helped stage fashion shows and other fundraisers for the Redford Suburban League and various organizations, taught etiquette classes to economically challenged children, wrote and illustrated newsletters, and became so fond of documenting life via photos and videos that she became known to her family as "Camera Grandma." In 1968, Jean was critically injured in an auto accident that took the life of her beloved husband and father of her children, Anthony Sansone. She married twice more and lost both of those husbands to cancer. Jean herself survived breast cancer. None of the tragedies, illnesses or heartbreak extinguished her tremendous joy in life, most especially the joy of being with and helping others. Jean is survived by her son Thomas Anthony Sansone and his wife Cathy Unruh; her daughter Patricia Rose Driver and husband Rick; grandchildren Peter Driver, Laura Sansone Shaw and her husband Grant, Jeff Sansone and his wife Rachel, and Emily Driver; great-grandchildren Nico and Matteo Sansone and Ava Shaw. A Celebration of Life will be held for Jean on Tuesday, April 19, beginning at 4pm at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, followed by dinner. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Pinellas Park, 7790 61st Street North, Pinellas Park, FL, 33781. www.andersonmqueen.com

THOMAS



MERRILL D. "MERT" 85, April 9, 2016. Loving husband of Helen M. Thomas for 63 years. Beloved father of Tracey Conrad and Andrew (Joan) Thomas. Cherished grandfather of Zachary Thomas, Benjamin Thomas, Alexander Thomas, Monica Conrad and Nolan Conrad. Dear brother of the late Betty Johnson. Also loved by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Merrill was a dedicated music educator and principal in the Dearborn Public Schools for 37 years. He proudly served in the Army for 2 years during the Korean War. A member of the Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church and choir member for 47 years. He loved his family and friends, playing the trumpet and sailing. Visitation Friday, April 15, 2016 from 4 to 8pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Funeral Service Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 11am at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard St., Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are appreciated to Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church Music Fund. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

CRAIGIE



LOIS HANNAH Age 97, of New Port Richey, Florida, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2016. She was born on December 9, 1918 in Lincoln, Michigan; daughter of John Douglas and Mae Maria (nee Beebe) Edgar. She graduated from Redford High School, class of 1935. She made Livonia her home for 40 years and has lived in New Port Richey, Florida for the last 36 years. Lois was united in marriage to George R. Craigie on June 27, 1941; spending 61 years devoted to each other until his death in 2002. Lois loved to crochet; she made over 100 beautiful crocheted dolls for family and friends. She also donated many of her dolls to children in need. She was very organized and crafty; she repurposed many of the cards sent to her as well as articles she saved. She was a fabulous cook who enjoyed caring for her family. She was an unconditional wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She is survived by her cherished daughter Sharon (Roger) Milarch; her brother Douglas (Donna) Edgar; her five grandchildren whom she called her angels, Terry (Joanne) Milarch, Lee Anne (Joe) Angeloff, Tammy (Mike) Ivory, Tim (Lisa) Milarch, and Michael (Becky) Milarch; 18 great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her sister Hazel Edgar, and her brother LeRoy Edgar. Visitation will be held Wednesday, April 13, from 5-8 p.m. A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 14, at 1:00 p.m. with visitation beginning at Noon at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 West Dunlap, Northville. She will be laid to rest at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the Hope Lutheran Church Building Fund, 12321 Canton Avenue, Hudson, Florida 34669. Please share memories and condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

LAHR

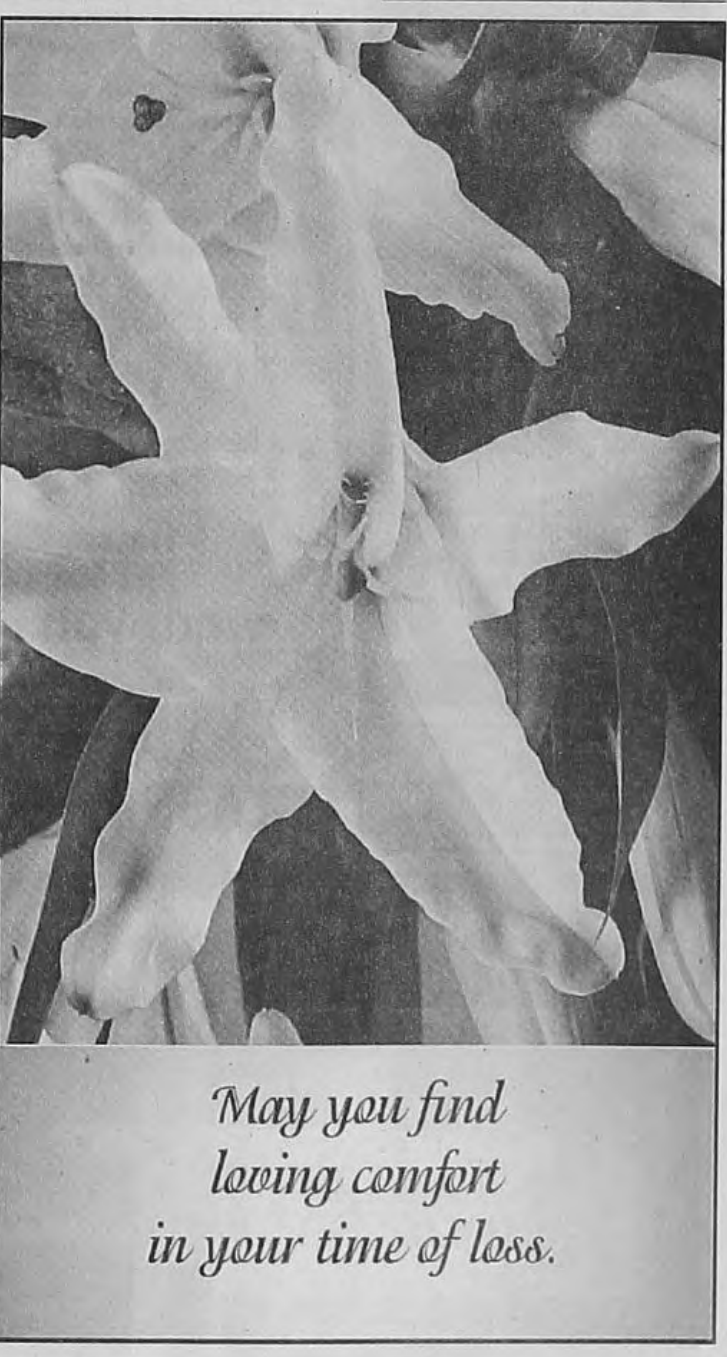
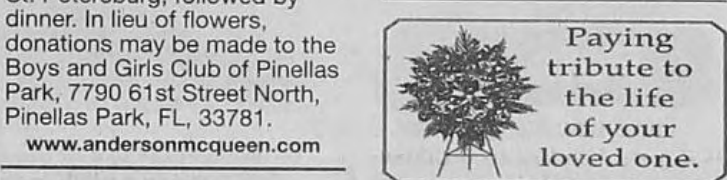


DONALD G. Charlestone, Illinois - Age 81 of Charlestone, formerly of Plymouth, MI and a native of Wyoming, PA, died Thursday, March 24, 2016. A Memorial gathering will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at the Glen Eden Memorial Garden Chapel. It is requested that donations in his honor be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Gifts may be mailed to Adams Funeral Chapel, 2330 Shawnee Dr., Charlestone, IL 61920. Donald was born March 14, 1935 in Wyoming, PA, a son of the late John and Elizabeth (White) Lahr. His marriage to Loretta Schwartz on January 10, 1963 was the beginning of a loving relationship of 53 years. In addition to Loretta, those cherishing his memory are sons, Jeff Lahr (Melissa) and Gregory Lahr, all of Charlestone; three grandchildren, Angie Thompson (Steve) Missoula, MT; John Lahr of Charlestone and Katy Lahr of Urbana, IL; a great grandchild, Kaelin Thompson; and a niece, Mary Ann Loch (Justin) and daughter, Bella of California. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda and a brother, John "Jack" Lahr. Don honorably served his country with the United States Navy and was a member of VFW Post #396 in Wyoming, PA. Don enjoyed a successful sales career with Consumers Power, Rockwell International, and lastly with the Morton Salt Company as a sales rep for Michigan. Don enjoyed playing golf and was an avid fan of football. He enjoyed traveling with Loretta and they were blessed with many shared trips and fond memories. His family was near and dear to his heart and it was family that brought him and Loretta to Charlestone seven years ago. Don will always be lovingly remembered by family and friends. Donald's memorial website is available at www.adamsfuneralchapel.com where condolences may be sent to the family by clicking on obituaries.

MEILI



JOANNE G. "JOAN" Age 81. April 10, 2016. Beloved wife of the late Glen for 57 years. Loving mother of Scott (Cyndi), Kurt (Lesia), Ross (Evonne), G.T., and the late Cindy Meili. Cherished grandmother of Laura, Nick, Evan, Caitlin (Dave), Sarah, Brian, Walker, Casen, Neil (Sonja) and Mariah. Funeral Service Saturday 10:30 a.m. (in state 9:30 a.m.) at Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington, MI 48335. Visitation Thursday 5-8 p.m. and Friday 1-8 p.m. at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, 33603 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington (1 Blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Memorial contributions may be made to the Children's Leukemia Foundation or to Salem United Church of Christ. www.thayer-rock.com



Your Invitation to Worship

For information regarding this directory please Call **Janice Brandon** at 248-926-2204 or email jkbrando@michigan.com

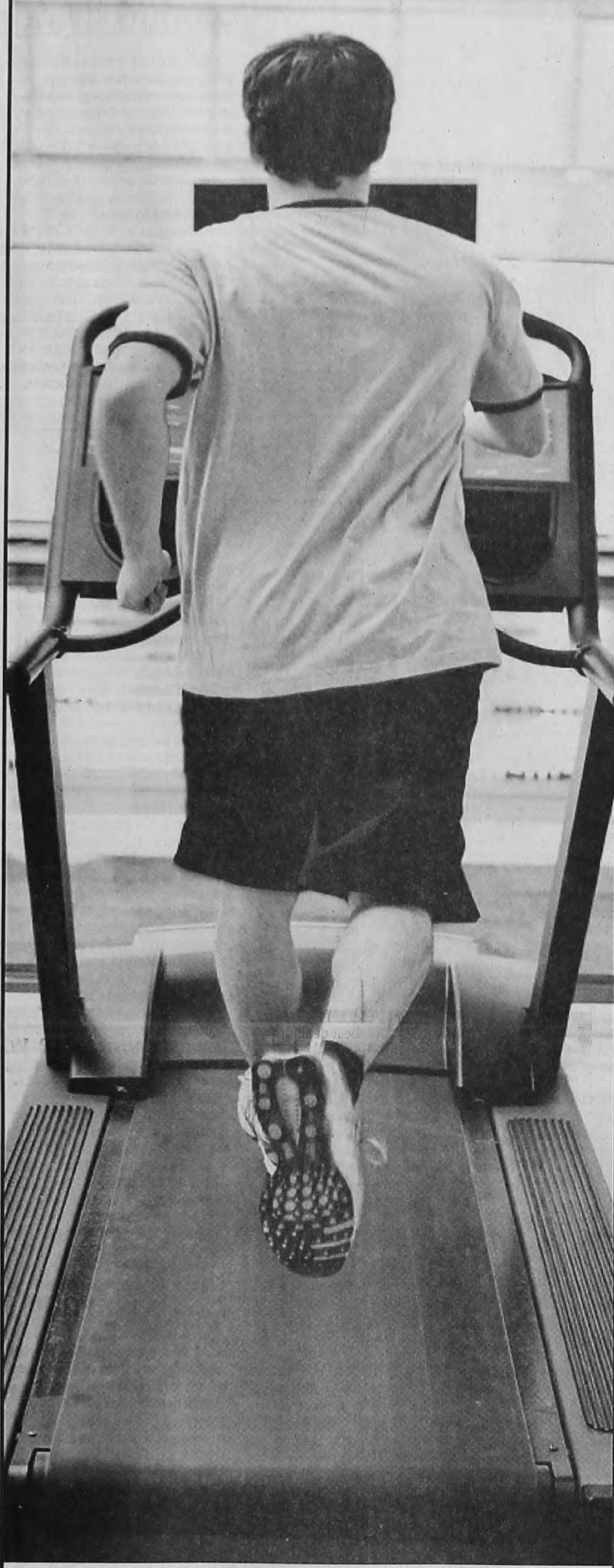
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Former Delta rival
 - 4 Humane org. since 1866
 - 9 Shining
 - 14 Birds' beaks
 - 19 On top of, in verse
 - 20 Nerd relative
 - 21 City in Utah
 - 22 Bugged a lot
 - 23 Support a female donkey?
 - 25 All fired up
 - 26 Flag sewer
 - 27 "Dies —" (Mass hymn)
 - 28 Squirmy
 - 30 "Listen up, warm-blooded animal!"
 - 32 More itty-bitty
 - 34 African country
 - 36 Disfigure
 - 37 Horror director
 - 38 Open a new tavern?
 - 41 Magna — laude
 - 42 Baltique or Adriatique
 - 43 Units of bag thickness
 - 44 "Bridge of Spies" actor
 - 46 Core belief of orthopedic practice?
 - 48 Home to Pago Pago
 - 52 "Vesti la giubba," e.g.
 - 53 — Majesty the Queen
 - 54 IM-offering ISP
 - 55 Choose a wooden peg?
 - 57 Aromatic resins
 - 59 Chai or pekoe
 - 62 Pyle and Eis
 - 63 Rallcar walkways
 - 64 Sees
 - 66 Church call
 - 67 Makes a warden gentle?
 - 72 Australian avians
 - 73 Be the king
 - 75 Delilah
 - 76 Rub down
 - 78 Sketch show since '75
 - 79 Estate of a winegrower
 - 81 Curly-furred cat's giddle?
 - 84 The way, to Lao-tzu
 - 85 Undertake
 - 86 Thing to hum
 - 87 Wraith
 - 88 Descend upon a certain grainfield in droves?
 - 92 Circles around heavenly bodies
 - 94 Sails through
 - 95 Neither hide — hair
 - 96 Bad review
 - 97 Very tentative taste of food?
 - 102 Greek "H"
 - 103 Match unit
 - 104 Ballroom dance
 - 106 Dr. Seuss' real surname
 - 107 Pale people writing things quickly?
 - 110 Jetsons' dog
 - 113 Caffeine-laden nut
 - 114 Perrier rival
 - 115 Aristocratic
 - 117 Toast topper that's nifty?
 - 119 Tuscan town
 - 120 Bugs a lot
 - 121 Sporting site
 - 122 Big cat's lair
 - 123 Stunning gun
 - 124 Cries out
 - 125 Cyclist, e.g.
 - 126 Before, in verse
 - 31 Actress d'Abo
 - 33 Online brokerage
 - 35 Receivable
 - 39 What "there oughta be"
 - 40 Uncommon
 - 42 Choice bit
 - 43 Hollywood's Gibson
 - 45 Zippo
 - 46 Celebrity lawyer
 - 47 Mix, as salad
 - 48 Pickle units
 - 49 Flying guys
 - 50 "Chicago Hope" doctor
 - 51 Assenting to
 - 53 — impact on (effects)
 - 56 East, in Ulm
 - 57 Small jewel
 - 58 Suffix of enzymes
 - 59 V8 ingredient
 - 60 Musician's exercises
 - 61 Affirm
 - 63 Analyze
 - 65 Australian state capital
 - 68 — whole
 - 69 Subject
 - 70 Manicure aid
 - 71 Scoundrel
 - 74 University sports org.
 - 77 Tuna variety
 - 80 Wasp variety
 - 81 1921 sci-fi play
 - 82 Sufficient, in verse
 - 83 TV "Warrior Princess"
 - 84 "Conan" network
 - 86 Pacific island country
 - 88 "My Little Chickadee" co-star
 - 89 Wife of Nero
 - 90 Head-hugging hats
 - 91 Mega Millions, e.g.
 - 92 Soup holder
 - 93 French forest region
 - 96 Soft shade
 - 98 Moped, e.g.
 - 99 "Tristan und —"
 - 100 6-Down's partner in magic
 - 101 Booster of comedy
 - 103 Sub detector
 - 104 Quaver
 - 105 Actor
 - 108 Tarzan's lady
 - 109 Author
 - 111 Actress Polo
 - 112 Bog grass
 - 116 Slalom path
 - 118 Pickle holder

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
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114																				
119																				
123																				

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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

HOME DECOR WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ARCHITECT
AREA
ARTWORK
BEDROOM
BLINDS
BUREAU
CABINETS
CARPETING
CHAIRS
CHEST
CLEANING
COUCH
COUNTERS
CURTAINS
DECORATE
DESIGNER
DINING
DRESSER

EXTERIOR
FINANCES
FLOORING
FRAMES
HOME
INTERIOR
LAYOUT
LOUNGE
MEASURE
NESTING
OTTOMAN
PILLOWS
PURCHASE
RENOVATE
SECTIONAL
SOFA
TABLE
WINDOWS

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

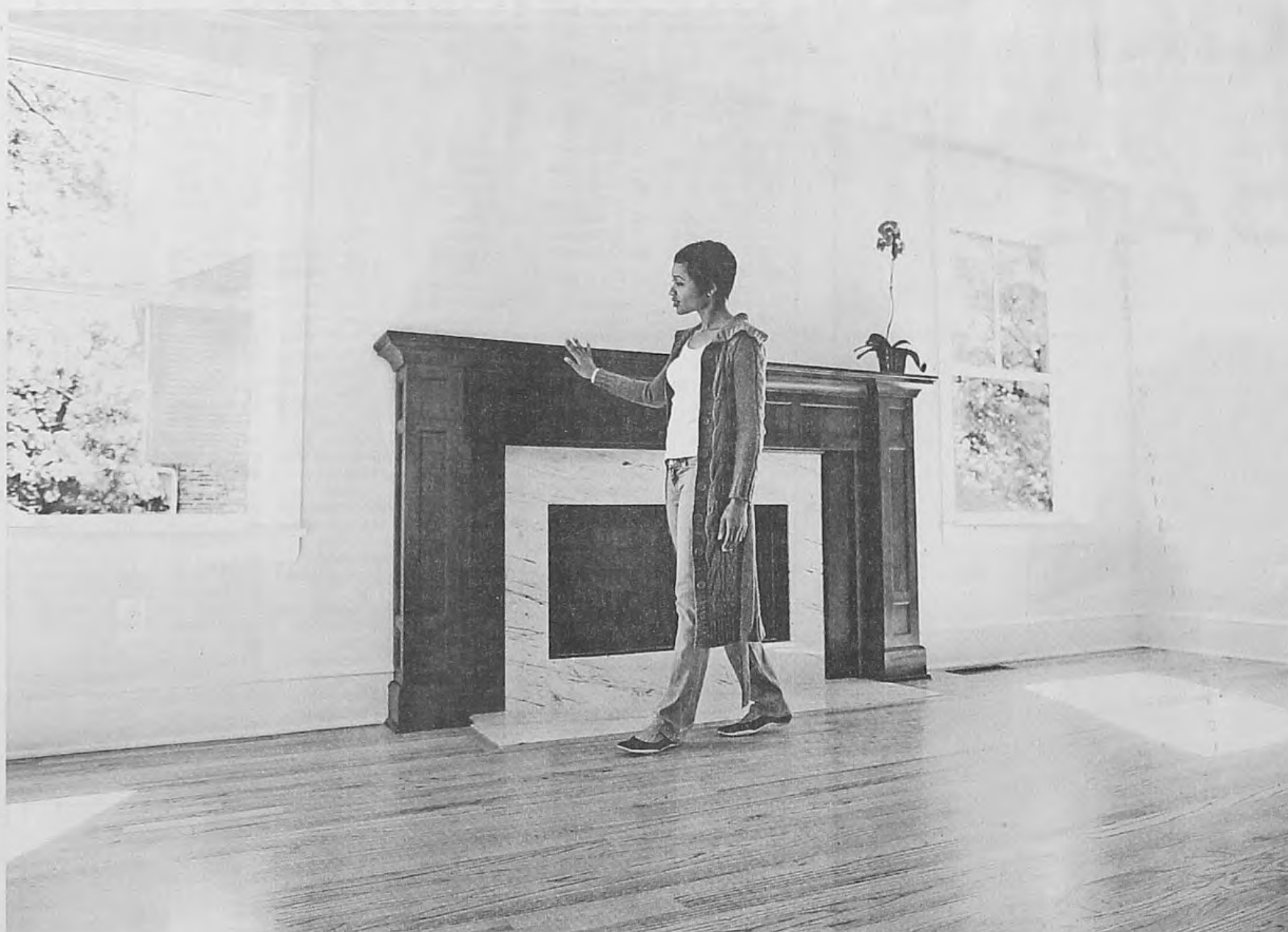
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

1 Former Delta rival: TWA
4 Humane org. since 1866: ASPCA
9 Shining: AGLOW
14 Birds' beaks: BILLS
19 On top of, in verse: OER
20 Nerd relative: DWEEB
21 City in Utah: PROVOK
22 Bugged a lot: ATEAT
23 Support a female donkey?: BACKJENNY
25 All fired up: EAGER
26 Flag sewer: BETSY
27 "Dies —" (Mass hymn): IRAE
28 Squirmy: ANTSTY
30 "Listen up, warm-blooded animal!": HARKMAMMAL
32 More itty-bitty: TINIER
34 African country: SUDAN
36 Disfigure: MAR ELLI
37 Horror director: STARTBAR
38 Open a new tavern?: CUM MER MILLS
41 Magna — laude: RYLANCE
42 Baltique or Adriatique: BONYTENET
43 Units of bag thickness: SAMOA
44 "Bridge of Spies" actor: ARIA
46 Core belief of orthopedic practice?: HER AOL
48 Home to Pago Pago: PICKDOWEL
52 "Vesti la giubba," e.g.: BALSAMS
53 — Majesty the Queen: TEA
54 IM-offering ISP: PERNIES
55 Choose a wooden peg?: AISLES
57 Aromatic resins: SPOTS
59 Chai or pekoe: AMEN
62 Pyle and Eis: TAMESJAILER
63 Rallcar walkways: REIGN
64 Sees: SAMSON
66 Church call: ABRAD
67 Makes a warden gentle?: SNL
72 Australian avians: CHATEAU
73 Be the king: REXTJITTER
75 Delilah: TAO
76 Rub down: TRY
78 Sketch show since '75: TUNE
79 Estate of a winegrower: GHOST
81 Curly-furred cat's giddle?: MOBBARLEY
84 The way, to Lao-tzu: CORONAE
85 Undertake: NOR
86 Thing to hum: PAN
87 Wraith: WARYBLITE
88 Descend upon a certain grainfield in droves?: ETA
89 Wife of Nero: SET
90 Head-hugging hats: TANGO
91 Mega Millions, e.g.: GEISEL
92 Soup holder: WANJOTTERS
93 French forest region: ASTRO
96 Soft shade: KOLA
98 Moped, e.g.: ELITE
99 "Tristan und —": KEENJELLY
100 6-Down's partner in magic: SIENA
101 Booster of comedy: RILES
103 Sub detector: ARENA
104 Quaver: DEN
105 Actor: TASER
108 Tarzan's lady: YELLS
109 Author: RIDER
111 Actress Polo: WERE

Word Search Answers

ARCHITECT
AREA
ARTWORK
BEDROOM
BLINDS
BUREAU
CABINETS
CARPETING
CHAIRS
CHEST
CLEANING
COUCH
COUNTERS
CURTAINS
DECORATE
DESIGNER
DINING
DRESSER



GETTY IMAGES

According to a 2016 National Association of Realtors' report, single women make up 15 percent of all home buyers.

Industry report: Single women make up substantial share of home buyers

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

If you're a single woman, you just may own your own home.

It doesn't come as a great surprise that the largest share of home buyer households is married couples. In fact, 67 percent of all home buyers are married couples. The second most common group of buyers, however, is single females.

According to the 2016 National Association of Realtors' *Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends* report, single females make up 15 percent of all home buyers, and this number goes up when looking at older buyers — 20 percent of buyers between 51 and 60 years of age and 19 percent between the ages of 61 and 69 are single females.

These percentages are substantially higher than those for single males, who only make up 9 percent of all home buyers; the share of single made buyers is even lower in older age groups, only 10 percent of buyers between 51 and 60 are single males.

Mary Vellardita bought a Westland condominium in 2010 and is glad she did so. "Economically it made more sense because you get a return on your investment. Tax advantages. More privacy," she said of ownership compared to renting.

"I like the fact that I still have a little yard to enjoy but I don't have to do yard work," Vellardita said. "I have ample storage compared to what you get in most apartments."

Her garage was also a big selling point.

The NAR report found those more likely to be trading up (Gen X homeowners) or trading down (older boomers) represented the largest share of sellers in the past year, at 25 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

"That's huge to me, and I don't have to shovel snow and cut grass. It's perfect for me," said Vellardita, the marketing and membership manager for the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Robin Kay Cooke is an associate broker for Cooke Realty of Keller Williams Plymouth-Canton, and has been in real estate 14 years. "We oftentimes have single women buy," said Cooke.

She sold to a widow a Canton condominium who was moving from Redford with her mother, who has health issues associated with aging. "That was really a helpful move for them," Cooke said.

Cooke finds for married couples women have a great say in home purchases. "If the wife's not happy, no one's happy," she noted with a chuckle. "They carry a lot of the decision-making."

For her own family, "My husband trusts my judgment," Cooke said. Her husband wanted a three-car garage, and wasn't all that interested in the kitchen or bathrooms of their home.

She finds women look in particular for walk-in closets, hardwood floors (helpful for those with allergies, and good for upkeep), granite or other hard-surfaced countertops and more.

"Really people need to have that in their home to be competitive in today's market," Cooke said of the countertops. Outdoors matters to buyers, too.

"A lot of people like to entertain in their yard space," Cooke said. "People started to invest in their back yards and see it as an extension of their living space."

For single women, she recommends an attached garage for safety. She also encourages single women to drive a prospective neighborhood at different times, and to talk to potential neighbors.

"After hours, you can kind of see the demographics," Cooke said, noting single mothers can see if there are other children living nearby.

The laws of years ago that limited single women in buying a home are long gone, agreed Cooke. "It really comes down to creditworthiness and income," she said, noting usually two years on a job is needed.

"Their goals are the same, typically," Cooke said of single women buyers and general buyers. Some women buyers are very social, she said, "and interact with the neighborhood and others choose not to."

She had a client of Indian descent who is mom to a daughter around 12. The

daughter is in private school, which made public systems less important to her mother. The woman wished to carry on their ethnic heritage, noted Cooke, an issue with some buyers when they relocate.

The NAR report found those more likely to be trading up (Gen X homeowners) or trading down (older boomers) represented the largest share of sellers in the past year, at 25 percent and 24 percent, respectively. Millennials — also likely to be move-up buyers — stayed in their home the shortest amount of time before selling (five years).

Even though younger sellers were more likely to need a larger home or move because of job relocation, older boomers were far more likely to move further away. Sellers overall moved a median distance of 20 miles, with older boomers traveling the furthest at 75 miles.

Across every generation at 88 percent or above, sellers overwhelmingly used a real estate agent or broker to sell their home. When asked what sellers wanted most from their real estate agent, younger sellers were more likely to want their agent to help price their home competitively or sell within a specific time frame, whereas help finding a buyer was desired more by younger and older boomers.

The National Association of Realtors website contributed to this report.

Condo Association Lawyers aim: upgrade condo living

Q: I was at a recent condominium seminar and heard someone mention that there is a College of Community Association Lawyers. Can you give me some information about it?

A: The College of Community Association Lawyers is an organization established in conjunction with the Community Association Institute, a national organization designed to improve community association living. The College is comprised of lawyers in community association law who have reached a high degree of recognition in practicing community association law and have been active in educational, professional and have reached a certain plateau of expertise in community association law. The College's official credentials for admission and recognition state as follows:

» Promoting high standards of professional and ethical responsibility in the practice of community association law

» Developing and educating attorneys working in the field of community association law

» Facilitating the development of community association educational materials and programming related to legal issues for use by other professionals and homeowners

» Cooperating with international, national, state and local organizations, government agencies and other groups having an interest in community association law

» Working with their fellow college fellows to assist community associations in maximizing effective governance practices

» Creating a community of scholars to promote professional development needs and career goals of CCAL fellows

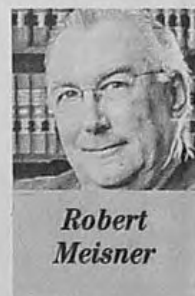
» Helping implementing the goals and objectives of the Community Associations Institute and its fellows

In Michigan we have only two lawyers who have been inducted in the College of Community Association Lawyers as Fellows, this writer being the first to be so inducted.

Q: We have an issue with our city attorney in regard to an affidavit he filed regarding the fact that our property could not be subdivided without a variance. I don't think he has the authority to do that and I don't think he was correct. Do you think we have a claim against the city manager?

A: Based on similar facts, I think you are going to have a problem filing a claim against the city manager based upon governmental immunity. The statute provides that in the absence of certain enumerated exceptions, governmental agencies are immune from tort liability when engaged in the discharge or exercise of a governmental function. In this particular case, the city would argue that it was engaged in a governmental function at the time it filed the affidavit. A governmental function is any activity that is expressly or impliedly mandated or authorized by the Constitution, state or local charter or ordinance or other law. No doubt, the government will argue that its filing of an affidavit was in furtherance of its larger, more general function of insuring compliance with its zoning ordinances and that the enforcement of a zoning ordinance is a governmental function.

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



Robert Meisner

Homearama plans progressing well, trade group reports

Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (HBA) has announced that development of Christenbury Creek in Macomb Township is progressing according to schedule for the Fall 2016 public opening of Homearama 2016. The 10 homes being showcased in the program will range in price from \$350,000 to \$500,000 and will be open for public display for three weekends.

Homearama 2016 is a public service activity of HBA

featuring homes built by HBA professional builder members including Arteva Homes, Clearview Homes, Lassale Homes, Sunset Homes and Vitale Companies. The community is also being developed by Arteva Homes.

Each home is being designed, built, fully decorated and landscaped by the area's top professionals. Homes will feature the latest amenities, advanced technology and energy saving features. These homes offer visitors

the opportunity to gather design and decor, ideas that could be used in their own homes.

On-site ticket sales will be available during the run of the program. Over 50,000 home owners, home buyers and dreamers are expected to visit Homearama 2016. Special events are also planned during the run of the event. More information will be available at www.HomearamaHBA.com beginning in May.

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Home Builders Association of SE Michigan (HBA) is a trade association representing nearly 800 builders, remodelers, developers and suppliers to the single family residential construction industry. HBA is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

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

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to

their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

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

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informa-

tional seminar on short sale procedures.

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

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

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Take a musical trip to the movies

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Michigan Philharmonic will celebrate its birthday in a big way — with blockbuster movie scores, more musicians, and a larger-than-usual venue — when it takes the stage Saturday in Salem High School's auditorium.

"We wanted to make this a community celebration for the 70th anniversary. Movie music is accessible and people have lots of favorite movie music," said Beth Stewart, executive director. "The movie scores are big works that require a big orchestra and lots of percussion."

Approximately 20 additional musicians will join the Michigan Philharmonic's core group of 45 for "Lights, Camera, Concert!" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Salem High School, 46181 Joy, in Canton.

The orchestra size and venue for the upcoming performance hearkens back to the orchestra's early days when it was known as the Plymouth Symphony. Although it started out with just 10 players in 1945, rehearsing in a local home and performing in the gymnasium at what is now the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC), it grew to 95 musicians at one point in its history. The Salem auditorium was its home venue for 20 years.

"At one point they had huge numbers. It was the largest community orchestra at one time in Michigan in the smallest town to have an orchestra," Stewart said. "I think because of Plymouth's geographic location between Detroit and Ann Arbor it allows us to draw musicians from both places and this whole area continues to be great in classically-trained musicians."

Smaller orchestra

The Michigan Philharmonic's musicians are freelancers who also perform with other orchestras or at other events. Faith Demorest, a violinist and the orchestra's personnel manager, supplements the talent pool as needed.

"We have really tried to fill that niche of a chamber-sized orchestra and there is a ton of great music that fits and orchestra of that size," Stewart said.

Both Stewart and Faith Demorest credit conductor Nan Washburn for enriching the orchestra's repertoire and strengthening its musicianship.

Washburn was artistic director and conductor of the West Hollywood Orchestra and music director of Orchestra Sonoma and the Camelia Symphony in California when the Plymouth Symphony board conducted a national search for a new conductor.

"One of the things I brought to the table was the idea of doing contemporary American music and featuring a living composer on every program if possible," Washburn said. "That kind of excited them, but it was a little scary and I am so glad they embraced that."

New musicians

The emphasis on including contemporary music along with standard classical repertoire led to change in the talent, according to Demorest. Musicians who didn't want to make those changes or learn

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CONCERT!

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16
Where: Salem Auditorium, Salem High School, 46181 Joy, Canton

Details: The Michigan Philharmonic's 70th birthday bash will feature music from such films as "Vertigo," "Back to the Future," and "Schindler's List." The symphony will play the full score "Symphonic Dances" from "West Side Story," the Pure Michigan Theme song from "Cider House Rules," and composer Laura Karpman's theme from the HBO series, "Taken." 88.1 the Park, the student-operated radio station at Salem High School, will live broadcast the concert. WRCJ 90.9 FM will record for broadcast the following weekend.

Special guests: The PCEP choirs, under the direction of Jennifer Neumann, will perform "Dry Your Tears, Afrika," from "Amistad," and Jack Goggin, host of "Film Classics" on WRCJ Radio will emcee the concert.

Tickets: \$30 general admission, \$25 for seniors, age 62 and older, and \$10 for students with ID

Contact: 734-451-2112; michiganphil.org



Michigan Philharmonic outreach programs include educational programs in the schools and a youth orchestra. ARCHIVE



Nan Washburn conducts approximately 45 musicians in the Michigan Philharmonic. Another 20 performers will join the group for its anniversary concert on April 16. SUBMITTED



A name change from Plymouth Symphony to the Michigan Philharmonic led to performance opportunities throughout southeastern Michigan, including Kensington Metropark in Milford. ARCHIVE



Music director and conductor Nan Washburn added contemporary music to the symphony's repertoire. She was hired in 1999 after a nationwide search for a new conductor. ARCHIVE

things all the time," Stewart said. "In any musical genre, you have to be out there making new albums and putting out new music. Why should classical music be any different?"

All three women agree that the orchestra's name change from Plymouth Symphony to the Michigan Philharmonic in 2011 led to major opportunities in both educational outreach to schools and new concert venues.

"I think we've done an enormous amount of growth aesthetically and with branding and this next year we're focusing on making sure we are equipped on the whole organizational level to keep the art growing," Washburn said.

She recently finished programming for the 71st concert season. It will include a ukulele concerto, a concert celebrating female composers and a team-up with the Plymouth Community Band.

"The season is going to be very exciting," Washburn said.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

GET OUT!: ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

For a complete list of events please visit hometownlife.com.

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

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

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL

Time/Date: Through April 22
Location: 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Works by local artists Pamela Alexander and Susan Warner

Contact: 248-473-1859

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 14-15, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Farmington Art Foundation's spring sale will be held in conjunction with the festival. The festival kicks off with an awards ceremony recognizing the 2016 Artist in Residence and other art award winners, beginning with a reception at 6 p.m. Friday, featuring live music, appetizers and a cash bar, followed by an awards presentation at 7 p.m., along with entertainment. Tickets are \$15. Visit recreg.fhgov.com. An interactive forum and workshop exploring art-focused education and career opportunities will run 1-3 p.m. Saturday. The festival culminates with entertainment and art displays on Sunday

Contact: farmingtonarts.org; 248-473-1859

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. through April 30

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: The exhibit features the per-

sonal work of the late Richard Rochon, who was known in the field of architecture for his renderings of buildings. Includes a reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 1

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

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ART CENTER

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Thursday, noon-4 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, and during public events through April

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, at Junction, Plymouth

Details: 7th Annual Open Exhibit features works by 36 artists on the theme, "one word." Includes pen & ink, photography, collage, encaustic, colored pencil, pastel, charcoal, mixed media and paintings

Contact: 734-416-4278; plymoutharts.com

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Time/Date: Through Tuesday, April 19

Location: Forum Building's 400 hallway, on the main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven

Mile, Livonia

Details: Self-portraits by students enrolled in art studio classes are on display. The public may vote for their favorites by emailing solson@schoolcraft.edu. The subject line should include the numbers of three favorite works. Winning students will receive Schoolcraft College gift cards

Contact: Sarah Olson at 734-462-4400, ext. 7174

U-M MUSEUM OF ART

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

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

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

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

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through April 28

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road,

Canton

Details: "Silent Images: Featured Works of Chuck Schroeder" features intricate pen and ink drawings

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org

VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21

Location: Livonia Civic Center Library auditorium, 33000 Civic Center

Details: Professor Emeritus Richard Rubenfeld of Eastern Michigan University will talk about historic and contemporary self-portraits in this program sponsored by VAAL. Free

Contact: vaalart.org

FILM PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 15-16; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 17; and 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: "Finest Hours," \$3

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

Blindfolds on? Let's dine in the dark!

Dinner by candlelight is cozy. Dining in the Dark goes beyond a candlelit setting and tempts your palate with a deliciously different dining experience. Guests wear blindfolds, temporarily giving up their sense of sight. Then, they immerse themselves in the tastes, aromas, textures and sounds of a delectable gourmet meal.



Diana Wing

Kathy Vargo, owner of On the Rocks Detroit, launched Dining in the Dark Detroit events two years ago and is seeing many returning diners. On Wednesday, May 4, a masked "Cinco

de Mayo Eve" experience will be held at the Great Lakes Culinary Center in Southfield, featuring a four-course dinner by chef Tim Castañeda of Zúmba Mexican Catering.

"We had such a good experience there when we did it last fall with chef Reva," Vargo said of the culinary center's executive chef. "We've done it in Ferndale at Rust Belt Market. We've done it at the Mangerie in Pontiac. Every time we've had a different theme and a different chef, something that makes it a totally unique experience."

The masked meal concept had its start in Europe with the premise that by removing the sense of sight, your other senses are heightened, leading to an enhanced experience.

"No one feeds you; you feed yourself," Vargo said, laughing, clearing up a question people will often ask. "We serve and then take the plates away and they un-blindfolded themselves between courses. We have a fun, creative craft bar, so everybody gets cocktails. ... There are always 'peekers,' but that's all right."

After the meal, guests can see examples of the plated dishes they were served and meet the chef and discuss their experience.

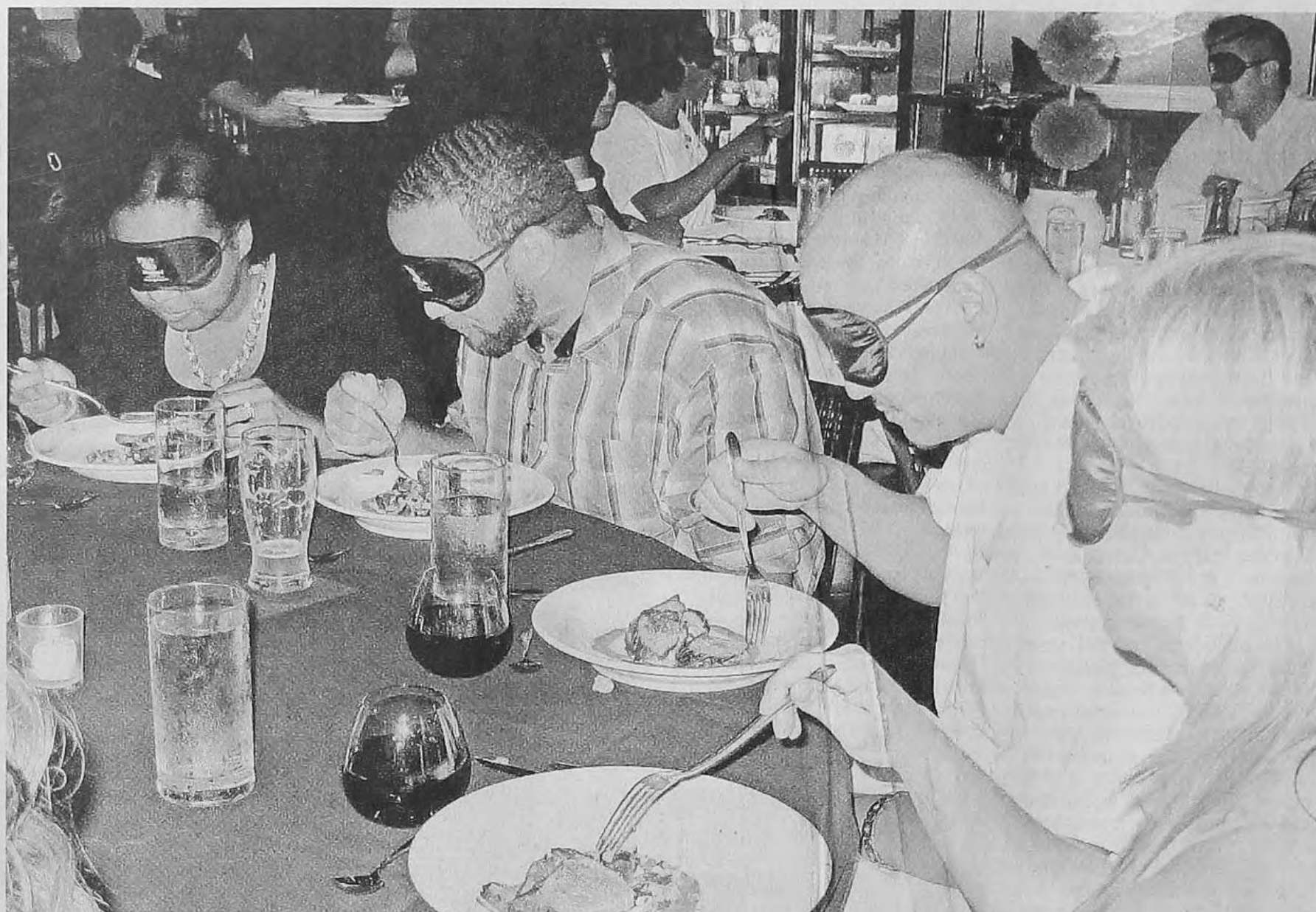
"Most people really enjoy the meal where you can just sit and relax and try to figure out what you're eating," Vargo said. "It's always a nice discovery."

Mexican specialties

Castañeda admitted that as a chef it would drive him crazy to dine in the dark, but he's excited to be involved in the "Cinco de Mayo Eve" masked dinner.

"It's a very cool, novel idea and something that's different. ... The bottom line is, you're there to have fun and eat good food," said the Birmingham resident, who has spent 30 years perfecting the Mexican recipes he grew up eating and then preparing in his family's restaurants.

Castañeda has worked at and owned Mexican restaurants and catering businesses in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix and Detroit. More



Guests rely on taste, smell, touch and sound at a Dining in the Dark event at the Great Lakes Culinary Center in Southfield.

KATHY VARGO



Dining in the Dark is a deliciously different and fun night out.



Tim Castañeda, owner of Zúmba Mexican Catering, will prepare Mexican specialties at a "Cinco de Mayo Eve" masked event.

"Most people really enjoy the meal where you can just sit and relax and try to figure out what you're eating. It's always a nice discovery."

KATHY VARGO
owner of On the Rocks Detroit

recently, he gave up the grind of a seven-day work week, closing his restaurants in Birmingham and Royal Oak, to focus on his catering business. He couldn't tell me what dishes he planned to prepare for Dining in the Dark (the fun for blindfolded diners is not knowing), but he said, "You don't want to make it too messy."

Castañeda was in Mexico

City not long ago with his wife and son and they took a customized culinary tour that was impressive.

"It was good to be in the heart of the city where things were happening," he said. "There are so many restaurants there. It (has been) a culinary destination in the last 10-15 years. It's like the American dining scene 30 years ago.

Mexico City is going through that right now."

The chef is looking forward to sharing some of his Mexican specialties at the Great Lakes Culinary Center in May.

"The kitchen is top-notch and everybody who has been there for an event or cooked there says it's great," he said. "It's a beautiful place."

Dining in the Dark Detroit

is a prix fixe three-hour experience which includes four courses and a handcrafted Mexican cucumber martini featuring Tito's Handmade Vodka. Sponsors include Treat Dreams custom/homemade ice cream and Don Marcos tortilla chips. There's a cash bar after the meal. Check in at 6:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 (excluding additional beverages and gratuity). Advanced reservations are required. Go to diningdarkdetroit.com. Call 248-687-9168 for more information.

Cooking class

Looking to improve your diet and your skills in the kitchen? Then, "Healthy Eats for Spring" is the class for you.

The Great Lakes Culinary Center hosts this hands-on session, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Executive chef Reva Constantine will show you simple ways to utilize fresh produce from the center's organic garden and will teach techniques for cooking whole vegetables from stem to root - nothing goes to waste. Learn how to transform seasonal ingredients into dishes that are packed with flavor, not calories. Master the fundamentals of healthy cooking so you can create great-tasting, good-for-you meals.

Cost is \$70 per person. A cash bar will be available and guests 21 and over are welcome. Dinner and one drink ticket are included. Register online at gculinarycenter.com. Call Erika Miller at 248-286-3102 for more information.

Chili contest in Redford is hot event for local cooks

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

No beans. No spaghetti. No big chunks of vegetables.

Keep that in mind when you make your next pot of traditional red chili or chili verde and you may have the beginnings of a culinary competition winner.

"The principle behind the International Chili Society is no artificial fillers, no Cincinnati-style, absolutely no beans, that kind of stuff," said Gary Ray, who is co-coordinating the ICS-sanctioned state of Michigan Chili Championship this month with his wife Lauren. "We're helpful for rookies coming in. We'll advise you on what not to do. I cooked next to someone at the Great Lakes Chili Cook-off and he was ready to put corn in his chili." Ray set him straight on what judges look for in ICS competition, which generally doesn't include "floating vegetables."

Ray and his wife are Livonia residents and both hold world champion titles from the ICS in chili verde. First-place winners at state or regional chili contests are allowed to cook at the world event, which is held in a



different U.S. city each year. Top world ICS winners can pocket between \$3,000 for first place salsa to \$25,000 for traditional red chili.

Ray said he has used pork tenderloin, chicken broth, chili seasoning and cumin, among other ingredients, in his winning chili verde. Chili verde includes green chili peppers, while traditional red chili is made with red chili peppers. ICS rules allow any kind of meat or combination of meat.

"In mid-state Illinois, they like a ground chuck. In this area, it tends to be more of a tri-tip style cubed meat. Some

places like a small cubed meat and a little ground beef," Ray said, describing red chili.

Spicy strategy

The Rays have competed in chili contests throughout the country and try to get a feel for regional taste preferences.

"In Baton Rouge, I thought they'd like heat. I got busted twice," Ray said, with a laugh. "I cooked one day and it was too salty and spicy. Then (the next day) I was busted for too much heat."

He tends to take to heart comments from friends who also compete.



The state of Michigan Chili Championship is set for April 23 in Redford.

Far left: Contestants cook chili at a previous State of Michigan Chili Championship competition.

ingredients, including those forbidden in the verde and red categories.

"You can have beans, macaroni noodles," Ray said. "We had a friend who made a seafood people's choice chili."

Admission to watch the cooks prepare their recipes is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. All net proceeds will benefit the Michigan Veterans Foundation. Visitors will get a chance to sample chili and enter gift basket raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

For more information, email Ray at wodac_garyray@yahoo.com or call 313-938-6364.

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