

CANTON OBSERVER

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ENTERTAINMENT, B8

Doctor charged in medical fraud case

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton-based doctor has been charged in a 22-count medical fraud case involving allegations he billed Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield for services he didn't provide. Charges against Dr. Bassel Altantawi, 45, of Farmington Hills were announced Tuesday

by Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, whose office was notified of the accusations after Canton police received a complaint. "We were alerted to the (alleged) fraudulent activity that was going on



Altantawi

"We will continue to identify and prosecute unscrupulous health care providers ..."

BILL SCHUETTE, Michigan attorney general

and we contacted the attorney general's office and turned it over to them," Canton Special Services Lt. Craig Wilsher said Tuesday. Wilsher said he couldn't

elaborate on the details brought to Canton police about Altantawi, described as the only doctor at Canton Urgent Care, on Ford Road between Morton Taylor and Lilley.

A phone call to Canton Urgent Care went to voice mail Tuesday afternoon and had not been returned. Megan Hawthorne, Schuette's deputy press secretary, said the charges don't automatically mean the clinic is forced to close.

"We do not know if Altantawi plans to continue to have the

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TIDERINGTON FAMILY PHOTO

Author Bruce Porter (left) with Chief Tom Tiderington at the Tiderington family cottage. Porter spent a week with the chief's family in 2014 while researching the true-crime story "Snatched," which was published last month.

Library race draws 10 candidates for six seats

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A crowded field of candidates has emerged for Canton Public Library trustee positions this political season — indicating considerable interest for four-year terms that are strictly volunteer, unpaid posts.

Ten candidates — five incumbents and five challengers — are competing for six seats at stake in the November election.

Why the interest? "I think that people recognize the value of the library and how important it is to our community," said Laurie Golden, the facility's community relations department head. "They want to be a part of that."

Incumbents Nancy Eggenberger, Michelle Farell, James Fausone, Thomas Hartnett and Don Turner are seeking re-election, while challengers Hassan Ahmad, Jasmine Lee, Jane Pandit, Paul Talwar and Amy Watts also are making a bid for office.

At least one new trustee will be elected to the six-member board. One incumbent, Sommer Foster, has opted to campaign for a seat on the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Library Director Eva Davis said all 10 candidates will advance to the November election, when voters will fill the six positions.

The board oversees a \$5 million budget and, going forward, will be involved in a long-range strategic plan focusing on goals for 2020 and beyond. The library also has completed three rounds of renovations, with two more still to come.

Officials have described the Canton facility as the state's busiest library among communities that have just one library branch.

Moreover, a community survey conducted in 2014 by an outside consultant found that 88 percent of respondents had used the library. Residents flagged it as Canton's most important facility.

Golden has said the library circulated 1,411,415 items in 2015 and had 487,095 visitors — many of them repeat patrons. She has said the library has 77,462 cardholders.

The library, 1200 S. Canton Center, has 100 employees.

For more on the library, go to www.cantonpl.org.

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Plymouth Township chief has big role in true-crime book

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Tom Tiderington looks every bit the suburban police chief, but a new book illustrates the very different role he played in "the ultimate game of cops and robbers" — and how that game went awry.

"Snatched," by Bruce Porter, a true-crime writer and journalism professor, tells the story of Pilar, an aristocratic Colombian woman with ties to the international drug trade who was recruited by the Drug Enforcement Administration for Operation Princess, a money-laundering sting aimed at drug traffickers in the 1990s.

Tiderington, Plymouth Township's chief since November 2001, spent more than 20 years with the police department in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he worked major drug cases and was sometimes on loan to the DEA. In Operation Princess, Tiderington, then a sergeant, was a group supervisor in a DEA task force that posed as a corrupt banking outfit that laundered money for drug lords.

"It was the ultimate game of cops and robbers," Tiderington said recently. "It was the challenge of matching wits with world-class criminals."

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COURTESY OF TOM TIDERINGTON

Tom Tiderington at the helm of Midnight Express, a boat seized in a drug case that was used by Tiderington as part of his undercover persona as a boat captain.

Drug take-back effort soars in Canton

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton residents Saturday dumped a record-shattering 199 pounds of prescription pills at the Canton police station — by far the most successful effort since a drug collection program began in 2011.

The amount of unused drugs discarded by residents

more than doubled the 86 pounds of pills removed from Canton homes during the last drug take-back initiative in September.

The Canton Police Department was among thousands of local, state and



Esselink

federal law enforcement agencies attempting to reduce the risk of prescription drugs getting into the wrong hands. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration collects and destroys the pills.

"I believe the word is getting out that we are attempting to take back the pills that people are not using," said Officer Patty Esselink, the Canton

department's community relations coordinator. "We don't want these pills just sitting around, knowing the dangers of keeping them at home."

Canton has had two drug collection programs each year since 2011. Residents are allowed to place pre-

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DRUGS

Continued from Page A1

scription pills in a drop box — no questions asked — inside the police station's main lobby.

"When we offer this to the public, residents really jump on the opportunity," Esselink said. "It's a great thing."

The four-hour drug take-back program is intended to thwart prescription drug abuse by ridding homes and medicine cabinets of unused or unwanted pills "so they don't get into the hands of our children or people who may misuse them," Esselink has said. A U.S. Drug Enforce-

ment Administration spokeswoman said Tuesday the amount of drugs collected across the nation hadn't yet been tabulated.

However, the DEA said 350 tons of pills were collected during the drug take-back program last Sept. 26.

Moreover, more than 5.5 million pounds of prescription pills have been collected since 2010. DEA officials have said 46,000 Americans die each year from drug-related deaths — more than half of those from heroin and prescription opioids.

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The Big Salad-Novi owner Christopher Pike (from left), Jean Claude Botena, Jenna Sheena, Noelle Mayer, Michael Smith and Madonna University business professor Nidhal Bouazizi pose with the "Seal the Deal" trophy.

CANTON OBSERVER

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Madonna University students 'Seal the Deal' with The Big Salad

A team of business students from Madonna University took top honors in a recent reality-based learning project sponsored by restaurant group The Big Salad.

"Seal the Deal" was a semester-long, for-credit project in which teams of students competed to create, design, test and market a new menu product for The Big Salad, according to John Bornoty, The Big Salad

founder and CEO.

The winning team, composed of Michael Smith and Noelle Mayer, both of Livonia; Jenna Sheena of West Bloomfield; and Jean Claude Botena of Westland, competed against three other teams and presented the judges with its "Chicken BLTA Wrap," a blend of chicken, bacon, lettuce, tomato and avocado. The winning entry will be on sale at The Big

Salad's Novi location, 43168 Grand River Ave., through August, according to Christopher Pike, franchise owner of The Big Salad-Novi.

"All of the student teams did an excellent job," Bornoty said. "Every team's product was different and very good."

Said team member Mayer: "It was an incredible experience taking the concepts

we've learned within the four walls of a classroom to a real life experience. It was such a great feeling to know that what you created from scratch was brought to life and is actually going to market."

The Big Salad and Madonna University plan to resume the "Seal the Deal" project at the start of the fall semester.

FRAUD

Continued from Page A1

business function or not," she said by email.

Schuette issued a statement saying Altantawi has been charged with nine counts of Medicaid fraud, 12 counts of health care fraud and one count of having a continuing criminal enterprise. The charges came from the Health Care Fraud Division of Schuette's office.

"We will continue to identify and prosecute unscrupulous health care providers who waste limited health care dollars by fraudulently seeking payment for services they never provided," Schuette said in a press release. "Michigan residents should feel confident that when they see a physician, they receive honest, quality care and accurate billing based on the services provided to them by a physician."

Schuette filed the following charges Tuesday against Altantawi in East Lansing's 54-B District Court:

» One count of having a continuing criminal enterprise, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and fines totaling \$100,000.

» Nine counts of Medicaid fraud, punishable by up to four years in prison and fines of \$50,000.

» 12 counts of health care fraud, also punishable by up to four years in prison and fines of \$50,000.

Altantawi was arraigned before Judge Richard Ball and released on a \$25,000 personal bond. He is expected back in court May 9 for a preliminary hearing.

Schuette said Blue Cross Blue Shield fraud investigators assisted in the investigation.

Any patients seen by Altantawi who believe they may have been billed for services not provided are urged to call the Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Division hotline at 800-24-ABUSE.

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Spotlight theater shines light on 'Sleeping Beauty'

Spotlight on Youth members sing their way through an enchanting musical version of "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty," a spin on the old classic tale. Kids of all ages will tap their toes to this delightful musical May 12-15 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The show is one weekend only. For tickets, call 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village

theater. Tickets are \$12.

Director Barbara Bloom describes the show this way: "The king and queen of Never Nod have a new baby, Princess Briar Rose. The witch Evilina, who lives with a giant spider, sets a terrible curse on the poor young princess. Sixteen years later, it's up to Prince Alexander to come to Briar Rose's rescue and the court's too - for they are all asleep!

The Prince must fight the Wall of Thorns, A False Princess and most frightening of all, the exalted Dark Knight!"

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday, May 12; 7 p.m. Friday, May 13; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 14; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15.

For more information about Spotlight on Youth productions, call at 248-719-3637.



From left, Prince Alexander is played by Cellack Allen of Canton, the Chef is Vincenzo Coccione of Westland and Briar Rose is Madison McCann of Canton.

BOOK

Continued from Page A1

With Pilar providing connections to traffickers, Tiderington and his team members lived a high-flying but illusory lifestyle of conspicuous consumption, jetting to Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and Europe and wining and dining their targets in the higher echelons of the cocaine business.

'It made them heroes'

To drop \$10,000 for a big restaurant meal wasn't unusual, Tiderington said, and they always flew first class.

"Everybody in the task force would come to work with a suitcase," ready to travel, he said. "We spent weeks and weeks up in New York City," where they often picked up drug money, he added.

The team had an exemption from the government that allowed it to launder money and, by doing so, proved its worth to drug lords. Commissions were folded back into the operation to further the illusion.

Tiderington, as part of his undercover role, sometimes played a boat captain, using boats seized in past operations to help signal he was a drug smuggler.

"(Pilar) was rounding up all these gangs of indictable people," Porter said by phone Monday. "It made them heroes in this task force and it advanced their careers." Arrests were made, cash and cocaine were seized and there were many spinoff investigations.

Pilar also was "very well paid," Porter said. "Really, it was touch and go about who was using whom."



Tom Tiderington, then a Fort Lauderdale police sergeant on loan to the Drug Enforcement Administration, with colleagues in Montreal after a 1993 drug bust.

'They got the Princess'

Operation Princess, however, took a wrong turn in August 1995, when the informant Pilar — the Princess — was kidnapped in Cali, Colombia.

When he picked up the phone and heard the caller say, "They got the Princess," Tiderington said, he knew what that meant.

"Now, all of a sudden, we were dealing with an international kidnapping case," Tiderington said.

While the government lent resources, including the Central Intelligence Agency, to try to free the Princess, the official position was that no ransom was to be paid. Officials negotiated the ransom down, stalled for time and made an ill-fated attempt to find Pilar using a global-positioning device inside a video camera that was to be used to take proof-of-life videos, Tiderington said.

"They got, in the end, precious little help," Porter said,

explaining what piqued his interest in the story. "When push came to shove, the federal government was not a stand-up guy about all this."

Pilar was eventually freed, after being held for more than three months by rebel guerillas, for a ransom of \$350,000 paid by an informant in Colombia, Porter said.

Paid more than \$900,000 by the DEA, in the hope that would forestall legal action, Pilar later sued, claiming the ordeal had aggravated her multiple sclerosis. In August 2014, a federal judge awarded her just over \$1.14 million that was to be put toward her long-term care.

Porter, the author of the true-crime book "Blow," which was turned into a movie starring Johnny Depp (Tiderington also has a part in that story and helped Porter research it), began looking at Operation Princess in the late 1990s. A piece he sold to Vanity Fair kept getting bumped and was

finally dropped.

Long view

But as Pilar's lawsuit dragged on, Porter said, he kept an eye on it.

"The publishers were very interested. But they said, 'Look, we have to wait for this lawsuit,'" Porter said. "Little did I know that it was going to take 17 years before she actually won."

As the case wound down, Porter ramped up his research, traveling to interview the principals, including Pilar and Tiderington.

In summer 2014, he spent a week at the Tiderington family cabin in northern Michigan, talking to the chief about Operation Princess.

"We spent eight hours a day for, like, five days going over research. He is such a meticulous storyteller," Tiderington said. "He insisted on detail."

Tiderington came through on that score, Porter said.

"He had a really good mem-



Chief Tom Tiderington with a Detroit police call box. His grandfather and father were Detroit officers and he started his career there, but headed to Florida after being laid off.

ory and he would recreate the general tenor of conversations," which is vital for true-crime authors, Porter said. "Otherwise, you get a book that sounds like a police report."

Tiderington in April took family members to New York City for a launch party for "Snatched." It was an Operation Princess reunion that included Pilar, Porter, Tiderington and a couple of his law enforcement colleagues from that time.

Tiderington said it's rewarding to look back on his Fort Lauderdale days, but he realizes the dangers that time held, too. He retired as a captain in charge of the special investigations division.

"I had a great career down there. It was very exciting. It was a fun place to work," he said.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Breathing-machine bag also held pot

A 41-year-old Shelby Township man was arrested on a marijuana possession charge Sunday afternoon after being stopped because of an expired license plate.

The man was eastbound on M-14 in a Toyota Corolla shortly after 3 p.m., when an officer noticed the expired plate, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. The officer pulled over the driver just west of I-275.

There was a duffel bag in the Corolla, police said, and when the officer asked what was in it, the driver answered that it was breathing apparatus for his sleep apnea and opened the bag to show the device. That's when the officer began to smell marijuana, the report said.

The man admitted he had marijuana and a plastic bag of suspected marijuana was found in the duffel bag, police said. The substance, 4.5 grams, later tested positive for marijuana.

No licenses

» A 22-year-old Garden City man was arrested for driving with a

suspended license Saturday evening after being stopped for speeding on a motorcycle on Hines Drive, near Gun-solly.

It was about 7:30 p.m., a police report said, when an officer using radar clocked the man, driving a Suzuki, at 55 mph in a 40-mph zone. The man said told the officer he didn't know how fast was traveling because the speedometer read 45 mph.

The motorcyclist said he didn't have a license because he hadn't paid reinstatement fees, police said.

» A 39-year-old Detroit man was arrested for driving with a suspended license after a traffic stop on Lilley near Postiff about 10:30 p.m. April 28.

An officer stopped the man because the license plate on the 1994 GMC Suburban he was driving belonged on a Buick, police said.

The man told the officer he had purchased the Suburban five days earlier and hadn't yet transferred the plate. The man also had no license, police said.

—By Matt Jachman

Teen says boyfriend choked, threatened her

A 20-year-old man is accused of choking his girlfriend and — after she drove off in her car — trailing her recklessly as he made threatening gestures toward her, such as pointing his hand as though it were a gun.

The incident began about 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning and spilled into Canton from Belleville, where the 19-year-old woman said the suspect choked her as they sat in a car outside his residence. She said he became violent after she told him she wanted to focus on her career rather than a relationship.

The woman broke free and drove off in her car, but told police the suspect aggressively followed her, pulling next to her car, dragging his finger across his throat as though it were a knife and pointing his hand at her as if it were a gun, a police report said.

The woman was driving to her sister's residence, but then called 9-1-1 and changed her destination to the Canton Police Department, where the suspect trailed her and was taken into custody. He refused to obey an officer's command to turn off his car and step out, even inching toward other police officers before the first officer managed to reach inside and turn off the ignition, the report said.

During a subsequent interview with police, the suspect allegedly admitted he grabbed the woman by the neck because she wasn't paying attention to what he was saying. He told police he had no intent to hurt or kill her, the report said. The suspect told po-

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Domestic dispute

A 25-year-old Canton woman accused her ex-boyfriend of slamming a door into her four times after she opened it, stood behind it and told him to leave during a heated argument.

The incident happened about 9:30 a.m. Sunday, when the 27-year-old former boyfriend returned to The Crossings, an apartment complex where the two once shared a residence on Canton's north side, a police report said. It ended with the man being taken into custody.

The woman told police the man sent her a text saying he wanted to pick up mail that had gone to the apartment, but she said he forced his way inside when he arrived and began taking pots and pans.

She said she told him repeatedly to leave and finally held open the door for him and stood behind it. That's when she said he slammed it four times against her, injured her foot, and pushed her into a nearby closet as he left, the report said.

She called police, who spotted the suspect exiting the apartment complex in a red Jeep and stopped him. He was taken into custody for domestic violence — his third such offense — as the investigation continued.

The woman told police the lock has been changed on her apartment door. She also said she has initiated steps to have the ex-boyfriend's name removed from her lease.

Lost dog

A small, lost dog made itself at home outside a Canton house and even growled at a police offi-

cer who came to investigate after the homeowner reported the stray pooch.

Police went to the home on Ashley Court, near Warren and Beck, after a 52-year-old man reported the dog running loose in the neighborhood before it settled on his back porch Saturday morning. The report said the dog's white coat was dirty as though the animal had been roaming for a while.

The dog growled when a police officer approached it and then ran around to the front porch, only to return soon afterward to its back-porch perch. Police called an animal control worker, who took the dog to a shelter.

Drunk, homeless

A drunken and apparently homeless man who was refused liquor at a Canton store was taken into custody by police for public intoxication after he passed out just outside the business, a report said.

Police went to the store, near Haggerty and Cherry Hill, amid reports the man was sleeping outside the store. Police said the 51-year-old man woke up and seemed confused.

After learning his identity, police phoned a daughter, who said she wanted no part of the situation because of her father's drinking problem. The man told police his wife had kicked him out of their home and he has nowhere to go.

The incident ended with the man getting a temporary stay at the Canton police station for public intoxication.

—By Darrell Clem

County schedules old tire collection in Canton

Canton residents who need to get rid of old tires may take them to the township's Public Works Division building, 4847 Sheldon Road, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14.

Tires from cars, bicycles, wheelbarrows, golf carts and other sources will be collected by the Wayne County Department of Public Service. Tires will be accepted with or without rims attached.

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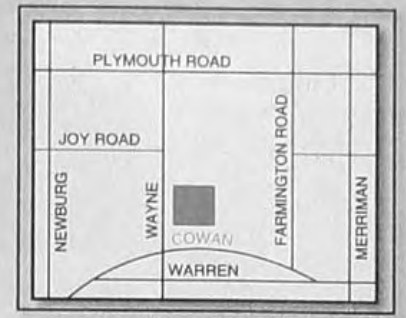


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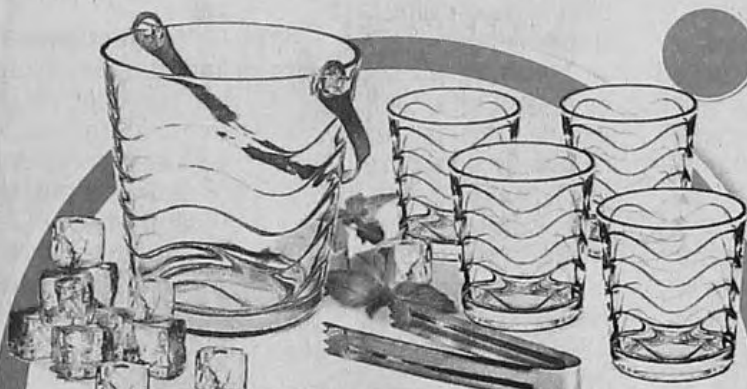
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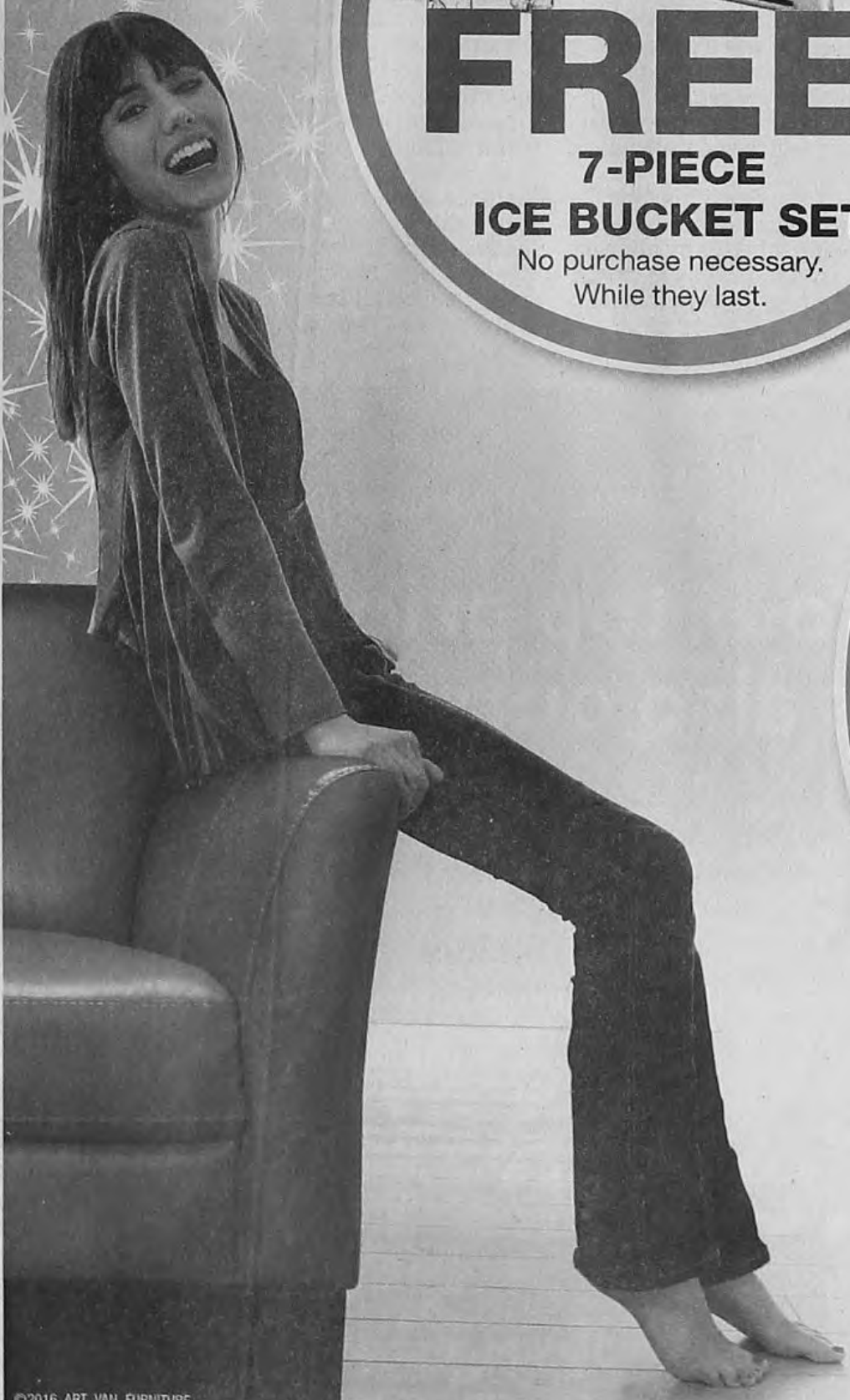
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Until just minutes before my daughter was diagnosed with cancer, I was just like many of you. Childhood cancer was very removed from my life. It was cute little children on the children's cancer commercials with bald heads. "Time to change the channel," I'd think. "That will never happen to my child." Thank God. Now back to my daily life.

The truth is, childhood cancer is not rare. It can happen to anyone at any time. That is why this fight to raise funds is an urgent matter. Innocent children are dying. Our future. Our babies.

We can longer afford to have anyone turn their head away because they cannot handle it. We need everyone to be as strong as the children who are fighting. Be brave. Open your eyes. Stare reality directly in the eyes. Imagine, just for a second, that your baby, grand baby, niece or nephew was diagnosed



Kelly Wadle
GUEST COLUMNIST

with cancer. Imagine the doctors telling you that there aren't any more treatment options available and that you should take your baby home to make them comfortable for their last days.

Now, imagine their siblings and ripping their innocence away by sitting down to tell them that their brother or sister is going to die. Then you need to tell them "please, keep this a secret because we don't want your brother or sister to die scared." This happened, just recently, to the family of a 6-year-old girl. She died days later in her mother's arms. Her mother's eyes were the last image she saw before taking her last breath. Put yourself into that mother's shoes. Put yourself in big brother or sister's shoes. Put

yourself into that child's shoes.

Imagine the sense of urgency you would feel. "This has to stop and it has to stop now!" Now imagine you look around and you see that everyone's lives have gone back to normal. There is no sense of urgency to anyone around you. In fact, they turn the other way, because it's too difficult to bear. On with their lives they go, just like the cute kids in the cancer commercial that I watched two years ago. "Change the channel."

The cold hard truth is that less than 4 percent of government funding goes toward pediatric cancer research. Why? Because pharmaceutical companies do not see an opportunity to make money off of coming up with any new drugs. They believe that pediatric cancer is too rare. One in every 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer before they turn 20 years old. That is not rare. In fact, if those

were the odds of winning the lotto, I would have to bet that everyone would run out and buy a ticket today.

Some might say, "Well, tons of kids are surviving cancer, that's great. Why change that?" We need to change it because our treatments are harsh. Chemo is actually a dumb drug, not very smart at all. It is a poison that enters your body and attacks any and all rapidly dividing cells, including the healthy ones. When my daughter was undergoing chemo, I had to wear latex gloves while changing her diapers. My skin could not come in to contact with her urine. Imagine knowing that very same poison was being pumped through her veins just hours before. Most children don't die because of the cancer, but from the side effects of the very treatments they are undergoing to save their lives.

Because of treatments, by the time that

these children are 45, more than 95 percent of survivors will have a chronic health problem and 80 percent will have severe or life-threatening conditions. Some long-term late effects of current treatments are (but not limited to) hearing loss, secondary cancers, reproductive/sexual development problems, growth/development/hormone problems, heart problems and digestive issues, just to name a few. Now, imagine trying to explain to your 11-year-old daughter that she will never be able to have children of her own.

Don't change the channel. Please keep listening. We have two problems. First, there's a real funding gap. Federally, pediatric cancer gets less than half of the funding that breast cancer gets. We need to fill in that gap. Second, we need to stop "changing the channel." It hurts to see a child in pain, so we look the other way. We can't do this anymore.

The St. Baldrick's Foundation exists for these exact reasons. Its primary focus is volunteer-driven fundraising efforts going directly to children's cancer research. Its events put more fight than fear into the attendees. Thousands of these events happen every year and one is happening this May in Plymouth. I ask you, as a mother, as a fighter and as a fellow human being, to join us today. Please go to stbaldricks.org and search for events near you and sign up. Donate, volunteer or attend a St. Baldrick's event and you might not be able to change the channel next time.

Kelly Wadle lives in Royal Oak with her husband and three beautiful children. Her daughter Aurora was diagnosed with Wilms tumor at 15 months old. Today, Aurora is doing well and considered no evidence of disease. Wadle continues to fight for funding and awareness through the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

LETTERS

Return sanity to Lansing

A recent article in this paper, April 12, informed us that John J. Sullivan was running for the state House 20th District seat.

One quote attributed to Mr. Sullivan certainly hit the nail on the head. It was, "The government's not there to give back to business, its there to provide to the people." How refreshing is that? After years of hearing right-wing Republicans spout the nonsense that government should be run like a business, it takes a Democrat to make a common sense statement.

The Emergency Manager Law is the perfect example of the fallacy of "one tough nerd's" policies. What happened in Flint is exactly what happens when the people are brushed aside in favor of the "bottom line."

On that note, after the voters resoundingly threw out the EM law, it was resurrected by Snyder and company. To protect their minions, the new law says that any jurisdiction that falls under an EM is required to pay all legal bills, both civil and criminal, the said EM incurs. So an appointee commits a crime against a community and the victims pay for his or her defense? This is just one example of how far from reality these people have pushed our state.

Maybe, just maybe, the voters will turn out and elect or re-elect enough Democratic state Reps. like John J. Sullivan and Kristy Pagan to bring some sanity back to Lansing.

James Huddleston
Canton

Reviewing candidates

The Plymouth Concerned Citizens group continues to host candidates who are running for office in Plymouth Township. Its recent meeting hosted two candidates running for trustee positions on the Board of Trustees. Both will be on the Republican ticket in the Aug. 2 primary.

Jack Dempsey is an attorney who has resided in the township for 32 years. He has been a partner in a law firm since 1998 and is now semi-retired and hoping to serve the community as a trustee on the board. Mr. Dempsey is an advocate for open, transparent government and fiscal responsibility. He feels that both of these qualities could be improved with a future board. His priorities are public safety, fiscal efficiency, and essential services. He will focus on achieving solutions, respecting differences, and building community.

Gary Heitman is also running for township trustee. He has lived in the township for 25 years and is concerned about the negativity that has permeated the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees in the past four years. He is an advocate for transparency in all functions of local government and sees the need for a more open approach than exists at this time. He is a Ford Motor Co. retiree and one of his top priorities is to mend relations between the township and the city of Plymouth. The current negative relationship with our neighbors is detrimental to everyone.

The next meeting of the PCC will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, at the Plymouth Library on Main Street. Everyone is encouraged to come out and meet the candidates. Check out its website at <http://www.plymouth-concernedcitizens.com>

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township

Matter of judgment

Looking at the list of streets that are going to be paved, it says that West Chicago is completed. If the way that pavement is completed, then Cavell is completed also.

When was the last time any one of you drove down West Chicago between Inkster Road and Harrison? If you have, you would realize the engineering department is missing something in saying West Chicago is completed.

I would guess that it is a matter of judgment,

but your car will hit holes in the pavement and very many cracked and shifted slabs of pavement. But engineering says that West Chicago is done.

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, then it must be a duck. West Chicago is one-half mile of a road that really needs replacement. The city is paying an engineering firm to draw up prints. Who made the decision to say West Chicago is completed?

The contractor that does the city work seems to have some special interested person that keeps giving him contracts. Last year, they did Cardwell. They started in July and were still doing work on paving in late October. They still have not done complete restoration.

Many of the residents on Cavell have a least two and possibly four vehicles. That without a published and contracted completion date (do work on their own time schedule two days here then go somewhere else for four or five days) will work at their own speed and the residents can whistle Dixie to get back into their property.

I know that this is the southeast end of the city and no politicians live here so who really cares? Get a published and contracted end of project DATE not one that says whenever. Let it out for bids and give the city a chance at getting a real bid as opposed to the ones that seem they are being negotiated because he is a good guy.

Bernard A. Skotzke
Livonia

High disapproval ratings hurt chances

I wonder how may delegates Donald Trump would have today without the advantage of opposition votes split amongst multiple candidates? I wonder how he would have done going head to head with one candidate from day one?

I wonder why he avoided states like Colorado where you actually have to win delegates with character and substance rather than theatrics, then claim the game is rigged when he lost?

I wonder why Trump won't accept Ted Cruz's challenge to debate one on one or why he won't release his tax returns? I wonder why he won't authorize the release of a taped interview with the New York Times about his views on immigration?

I wonder if his parents ever told him "No!" I wonder if he really thinks he could win the state of New York in a general election after winning the primary with a vote total half that of Hillary Clinton and 250,000 less than Bernie Sanders?

I wonder how he expects to win a general election with disapproval ratings averaging 75 percent amongst women, Hispanics and millennials?

I wonder if his fans will ever realize they're being taken in by appearances and rhetoric much like people were taken in by Barack Obama?

Jack Belisle
South Lyon

When government covers up

Earlier this spring, the city of Dexter marked a rather dubious 50 year anniversary — the infamous "swamp gas" UFO sightings. The Detroit Free Press recently ran an article about this, so I'll only sum up the main details. During the month of March 1966, several UFOs (flying saucers) were observed in Dexter. The witnesses included approximately 80 girls at Hillsdale College and several policemen.

Allen Hynek, an Air Force official who was a part of 'Project Blue Book' was sent over from Washington D.C., to quell fears, and after several days of investigation, came to the inane conclusion that no one had seen anything beyond swamp gas.

'Project Blue Book' had been instituted during the Cold War in order to quash the panic that had arisen during a rash of saucer sightings above Washington D.C. The phone lines were being so over-loaded that the government felt its communications system was being compromised and this posed a risk to national security.

Of course, one of the most famous UFO incidents was the one that occurred in Roswell, N.M., in the 1960s. In that instance, apparently, a flying saucer had crashed in the desert. Eyewitnesses claim to have handled pieces of metal which were thin

and bendable, (nothing like what we had), and there were also medical people who reported seeing 3 or more dead 'dwarf' bodies. In spite of this, the incredulous, official government explanation of the event that eventually surfaced was that it was a weather balloon.

I've also been made privy to revelations about a UFO sighting (via an eyewitness) which occurred in northern Livonia in September 2004. The incident happened in the early morning hours, and the flying craft was obscured by pale clouds and weak dawn sunlight.

The ship had a fiery exhaust tail. The ship was at least as large as an aircraft carrier, a true 'Close Encounters Mothership' and certainly something that was beyond American military technology.

In recent years, a similar 'Mothership' was spotted flying over Japan — it passed by a jumbo jet which it dwarfed in size. In 2004, there was some 'space junk' that was scheduled to fall from the sky, but this wouldn't account for the Livonia sighting, nor would a meteor or comet explain it as it was a mechanical craft flown by intelligent design. The 2004 Livonia sighting was not reported by any other witness or news source.

Leo Weber
Livonia



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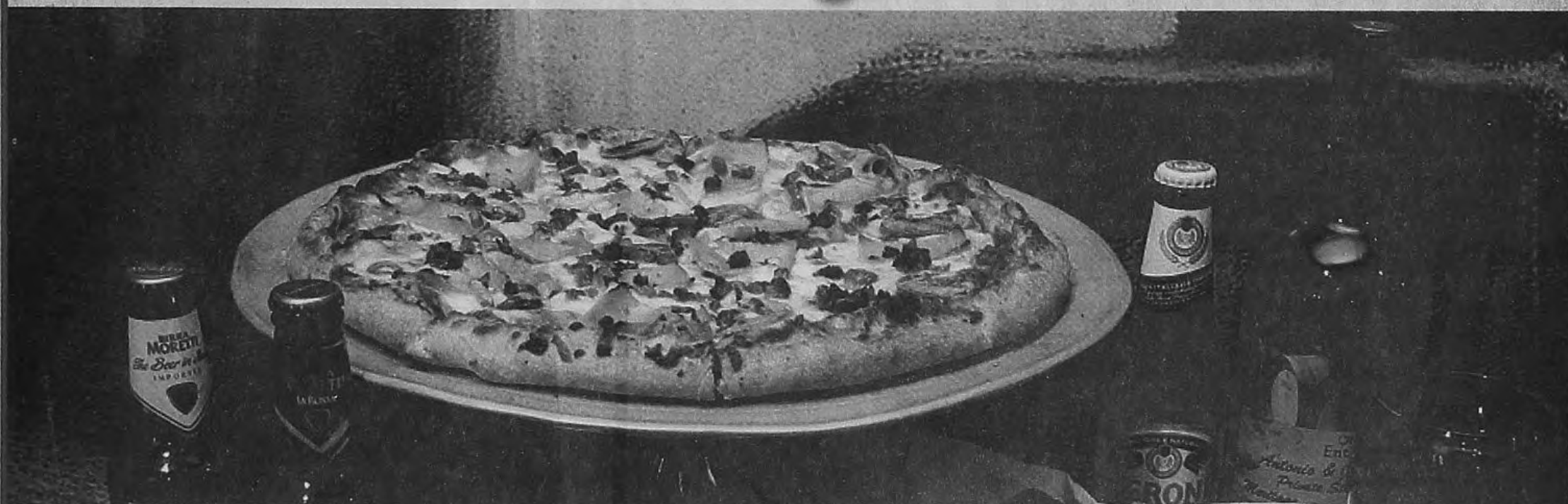
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OUR VIEW

Congratulations, Academic All-Stars!

The 2016 Observer & Eccentric Academic All-Star Team represents the most accomplished students from public, private and parochial schools in Oakland and western Wayne counties.

This year's team has 27 students to mark the 31st year of the All-Star program. Ten team members posted 4.0 grade-point averages in high school and perfect ACT and/or SAT scores.

Another 15 students are honorable mention and their scores are separated in most cases by a mere fraction of a point. They, too, merit praise.

On Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day), the Observer & Eccentric will publish, in cooperation with Madonna University, our longtime major sponsor, a special section that showcases these outstanding students.

Based in Livonia, Madonna is committed to teaching, scholarship and service.

Other community partners include Community Alliance Credit Union, a section sponsor, and Parkside Credit Union, the essay sponsor. One lucky all-star will win a \$500 scholarship for an award-winning essay to be announced at the All-Star Awards Ceremony on May 15 at Madonna University.

The all-stars and runners up are smart, ambitious, caring and have high praise for the teachers who have made an impact on their lives. Take time to read about how involved these teens are and what they hope to accomplish in the future. We are proud of them and

you will be, too. They are examples of the good things happening in our local schools and communities today.

Judging the team were Dan Willenborg, principal of Livonia Franklin High School, and Charlie Hollerith, principal of Bloomfield Hills High School. Both have been part of the program for more than a decade. The All-Star Team is selected solely on academic achievement in academic subjects and SAT or ACT test scores.

The 2016 team includes:

» The 10 students who tied for the No. 1 ranking (in alphabetical order) are: Yannis Bi, Northville High School; James Jahns, Churchill High School; Ean Maloney, Catholic Central High School; Zachary Obsniuk, Churchill High School; Jason Ren, Canton High School; Elizabeth Sullivan, North Farmington High School; Sreeram Thirupathi, North Farmington High School; Claire Wang, Country Day School; Claire Westerlund, Groves High School; and Zhao (Joe) Zhang, Country Day School.

» The remaining members are (in order of finish): Anjali Roychowdhury, Cranbrook Kingswood; Sruthi Sundar, Plymouth High School; Sam Inloes, Cranbrook Kingswood; Jarrett Black, Bloomfield Hills High School; Paul Chamberlain, Plymouth Christian Academy; John Dolan, Groves High School; Hugh Flynn, Brother Rice High School; Jhuree Hong,

Bloomfield Hills High School; Margaret Kondek, Harrison High School; Benjamin Levin, International Academy; Alexandra Mertz, Marian High School; Katherine Robertson, Northville High School; Shriharimurthi Bhaskaramurthi, Farmington High School; Daniel Evans, Seaholm High School; Zain Khera, Canton High School; Bogdan Manga, International Academy; and Riley North, Brother Rice High School.

The local students earning honorable mention include:

» Birmingham: Andrew Reed, Roeper School; Natalie Leitman, Seaholm High School; Jacob Flynn, Roeper School.

» Farmington: Lucy Devine, Mercy High School; Caitlin Delevie, Mercy High School; Pragathi Pathanjeli, Harrison High School; Dipika Krishnaswami, Farmington High School.

» Livonia: Catherine Kenzie, Ladywood High School; Allison Cale, Stevenson High School; Turner Miller, Stevenson High School; Elijah Spens, Clarenceville High School.

» Novi: Sebastian Miner, Detroit Catholic Central High School.

» Plymouth: Swetha Duraiswamy, Plymouth High School.

» Westland: Jillian Matasovsky, Lutheran High School; Bethany Hoehne, Lutheran High School.

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,



Patrick Colbeck
GUEST COLUMNIST

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 milestone. It marks the

transition from learning to read to an education that depends upon reading to learn. Without the fundamental ability to read, students will be at a distinct disadvantage, not only during their school years, but also when they enter the workplace upon graduation.

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?

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?

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 throw 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 shakedown.

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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I-275 shuts down for long-awaited construction

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

For Livonia resident Beth Newton, the impact of the Interstate 275 shutdown has so far been positive.

That's because she lives in the Quakertown subdivision, the lone Livonia neighborhood that lies west of the freeway. Without all those cars traveling down the freeway Monday, she said she was enjoying the quieter morning.

"It's only quiet because the freeway is closed down. That's why I'm excited about it," she said. "This is quiet."

But Newton may be one of the few that are happy to see the freeway close for a \$75 million construction project. The southbound side of the freeway between the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange and Five Mile shut down just after midnight Monday morning, leaving roughly 100,000 vehicles that travel that stretch to find a new route. Those traveling Monday southbound on M-5 in Novi saw traffic was backed up north of 12 Mile, with drivers being detoured on to eastbound I-696. Eastbound M-5 through Farmington Hills also saw heavier than usual levels of traffic, including a backup at the exit to Farmington Road.

Diane Cross, spokeswoman for the Michigan

Department of Transportation, said despite large, expected backups, traffic appeared to be figuring out a way to get around Monday morning.

She said she was out all morning at various bridges in Oakland and Wayne County, watching the traffic, and said it was smooth until about 7 a.m. Monday. Even so, some stretches of roadway, such as Haggerty south of Eight Mile, had less traffic than what was expected.

"Haggerty was the worst, from Eight Mile to 10 Mile," she said, noting an accident had also taken place in that vicinity. "Once I got south of Eight Mile on Haggerty, it was a normal morning."

Previously closed roadways for prep work have now reopened, including Seven Mile over I-275, Haggerty over I-96 and Meadowbrook from Grand River to 12 Mile. More closures, including some in the interchange in Oakland County, were scheduled to take place starting Wednesday.

One area that will remain open will include those traveling from I-696 north toward Commerce Township and the northern part of Novi, Cross said.

"Westbound I-696 to northbound M-5 will always be open," Cross said. "You generally should be able to count on that."



Northbound traffic was normal at mid-morning Monday. There was no southbound traffic other than construction-related vehicles. The concrete plant is up and ready.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The official detour for southbound I-275 includes having drivers use a combination of I-696, the Lodge Freeway and the Southfield Freeway before picking up I-96 through Detroit, Redford and Livonia back to I-275. While this is the official detour — because MDOT can only direct drivers on to state roads — Cross said many people did try to utilize more local roads, such as Meadowbrook, Haggerty, Halsted and Newburgh.

The southbound section of freeway will remain closed until that work is complete, which is expected to be July. Once that work is done, the northbound side of the freeway will close for similar work. MDOT is posting updates to the project at revive275.com.

Few incidents reported

The increased levels of traffic in Livonia didn't seem to cause too many problems for traffic enforcement. Sgt. Brian Leigh of the Livonia

Police Department said they did not experience many issues with all the additional traffic in town.

He said his office received one phone call, informing it traffic was heavier than usual on Newburgh. But otherwise, he said, it was a smooth morning.

"Knock on wood, so far so good," Leigh said. "I think people left for work earlier and had their alternate routes planned out."

Newton said she ex-

pects traffic to possibly pick up this summer, especially along Haggerty where one entrance to her neighborhood is. But early on, she was feeling optimistic.

"Normally, at rush hour time, you can't turn out of this sub because it's so bad," she said. "Haggerty wasn't bad this morning. But it's only the first day."

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Volunteers honored at Plymouth Historical Museum luncheon

More than 150 active volunteers keep the history of Plymouth alive for future generations at the Plymouth Historical Museum. They work in every capacity, from painters to cashiers to researchers to grant-writers and tour guides.

The volunteers were honored at the museum's volunteer appreciation luncheon April 27.

"Volunteers are an integral part of what we do here," said Liz Kerstens, the museum's executive director. "As a nonprofit organization with a busy calendar of events and a large facility to maintain, there's no way we could run the number of programs we offer without them. And we're always looking for more folks to help."

Last month, the museum held the annual Ghosts of Plymouth history walk in Kellogg Park. Then there was a May Day Princess Magic Tea for more than 60 adults and children at the museum. An exhibit looking at the era portrayed in the popular television show "Downton Abbey" is on display now through mid-June, when the "First Ladies - Fashion Setters" exhibit will be installed.

Volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, bringing skills



Plymouth Historical Museum volunteers were honored with an appreciation luncheon at the museum April 27.

from previous careers or simply a love of the community. According to the museum's volunteer coordinator, Janet Burns, more than 8,000 hours of service are logged each year.

"We have several who have been at the museum for 20, 30, even 40 years," Burns said. "I think that says something about the experience of volunteering here."

During the luncheon, volunteers introduced themselves and mentioned how long they have been volunteering.

Linda Caudill said she started volunteering about a year after her husband died.

"I had been moping around the house for a year when my friend Madelyne Beddoes, who works the front desk, invited me to come," Caudill said. "She told me that it was time to get

back out in the world. I started as a cashier in the museum store and I've been here ever since."

Roy Pilkington, who donates his time on the maintenance crew, said he's been at it for 14 years.

"It's important work," Pilkington said, "Even if a lot of what we do isn't publicly visible, it's still important work."

To find out more about becoming a museum volunteer, contact volunteer coordinator Burns at bookkeeper@plymouth-history.org or call 734-455-8940, ext. 4.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6-17. The museum is at 155 South Main, Plymouth. For more information, go to www.plymouthhistory.org.

Local history writer to speak at museum

The Plymouth Historical Museum will host a potluck dinner with Plymouth Township author Jack Dempsey at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, in the museum's lower level.

Dempsey, a life member of the museum, and brother Dave Dempsey have a new book, "Ink Trails II," about famous and forgotten writers with Michigan roots. He will discuss the book during the luncheon. Copies will be available and he will be available to sign the book.

This event will also serve as the annual mem-

bership meeting and board of directors election for the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum.

"We have a wonderful potluck where members bring scrumptious food," said Liz Kerstens, the museum's executive director.

This event is open to the public. The meal and voting will begin at 6:30 p.m., rather than the usual 7:30 p.m. start time.



Dempsey

For more information, go to the museum website plymouthhistory.org.

Potluck suggestions: Those whose last names begin with the letters "A" through "H" can bring a side dish, those whose last names begin with the letters "I" through "R" can bring a dessert and those whose last names begin with the letters "T" through "Z" can bring a main dish.

Only members of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum will be eligible to vote in the election for board of directors.

Canton Lions sponsoring new Belleville club

The Canton Lions Club is sponsoring a new club serving Van Buren Township, Belleville and Sumpter Township.

It has begun with 24 members and is hoping to get 100-125 members. It is called the Belleville Area Lions Club.


A ceremony to get

the new club started is set for 2-6 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at the Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz Road north of Michigan Avenue, in Canton.

The event is open to the public; tickets are \$25 each and include dinner. A cash bar is available.

Sharon Jordan Crowley, Lions district governor, will present the new club its charter. Keynote speaker will be Dennis Cobler, past international director.


Tickets are available at the door or by calling Bill Van Winkle at 734-254-9404.



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The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex and Z-Spot Fitness will offer pickleball play beginning Monday, May 9. The cost is \$5 per hour for each person who plays. Cash and checks only will be accepted.

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Get your dancing shoes on



Suzanne and Clive Phillips are with members of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and city officials at the ribbon-cutting of Dance New York, 575 Forest, Plymouth. The business offers adult ballroom and Latin dance. Dance New York offers group dance lessons at the beginner, intermediate and advanced student levels. In addition, it offers private lessons, wedding dance lessons and coaching for competition and showcase dancing.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Building sold

Lee & Associates has closed a sale transaction on a 63,000-square-foot, 14-unit industrial building, 41170 Joy Road, Plymouth. The building is 100-percent leased. It was purchased by Ari-El Enterprises, Inc., which plans to hold the property and improve it for long-term value.



Marchand

Ryan Marchand, vice president of Lee & Associates' Southfield office represented the buyer in this transaction.

One-year anniversary

Road Runner Sports in Canton is planning a week-long celebration at its Ford Road location to celebrate the store's one-year anniversary. The festivities will kick off May 15.

"For every purchase of \$25 or more, guests will be entered in a raffle," said Dan Larson, district manager for Road Runner Sports. "During the week, we will host various events (check out the Facebook page for details as they are released), ramping

up to our Birthday Bash on Saturday, May 21, complete with cake and the raffle drawing (need not be present to win)."

Road Runner Sports is a running and walking store offering running shoes, apparel, electronics, sports bras and tops, socks and insoles and nutritional products.

The store is at 42743 Ford Road, Canton. Call 734-335-3962 for more information or go to roadrunnersports.com/canton or www.facebook.com/roadrunnersports/konacanton.

Credit report workshop

Catholic Vantage Financial will host a credit report workshop for the public 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 11. Michelle Micallef, CVF vice president of lending, will lead the workshop titled "Know Your Credit - Know Your Score." The workshop will be at the credit union's Plymouth branch at 8817 Sheldon Road, at the northwest corner of Sheldon and Joy roads.



Micallef

"When you're applying for credit to purchase

a home, lease a car and make other purchases, your credit score can make a difference in approval and financing options," said Emma Teller, CVF vice president of marketing and business development. "Many people are unaware that their credit score can also affect their insurance premiums."

During the workshop, Micallef will discuss factors that can affect a credit report, how to get a free report and how to make a dispute. She'll also provide some valuable tips and real strategies that work to help improve a credit score. New borrowers will also find out how to establish credit and get a good rating.

Attendees are welcome to bring their personal credit reports and scores to the workshop or ask the credit union to provide when signing up to attend the workshop.

"We want to help people become better consumers by providing resources and tools that help them get ahead financially," Teller said.

For more information and to attend the free workshop that is open to the community, call 734-432-0212, ext. 301, or email member-service@mycvf.org.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Pet Nancy continues to grow client base

Q: Tell us about your business.

A: We are a service business that comes into the pet's home to walk dogs during lunchtime for clients and for clients on vacation. We service all family pets.

Q: How did you decide to open your business?

A: I started because I needed a professional, reliable sitter for my pets.

Q: Why did you choose Canton?

A: I live in Canton. We cover Canton, Plymouth, Northville, Novi and Livonia.

Q: What makes your business unique?

A: Very professional and long-standing. We have an A-plus rating with the Better Business Bureau; insured and bonded.

Q: How has business changed since you opened?

A: We have grown to more than 600 clients and eight sitters.

Q: Share a funny tidbit or story.

A: It was hard for me to hire my first sitter who could do the job to my liking. But I found there are many good people.

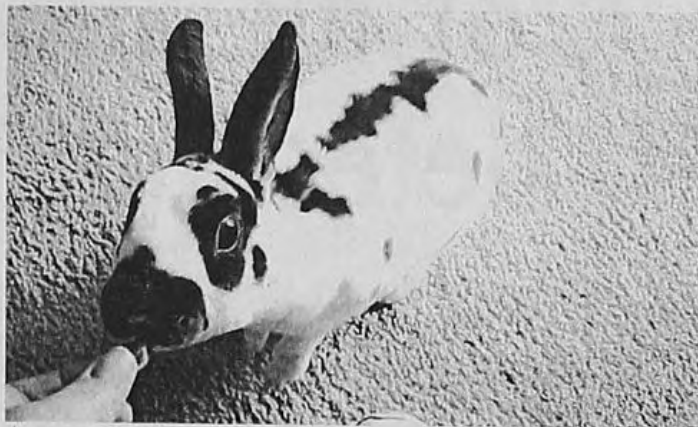
Q: How has the economy affected your business?

A: Because we have been in business so long, we took a little dip and are back growing again.

Q: Any advice for



Ginger is one of Jan Conner's clients.



If it's a family pet, such as this bunny, Pet Nanny is the business to call if you need sitting services.

business owners?

A: Get all your licenses, legal advice and join professional clubs in your industry.

Q: What's in store for your future?

A: Grow. Grow. Grow. People love their pets and don't have time to transport them to another location. Pets are well and safe staying in their own home around familiar smells and routine. It saves time for owners with less stress on pets.

DETAILS

Name: Pet Nanny
Owner: Jan Conner
Opened: 2000
Employees: Eight
Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week and holidays
Specialty: Dog walking and pet sitting
Contact: 734-981-6108; www.pet-nanny.com

Varnum adds attorney to practice

Varnum has announced that attorney Julia A. Perkins has joined the firm's Novi office.

Perkins works with clients in family law matters, including divorce, child custody, child support and parenting time matters. She has experience with international custody cases and valuation and division of high net worth marital estates. She is also a certified mediator with a focus in family law.

Perkins graduated magna cum laude from Detroit College of Law in 1996 and attended Indiana University for her



Perkins

undergraduate degree. She joins Varnum from Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss P.C. in Southfield, where she was a partner in the family law prac-

tice.

In addition to her practice, Perkins is an adjunct family law professor at the University of Detroit Mercy. She serves on the planning commission for Canton Township and formerly served on the Canton Zoning Board of Appeals.

Her other community involvement includes serving on the advisory committee for Kids-Talk Children's Advocacy Center, which helps children suspected of abuse or neglect. Perkins also serves on the Culinary Challenge Core Committee, an annual charitable event that raises money for youth scholarships.

Genisys Credit Union named among top 50 best performing

S&P Global Market Intelligence has named Genisys Credit Union one of the Top 50 "Best Performing" Credit Unions in the United States.

"Genisys is proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the dedication and effort that our board, management and team devote every day to making Genisys a safe, sound, and successful financial institution," Jackie Buchanan, presi-

dent and CEO, Genisys Credit Union, said in a press release.

Genisys Credit Union is one of three Michigan credit unions to make the top 50 list, ranking 13th nationwide. Genisys is the only credit union in the Detroit area, as well as the entire east side of Michigan, to make the list.

S&P Global Market Intelligence is a provider of financial information

and research. It bases its ratings on five metrics, including member growth, net charge-off as a percentage of loans, efficiency ratio, asset quality and market growth.

The credit union has branches in White Lake (3671 Highland Road), Commerce Township (2445 Union Lake Road) and Wixom (160 Wixom Road), among others.

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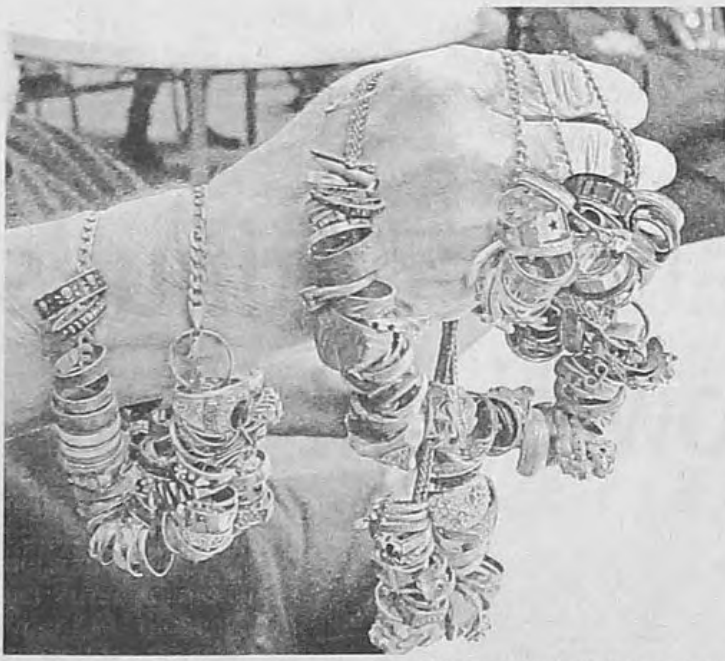
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A man who did not want to be identified shows the results of several years of searching.

Livonia group shares stories of metal detecting

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Joanne Rundell found a wedding band on Belle Isle several years ago while searching for treasure.

It had the first names of two people on it, as well as the year "1909" inscribed in it. Knowing the owner had probably since died, she just sat there, imagining who these people were and what became of them.

"I just sat there on the ground thinking about them, wondering what their life turned out like," said Rundell, a Livonia resident. "That's the fun part, just the history of it. It's not the monetary value, it's the history."

Rundell is one of many people who are a part of the Michigan Treasure Hunters, a group that meets in Livonia monthly and discusses metal detecting and finding items such as old coins, buttons and other prized possessions that have been lost over the years. It boasts nearly 160 members and coordinates activities across the continent for those who search for treasure using metal detectors.

The group met Tuesday night for an open house at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, which allowed treasure hunters from across the state to come show off

their finds. Tables were covered in coins, rings, bracelets and other antique metal items found across the world by its members.

Items are found locally in places such as Livonia, Redford and Northville. Some members look out-of-state and out of the country for items.

A corner booth showcased the finds of members the last 30 days, which ranged from a Detroit Lions-skinned house key to a Native American arrowhead.

One item belonged to Brighton resident Fred Kulka. He discovered a Barber half-dollar, meaning it was struck around the turn of the 20th century. He was proud of the find. But success is something he's used. An 1862 two-cent piece he found last year was the find of the year last year.

It's a hobby, he said, that he enjoys doing across the region.

"I call it dirt-fishing," he said. "You never know what you're going to find. It could be a catfish or it could be a walleye. So you just start digging."

Historical significance

Tom Klisz, a Livonia resident who's been searching for treasure for several decades, said he's hunted across the country, finding items such as bullets from the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bill Johnson of Riverview talks about a gold dredge he uses in the Rogue River in Oregon. Listening are Robert Griffor of Trenton and Lonnie Taylor of New Boston.

Battle of Antietam during the Civil War, as well as various rings and other jewelry.

That bullet was found with dirt still attached that kept it stuck in a soldier's barrel at that battle. He said he's described the potential scene of how he believes that bullet came to be left at that site.

"His gun wouldn't fire, so he had to lay on his back with the ramrod, put a screw on the end of it, shove it done the barrel, twist it until it bit into the lead, put it be-

tween his feet, pull it out like this and then reload his gun and begin to fire," Klisz said. "That's a story. You can't beat that, in my opinion."

Those interested in learning more can do so by going to the club's website at michigan-treasurehunters.com or stopping by as a guest to one of its meetings, which take place the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia.

And treasure hunters

aren't always looking out for themselves. Many times, a hunter will discover an item that can be returned, like a class ring with engraved initials and a class year. When items pop up that can be traced back to someone, hunters will try to do just that.

That aspect, Rundell said, can be just as exciting as searching for items. She had a friend find a college ring that belonged to someone who lived in Texas. He was able to locate him and send it back.

"He called the guy in Texas and the guy said, 'I didn't think I'd ever see that ring again,'" she said. "It's just so exciting to get something back (to its original owner) because they always say, 'I didn't think I'd ever see this again.' Their class rings are precious to them. It's something they work for. And it's always so exciting to try and get it back to somebody who thought they wouldn't see it again."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

Get your geek on: Motor City Comic Con comes to town

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Time to get your geek on.

If you are a fan of comics, film, gaming, television, wrestling or all of the above, Motor City Comic Con is the place to be this month.

The event, now in its 27th year, will rocket May 13-15 into metro Detroit, taking over Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi.

"Just about anyone who is a fan of pop culture can find something to enjoy," said Michael Goldman, owner of Motor City Comic Con. "People come to this and are amazed that what they imagined in their head doesn't match the event. They don't usually expect anything this big. We fill the entire convention center with tens of thousands of people for the entire weekend."

Cersei, Batman, 'Walking Dead'

The crowds converge to see more than 300 creative artists, actors, writers and more in a celebrity gala that also features contests, gaming and memorabilia exhibits.

Among the event headliners this year are Lena Headey, who plays Cersei on "Game of



Lena Headey, who plays Cersei on "Game of Thrones," will be at Motor City Comic Con, May 13-15 at Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi.

Thrones;" Adam West (Batman) and Burt Ward (Robin), celebrating the 50th anniversary of "Batman" and making a final appearance at Motor City Comic Con on their farewell tour; Lea Thompson of "Back to the Future," celebrating 30 years of the release of the first film in the franchise; Billie Piper of "Doctor Who;" the Four Horsemen, reunited for wrestling fans; Terry Jones of the "Monty Python" comedy troupe; Mike Nesmith of "The Monkees" and six stars from the hit television show "The Walking Dead."

The Motor City Comic Con began in 1990 in Dearborn and moved to Novi in 1994. Goldman's personal all-time favorite guest at the event he founded was James Doohan, the actor who played Scotty in the "Star Trek" television and movie

series. Doohan made at least three appearances at the annual convention before he died in 2005.

"He was a great guy," Goldman said. "Some of the other guys felt type-cast, but he embraced and enjoyed his fans and was a great guest."

Trekkies are regulars at comic con, as are fans of "Star Wars," both in attendance annually in huge numbers. This year, actor Garrick Hagon, who played Biggs, an X-Wing pilot and Luke Skywalker's best friend in "A New Hope," will make an appearance. Goldman also estimates that as many as 100 Stormtroopers will be in attendance, all fans who contribute to making the event fun for people watching.

Cool geeks

Cosplay is a large draw, with costume con-

tests enjoying a surge in popularity. Goldman expects that more than 2,500 people will gather in the main ballroom to watch more than 200 entrants who have spent a tremendous amount of time and energy on creating their looks.

There is also a children's costume contest, as well as numerous other activities for the youngest fans Sunday, when kids under 12 get free entry.

Regardless of age, all attendees at Motor City Comic Con come together to be with like-minded people, all enjoying the art and the creators.

"I've been in the collectibles business for more than 30 years," Goldman said. "In the past, people asked what I did for a living and I had to explain, but now comic



Adam West (Batman) and Burt Ward (Robin) will be among the guests at Motor City Comic Con.

con has entered the vernacular. It's nice after 30 years to be one of the cool kids, now that superhero culture is ubiquitous. It seems like every other film that comes out now is based on a comic book. We're still geeks, but now it is cool to be a geek."

The comics that started it all are still a centerpiece as well, with the writers and illustrators very accessible to the fans, who may bring portfolios of their own work to share with the masters.

Among the comic book heroes at the show will be Neal Adams, the artist best known for his work on "Batman" and "X-Men," as well as Bob Layton, who reinvented Iron Man in the 1970s to become "an all-time best selling comic series."

And, of course, there will be more than a million comic books, some dating back to the 1930s, for sale, as well as a host of other memorabilia.

"I still love the industry, because it's just fun," Goldman said. "It's about getting together and having fun and not being judged, just being with people who love the same things you do. Our fans are all there because they want to be and they love it. You have to experience it for yourself to really get it."

The Motor City Comic Con is open 12:30-7 p.m. Friday, May 13; 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 14; and 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 15. Tickets for adults range from \$25 to \$35, depending on the day, with a weekend pass available for \$75. Children 5 and younger are free all three days. Children 12 and younger are free Sunday with a paid adult or can get a day pass Friday or Saturday for \$10. VIP and combo packages are also available. For a more complete list of celebrity guests and details on this event, go to www.motorcitycomiccon.com.

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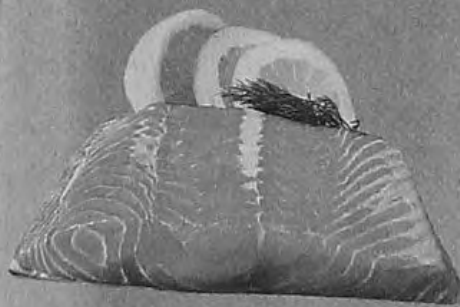


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SPORTS

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SALEM SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL

Fearless Rocks crush tourney foes

Hard-hitting Salem sweeps way to tournament championship

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

During the first inning of Saturday's Salem Softball Invitational, a foul ball slammed into the shin of Rocks sophomore Maddy Rosiewicz.

"There wasn't a person here that wasn't holding their breath hoping that she was OK," veteran Salem head coach Bonnie Southerland said. "But she's a tough kid and they're all tough kids. They fight back and nothing seems to bother them."

As it turned out, Rosiewicz bounced back from that scare with a vengeance — pitching

and hitting Salem to the tournament championship.

In the final against Dexter, a 10-3 victory, not only did Rosiewicz pitch a complete game, she ripped a two-run homer over the center field fence in the top of the sixth (Salem was the visiting team for the championship game) to quickly respond to a two-run surge by the Dreadnaughts.

"It was good, but I also had my other teammates helping me hit and earning more runs, too," said Rosiewicz, who is soft-spoken and humble off the field. "I had a really good defense behind me."

The Rocks won the tourney

with a 4-0 record, outscoring opponents Dearborn Edsel Ford (16-1), Livonia Franklin (13-3), Wyandotte Roosevelt (11-4) and Dexter by a combined 50-11 tally. Salem is now 17-2 overall.

Rosiewicz earned the pitching wins in the final two contests, with sophomore Jenna Taylor in the circle for victories against Edsel Ford and Franklin.

Spectacular grab

Salem's defense, as noted by Rosiewicz, came through in key moments. Dexter had

See **ROCKS**, Page B2



SALEM SOFTBALL
Salem's varsity softball team celebrates after winning Saturday's Salem Invitational. The Rocks defeated Dexter, 10-3, in the title contest.

PREP SOFTBALL

Canton veterans leading charge

Seniors making noise as Chiefs rise to top of KLAAs South Division

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Two Park varsity softball teams currently reside at the top of their respective division, perhaps on a collision course for the Kensington Conference championship game May 16.

Canton and Salem lead the KLAAs South and Central divisions, respectively; for the Chiefs, veteran players such as seniors Elizabeth Yager, Mackenna Payne and Victoria Porter are among upperclassmen sparking the surge.

On Monday, the Chiefs defeated South Lyon 4-2 to improve to 17-2 overall and 7-1 in the division (according to the KLAAs website).

Payne's best game so far this season was a no-hitter April 27 against Livonia Franklin. She fanned nine Patriots and did not walk a batter as the Chiefs earned a 5-0 victory.

Leading the offense in that win was sophomore Izzy Dawson, who singled in the first and doubled both in the third and sixth innings. Dawson and

See **SOFTBALL**, Page B2



DAVE PAYNE

Taking a cut for Canton is senior team catalyst Elizabeth Yager.

PREP BASEBALL

BACK IN FLIGHT



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scoring in the fourth inning is PCA's Adam Albert. He was one of three players to score on a double by Will Creelius.

After string of rainouts, Eagles return to field and earn 14-4 win

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

One couldn't fault Plymouth Christian Academy's baseball players if they took a while figuring out what exactly they were doing Tuesday afternoon.

A week's worth of rainouts will do that, so the Eagles did make some physical and mental mistakes during the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference contest against visiting Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

But when all was said and done, PCA came away with a 14-4 victory to improve to 3-2 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

"There's been 11 rainouts so far," Eagles head coach Joe Bottorff said following the six-inning contest. "(The field) played pretty well. We've got some lips here and there were some bad bounces, but I don't think it really hurt anybody today."

According to senior first baseman Josh Slater, it was great to finally get back on

the field and play a game. The hope is to keep playing without interruption from Mother Nature.

"It's been a bit of a struggle to get the games in," Slater said. "We've had games scheduled on just about every day it's rained, unfortunately. But we got a couple more games this week and we're going to be hitting a lot of them right in a row."

"Quite frankly, the games are what give you the rhythm. Having a bunch in a row is really nice, but when you got

the big gaps (in the schedule), that's when it's tough."

Barreling 'em up

Slater did smile about lacing a couple of hits and nearly clobbering what would have been a homer over the fence in center in the fifth. He got under the ball ever so slightly and flew out.

"I got the bat on the ball a couple times; it felt good to square up a few," Slater said. "I think I just barely missed it. It was at the bottom of the zone and I just tried to put a hard swing on it."

See **EAGLES**, Page B4

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SCHOOLCRAFT BASEBALL

MAY SWEEPS: Ocelots grab both ends of twinbill

Schoolcraft victories accomplished via mercy and shutout

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

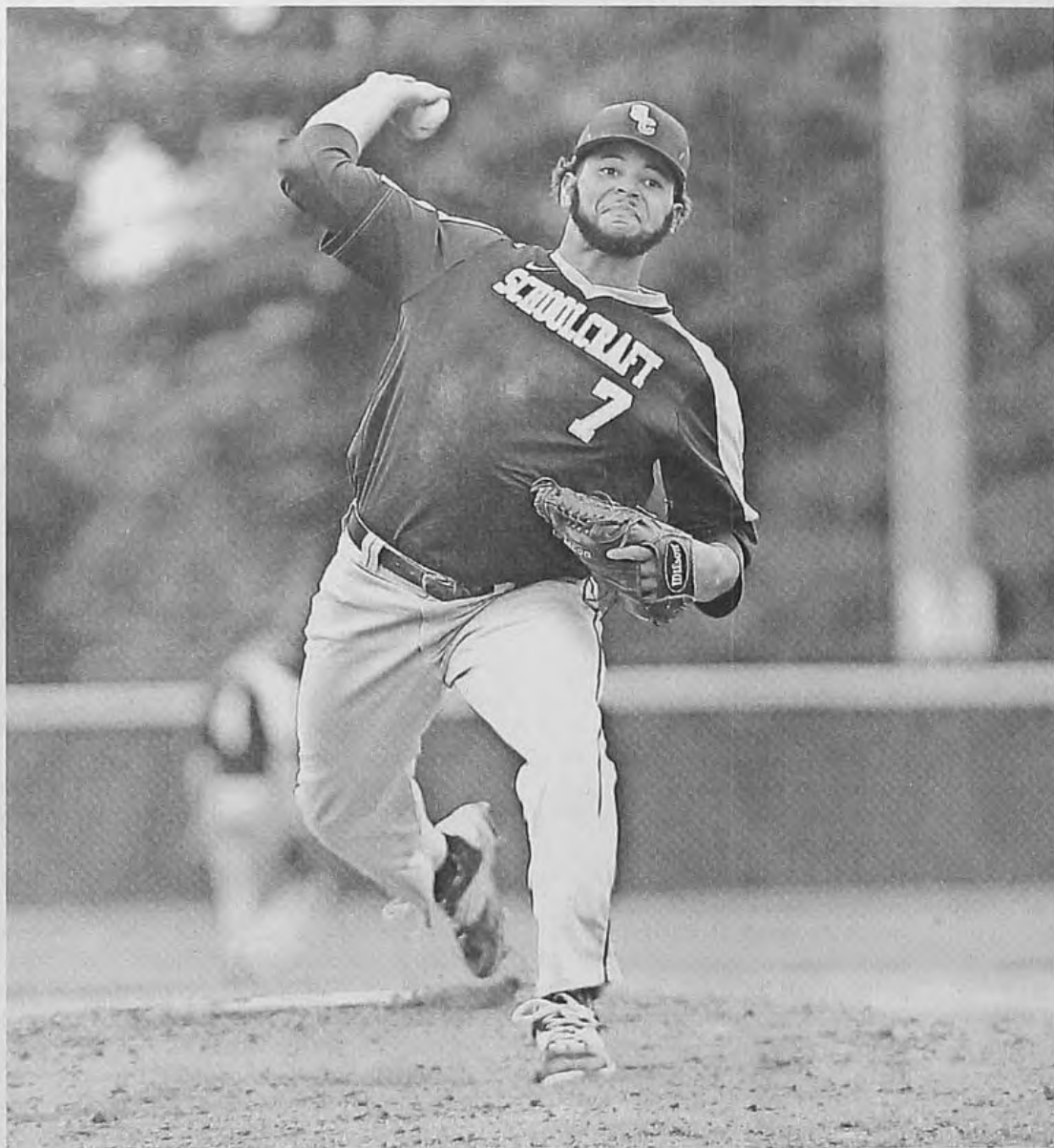
Schoolcraft College's baseball team won three games during its spring training trip to Florida, only to hit a brick wall after returning home in mid-March.

It took quite a while for a fourth win to come, too.

But now the Ocelots are a competitive bunch — not to be mistaken for world beaters just yet, of course. As the program's debut season winds down, the team seems comfortable and competent out on the diamond.

Such was the case again Monday, when Schoolcraft took both ends of a doubleheader at Ford Field against the Rochester College junior varsity, 13-3 and 1-0. The wins upped the Ocelots' overall record to 11-22.

"I think a lot of it was these guys just getting a comfort level and adjusting to the speed of the collegiate game," Schoolcraft head coach Rob Fay said. "Being able to get outside for practice and just getting games under their belt



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

One of three Schoolcraft pitchers combining to blank the Rochester College JV team in Monday's second game was Daniel Ammons, a Westland John Glenn product.

has helped.

"I think they've all

gained confidence.

Across the board, from

the start until now, we've improved offensively,

defensively and pitching-wise and it's shown with our results."

In Monday's opener, the Ocelots carried a 4-3 lead into the bottom of the sixth.

Fourteen Schoolcraft batters came to the plate that inning and nine scored as the Ocelots won in mercy-rule fashion.

The first two runs came home when Warriors pitcher Rocky Willette picked up a sacrifice bunt attempt by Darius Fluellen and threw wild to first.

A bases-loaded walk to Plymouth graduate Jared Merandi made it 7-3 and catcher Nick Romanowski (Canton) sealed it by pulling a line-drive single to right, scoring Tim Kozar and Hunter Sellers (Westland/Livonia Franklin).

"It felt great, because the first couple at-bats I struggled a little bit," Romanowski said. "They kept throwing change-ups.

"I just told myself to be patient, sit back and I finally drove one. It felt good to get some RBIs."

Two more Schoolcraft runners crossed the plate on an error and the final runs came in on a fielder's choice and a base hit up the middle by Sellers (1-for-3, two runs,

RBI).

Earning the victory with two innings of one-hit relief was Mickey Clark, who came in for starter Waymond Lemon (four innings, two earned runs).

The lone Ocelot with multiple hits in the game was first baseman Jordan Pressley, who enjoyed a 2-for-4 day with two runs and two RBIs.

Schoolcraft then blanked Rochester in Game 2, 1-0, with three pitchers combining to give up just one hit (a single in the fourth by Spencer Frazier).

Daniel Ammons (Westland John Glenn) started for Schoolcraft and pitched the first three innings.

Coming in for three scoreless innings of relief was C.J. Bremer before Colin Elgas (Canton/Belleille) pitched the seventh to close it out.

The Ocelots only needed one run and they got it in the home half of the first.

Kozar singled to left, was sacrificed to second by Sellers and trotted home on a Rochester error.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PCA's Austin Andres bunts for a base hit and an RBI during Tuesday's 14-4 win over Inter-City Baptist.

EAGLES

Continued from Page B1

Still, Slater was in the middle of several PCA rallies, going 3-for-5 (including two doubles) and driving in four runs.

Other Eagles with multiple-hit games were A.J. Grueber, Matt Cusumano, Josh Mason, Nick Andres (three hits), Austin Andres and Jake Shook.

Pitching the first five innings for the victory was Phil Morby, who left in the sixth for Norby Fernandez (one scoreless inning of relief).

"(Morby) kind of struggled late with control and I found out his elbow as a little sore. That's why I took him out," Bottorff said.

PCA got on the board in the third inning to take a 1-0 lead against Warriors starting pitcher

Josh Estell.

Greuber and Cusumano collected back-to-back hits and Grueber scored on a perfect push bunt past Estell by Austin Andres. Slater then ripped an opposite-field line-drive single to left to score Cusumano and Andres to give PCA a 3-0 lead and Slater scored on Shook's base hit.

Inter-City Baptist cut the lead to 4-2 in the fourth on a two-run single up the middle by Mason Howell, but all that did was fire up the Eagles to respond with a six-run bottom half of the inning.

Slater's double was good for one of the runs and Will Creclius cracked a three-run double inside the right field line to increase the lead to 9-2. Closing out the frame with a run-scoring safety was Greuber.

The Chargers (2-8 overall) got to within 10-4

in the fifth, but the Eagles finished out the win with four runs in the sixth. Once again, Slater drove in a run with a double and Nick Andres finished out the victory with an RBI single.

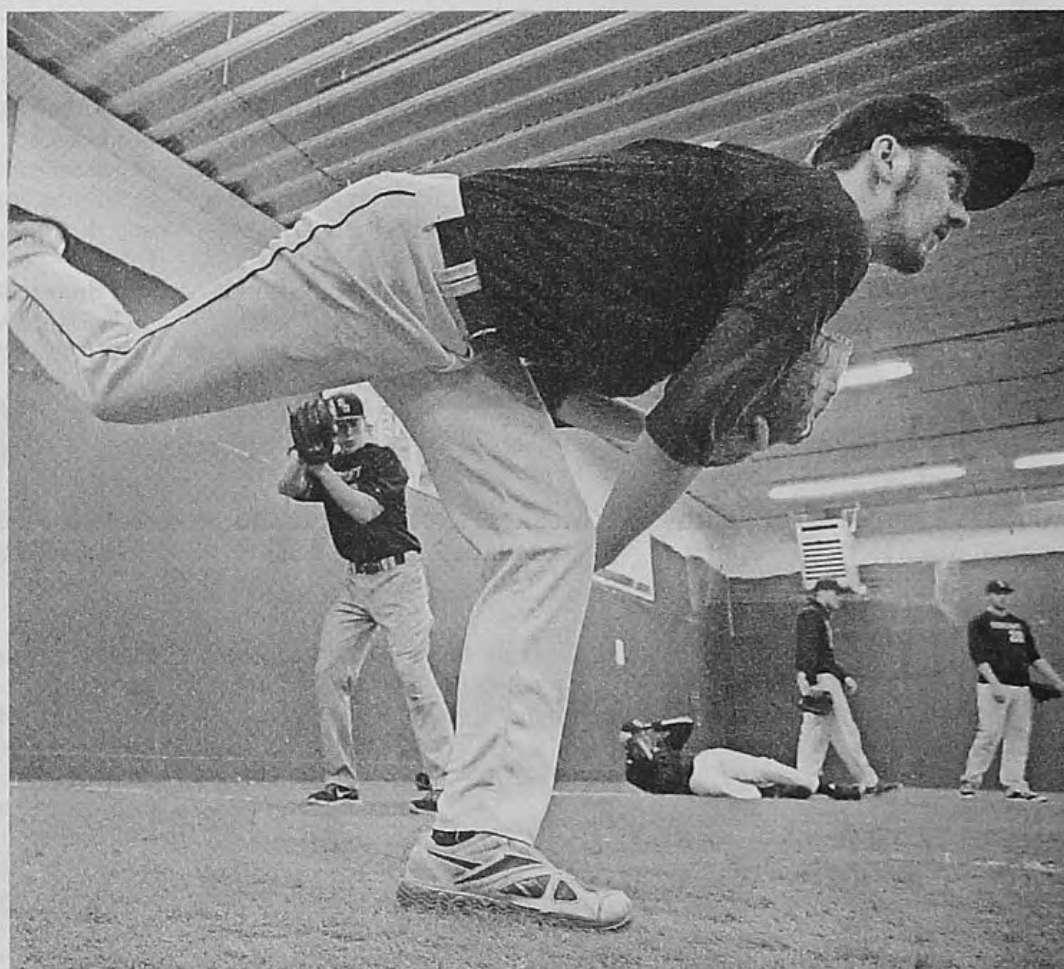
According to Bottorff, his team was far from sharp. But his team wound up making fewer mistakes than the opponent did.

"That's what I keep telling the guys — with high school, just keep putting the ball in play," Bottorff said. "Just like us, we're not pros and neither are who we're playing. So if you keep putting the ball in play, you're going to find some holes. You're going to make things happen."

"I think our hitting made up for some serious base-running mistakes."

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SCHOOLCRAFT BASEBALL



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schoolcraft College freshman pitcher Nick Montroy of Garden City, shown during the preseason, threw a complete-game shutout Sunday against Grand Rapids Community College.

Montroy on target for Ocelots

Garden City grad hurls shutout as Schoolcraft keeps making strides

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The fastball had a bit more oomph coming out of Schoolcraft College pitcher Nick Montroy's hand Sunday afternoon.

His curve ball was dancing and his change-up was falling off the table, enough to completely baffle Grand Rapids Community College in the first game of a twinbill at Ford Field in Livonia.

By the time seven innings had been played, the freshman pitcher and Garden City graduate notched a 4-0 shutout victory — the first in the history of Schoolcraft's baseball program.

"It felt good. It was a confidence-booster, because I know I haven't been throwing too well in the past," Montroy said. "But to come out here and go seven, get the win and the shutout, it felt pretty good."

"Everything was working pretty good. I had my splitter, my curve ball, my fastball was moving good."

His catcher, Canton High School product

Nick Romanowski, said Montroy had it going.

"He had all his pitches working," Romanowski said. "His curve ball was working real well, his change-up was falling out of the zone nice. He just pounded the zone with fastballs. It was great."

Montroy gave up just four hits and walked one while striking out five.

All the offense he needed came thanks to his battery mate. After the first two Ocelots were retired in the bottom of the first, Mike Peplinski singled and moved to second on a passed ball.

Romanowski then stepped up to the plate and cracked a base hit to left-center to bring home Peplinski for the game's first run.

Schoolcraft added three runs in the fourth for good measure. Steve Szymanski (Westland/Livonia Churchill) singled and Garrett Edgell doubled him home.

Two more runs scored on a wild pitch and passed ball.

"It was outstanding," Ocelots head coach Rob Fay said. "Nick's thrown well for us all year. He was consistent and (Sunday) we had everything working."

"That's what we needed. He was very efficient, throwing all his pitches for strikes.

When they did hit him, they didn't hit him hard."

Schoolcraft came close to throwing another shutout in Game 2 against Grand Rapids CC, but an unearned run in the top of the seventh cost pitcher Donovan Thacker, who was touched for only three hits.

That run was the only one scored in the 1-0 Schoolcraft loss.

"We just made an error late in the game that allowed them to score," Fay said. "Donnie threw a three-hitter (Sunday). He did everything we could possibly ask."

The split upped the Ocelots' record to 9-22 overall and 6-12 in the MCCA. Schoolcraft then swept two Monday games from Rochester College's junior varsity.

According to Montroy, everything is jelling just as the postseason draws near. It has been quite a turnaround since a spate of postponements and losses through mid-April.

"We have seemed to mesh together," he said "We're building up our chemistry and learning about what we do and how we do things. So we're coming along."

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GIRLS SOCCER

Spartans post shutout over Rocks

If there was an Advanced Placement Soccer textbook, the chapter titled "Corner Kicks" may include a diagram of the sterling set piece the Livonia Stevenson girls soccer team pulled off midway through the first half of Monday's 2-0 win against Salem.

In the 20th minute of a scoreless draw, Stevenson's Alia Basierbe — who had just subbed into the game seconds earlier — roped a perfect bender into the box that Spartans junior Grace Lamerson headed into the lower-left corner of the net behind Salem goalie Skyler Brant to give the hosts a 1-0 lead they'd never



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Salem's Annalyse Drouillard (front) heads the ball during Monday's match against Stevenson.

relinquish.

Stevenson's Megan Verant added an insur-

ance goal three minutes into the second half.

"I was proud of how the girls worked hard through the second half," Salem coach George Tomasso said. "This season has been challenging and I appreciate all of the positive attitudes throughout the year."

The Spartans, who earned a tough 1-0 triumph over Salem last month the first time the two teams met, improved to 9-3-2 overall and 4-2 in the KLA Central Division.

Salem dropped to 3-4-3 overall and 1-3-2 in the division.

— Ed Wright



GETTY IMAGES/PURESTOCK

Building industry experts are encouraged by an upswing in activity.

Report: Local home building activity on upswing

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Local home building experts are buoyed by a monthly report that looks at industry activity in southeast Michigan.

Based on residential permit data compiled by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and reported in the HBA Southeastern Michigan Residential Building Activity Report, a total of 1,265 single-family and multi-family permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in the first quarter of 2016. That's the highest three-month combined total to start a calendar year since January-March 2006 (1,862).

Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, said several economic factors are studied. Those include employment, up 3.8 percent from last year at this time "which helps to build that momentum for housing starts," he said. "That combined with the relatively pleasant weather we've had this year combined to get us off to a good start."



Stoskopf

For multi-family permits, Orion Township, Macomb Township and Clinton Township comprise over 70 percent of the 361 permits issued in 2016. This total is over 35 percent higher than the 267 multi-family permits issued in the first quarter of 2015.

Stoskopf noted frost in the ground made building difficult the previous two winters. "This year, completely different," he said.

Single-family home permits saw a slowdown in activity (342) in March as builders continued to work on permits issued in January and February at a pace not seen since 2006.

For the first quarter this year, 69 municipalities across the four-county area have issued 944 single-family permits. Within that, five — Macomb Township, Canton Township, Lyon Township, Shelby Township and Novi — make up over 40 percent of the single-family home permit activity.

"They have been for the last several years and this year seems to be no different," Stoskopf said of communities such as Canton Township and Lyon Township, which have room to expand. "Housing permits expand in those areas," he noted. There's good freeway access

to I-96, for example, in Novi and Lyon Township.

"Those are the locations people are looking to to get to work or to vacation," Stoskopf said.

Increased multi-family construction of rental-focused residential units, which started in earnest locally in 2014, continues to accelerate. That's part of a generational shift that is occurring across the country. Millennials are delaying their entry as first-time home buyers, with many choosing to rent. However, they're reaching the rental market with different expectations.

"That's really a nationwide trend," Stoskopf said. "In this case, I think it's a positive trend. It's definitely a generational trend." Millennials are marrying later and buying homes later, he said.

"Now going out on their own, they're not looking to buy," he said. Those millennials, however, don't want the drab 1968-era apartment to rent.

"It's not the same as the modern stuff that's going up," he said, noting millennials want attractive lighting, granite counters and luxury bathrooms. "It's more of a luxury experience. That's the expectation now."

Older millennials often do expect to buy a home, he said. "It's just a matter of time when they establish that family."

That's perfectly fine with Stoskopf, who also runs the Apartment Association of Michigan. "In my mind, they're complementary," he said of those roles. "It's all part of the evolution of the housing cycle."

Younger renters become accustomed to making monthly payments, he said, and then can qualify for a loan.

For multi-family permits, three municipalities — Orion Township, Macomb Township and Clinton Township — comprise over 70 percent of the 361 permits issued thus far in 2016. This total is over 35 percent higher than the 267 multi-family permits issued in the first quarter of 2015.

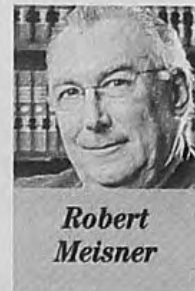
Stoskopf is optimistic looking down the road: "I look forward to the next couple of months having good news to report," he added.

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Florida's Delray Beach: Heed local broker's expertise

Q: I understand that Delray Beach, Fla., on Atlantic Avenue is a good location for galleries and other retail businesses. What is your experience with it, if any?

A: There are a number of high-end galleries on the main drag in Delray Beach, but there are also a number of restaurants and a fair number of vacant stores. Obviously, the rent is high and the parking is scarce, relatively speaking, but it is still a mecca for retail sales being close to the Palm Beaches as well as Boca Raton. You are best advised to consult with a commercial real estate broker and be prepared to negotiate given the number of vacancies that are available but ensure some degree of parking availability to the extent possible.



Robert Meisner

Q: I am wondering what the market is like in the Sarasota, St. Armand's, Longboat Key area. Do you have any information regarding that area in terms of how it relates to the real estate costs in comparison to Southwest Florida? I speak mostly Spanish.

A: While most Realtors in the Sarasota area have someone who speaks fluent Spanish to assist you in analyzing market conditions in most of Southwest Florida, the market continues to be strong and the prices continue to rise close to pre-2008 levels. There is a fair amount of new construction in downtown Sarasota and the number of teardowns and/or rebuilding of homes on the Longboat Key area. St. Armand's Circle continues to be a focal point for shopping and restaurants so you are best advised to interview two or three different Realtors in that particular vicinity before making a choice.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are from 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.

For more information, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

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

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

For more information, call 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Free foreclosure tours

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

For more information, email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

State Habitat for Humanity leader honored at Building Michigan Communities Conference

Sandra Pearson, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Michigan, was named this year's Duvernay Award winner at the Building Michigan Communities Conference (BMCC).

Pearson was honored during a luncheon awards ceremony at the conference, which began April 25 and wrapped up April 27 at the Lansing Center.

The Duvernay Award is named for the late Terrence R. Duvernay, a pioneer in affordable housing who served as executive director of MSHDA. The award is chosen by a committee of past recipients and goes to a person who reflects the ideals and personal qualities of Duvernay.

Pearson has been with Habitat for Humanity Michigan for eight years, first as chief operating officer and as president and CEO since 2010. In the eight years she has been with Habitat for Human-

ity Michigan, she has provided leadership in implementing the strategic priorities of the board of directors, including energy efficient building, a shift into home repair and home rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization.

"Upon receiving the call with the news that I was being extended this honor, I couldn't believe it," Pearson said. "Any work I have accomplished has been the result of care and hard work of countless people."

Other awards presented during the luncheon include:

- » Community Economic Development Advocate of the Year, Nancy Finogood, Lansing executive director, Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Awarded by CEDAM.
- » Community Economic Development Leader of the Year, Lansing Office of Financial Empowerment. Awarded by CEDAM.

- » Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Corps Host Site of the Year, Inner City Christian Federation. Awarded by CEDAM.

- » The Corrie Bair Building Inclusive Communities Award, Paul Ecklund, disability rights advocate, Disability Network Southwest Michigan. Awarded by CEDAM.

- » Community Spirit Award, Clint Todd, vice president, Retail Lending, Community Shores Bank - Muskegon. Awarded by Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis.

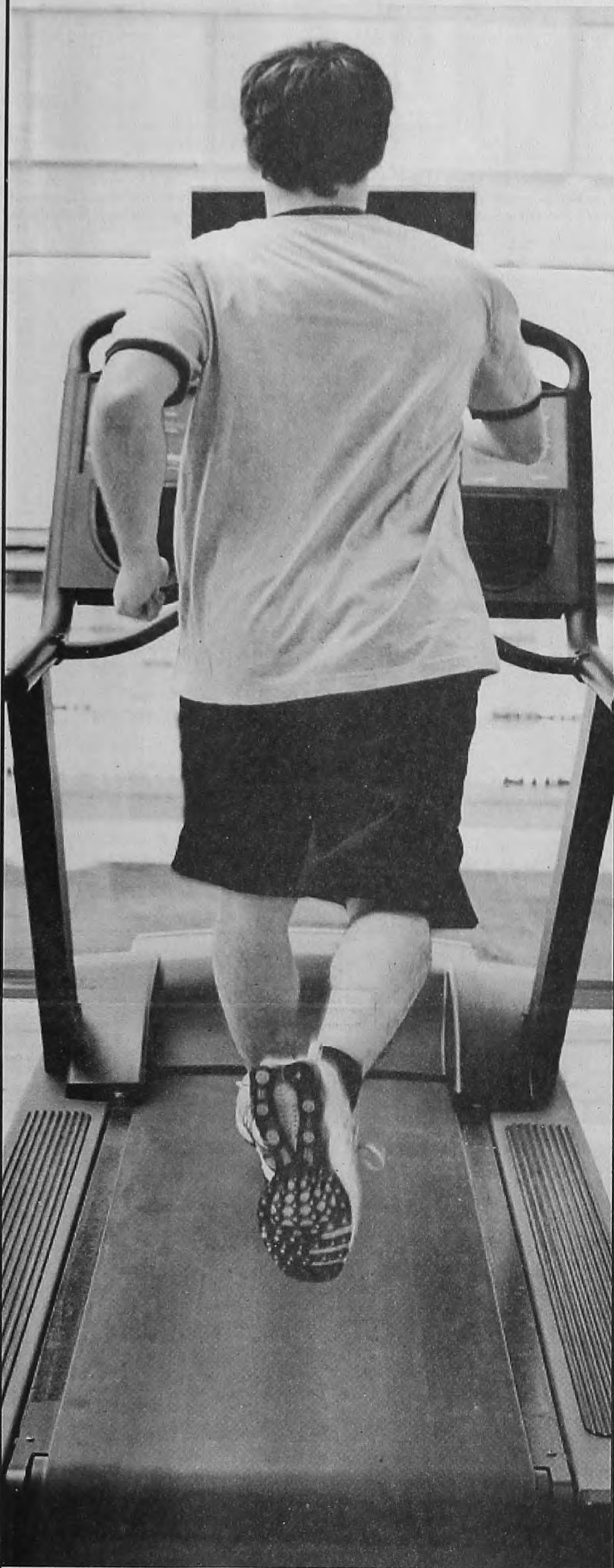
- » Affiliate of the Year, Habitat for Humanity Capital Region. Awarded by Habitat for Humanity Michigan.
- » Housing Education Program Agency of the Year Bay Area Housing Inc. Awarded by MSHDA.
- » Housing Education Program Counselor of the Year Jessica Rivard, Bay Area Housing. Awarded by MSHDA.

- » Housing Education Program Counselor of the Year Roxane Hiler, Inner City Christian Federation Teresa Torres, Southwest Solutions Barb Stricker, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency. Awarded by MSHDA.

Other conference highlights include hosting country music singer/songwriter and author Jimmy Wayne on Monday afternoon and an evening reception recognizing MSHDA's 50th anniversary where the department unveiled a new brand. Wayne is a former foster kid whose songs and story highlight his mission to bring awareness to kids who age out of the foster system and become homeless.

Celebrating its 18th year, the BMCC brings together individuals from across the state working to create and preserve affordable housing, serve the homeless and revitalize downtowns and neighborhoods.

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ones doing stand-up
 - 7 Dancer's bodysuit
 - 14 Roosevelt's predecessor
 - 20 Wide road
 - 21 Work history summaries
 - 22 Unabridged
 - 23 What many a thin person has
 - 25 Be there for
 - 26 "What — is new?"
 - 27 Actor Benicio — Toro
 - 28 Here, to Yves
 - 29 — carte (not prix fixe)
 - 30 Prefix with fascist
 - 31 Beams
 - 33 Specialty of many emergency teams
 - 37 Is sore
 - 40 Ballet move
 - 42 Dawn deity
 - 43 Nutrition Facts group
 - 44 Alternative to jogging
 - 48 Recurrent theme
 - 51 Often-stubbed digit
 - 52 Used a saber
 - 54 Color-mixing board
 - 58 Smoke waste
 - 59 — port (PC connection)
 - 61 Ladderlike in organization
 - 63 Charlton Heston film
 - 64 Harry at Hogwarts
 - 67 Cornmeal mush
 - 69 Starting on
 - 71 Jim-dandy
 - 73 "Mean Girls" actress
 - 74 Stretches of history
 - 75 Vigilante retribution, perhaps
 - 81 Informant
 - 84 Hindu belief
 - 85 Moment
 - 87 See 56-Down
 - 88 China's Sun —sen
 - 91 Keeping up contact
 - 93 Bait
 - 95 Without risk
 - 97 Some lap dogs, briefly
 - 99 It doesn't stop at a lot of stations
 - 101 Big hauler
 - 104 Dernier — (latest thing)
 - 106 Bad guy in "Othello"
 - 107 Spine-chilling
 - 108 Improv comic's skill
 - 113 Sail support
 - 115 Clickable address
 - 116 State of rage
 - 117 Mattel man
 - 118 "Emmy" has two
 - 119 Had to repay
 - 123 Element in antiseptics
 - 125 Wish for getting better
 - 129 Shells out
 - 130 Australian sheepdogs
 - 131 Skittish
 - 132 Badger
 - 133 Moment
 - 134 Sculptures without limbs
 - 6 Dilapidated
 - 7 Kazakh river
 - 8 State north of Kan.
 - 9 The same, at the start?
 - 10 May bloom
 - 11 Friends, in Florence
 - 12 Have a home
 - 13 Brit. military honor
 - 14 Cures
 - 15 Scheduled
 - 16 Mel of the diamond
 - 17 Austrian port
 - 18 Borgnine with an Oscar
 - 19 Totally alters
 - 24 Coil deviser
 - 29 Fable author
 - 32 Invite to a movie, e.g.
 - 33 Lawn tools
 - 34 Not much, as of salt
 - 35 DVD — drive
 - 36 Wrongdoer
 - 37 "Mamma Mia" group
 - 38 NFL receiver
 - 39 Zenith
 - 41 Santa helper
 - 45 Part of SSW
 - 46 Bowl game gp.
 - 47 Hair care products
 - 49 — by Dana (perfume)
 - 50 Old TV's "Three Lives"
 - 53 Info to input
 - 55 Like college juniors
 - 56 With 87-Across, fishy hero
 - 57 Little bits of work
 - 60 Lower boy
 - 62 Cubs great
 - 63 Sandberg
 - 65 Straying from the subject
 - 66 Diva Diana
 - 68 Increases fraudulently
 - 69 Sparkling wine city
 - 70 Duck relative
 - 72 TV-advertised music label
 - 76 Veritable
 - 77 It beats a 10
 - 78 Slush Puppie company
 - 79 Wheedle
 - 80 Leg on which a cello rests
 - 82 Wimpy type
 - 83 Tapers off
 - 86 Hip-hop headwear
 - 89 Others, in Latin
 - 90 Daly of "Cagney & Lacey"
 - 92 Anne of "Wag the Dog"
 - 94 Less than zero: Abbr.
 - 96 Worry about
 - 98 — Lanka
 - 100 Amiens' river
 - 101 Slogging-in-mud sound
 - 102 A moon of Jupiter
 - 103 Less harsh
 - 105 Bic buy
 - 109 Sorts
 - 110 Piece of hair
 - 111 Boat spines
 - 112 Like klutzes
 - 114 Natty tie
 - 118 In the past, in the past
 - 120 Takes as a spouse
 - 121 "And so ..."
 - 122 Hides gray, in a way
 - 124 With 3-Down, really disorderly
 - 125 Schuss, say
 - 126 Julio's "day"
 - 127 Strong wish
 - 128 Lennon loved her

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123					124					125			126	127			128		
129										130							131		
132										133									134

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

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

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!

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

GARDEN WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ACID FLAT
ACRE FROND
AERATE GERMINATE
ANNUAL GRAFTING
AQUATIC HARDPAN
BIENNIAL HERBACEOUS
BONSAI HYDROPONICS
BRACT LATH
BULB LAYERING
CHLOROPHYLL NODE
COMPOST PANICLE
CONIFER PISTIL
CULTIVATE ROOT
CUTTINGS ROSETTE
DEADHEADING RUNNER
EPiphyte SPHAGNUM
EROSION THINNING
EVAPORATION TOPSOIL
FERTILIZER

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

COMICS UNITARD HOOVER
AVENUE RESUMES ENTIRE
FASTMETABOLISM ATTEND
ELSE DELICIA ALA NEO
RAYS RAPIDRESPONSE
ACHES LEAP EOS FATS
BRISKWALKING MOTIF
BIGTOE FENCED PALETTE
ASH USB SCALAR BENHUR
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Word Search Answers

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U-M Hospital continues Gifts of Art program

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

An eclectic performance series and nine art galleries have drawn a loyal audience for 30 years to one of the most unlikely venues for entertainment — U-M Hospital in Ann Arbor.

“As far as programming, I don’t know of another hospital in Michigan that does what we do,” said Elaine Sims, director of the Gifts of Art program at the U-M Health System.

“I try to be Ed Sullivan. I try to bring in everything you’d ever see around the world. I like it if we can have Chinese opera, Indian dance, classical piano. I’ve even staged a full youth orchestra. We’ve had tap dance. We do a little of everything.”

The free public concerts start shortly after noon on Thursdays and run to 1 p.m. in the hospital’s main lobby. Concerts this month include a singer-storyteller, classical guitarist, jazz and swing band, and folk trio.

Shows move outside in June for the annual “Summer Courtyard Concert Series,” and in June will feature Bluescasters, classic and modern jazz with Ingrid Racine Quartet, The Raisin Pickers with roots and bluegrass, steelworks band with calypso and steel drums, and Gwenyth Hayes Trio with sultry jazz and soul.

“We do get some groupies, people from the community who come in. We have our fans. In the summer we get a university daycare center that comes and they dance around on the lawn,” Sims said. “We get a nice big crowd. Staff and a certain number of patients do come down. You might see a few patients with an IV pole.”

Sims used to record the concerts for playback and has considered broadcasting them live. She wants staff at other U-M Health System locations, such as Northville, Brighton, Livonia and Canton, to get a chance to experience the concerts, too.

“We’ve been experimenting with tweeting them, tweeting parts of the concerts. We do get people who watch it (via tweet),” she said.

Delicate balance

In addition to the concert series, music students and volunteers sometimes play the lobby piano or perform in high traffic areas within the hospital. Performances have included dance and improv.

“It’s a hospital first and foremost. You don’t want to flood the place. It’s a delicate balance,” Sims said. “I have stopped concerts. Our trauma burn unit is around the corner from the main lobby. A young firefighter was critically injured and many of her team members came and spilled into the main lobby. It just wasn’t the place you could play even the most sensitive music.”

Patients have the option of requesting bedside music, in addition to attending the weekly public concert. Professional



SAN, EMILY AND JACOB
Sandor Slomovits, Emily Slomovits and Jacob Warren are the trio San, Emily and Jacob. They’ll play May 26 at U-M Hospital



Eileen Mollen, assistant professor emerita of pediatrics and communicable diseases, shows stands next to her art work, “Butterfly Music” which won honors for collage and mixed media at the annual employee art exhibition last year at U-M Health System.



The Raisin Pickers are among the performers slated for the summer concert series at U-M Hospital in Ann Arbor.

musicians are on staff and available to play viola, flute, guitar, celtic harp or to sing. All have completed a one-year program in music for healing and they have experience working amid patients and hospital equipment.

Patients also may select a piece of framed poster art for display in their room from the Art Cart or try their hand at making art, including watercolor, beaded bracelets, drawings and more. The Gifts of Art program creates its own art kits and coloring books, that are given to patients for

free. “We’ve got to make the patients feel good. We don’t just leave the kits. The intention is to have them make the art,” Sims said, adding that Gifts of Art began offering bedside coloring books to adult patients 10 years ago. “Ours are high quality, 32 pages with a box of crayons.”

Three-month exhibits

Sims is looking at ways to make the exhibits at the hospital’s nine galleries more accessible to patients. Developing a docent program and making

the art available on iPad are possible goals.

The galleries — five are located on the main floor, two on the second floor and two in the cancer center — are open to the public. The art changes every three months.

“It’s always fresh. Right now we’re in our annual call for art. People send in submissions for next year. We try to be as diverse as we can. We look for shows that are easy for people to understand, whether representational or abstract. We don’t want it to be disturbing. We don’t want it to

be all fuzzy warm bunny rabbits. We do our best to find art that is interesting, different.”

Find out more about Gifts of Art at med.umich.edu/goa/programs.htm

Check out other local hospitals with art exhibits, including the Healing Art Exhibit Gallery at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and the Arts for the Spirit program, with rotating exhibits at the Dearborn, Trenton, Taylor and Wayne campuses of Beaumont Hospital.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

GET OUT: ENTERTAINMENT LISTING

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

Sunset at the Zoo: The event runs 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, June 10 and includes a strolling supper with tastes of signature dishes from more than 40 restaurants, zoo-themed drinks, music by The Simone Vitale Band, dancing, live and silent auction, and access to many of the animal habitats. Tickets range from \$175-\$300 and are available at detroit-zoo.org/sunset. Add an additional \$25 to tickets purchased at the event

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. May 6-21

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: This student show includes a reception, 6-9 p.m. May 6

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

U-M MUSEUM OF ART

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

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

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

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

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, May 6 and Thursday, May 12, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, May 7-8

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: “Kung Fu Panda 3,” \$3

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. May 6 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. May 7

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: “Field of Dreams,” tickets \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordtheatre.com

SUMMER DRIVE-IN

Time/Date: Dusk, May 20-21 and 27-29

Location: At USA Hockey Arena, 14900 Beck Road, Plymouth Township

Details: Double features will be shown on three screens during “sneak peek” weekends. Admission is \$10 for ages 13 and up and \$8 for kids, 4-12. Movies play daily beginning Friday, June 10

Contact: 734-927-3284



Ariel Quartet wraps up the Chamber Music of Detroit 2015-16 concert season May 14.

HISTORY

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through May 15

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: “Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero: the Villas of Opiontis near Pompeii,” explores the lavish lifestyle and economic interests of some of ancient Rome’s wealthiest and most powerful citizens, who vacationed along the Bay of Naples. Includes more than 200 items on loan from Italy. Admission is free

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Special event: Potluck dinner with author Jack Dempsey, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10. The event also serves as the annual membership meeting and board of directors election for the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum. Dempsey’s books will be

available for purchase. The event is open to the public, although only Friends members may vote.

Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Time/Date: 8 p.m. May 14

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 West 13 Mile, at Lahser, Beverly Hills

Details: Ariel Quartet with Alon Goldstein on piano, performing music of Bartok, Brahms, Haydn and Webern. Tickets are \$32-\$64 for adults and \$16-\$32 for students

Contact: CMSDetroit.org; 248-855-6070

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 6-7

Location: Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: The show will be devoted to songs written by Hoagy Carmichael and Cole Porter. Tickets are \$15, available at the door or in advance at farmingtonchorus.com

Contact: farmcommchor@gmail.com

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Kathleen Murray Band

MOVIES OPENING SOON

Check screening times at local theaters for these films opening soon.

Friday, May 6

"Captain America: Civil War" finds Steve Rogers leading the newly formed team of Avengers in their continued efforts to safeguard humanity. But after another incident involving the Avengers results in collateral damage, political pressure mounts to install a system of accountability — and fractures the heroes into two camps. Steve Rogers wants the group to remain free from government interference. Tony Stark supports government oversight. Rated PG-13.

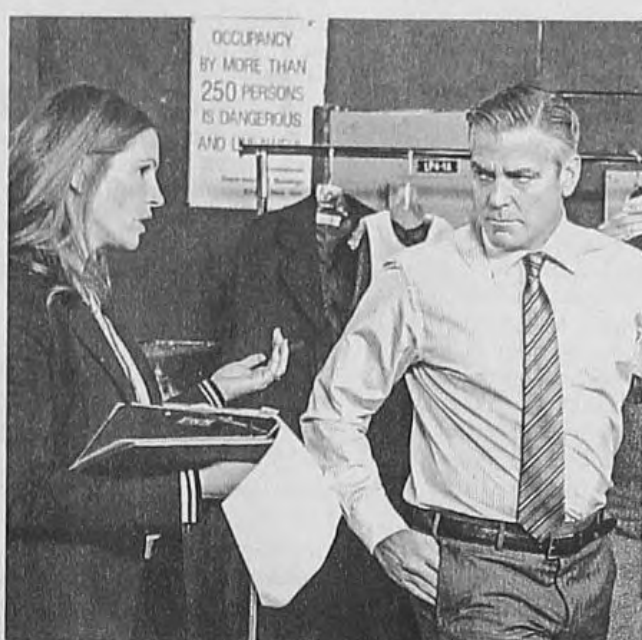
"Sing Street" opens at the Maple Theater. It tells the story of Conor, a 14-year-old boy, who is looking for a break from home while trying to adjust to his new inner-city school in 1980s Dublin. He finds a glimmer of hope in the beautiful Raphina and with the aim of winning her heart he invites her to star in his band's music videos. There's only one problem, he's not part of a band. Directed by John Carney. Rated PG-13.

May 13

In "Money Monster," George Clooney and Julia Roberts portray financial TV



Jack Reynor and Ferdia Walsh-Peelo star in "Sing Street," opening May 6 at The Maple Theater in Bloomfield Township.



Julia Roberts plays Patty Fenn and George Clooney plays Lee Gates in TriStar Pictures' "Money Monster," opening May 13.

host Lee Gates and his producer Patty, who are put in an extreme situation when an irate investor takes over their studio. Also starring Caitriona Balfe, Giancarlo Esposito, Jack O'Connell, and Dominic West. Directed by Jodie Foster. Rated R.

May 20

"The Angry Birds Movie" is a 3D animated comedy voiced by Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Danny McBride,

Maya Rudolph, Bill Hader, Kate McKinnon, Tony Hale, Tituss Burgess, Peter Dinklage, Keegan-Michael Key, Jillian Bell, Romeo Santos, Ike Barinholtz, Danielle Brooks, Hannibal Buress, Ian Hecox and Anthony Padilla. Rated PG.

"A Bigger Splash" tells the story of a famous rock star and a filmmaker vacationing on a remote Italian island. An old friend and his daughter disrupt their vacation and

create a whirlwind of jealousy, passion and danger. Starring Ralph Fiennes, Dakota Johnson, Matthias Schoenaerts, and Tilda Swinton. Rated R.

"The Meddler" opens at The Maple Theater in Bloomfield Township. It follows Marnie Minervini, played by Susan Sarandon, a recent widow and eternal optimist, as she moves from New Jersey to California to be closer to her daughter, played by Rose Byrne. Marnie sets out to

make friends, find her purpose, and possibly open up to someone new. Not rated.

"Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising" is a follow-up to the 2014 original comedy. It features returning stars Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne, who are joined by Chloe Grace Moretz. In this story Mac and Kelly have a second baby on the way, and they are ready to make the final move into adulthood, by moving to the suburbs. But just as they thought they'd reclaimed the neighborhood and were safe to sell, they learn that the new occupants next door belong to an out-of-control sorority. They turn to the one ex-neighbor with the skills to bring down the new Greeks next door. Rated R.

"The Nice Guys" is set in 1970s Los Angeles, Calif., where down-on-his-luck private eye Holland March and hired enforcer Jackson Healy must work together to solve the case of a missing girl. During their investigation they uncover a shocking conspiracy that reaches up to the highest circles of power. Starring Russell Crowe, Ryan Gosling, Angourie Rice, Matt Bomer, Margaret Qualley, Keith David, Beau Knapp, and Kim Basinger. Rated R.

Courtesy of Allied Integrated Marketing

GET OUT!

Continued from Page B8

performs Tuesday May 10. Bring your dancing shoes. \$5 donation

Contact: 734-453-1780

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: RJ Spangler Planet D Nonet Band performs May 31. A \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY AND FRIENDS CHOIR

Time/Date: 8 p.m. May 5-7

Location: Trinity in the Woods, 26880 La Muera, Farmington Hills

Details: The choir sings music by Bach in its original German. The concert

features a small chamber orchestra, soloists, duets and the full chorus. Guest conductor is Adam Riccinto of the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$10

Contact: trinityinthewoods.org; 248-474-2860

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Wild Ponies, May 7; Ian Ethan Case, May 14; Open Stage, May 17; The ODD Fellas, May 20; Amy Petty and Scott Fab, May 21 Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted

Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

SPECIAL EVENT ICE SHOW

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, May 6, 4 p.m. Saturday, May 7

Location: Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 35500 Eight Mile, between Halsted and Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: "Monopoly on Ice," showcases Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club members and Learn-to-Skate students performing to music. Tickets are \$8 for adults, 19 and up, \$6 for seniors, 65 and up, and students, 6-18, and free for children 5 and under

Contact: 248-478-8800

SPOKEN WORD FIRESIDE STORYTELLING

Time/Date: 7 p.m. May 19

Location: Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Pre-selected storytellers, along with a few slots open to audience members on the theme, "venture." \$5 admission

Contact: trinityhousetheatre.org

MOTH STORY SLAM

Time/Date: Doors open 6 p.m., stories start 7:30 p.m. May 17

Location: Circus Bar, 210 S. First Ave., Ann Arbor

Details: Prepare a five-minute story on the theme, toss your name in the hat, and if your name is pulled, step up and

tell your true personal story live without notes. Volunteers from the audience judge the stories. The theme is "escape." Admission is \$8. Adults only

Contact: themoth.org

STORY NIGHT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. May 12

Location: Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main, Ann Arbor

Details: Members of the Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild tell stories. Desserts, tea, light supper available

Contact: annarborstorytelling.org

THEATER

BAREFOOT PRODUCTIONS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 6-7; 2 p.m. May 8

Location: 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Motherhood Out Loud" is a series of monologues about parenting for mature audiences. Tickets are \$17

Contact: justgobarefoot.com; 734-404-6889

FARMINGTON PLAYERS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday,

May 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, and Thursday, May 19, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 8, and 15

Location: 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: When six unemployed steel workers feel like they've been left on the scrap heap of life, they resort to some extraordinary measures to lift themselves up in this edgy musical comedy, "The Full Monty." They overcome their fear, self-consciousness and feelings of worthlessness by becoming exotic dancers. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for students and seniors, age 62 and over

Contact: farmingtonplayers.org; 248-553-2955

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Time/Date: 7 p.m. May 12-13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 14 and 2 p.m. May 15

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

Details: "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty" is a spin on the classic tale. Tickets are \$12

Contact: 734-394-5300, 734-394-5460 or canton-mi.org/villagetheater

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Soy boosts nutrition, adds variety to your menu



Whether you're looking to scale back on animal products or simply want to add some variety to your cooking repertoire, soy may be your solution. Soy is the only plant with protein comparable to meat, eggs and dairy, and it provides health benefits, including heart, muscle and bone strength. It is also the only protein recognized by the FDA for its role in reducing cholesterol and risk of heart disease.

If you're uncertain how to cook with soy, you may be surprised by the diverse ways you can incorporate this nutrient-rich food into your meals and snacks. As these recipes show, it's easy to cook with soy throughout the day, from fluffy breakfast pancakes to a fresh take on hummus or a delicious tofu dinner loaded with flavor.

In addition to the nutrition benefits and versatility, soy uses fewer natural resources, such as water and land, than any other protein source, so you can feel good about making it a star ingredient in your kitchen.

USES FOR SOY

Looking for creative ways to incorporate more soy into your diet? You may be surprised by all the ways you can build delicious snacks and meals around this plant protein:

- » Tofu: Extra-firm replaces meat protein in recipes such as grilled kabobs and sandwiches, or use soft or silken in place of mayonnaise and sour cream in creamy dishes, such as soups and dips.
- » Edamame: Serve these green soybeans in the pod for an appetizer or add to dishes, such as chili or stir-fry, for protein-packed flavor and texture.
- » Soymilk: Ideal for beverages such as smoothies and lattes, over cereal and in cooked dishes, such as puddings or custards.
- » Dairy alternatives: A wide range of dairy-free products are available, including soy-based "yogurt," "cheese" and frozen desserts.
- » Soy crumbles: Perfect for chili, spaghetti sauce and tacos, this "veggie ground" contains 75 percent less fat than ground beef.
- » Soy flour: Improves taste and texture and elevates the nutrition profile when mixed with wheat flour.

Find more recipes and inspiring ideas for cooking with soy at soyfoods.org.

Courtesy of Family Features

EDAMAME HUMMUS

Recipe courtesy of United Soybean Board
Makes: 14 2-tablespoon servings

2 cups shelled edamame, cooked according to package directions
¼ cup soybean oil
3 tablespoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons garlic, chopped
¼ teaspoon cumin, ground
½ teaspoon salt

In food processor, puree edamame, oil, lemon juice, garlic, cumin and salt for 30 seconds, scraping sides twice, until almost smooth. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.
Serving tips: Serve with pita triangles, crackers, baguette or raw vegetables.

Nutrition information per serving: 60 calories; 2 g protein; 3 g carbohydrate; 1 g dietary fiber; 5 g fat (0 g saturated fat); 0 mg cholesterol; 90 mg sodium.

GRILLED BALSAMIC TOFU WITH CAULIFLOWER CILANTRO RICE AND AVOCADO

Recipe courtesy of House Foods
Serves: 4

1 package firm or extra-firm tofu, drained and pressed well
¼ cup balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
salt and pepper, to taste
1 medium head of cauliflower, grated
1 bunch cilantro, roughly chopped
1 avocado, sliced
Sriracha Mayo:
2 tablespoons reduced fat mayonnaise
½ teaspoon lime juice
¼ teaspoon sriracha sauce
¼ teaspoon minced garlic or garlic paste

Slice tofu into ½-inch slices and set aside. In bowl, whisk together vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper. Pour over tofu and marinate for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, mix together all ingredients for Sriracha Mayo.

Grill marinated tofu 3 minutes on each side. In large bowl, combine cauliflower and cilantro. Separate mixture into four serving bowls. Top with grilled tofu and sliced avocado. Serve with Sriracha Mayo.

Nutrition information per serving: 290 calories; 12 g protein; 18 g carbohydrate; 7 g dietary fiber; 15 g fat (2.5 g saturated fat); 0 mg cholesterol; 160 mg sodium.

LEMON BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

Recipe courtesy of Silk
Serves: 6

1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon egg replacer
¼ teaspoon salt
pinch of ground nutmeg
1 ½ cups plain soy yogurt alternative
¼ cup vegetable oil, divided
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons finely grated lemon zest
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 ½ cups blueberries, divided
maple syrup

Whisk together flour, baking powder, egg replacer, salt and nutmeg; set aside.

In separate bowl, whisk together yogurt alternative, 2 tablespoons oil, sugar, lemon juice, lemon zest and vanilla; stir into flour mixture until just combined (batter will be lumpy). Let stand for 15 minutes.

Heat large, non-stick skillet over medium heat; brush with remaining oil. Pour ¼ cup batter per pancake into skillet, leaving space between each pancake. Add 1 tablespoon blueberries to each pancake.

Cook in batches for about 2 minutes, or until bubbles form on the surface; flip and cook for 1-2 minutes, or until golden brown and set in the center. Wipe skillet between batches. Store prepared pancakes in warm oven until ready to serve.

Serve pancakes with remaining blueberries and maple syrup.

Nutrition information per serving: 260 calories; 6 g protein; 34 g carbohydrate; 2 g dietary fiber; 11 g fat (1 g saturated fat); 0 mg cholesterol; 230 mg sodium.

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