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CANTON OBSERVER

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P-CCS international program expanded

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

As the Plymouth-Canton schools' first International Baccalaureate class graduates this month, district officials have approved – based on demand – increasing the number of seats available in the program's ninth and 10th grades. "I think this is an amazing

program and am glad we are expanding it," said Sheila Paton, board of education vice president.

The board approved the move in a 5-0 vote May 24. Trustees Patrick Kehoe and Michael Maloney



Paton

were absent.

The IB program in the new school year will have an additional 36 seats in ninth grade and 37 in 10th grade. While in-district students will be allowed seats first, the increase comes from demand in the school of choice program, said Nick Brandon, P-CCS community relations director. "The word has spread about

the academic rigors," Brandon said, referring to the the P-CCS IB program. "(IB) is really big on critical thinking. It has a global context."

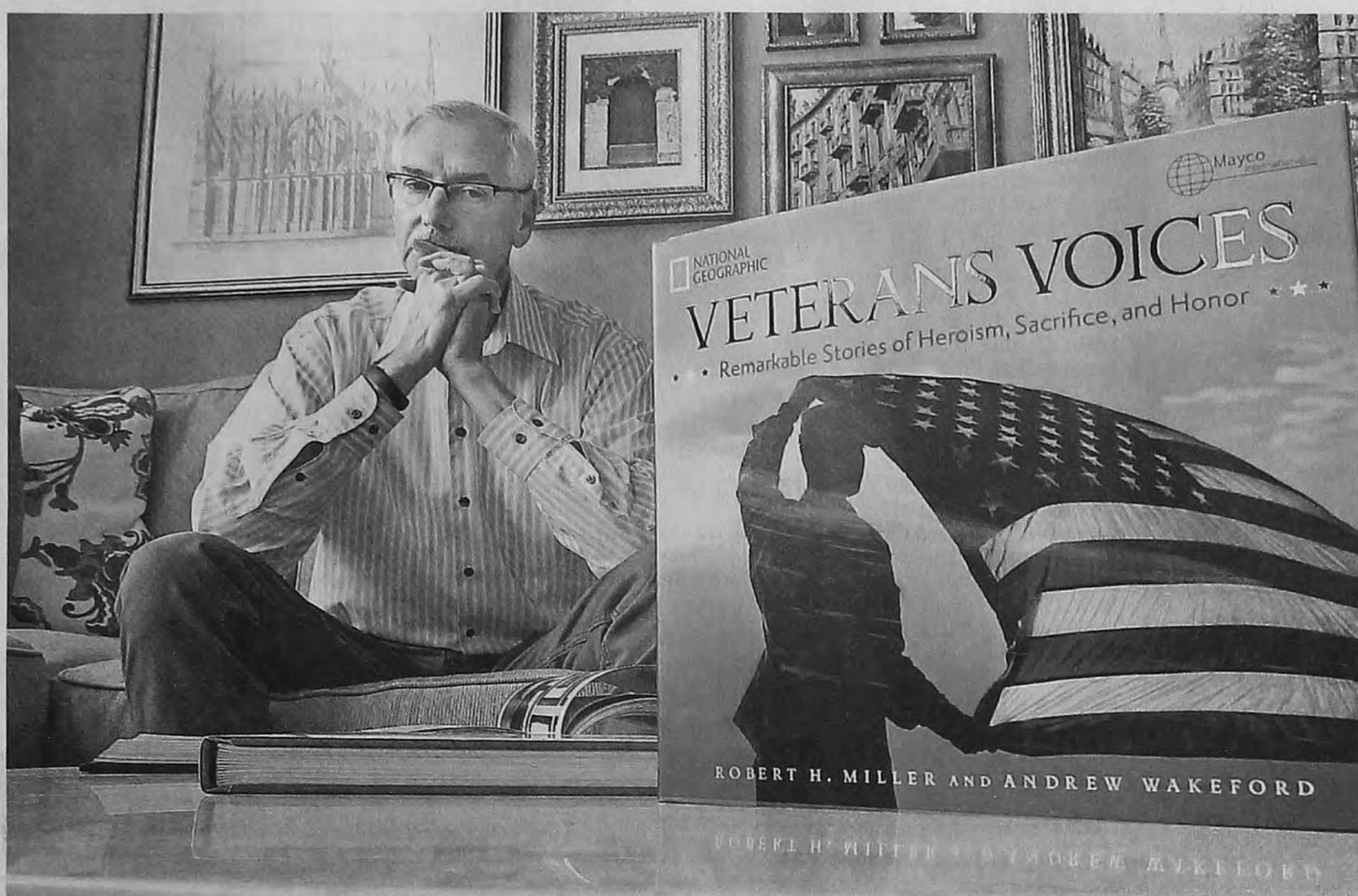
Because the district received some 389 applications from out-of-district students for the SOC program, a lottery was held last week. This year, Brandon said, the district received three times the applica-

tions for the SOC program. Also this year, the board of education expanded SOC into Washtenaw County.

"It's the most we've ever had," Brandon said.

According to Brandon, the IB increase for ninth and 10th grades is not expected to require additional full-time

See PROGRAM, Page A2



Canton author Robert Miller talks about "Veterans Voices: Remarkable Stories of Heroism, Sacrifice, and Honor."

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CANTON AUTHOR HONORS U.S. VETERANS IN NEW BOOK

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton resident Thomas Houdek was a U.S. soldier fighting in Germany during World War II when he was captured and forced into hard labor in a prisoner of war camp, Stalag 4B.

"I spent five months in the prison camp," Houdek, 90, said.

Retired U.S. astronaut Jerry Linenger was a U.S. Navy flight surgeon before he was involved in missions aboard space shuttles Discovery and

Atlantis, working 132 days with two Russian cosmonauts in isolation on space station Mir.

"I believe it was a privilege to fly in space and represent our country," Linenger, 61, said, during a telephone interview from his home near Traverse City.

Houdek and Linenger are among 72 veterans whose stories and photographs have been respectfully captured by Canton author Robert H. Miller and co-author Andrew Wakeford, who lives in Germany.



Miller

"I was really honored by this. It's beyond my wildest dreams to say I'm a National Geographic author."

ROBERT MILLER
Canton resident and co-author of 'Veterans Voices: Remarkable Stories of Heroism, Sacrifice, and Honor'

See AUTHOR, Page A2

One last ride: Car club bowing out of Liberty Fest

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A classic car club that has been with Canton's Liberty Fest since its inception 25 years ago will ride off into the sunset when this year's festival ends.

America's Most Wanted Car Club, whose core members are

in their 70s, will drive off knowing it has raised an estimated \$100,000 for charity from its Liberty Fest car shows, said club president Bob Hayes of Garden City.

"The reason why we are there — the whole purpose of our club — is for charity," Hayes said.

But he and other club lead-

ers say they need to end their Liberty Fest show, which involves an enormous amount of volunteer work, and focus on smaller events and classic car cruises.

"We're just going to be like a lot of other clubs that go to car shows and cruise nights," secretary Barb Xenakis said.

Some years, America's Most

Wanted Car Club has drawn more than 200 cars to its Liberty Fest show, adding a touch of class with classic Chevrolet, Ford and Chrysler models and other vintage vehicles to the festival in Heritage Park.

The club has long raised

See CAR CLUB, Page A3

CCF golf outing to benefit police benevolence fund

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

If you would like to help the Canton police help those in need, clean off your golf clubs and hit the links Wednesday, June 15, for the Canton Community Foundation's 25th golf outing.

"I would like to see people there who want to support our police department," said Beth Meade, CCF managing director of donor relations.

The outing will be at Fox Hills Golden Fox course in Plymouth Township. Fees are \$195 per golfer or \$700 for a foursome. The event offers 18 holes of golf, day-long open bar, lunch at the turn, a banquet and dinner and plenty of contests, awards and prizes, Meade said.

Proceeds from the outing will benefit the Canton Police Benevolence Fund, which was started following the death of police officer Gordon "Lew" Stevens, who was killed in 2003 when his patrol car was struck by another vehicle after he stopped at an investigation scene.

The benevolence fund, which is held at CCF, has been split, with part of funding to provide grants for needs in the community. "Grants will be made to other nonprofits," Meade said.

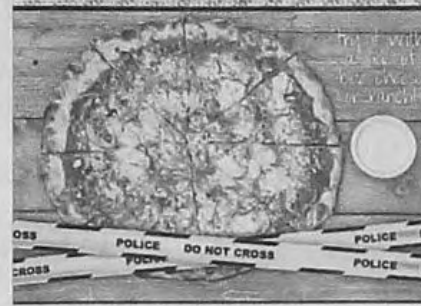
Patty Esselink, Canton police community relations officer, said that while the fund help officers' families, there is also a great need in the community police want to address.

See OUTING, Page A2

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Trash pickup delayed one day due to holiday

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Rizzo Environmental Services will not collect refuse, recycling or yard waste Monday, May 30. All collections next week will be delayed by one day. Rizzo will resume their regular collection schedule Monday, June 6. All refuse and recycling must be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. to ensure pickup. Rizzo will

not pick up refuse or recycling that is placed past the sidewalk on private property. All recycling must be placed separate from your refuse on the opposite side of your driveway. For questions or more information on solid waste collection, go to www.cantonmi.org or call Rizzo at 866-772-8900.

AUTHOR

Continued from Page A1

Their new book with National Geographic, "Veterans Voices: Remarkable Stories of Heroism, Sacrifice, and Honor," recounts wartime experiences that are heart-wrenching, inspiring, horrific, heroic and, above all, an emotional tribute to the brave men and women who grace its 256 pages. The authors wove together stories of U.S. veterans from World War II and every war since.

"I never thought I'd ever have something like this," said Houdek, whose 10 children, 28 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren have gotten multiple copies of the book. "They are so happy to know that these authors put me in that book. It's something I'll never forget — and neither will my family." Linenger, despite his soaring accomplishments, is clearly humbled that he was among the veterans sought out and interviewed by Miller and Wakeford for their book. "It's a proud moment.

It's a privilege to be included among those veterans," Linenger said, adding that many featured in the book sacrificed far more than he did. "I'm very proud of my military career, but I'm just kind of the background in that book compared to the other veterans who have seen the tough side of things." Miller, who has now penned his third book, developed a love of photography when he was 13 years ago and nurtured it. He also has traveled the world as a consultant in the field of LED lighting and technology for

the global auto market. Miller wrote his first book, "Hidden Hell: Discovering My Father's P.O.W. Diary," (Patton Publishing) after his father, who spent nine months in captivity as a prisoner of war in Nazi Germany, died in 1995. Miller found his prisoner of war journals, wrapped in brown paper, that contained his father's wartime drawings. "They were filled with his drawings of despair," he said. During his work trips to Europe, he retraced

See AUTHOR, Page A3

PROGRAM

Continued from Page A1

equivalent staffing. But if SOC students fill the spaces, the district will receive the state founda-

tion allowance for those students, generating additional revenue for P-CCS. As the mother of a graduating senior in International Baccalaureate, Paton read some comments from students

at this week's program banquet. They were asked to make comments for students just entering the program. Among the comments were: "Everything starts with a question," while another student said the course ma-

terial is about "recognizing all seven billion biases." The class of 2016 has 39 students enrolled in the IB program. The class of 2017 has 45; class of 2018 has 61 and class of 2019 has 97.

The IB program is considered rigorous and prepares students for college level work, while it "encourages them to ask challenging questions, learn how to learn, develop a strong sense of their own identity and

culture and develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other cultures," according to the district. jmaliszews@hometownlife.com 248-396-6620

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OUTING

Continued from Page A1

There's plenty of room on the links June 15 with space for 144 golfers. "We want to sell out this year," Meade said. Meanwhile, after having to eat about 40 pieces, officers developed "Hot Pursuit," a new pizza now on the menu at Tony Sacco's, 1663 N. Canton Center Road. Through June 15, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this pizza will go directly to the benevolence fund. Jack Demmer Ford is the outing presenting sponsor. Jack Demmer Ford and Lou LaRiche Chevrolet will both offer a contest for an auto lease. Home Depot has provided a \$3,000 riding lawn mower for a raffle, as well. Only 250 tickets will be sold for the lawn mower. "You've got a pretty good chance of winning a great mower,"



Officer Patty Esselink and Brittney Nichols of Tony Sacco's displays a pizza box for the "celebrity pizza," named "Hot Pursuit." The new pizza is on the menu now and through June 15 a portion of the proceeds will go to the police benevolence fund.

Meade said. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50.

To sign up for the CCF's silver anniversary golf outing, go to

www.cantonfoundation.org or call the foundation at 734-495-1200.

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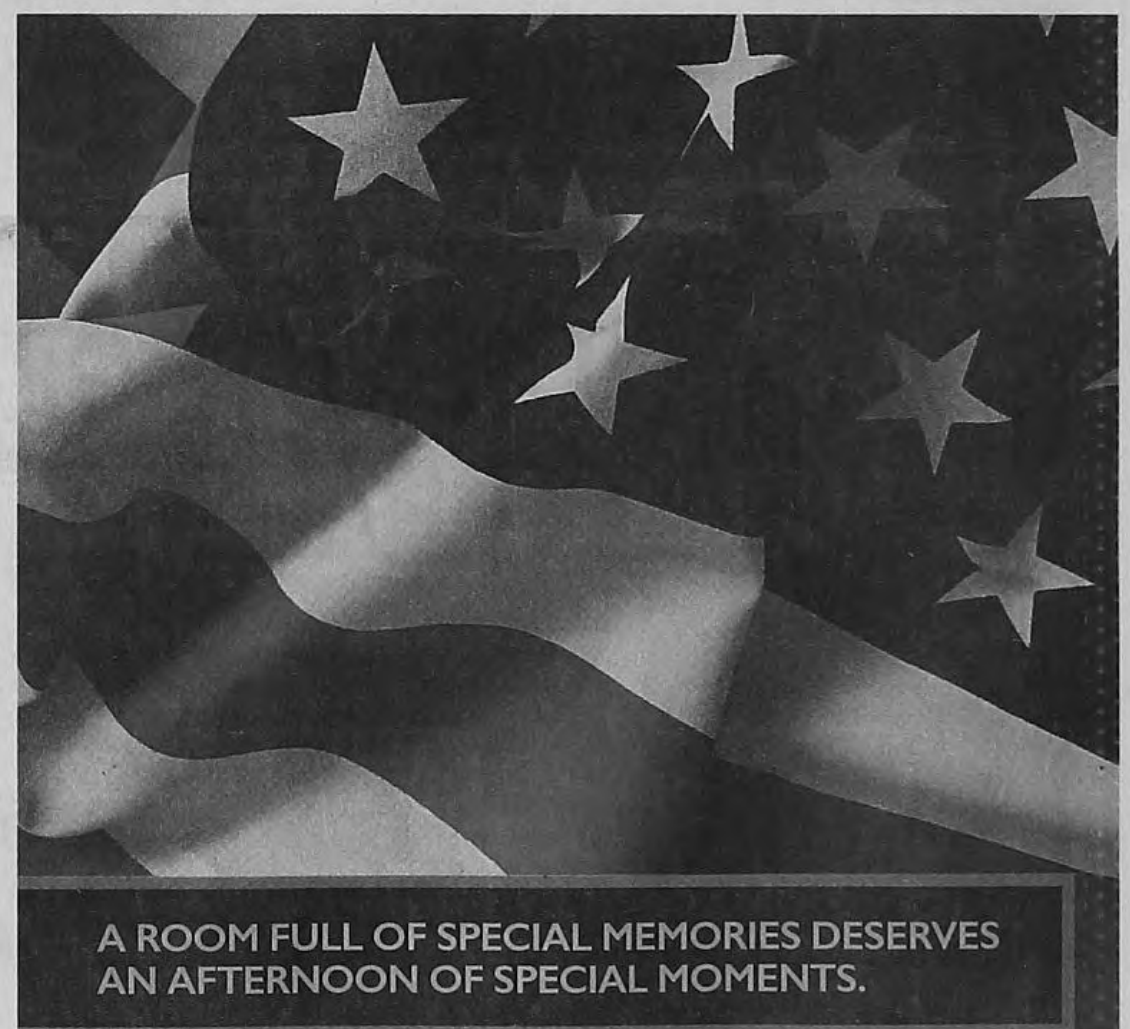
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CAR CLUB

Continued from Page A1

money by charging registration fees and sponsoring events such as silent auctions and raffle drawings for gifts donated by local businesses.

"It does your heart good to know you're helping your neighbors," Xenakis said. "You're helping your neighbors."

In recent years, the club has raised at least \$5,000 a year for charity. This year, the money will again go to Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry that helps 460 or more families every week.

"It's amazing the amount of money the car show at Liberty Fest raises for us," said Steven Darr, Open Door Ministry director.

Darr said \$5,000 allows the food pantry to buy \$50,000 worth of food, because it gets a huge discount from the Gleaners Community Food Bank. Some food is donated to Open Door, but some is bought.

Darr said organizations such as America's Most Wanted Car Club have helped the food



Heritage Park provides a picturesque setting for the classic car show.

pantry fulfill its mission.

"We love working with those people," he said.

The Liberty Fest car show draws classic car owners from communities such as Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Garden City, Redford, Livonia and Ypsilanti — many of the same places Open Door Ministry serves.

The car show has previously raised money for charities such as Military Moms, Shriners, Special Olympics and

veterans organizations.

Xenakis said the club's charitable work will continue, but on a smaller scale than Liberty Fest.

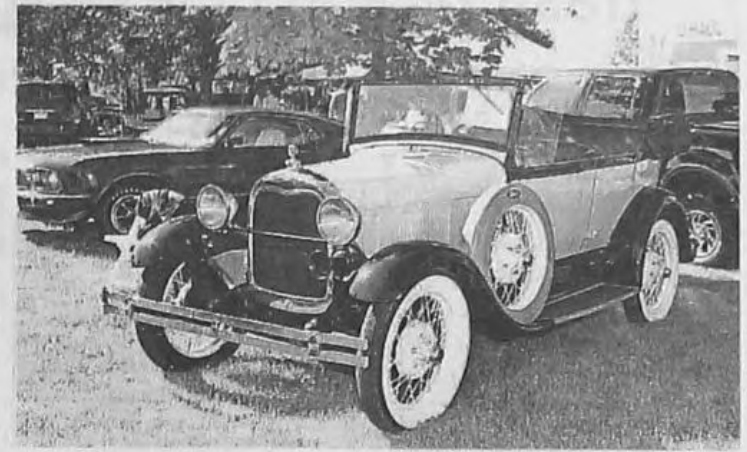
Club members are hopeful that another classic car club might step in to continue the Liberty Fest car show.

Liberty Fest happens June 16-18 in Heritage Park. Preregistration for America's Most Wanted Car Club show is 5-8 p.m. Friday, June 17, at the

festival — a time that coincides with a Canton firefighters spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

The club begins welcoming cars about 7 a.m. Saturday, June 18, with registration 8-11 a.m., Hayes said. The cars will remain on-site much of the day.

Xenakis said the cost to preregister Friday is \$15, but those who wait to register Saturday morning pay \$20. Hayes and Xenakis are aided in



Classic cars like this are returning to Liberty Fest.



This classic car had Liberty Fest spectators seeing red.

their club leadership role by two other officers, Jim Tilley, vice president, and Karen McDonough, treasurer.

For more information, send an email to three-duces3@comcast.net.

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AUTHOR

Continued from Page A2

his father's travels and eventually penned his award-winning "Hidden Hell." That was followed by "Portraits of Service: Looking into the Faces of Veterans" — Miller's first collaboration with Wakeford. It, too, snagged publishing awards.

The second book caught the attention of National Geographic, which approached Miller at a New York City book fair and pitched the idea for "Veterans Voices."

"I was really honored by this. It's beyond my wildest dreams to say I'm a National Geographic author," he said.

Miller and Wakeford, who already had strong ties to the veterans community, sought a wide array of people for the book. Among those featured:

» Emma Didlake, who, at age 110, was the oldest living U.S. veteran before she died three weeks after Miller interviewed her. A West Bloomfield resident, she served stateside in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II and was honored by President Barack Obama one month before she died.

» Robert "Rocky" Bleier, who helped the Pittsburgh Steelers win four Super Bowl championships despite warnings he might never play after he was shot in the leg in

Vietnam in 1969 while serving in the U.S. Army.

» Vernice Armour — the first African-American female combat pilot — who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq in 2004 and whose quick thinking and bravery saved a group of Marines trapped in a perilous situation.

» Jas Boothe, who started Final Salute in Alexandria, Va., an organization that has helped more than 10,000 homeless female veterans find transitional housing. Boothe, a disabled veteran, served in the U.S. Army in Iraq in 2008-09.

Miller said he is appalled that the United States has allowed veterans to be homeless: "How we let that happen, I'll

never know."

» Carlos "Chuck" Norris, the famous actor, filmmaker and martial artist who served as a U.S. Air Force military policeman in Korea in 1958-62.

Miller's work brought him into contact with Helen Patton, granddaughter of U.S. Army Gen. George S. Patton. They met on Utah Beach in 2009 — a meeting that occurred on the evening before the 65th commemoration of D-Day in France's Normandy region. Miller served as executive director of the Patton Foundation in America.

With their newest book, Miller and Wakeford have been lauded by the likes of television journalist Bob Woodruff,

who wrote the book's foreword to introduce "Veterans Voices."

"If photographs can help us stand in someone else's shoes and bring their world to our living room, then this book will give you a glimpse of American life that all of us need to respect, no matter what our political leanings," he wrote.

Miller lives with wife Colleen in Canton and they have five children

and three grandchildren. The new book has been well-received. Miller just hopes it brings some much-deserved attention to the veterans it features.

"It's really important that these stories are shared because this is the legacy of our country," he said.

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Gardner-White, PTSO come to the rescue

When Liberty Middle School, considered a state-of-the-art school, opened in fall 2015, it still was a bit skimpy on its teachers lounge. The school's Parent Teacher Student Organization and Gardner-White furniture store came to the rescue.

The PTSO reached out with a simple request and Rachel Tronstein, president of Gardner-White Furniture, generously delivered. On May 24, Gardner-White updated the room with a new sofa, love seat and coffee table, complete in Liberty blue. As part of the update, the PTSO personally donated a Keurig coffee machine and various K-cups to the staff.

Gardner-White also provided each Liberty family and all staff members with a \$50 gift certificate for use in its newly remodeled Canton store.

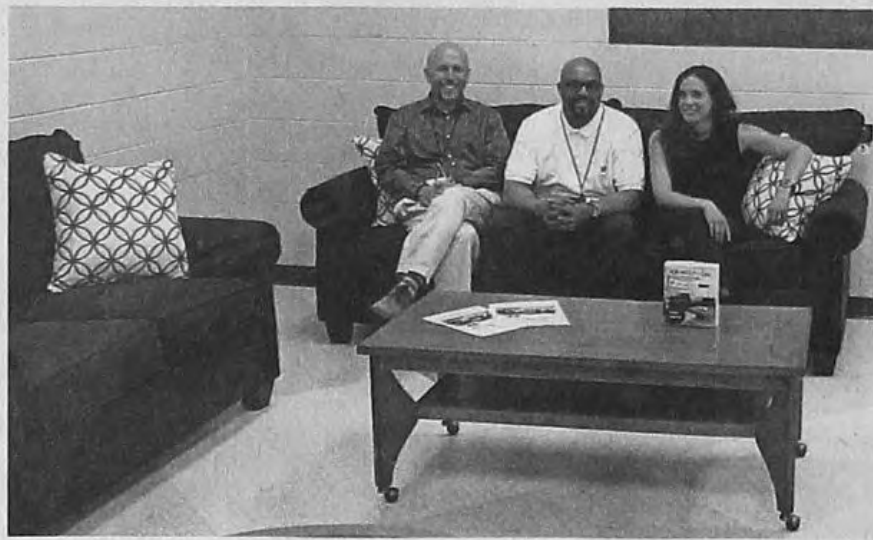
Gardner-White has been a member of the southeast Michigan community for 104 years

and members of the Canton community specifically for nearly 20 years.

"We want to see this community continue to grow and thrive and are excited to play an active role in making that happen by supporting local schools," Tronstein said. "At the same time, we are reinvesting in the community right now with more than a \$1 million in renovations to our Canton Gardner-White location on Ford Road."

Budget cuts have hit public schools hard and the comfort of furniture in a teachers lounge is often out of reach. As part of the solution, community members have turned to Facebook and other social media.

The Supply Closet is a Facebook group created by parent Kim Choi to help remedy this situation in local schools by developing a virtual "supply closet" for teachers to post their needs and the community



Liberty Principal James Hunter, Gardner-White president Rachel Tronstein and Liberty Assistant Principal Tim Authier try out the new furniture in the teachers lounge.

to share their donations.

Donations range from paper goods for art projects to used schoolbooks to larger items (such as furniture, tables, bookcases) to special educa-

tion items (manipulatives, fidget chairs).

"The best part of it all," Choi said, "is that we are matching up the needs of the public schools in our district

with generous free donations from community members. We're excited to have Gardner-White join us as our first community business partner. Having them get involved in such a thoughtful way has been wonderful and we hope this inspires other local businesses to follow suit."

The Supply Closet group was created in late January and already has more than 1,000 members, all making a huge impact on the lives of our community. The Supply Closet is a closed group to benefit the public schools in the Plymouth-Canton district. "We encourage our teachers to go to the page to post what they are looking for and ask group members to help fulfill their requests," Choi said.

To contact the Supply Closet, write to k12supplycloset@gmail.com or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheSupplyCloset> to request to join.

Salem High School student attends state art festival

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

Salem High School 11th-grader Marisa Petrarca recently attended the 54th annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

"It was definitely a great and unique experience," Petrarca said in a phone interview. "I've never experienced anything like it."

Nearly 1,000 Michigan high school student artists were invited to attend this year's three-day festival. The students, chosen from a pool of more than 250,000 across the state, were selected via rigorous adjudication process adhering to exacting artistic standards in multiple disciplines, including creative writing, dance, film/video, instrumental and vocal music, music composition, theater and visual art.

Petrarca and other members of her youth contemporary dance company X2 audi-



Salem High School 11th-grader Marisa Petrarca and other members of her youth contemporary dance company X2.

tioned in front of the MYAF board with their piece "Regret" in February and found out from their director Jodie Randolph they were accepted into the festival via email a few weeks later.

This year's MYAF featured workshops and master classes for the students, as well as

more than 20 student performances and exhibitions that were open to the public. Petrarca said the workshops and classes helped her company's performance of "Regret" at Saturday's Dance Showcase at Shaw Theatre.

"My favorite part, though, was being able to bond with my



Salem High School 11th-grader Marisa Petrarca and other members of her youth contemporary dance company X2 auditioned in front of the MYAF board with their piece "Regret" in February and were accepted into the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, which they attended earlier this month.

company," Petrarca said. "It was good for all of us."

Although she still has some time to decide for sure, as of now, Petrarca said she plans to pursue a dance major at Wayne State University, with hopes of someday becoming a professional dancer or part of a professional dance company.

"I am already part of a professional dance company, but it'd be nice to get paid for it," Petrarca said, laughing.

Michigan Youth Arts is an alliance of 13 statewide education associations that work together collaboratively to develop high-quality arts education programming, recognize the contributions of valuable teachers and provide advocacy resources for parents, educators and policymakers. MYAF is an annual showcase that recognizes, supports and celebrates the artistic excellence of young artists in Michigan.

For more information, go to www.michiganyoutharts.org.

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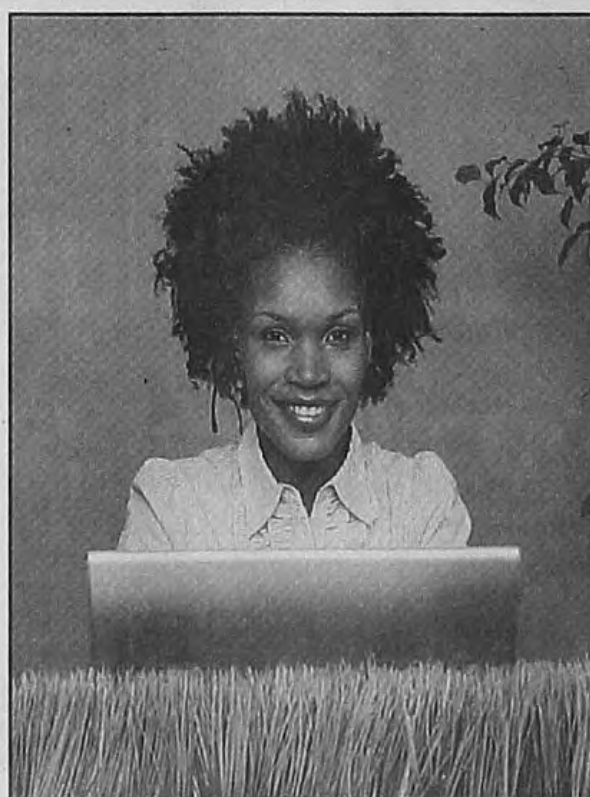
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Stem Cell Institute of Michigan is now offering state-of-the-art stem cell therapy at its Sterling Heights office. To find out more about this amazing regenerative treatments, call (586) 323-0301.

Michigan Stem Cell Institute of America, Michigan branch devotes much of its time treating chronically ill patients - especially those in pain. With 26 years of experience, the Sterling Heights-based practice continues

to utilize cutting-edge technology to help restore patients' health. The institute recently announced its latest state-of-the-art healing procedure: **regenerative stem cell therapy.**

Developed in conjunction with the Stem Cell Institute of America, the Stem Cell Institute of America, Michigan branch, **is now offering painless, FDA-approved stem cell injections for arthritic and/ or degenerative conditions, especially those found in the knees, hips, shoulder, neck and lower back.** These remarkable treatments can repair tissue in the body that has been damaged from age, disease or degeneration. They do this by pinpointing the impaired areas, removing the swelling with powerful anti-inflammatory properties and healing them by regenerating new cells and tissue.

This innovative therapy is particularly effective in treating such conditions as degenerative arthritis, degenerative cartilage and ligaments, bone spurs, degenerative joint disease, bursitis and tendonitis. According to Stem Cell Institute of Michigan's chief medical officer, patients can experience a significant decrease in pain and an improvement in range of motion within weeks of one treatment.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Rachel Mifsud of Grass Lake and Kathy Morris-Stilwell of Livonia look at sorrel and curly dock held by Minjung Godfrey.

Forage for wild greens in your own backyard

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Dinner's ready. It's in your lawn, at a nearby park and on the forest floor.

You just need to look and know what you're looking for, before you bring out the salad tongs.

Lucky for you, Rachel Mifsud of Grass Lake, Minjung Godfrey of Detroit and other experienced members of Will Forage for Food are happy to share their knowledge of living off the land.

Mifsud maintains a website, Facebook page and Meetup.com presence, while offering opportunities to members of all experience levels and ages to share and practice skills in foraging for edible wild plants, making traditional crafts, fermenting foods and beverages, making cheese, cooking wild foods, cultivating mushrooms and more. The Meetup.com group has Ann Arbor/Brighton, Lansing/Jackson and Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo chapters. Mifsud is considering a new chapter in Livonia and held a free nature walk, led by Godfrey, last week in Rotary Park.

"I started the Meetup because I was thinking, oh yeah, other people forage and we'll meet to forage together," said Mifsud, who organized the group with the hopes of building a foraging community. "It turned out almost all of them were coming to see if they could learn something. Nobody else knew what to do.

"So, literally, it turned from a hobby into this quasi-business on its own."

Free classes

Mifsud teaches biological sciences at the University of Michigan and leads a mix of Will Forage for Food activities, some free and some with fees.

"On the Meetup group, we have several partners. If you're going to post on our Meetup, you have to post free events once in a while. We want to make sure we're including everyone in the community."

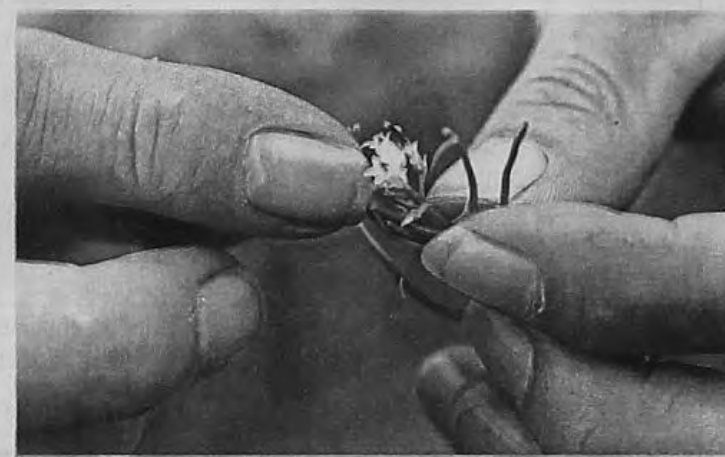
A seven-class series, "Foraging 101," introduces novice foragers to plants and mushrooms through lecture, readings and hands-on nature walks. Classes are \$25 each or \$150 for the series, which is currently held in Fenton, Fruitport and Chelsea. Godfrey will lead a free walk to identify edible and medicinal plants Tuesday, May 31, in Milford. Participants must join the Meetup group to learn the exact location.

The session at Rotary Park in Livonia drew a handful of newcomers and a few Will Forage for Food regulars.

"You learn a little something every time," said Kathy Morris-Stilwell, a Livonia resident and practicing veterinarian in Redford. She has



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Esther Wrotslavsky of Southfield examines garlic mustard held by Minjung Godfrey.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Minjung Godfrey shows the flower of the garlic mustard plant.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The mayapple produces a fruit that is toxic when green, but becomes edible when yellow.

attended several Will Forage for Food events the past few months.

"I forage in my own yard. I could spend hours. The garlic mustard, I could feed the world on the garlic mustard and plantain," she said, with a laugh. "I just made a macaroni salad with garlic mustard. I chopped it up. I added about a quarter of a cup. It adds a little bit of a crunch. You can eat the flower, too."

Your yard

Godfrey found garlic mustard and several other edible plants within a few yards of the entrance to the park's nature trail. Although garlic mustard is high in nutrients, it's an invasive plant and the focus of spring cleanups in parks and nature preserves.

"My main goal was to cover what's in season, something you could find in your yard," Godfrey told the group.

She showed tiny leaves from the plantain (plantain) plant that taste similar to mushrooms and demonstrated the medicinal use of its larger leaves as a rub on bug bites and scratches.

"That's really abundant and you should see it in your yard," she said. "Another is dandelion. Dandelion is edible al-

most at any time, but after flowering, it gets bitter." Yellow flower petals add color to salads and the plant's root can be used as a coffee substitute, Godfrey said. Make an oil infusion with its flowers and grape-seed oil or sunflower oil for a muscle rub.

She pointed out sorrel leaves, a seasonal delicacy, and lambs quarter, which tastes similar to spinach.

Along the trail, the group tasted the intense lemon-flavored tendrils of a wild grape vine. They sniffed aromatic spice bush leaves and found a patch of mayapple. Godfrey described the mayapple fruit as fragrant with a tropical flavor. The green fruit "has a bit of toxicity," but can be picked when it ripens to a pale yellow.

Morris-Stilwell hopes the group will offer more programs in Livonia. She routinely drives to Chelsea, Ann Arbor and Fenton to attend Will Forage for Food events.

"This," she said, "is wonderful."

Check out the "Woodland Grocery Specials" on willforageforfood.com for ideas on using wild edible plants. The site also lists upcoming classes and events.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Find the appealing 2015 Rogue at Nissan of Canton

The 2015 Nissan Rogue is an appealing compact SUV with a robust exterior and a high-quality look. Its sporty appearance is complemented with updated interior features. You can check out the available models at Nissan of Canton located at 42175 Michigan Ave., just west of I-275.

Styling

Nissan has definitely succeeded in crafting a compact SUV that many find appealing. The Nissan-family look is in full force, with more than a passing resemblance to the bigger Pathfinder. The look is more aggressive than its competitors, with bulging wheel arches and a bigger nose than the Honda CR-V or Toyota RAV4. Seventeen-inch steel wheels are standard on the base S trim, with 17-inch alloy wheels standard on the midlevel SV trim and 18-inch alloy wheels standard on the topline SL trim. New LED running lights up front and angular taillights make the Rogue distinctive even in the dark.

How it drives

The Rogue's powertrain is a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine making 170 horsepower and mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission. Front-wheel drive is standard and all-wheel drive an option.

Handling is sharp. The thick steering wheel delivers excellent feedback to the driver. Brakes are very strong and firm, with excellent pedal feel and no noticeable fade.

The standard front-wheel-drive Rogue gets an EPA-rated 26/33/28 mpg city/highway/combined.

Interior

Nissan paid a lot of attention to the interior,



The 2015 Nissan Rogue's bold, sharp bodylines offer a sporty and confident appearance, balancing its sleek style with an aggressive stance provided by large wheelwells and available 18-inch wheels and tires.



Nissan paid a lot of attention to the interior, creating a cabin that is inviting, attractive and comfortable for a variety of body types.

creating a cabin that is inviting, attractive and comfortable for a variety of body types. Slide into the driver's seat and the combination of command seating and low dashboard creates excellent visibility to the front and sides.

Seating is flexible, spacious and comfortable.

The second row of seats is also quite spacious at 37.9 inches, with much more legroom than

expected for a compact SUV, stadium-style layout and long, tall windows for rear seat passengers.

Ergonomics and electronics

Gauges are easily visible through the steering wheel and include a 5-inch color LCD, the largest in any Nissan product, to display a variety of customizable vehicle information. A full complement of

information and entertainment electronics are available, including navigation, satellite radio and Bluetooth streaming audio and phone connectivity. The Rogue features not only a backup camera but Nissan's Around View Monitor, which uses cameras to display a 360-degree live feed of the Rogue's environment on the touchscreen.

Cargo and storage

Pop the rear hatch (a power liftgate is optional) to reveal a spacious cargo area with low bumper liftover. The second-row seats fold flat in a 40/20/40 split, and the levers are accessible with a stretch from the cargo area to unlatch the seatbacks. Fold the front passenger seat flat as well to get a cargo area able to accommodate an 8-foot ladder. For models without the third-row seat, under-floor storage is presented with two reconfigurable dividers that can also act as package shelves.

The Rogue cargo volume area is 39.3 cubic feet of space available behind the second row of seats.

Some notable features of the 2015 Rogue include the following:

Exterior highlights

- » 17-inch steel wheels; 17- and 18-inch alloy wheels available
- » Halogen headlights
- » LED daytime running lights
- » Rear spoiler
- » Available power moonroof
- » Available fog lights
- » Available power liftgate
- » Available heated outside mirrors

Interior highlights

- » Available front seat warmers
- » Six-way adjustable driver's seat
- » Six front storage areas
- » Available Nissan-Connect™ with navigation
- » Available Nissan Voice Recognition
- » Available Travel

Link

Under the Hood

- » 170-horsepower, 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine
- » Continuously Variable Transmission
- » Front- or all-wheel drive
- » Active Trace Control, Active Engine Braking and Active Ride Control

Safety features

- » Required in every new car: front airbags, anti-lock brakes and an electronic stability system
- » Blind spot warning
- » Lane departure warning
- » Forward collision warning
- » Rollover sensor
- » Child safety rear door locks
- » Traction control
- » Hill start assist
- » Available Moving Object Detection
- » Available Around View Monitor

Cars.com contributed.

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Play ball! Buddy-baseball time at Miracle League

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Adriana Dillon, 10, of Wayne was with "buddy" Kris Janevski, a Michigan State University senior who grew up in Plymouth, enjoying baseball fun last weekend at the Miracle League of Plymouth.

"Since day one," mom Candice Dillon said of Adriana playing at the field on the edge of downtown Plymouth, with its soft surface designed for special-needs players. "She's been one of the original players," including spring and fall seasons.

"To be able to watch her, she's so much happier," Candice Dillon said. "It brings her alive. She's a big grand slam home run hitter. It's something her brother can watch her do," Dillon added of Gavin, 7.

Of the ballpark, which took much blood, sweat and tears from volunteers along with business support, Dillon said, "It



Adriana Dillon, 10, of Wayne is about to take to the Miracle League of Plymouth ballfield with Buddy Kris Janevski, a Michigan State University senior. Volunteer Buddies help on the field, with new volunteers always welcome.

brings awareness to so many people. To see the abilities of these kids.

They can prove they have all kinds of abilities."

Deb Madonna, Miracle League of Plymouth president/commissioner,

said the spring season started May 7 with about 106 players age 5 through adult. "It's going good," said Madonna, a Plymouth Township resident. "Everybody seems happy to be here. As you can see, we've got a lot of buddies. Everybody's happy to be outside."

The volunteer buddies work individually with players, coaching them along through plays and games. The field opened Aug. 20, 2011, and has many volunteers.

"Sometimes we'll double-buddy. It's nice if someone's new," both for the buddy and player, Madonna noted.

"And the kids enjoy when the buddies come out," she added.

Buddy Kris Janevski was volunteering his first time May 21 for the Miracle League. "I decided to volunteer because I was previously employed as a respite care provider in Lansing. I worked at a group home that housed individuals with varying

degrees of autism. The people in the home were wonderful and I miss the relationships that I was able to build," Janevski wrote.

"I learned how varied life can be and enjoyed the challenge of understanding others. I'm in a fortunate position where I am able to give my time to the community and thought it would be fun to play baseball!" added Janevski, who went to school in Plymouth. He's a chemistry major at MSU and plans on applying to medical school this spring.

Additional information on the Miracle League of Plymouth is online at www.miracleleagueplymouth.org.

Parents watched from the bleachers, cheering one and all on the sunny spring day. The announcer gave the lineup, followed by the national anthem. "Play ball!" then rang out to cheers.

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Twitter: @248Julie

Summer reading fun is for the whole family at Plymouth library

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Carol Champagne likes young readers to have fun when they visit the Plymouth District Library, especially in the summer.

"It's their chance to read for fun," said Champagne, department head for youth services. "It's so important for them to have that opportunity."

Some parents encourage heavier reading in summer; Champagne and her librarian colleagues know reading should also be fun.

"Repeating books has been shown to be really helpful to kids. We really want to engender that love of reading," Cham-



The Plymouth District Library Summer Reading Program drew some 1,300 kids up through age 12 last summer. Sign-up this year starts June 1.

pagne said. Librarians can find a good book to suit each child, even if it takes some time and questioning on interests. Sign-up starts June 1

for the Summer Reading Program, with a family kickoff program 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 18, at the library, 223 S. Main. "We'll have all

kinds of fun things for them," Champagne said of the drop-in program, which will include a scavenger hunt and other activities.

You don't need to register for the June 18 event, but do need to sign up for Summer Reading in person or online at www.plymouthlibrary.org.

Up through age 12, some 1,300 children were signed up last year, down a bit due to library construction. Champagne noted participants don't have to live in Plymouth or Plymouth Township.

The PDL has reading programs in summer for preschool, as well as earlier elementary grades. The Edge pro-

gram is for "tweens" who've finished grades 3, 4 or 5. Champagne noted the grand prize for the Edge is four passes to Cedar Point amusement park.

"That really does light their faces up, especially the boys," she said. There will also be weekly activities, starting the first week Plymouth-Canton Community Schools are out.

This summer's theme is based on the Olympics and for children is "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" There are also teen and adult summer reading programs, with sponsorship by the Friends of the Library.

It's a fun time for the librarians. "Oh, we love

it," Champagne said. "This is our chance to really interact with the kids." The librarians even have their own small summer reading competition.

Champagne finds kids in summer like books such as the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series. The PDL has suggestions for reading.

"Especially for boys, if they're reading, it's all good," she said. She really likes to see a child with a stack of books.

"And then you'll hear them giggle. It makes my day. There's nothing that beats that gratification," she said.

The Plymouth library can be reached at 734-453-0750.

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Memorial Day: Remember its true meaning

I love pancakes, especially at the International House of Pancakes. However, when I sat down recently at my friendly neighborhood IHOP, I was barraged at the table with the message that I should "celebrate Memorial Day" by buying red, white and blue pancakes. My stomach ached instead of hungered. We should honor Memorial Day, not cheapen it with pretty pancakes.

Of course, IHOP is hardly an outlier. Look around, the crass commercialism of Memorial Day is overwhelming. Overstock.com asserts that "it wouldn't be Memorial Day without a sale on your favorite home goods and summertime apparel."

Bonkers. On May 5, 1868, Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, promulgated General Order No. 11, which was the first official promulgation of Memorial Day. General Order No. 11 provided that flowers be placed on



Michael Warren
GUEST COLUMNIST

the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers on May 30, 1868. Logan's order declared: "Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic." Indeed.

In a Memorial Day speech in 1884, Oliver Wendell Holmes answered "the indifferent inquirer who asks why Memorial Day is still kept up" by explaining that "it celebrates and solemnly reaffirms from year to year a national act of enthusiasm and faith. It embodies in the most impressive form our belief that to act with enthusiasm and faith is the condition of acting greatly. ... We can hardly share the emotions that make this day to us the most sacred day of the

year, and embody them in ceremonial pomp, without in some degree imparting them to those who come after us."

President Ronald Reagan remarked one Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery that the holiday "is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others." Reflecting on the soldiers of the Vietnam War who had given their last full measure of devotion, he said: "They chose to be faithful. They chose to reject the fashionable skepticism of their time. They chose to believe and answer the call of duty. ... They seized certainty from the heart of an ambivalent age; they stood for something." He also remarked that "we owe them something, those boys ... a promise to look at the world with a steady gaze

Patriot Week celebrates the first principles, Founding Fathers and other patriots ... that make America the greatest nation in world history.

and, perhaps, a resigned toughness, know that we have adversaries in the world and challenges and the only way to meet them and maintain the peace is by staying strong."

In his order, Logan reflected he hoped the Memorial Day would become an annual tradition, and it has. With World War I, that tradition expanded to include all war dead; eventually it became a recognized holiday, celebrated each May 30.

Unfortunately, the "ravages of time" have yielded not only neglect, but forgetfulness. In

1971, the fatal error occurred – the Uniform Monday Holiday Act fixed the celebration of Memorial Day to the last Monday of May. Congress, botching up its own creation, corrupted it with a three-day weekend. The "most sacred day of the year" was perverted into an empty excuse for barbecues, sales and mini-vacations.

To hope that Memorial Day will ever entirely recover its original meaning for most is a hopeless cause – the commercialization and habits of generations have undermined it too much. That is why my daughter Leah and I created Patriot Week – with the hope of establishing a new civic calendar to renew the spirit of America.

Patriot Week celebrates the first principles, Founding Fathers and other patriots, vital documents and speeches and flags that make America the greatest nation in world history. It is a grassroots effort that has taken off in Michigan

and elsewhere. Like Memorial Day, most of our current civic holidays have become overly commercialized and lost their deeper meaning. We need to invigorate our appreciation and understanding of America's spirit. Anchored by the key dates of Sept. 11 (the anniversary of the terrorists attacks) and Sept. 17 (Constitution Day, the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution), Patriot Week does just that. Patriot Week is a grassroots effort that has taken off in Michigan and elsewhere.

Without such a civic renewal, we are doomed to forget what makes America unique and lose ourselves in the process – a fate too terrible to contemplate. America needs your help. To learn more, go to www.PatriotWeek.org.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Michael Warren is a former member of the state Board of Education, author of "America's Survival Guide" and co-creator of Patriot Week.

Get ready: Annual Spree returning in just a few weeks with favorites

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The warm weather and looming high school graduations mean one thing: the Livonia Spree is coming.

This year's event, Spree 66, is scheduled to take place June 21-26 at Livonia's Ford Field, near Farmington and Lyndon. The annual celebration of the city's incorporation will be bringing back many of the favorites, such as pig races, rides, tasty concessions and, of course, the fireworks.

Spree chairman Rich Skaggs said there's not a lot new this year, though he's been informed by

Wade Shows a new, taller roller-coaster is expected to dot the Spree grounds this year.

"He said it's twice as big as any carnival (roller-coaster)," Skaggs said.

The main show coming this year will be Rare Earth, the Motown band originally scheduled to play last year before getting rained out. Karen Kapchonick, who oversees the music groups playing the Spree, said they are expected to come back to perform this time around, weather permitting. They'll play at 9 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

Other groups performing include Steve King

and the Dittilies, Big Ray and the Motor City Kings, the Killer Flamingos and Parallel Fifth, among others.

All the traditional food vendors are returning as well, Skaggs said, bringing with them the tasty treats Spree attendees always enjoy. The Observer & Eccentric pie-eating contest will also continue this year, taking place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 22.

The grand finale fireworks will take place at dusk June 26, closing down Farmington from Schoolcraft to Five Mile and bringing thousands of people to the area.

Unlike the I-96 con-

struction two years ago, the I-275 construction isn't expected to make a big impact on getting to the Spree this year, Skaggs said. The best bet for those looking to park to attend the Spree is going to Livonia City Hall at Five Mile and Farmington and taking a shuttle to Ford Field.

"The best deal you can do is park at city hall and take the bus over," Skaggs said.

More information on this year's Spree can be found at livonia.spree.com.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
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The Spree returns to Livonia next month.

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Albion College

Christian Osorio graduated cum laude with a degree in kinesiology exercise science. Cum laude signifies that Osorio graduated with a cumulative grade-point average above 3.5. Osorio is the son of Mark and Karen Osorio of Plymouth.

Nicholas Troher graduated with a degree in kinesiology exercise science. Troher is the son of Athena Troher of Plymouth and a graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School.

Eric Guindi graduated magna cum laude with a degree in finance and a minor in business and organizations. Magna cum laude signifies that Guindi graduated with a cumulative grade-point average above 3.75. Guindi is the son of Robert Guindi of Northville and Sandra Wilkinson of Plymouth and a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

Wayne State University

Alex Kemp of Canton graduated May 16 from Wayne State University Law School. Kemp served as commissioner on the Executive Board



Emily Meier (from left), Vernon Crump, Canton High School athletic director, Hal Heard, principal of Canton High School, and student Samantha McGrath.

of the Wayne State University Law School Mock Trial Program, while earning his juris doctor degree. He is employed by Michigan Auto Law in Farmington Hills.

Letters

Canton resident Alysa Lilly was one of more than 300 student-athletes to letter in their sport at Central Methodist University during the 2015-16 year. Lettering reflects the athlete's dedication and amazing contributions to the team throughout the season.

Lilly earned her letter in softball. Lilly is a ju-

nior philosophy major.

Elected

Meredith Salois of Canton has been elected to the 2016-17 Graceland University House Council as senator for Amici House.

Graceland offers a unique system that merges student government and the housing system. Each floor of the residence halls is designated as a "House" with its own name, symbol and colors. The integration of student government and the houses allows student leaders to impact the entire campus community and to plan and run programs for the house. This is accomplished by house council leaders becoming the members and decision makers in the student government organizations.

Meredith and other students participating in

leadership and service programs at Graceland University engage in a journey toward personal growth, social responsibility and building community by recognizing leadership potential and clarifying personal, academic and professional goals.

eBook contribution

Kody Hutchison of Canton was among the students who contributed to "Tales from Mythology Spring 2016," an eBook published by the ENG 233 Mythology class at Trine University.

The book is a collection of student-created myths from the class. Students were assigned the project of creating their own myth, with encouragement to explain something about Trine's campus in the process. The result is pieces about gargoyles on Taylor Hall, origins of

fraternity houses and more.

Once finished, Dr. Cassandra Bausman, who teaches the class, compiled their work into a printed document for them.

"It felt wrong to have my students write myths as an assignment that would only live in a drop box," she said.

Basuman said a focus of class was of the power of mythology to change its form.

"We spent a lot of time in class talking about the life, the liveliness, of mythology," she said, "understanding it as a living, oral form, thinking through its continued relevance and prevalence, and recognizing it as an important cultural inheritance that continues to thrive because of how it is continuously transmitted and transmuted by an endless procession of tales and tellers. We simply had to share them and get in on the game we'd observed all semester!"

The end result is a collection of 22 myths by students ranging in majors from electrical engineering to professional writing and English studies. The eBook is now available through Apple's iBooks or Amazon's Kindle platforms. While the iBooks version is free, the Kindle version costs 99 cents due to restrictions by Amazon.

Bausman cites the importance of modern myth in our culture with creators such as Tolkien, Chris Cater, J.K. Row-

ling, George Lucas and others.

"Mythology matters because it's always been a way of understanding the world," she said. "It's a powerful way of making meaning, asking questions and seeking answers to universal human concerns. This is especially true as popular works of science fiction, fantasy, romance, horror and pop cultural forms, from film and video games to advertisements, continue to incorporate and interpret the images and ideals of myth."

Dean's list

Canton resident Jamie Dottavio, a junior mathematics and secondary education certification major at Grove City College, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2016 semester. Dottavio is a 2013 graduate of Plymouth High School and is the daughter of Debra and James Dottavio.

Amanda Hunt of Canton earned another 4.0 for her second semester at Grand Valley. She is in the top 1 percent of her freshman class.

Athletic awards

Canton High school student Samantha McGrath was awarded an Academic Honor Key and the Female Scholar Athlete of the Year. Classmate Emily Meier also received an Academic Honor Key and the Female Athlete of the Year award.



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One dead, one wounded in Westland shooting

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Warrant requests have been submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office seeking charges in a shooting at a Westland home that left one man dead and another man wounded.

It's possible that the men could be arraigned over the weekend on any charges that are issued.

The dead man is identified as a Westland resident, 24, whose name Westland police haven't released. The wounded



Westland police officers outside a home in the 34000 block of Glenwood after a fatal shooting Thursday morning.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

man is identified as a Westland man, 23. Police reported being dispatched to the home in

the 34000 block of Glenwood, near Second, on home invasion call at about 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

The homeowner, the man shot in the leg, told police that he had shot someone who had forced his way into the home. The suspects were no longer in the area when officers arrived, Westland Police Sgt. Robert Wilke said.

The homeowner suffered a gunshot wound to the leg and was transported to Dearborn Beaumont Hospital for

treatment. After receiving treatment and being released from the hospital, the homeowner was taken into custody as part of the ongoing investigation. The issue with the homeowner is reportedly related to the gun used to shoot the intruder.

Officers later discovered that one of the suspects involved in the incident, a Westland man, was at Beaumont Wayne Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Two additional suspects, a 24-year-old Belleville

man and an Inkster resident, 22, were arrested for home invasion at the hospital in Wayne.

"All these people appear to have an pre-existing relationship," Wilke said. "This was not a random incident. There is nothing people need to worry about."

The incident was reportedly related to the homeowner having evicted a girlfriend and her child from his home.

irogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
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A 'crunchy' legacy: Author talks history of Better Made potato chips

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Pitching the idea of writing about Detroit's most well-known potato chip company perplexed Karen Dybis' publishers in South Carolina.

"They just don't have a Better Made down there, to understand the obsession we have with this one chip and this one brand," she said. "There was 20-plus potato chip companies in Detroit at one time, over the decades. The biggest is Better Made."

Dybis, a metro Detroit journalist and author, gave a presentation Tuesday night at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library on the local potato chip company, which has existed for 85 years in Detroit. She's the author of "Better Made in Michigan," which looks at the history of the company and how it came to be.

The company was launched by Cross Mocerri and Pete Cipriano in 1930. The idea came as Mocerri worked for Ernest Nicolay and Russell Dancy, who owned Best Maid Potato Chips.

"That's where Cross worked before he started



Karen Dybis is the keeper of the history of Detroit-area potato chips, especially Better Made.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the company," Dybis said. "Cross was working for Nicolay and Dancy when he gets the idea, 'I can do this and I can do it better.' Hence the name, 'Better Made.' It just irked Nicolay and Dancy to no end."

That resulted in Best Maid becoming New Era Potato Chips, which continued for many years before closing.

Today, the chip company makes a variety of products, such as pop-

corn, pretzels and potato sticks, at its Detroit factory. The company has moved to a completely automated system from its old ways of handling potatoes, Dybis said, a process that really only takes minutes once it begins.

"No human hands touch that potato from the minute it comes to the factory to the minute it's bagged," she said. "It's completely untouched in any way,



Detroit used to have several makers of potato chips.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

shape or form."

One of the approximately 75 people who listened to the presentation was Livonia resident Judi Fanco, who planned on having a blind taste-test of chips at a picnic this Memorial Day weekend with her family.

While Fanco is a Better Made loyalist, her sister tends to like Lays. She hopes the test will sway her over to becoming a Better Made fan this weekend.

"So I've got to bring a blindfold and we're going to be in Dearborn," she said. "I'm going to have to put them in two containers so they won't be able to know which is which."

Better Made fits into the narrative of the great foods of Detroit, which includes such local staples such as Sanders, Vernor's, Buddy's Pizza and Faygo, Dybis said, and continues to this day. "We're such a foodie

town. And it's really evidenced by how many new restaurants that are coming into the market now," she said. "If you look back, we have a magnificent food history."

Dybis' book can be found through Amazon, Arcadia Publishing and is available to check out at several area libraries.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. Monday, May 30
Location: Plymouth, Main Street
Details: The Plymouth Lions Club, American Legion Post No. 391, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 528 are planning the 2016 Plymouth Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

Contact: If your organization is interested in marching in the parade, contact Lee Ekholm at 734-812-8724.

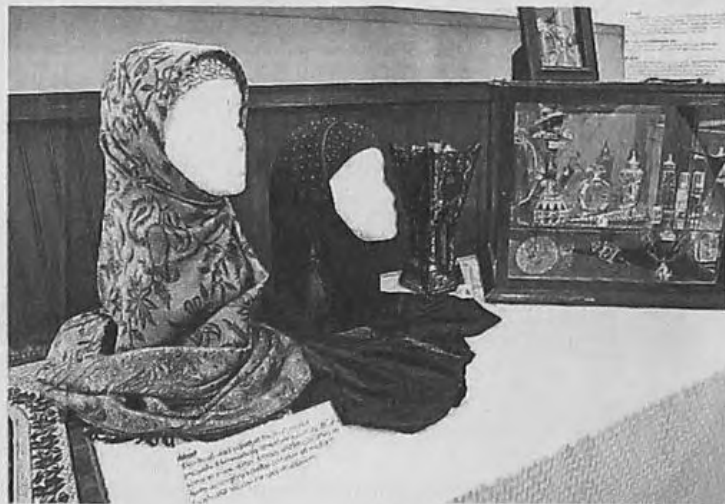
HONOR GUARD MEMORIAL DAY

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Monday, May 30
Location: Canton Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park, 1150 Canton Center Road
Details: Canton Fire Department's new honor guard will host its first Memorial Day service. The honor guard will be



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Luzvilla Dresbach shows the embroidery details on a Barong Tagalog, worn by Filipino men on festive occasions. The exhibit is at the Canton Historical Museum.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Examples of Islamic culture include hihab, headscarves worn by some women, jewelry and art at the diversity exhibit at the Canton Historical Museum.

available at <http://connectingwithgod.org/resources/deeperwalk>.

DIVERSITY EXHIBIT

Time/Date: Exhibit runs through July 30. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Location: Canton Historical Museum, on Canton Center, south of Cherry Hill

Details: Wood carvings of Filipino dancers, Muslim prayer beads known as tasbeeh, a Buddhist monk's brass bowl and a Brazilian special-occasion dress are on display as a Canton Historical Museum exhibit pays tribute to this community's cultural diversity. Muslims, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, Brazilians and the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, are represented in the exhibit — "A Diverse Township: Looking at Canton's Cultural Community."

COST: Free

CANCER SUPPORT

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. third Monday of each month
Details: Connecting with others who know what it is to have lung cancer can help during this difficult time. To start, join the Lung Cancer Support Group at the Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon Dr. David Sternberg leads the group. The group is open to anyone living with lung cancer and their loved ones. Meetings are free the third Monday each month. For more information, call 248-473-4828

Widowed Friends

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.
Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Men's Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.
Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month.
Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Ladies Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Connor's Restaurant on Haggerty/Five Mile Road, Northville. To save a seat, contact Carol at 313-562-3080.
Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first Thursday of each month.
Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting Co-Ed Breakfast at Richard's Restaurant on Plymouth Road at Eckles Road. Contact Jerry at 734-455-2651.

VETERANS CEREMONY

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Monday, May 30
Location: Canton Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park, 1150 Canton Center Road

Details: The Canton Veterans Memorial Association will have a brief ceremony, including the Pledge of Allegiance, an opening prayer, ceremonial remarks and a reading of war poem "In Flanders Fields," followed by a closing prayer, an honor volley and the playing of "Taps."

'BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE'
Time/Date: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Monday, May 30
Location: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads, Canton
Details: BeckRidge Productions will present the eighth annual "Because of the Brave" performances, featuring the BeckRidge Chorale and Cherry Hill Singers.

Cost: To reserve tickets, go to www.beckridge.org or call 734-667-3127. Any remaining tickets will be available at the door.
VETERANS DEDICATION
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. June 4
Location: Independence Village, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth
Details: Dedication for the Veterans Tribute Room that will honor generations of military personnel. A showcase of hand painted models, memorabilia and biographies will be displayed, along with guest speakers and even a capital flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol building. Snacks will be provided by the Independence Village of Plymouth culinary staff.

MILLER WOODS SPRING CLEANUP
Time/Date: 9 a.m. Saturday, June 4
Location: Miller Woods, at entrance on Powell, between Beck and Ridge roads
Details: Help the Friends of Miller Woods with their spring cleanup. All ages welcome to help remove garlic mustard and other invasives, picking up trash from the surrounding meadow and other general maintenance. Bring work gloves, boots and mosquito repellent. No dogs.
Contact: Cheryl Bord at 734 459 7666

EEF GOLF
Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 20
Location: Fox Hills Golden Fox, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township
Details: The Plymouth-Canton Educational Excellence Foundation will host its 25th annual Educational golf outing. Proceeds are used to provide grants to teachers to enhance classroom learning.

WOUNDED HEART CONFERENCE
Time/Date: June 17-18
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton
Details: Understanding the Wounded Heart Conference will feature Dr. Marcus Warner of Deeper Walk International and Tessie Wilson of Freedom in Christ Ministries
Contact: For registration information, contact Brenda Stillel at 734-255-3131 or brendastillel@connectingwithgod.org. Online registration

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Public Budget Hearing will be held for the following Public School Academy:

South Pointe Scholars-10550 Geddes Rd., Ypsilanti-734-484-0118-June 9, 5pm

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Published: May 29, 2016

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Sweets, booze get mixed at state's first dessert bar

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

You can have your cake and ice cream — and drink it, too — at the new Browndog Dessert Bar opening next month in downtown Farmington.

Brian Scherle and Paul Gabriel, owners of Browndog Creamery & Dessert Bar in Northville, will merge two concepts, craft cocktails and small-batch ice cream, at their new second location, 33314 Grand River Ave.

Alcohol-infused cakes and ice creams are nothing new at Browndog. The creamery, which opened in February 2015, has created such flavors as Irish Girl Scout, using creme de menthe and Bailey's ice cream, and Soco Toco, a Southern Comfort-infused ice cream with toasted coconut. But Scherle and Gabriel will take the concept a step further in Farmington by mixing unique cocktails made with their desserts and ice creams.

"We may put blood orange coconut sorbet into a martini," said Scherle, whose current favorite cocktail includes gin with muddled strawberry, falernum and



Browndog Creamery & Dessert Bar's Southern Comfort-infused ice cream with coconut.

Strega liqueur. "Bourbon shakes, stout floats ... we're taking desserts and parlaying them into cocktails."

Beer, ice cream

The new location also gives Scherle and Gabriel a chance to pair plated

desserts, such as their signature lava cake or Fruity Pebbles cannoli, with beer, wine, champagne and other beverages.

"Last month, Cowley's (Irish Pub in Farmington) asked us to come down and do a beer, ice

cream pairing. Instead of beer being in the ice cream, it was truly a pairing," Scherle said. A representative from the Michigan Brewers Guild talked about beer and Browndog weighed in on the ice cream. "It was fun and magical."



Paul Gabriel and Brian Scherle of Browndog Creamery & Dessert Bar, Northville, are opening a second location in Farmington.

Browndog also has participated in a scotch and ice cream pairing at a restaurant in Brighton and recently teamed with Detroit City Distillery for ice cream sampling and cocktails. Beverages included a float made from root beer, bourbon and ice cream; a cooler with ginger beer, vodka, lime and ice cream; and coffee infused with sweet vermouth, bourbon, bitters and ice cream.

The dessert bar will offer a limited menu of appetizers, "in case you want a savory before dessert," several plated desserts, ice cream and a walk-up area for customers who want to take

their ice cream cone to go.

Scherle said the Farmington store will be the first dessert bar in Michigan.

"There's one in Washington state and San Francisco," he said. "There are other places. A lot of them are built on the soda fountain concept."

Scherle said opening day likely will be "around June 10." Health department and city inspections are set for next week. Browndog Dessert Bar also is in need of a pastry chef and mixologist. For more information, go to browndogcreamery.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Ovarian cancer survivors connect at meet-and-greet event in Northville

Sixty ovarian cancer survivors gathered May 22 at George's Senate & Coney Island Restaurant in Northville for a survivor meet-and-greet hosted by the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance. The group of survivors shared 388 years of survival.

As part of its mission, MIOCA provides resources and support to ovarian cancer survivors.

"An ovarian cancer diagnosis can be very isolating," said Terrie

Karebian, a Northville resident who is a survivor and who co-organized the event. "The meet-and-greet allowed survivors from many parts of the state to come together to connect with others who have traveled a similar journey."

Guest speaker Sandy Frankenstein was diagnosed in 1973, before chemotherapy was an option for treatment. She likened fighting a cancer diagnosis to "running in a race."

"You need to stay in

your lane and focus on your goal," Frankenstein told the group. "Don't let what is happening in the other lanes bring you down. When tragedy happens, it can destroy us, define us, or strengthen us. I chose door No. 3."

MIOCA plans to continue hosting similar events, with one planned in Grand Rapids this fall. More information about MIOCA and ovarian cancer can be found online at <http://mioca.org>.



Some 60 survivors of ovarian cancer shared stories in a meet-and-greet at George's Senate Coney Island in Northville.

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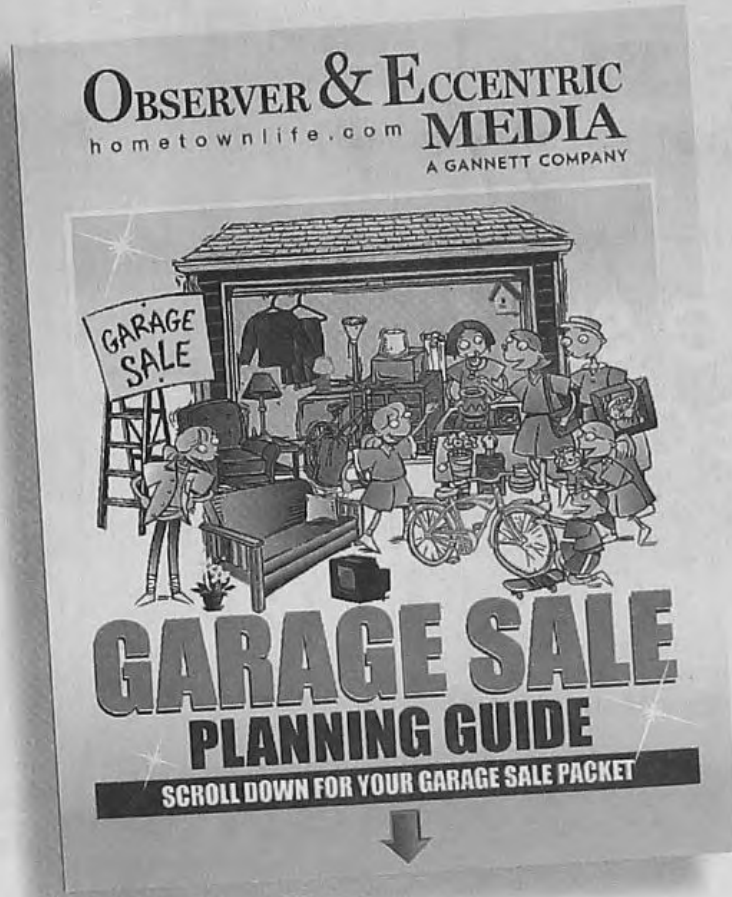
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PREP SPOTLIGHT

QUIET FORCE

Salem track, cross country star Jeffress leaves lasting legacy

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Chaz Jeffress relishes the open path, getting from Point A to Point B with speed, determination and hard work.

And so it figures that Jeffress might be the best male runner ever at Salem High School — last week he qualified for the Division 1 state track and field finals for his fourth consecutive season (in the 800 and 1,600 runs this time); he also is a perennial all-stater in cross country.

Just don't go trying to tell the 18-year-old senior and Canton resident how talented he is.

Chances are the humble, soft-spoken son of Tara and former Novi High School and Eastern Michigan University track standout Conway Jeffress will shrug off the compliment.

"I don't know, I've always had high-level competition around me, guys that are pushing me or I'm pulling them, whatever it is," Chaz Jeffress said during a recent interview. "And all the encouragement that I've always gotten, everybody believing in me and pushing me to do my best, that's kind of where the majority of that success comes from."

"Especially on the track. It's not something you can do yourself, especially because it's so mentally grueling. It's the people around you that are encouraging you and keeping you in it."

Giving props

There is one non-family person he points to for his outstanding legacy in two sports.

That would be Salem coach Steve Aspinall, who guided Jeffress all four years of his boys cross country career and the first three years in boys track and field. Dale Maskill coached the Rocks this spring.

"Mental toughness is part of it, but it's also the people around you," Jeffress said about any special blueprint for his success. "My coaches and my teammates and everything like that, like my coach Aspinall, he's like a second dad to me."

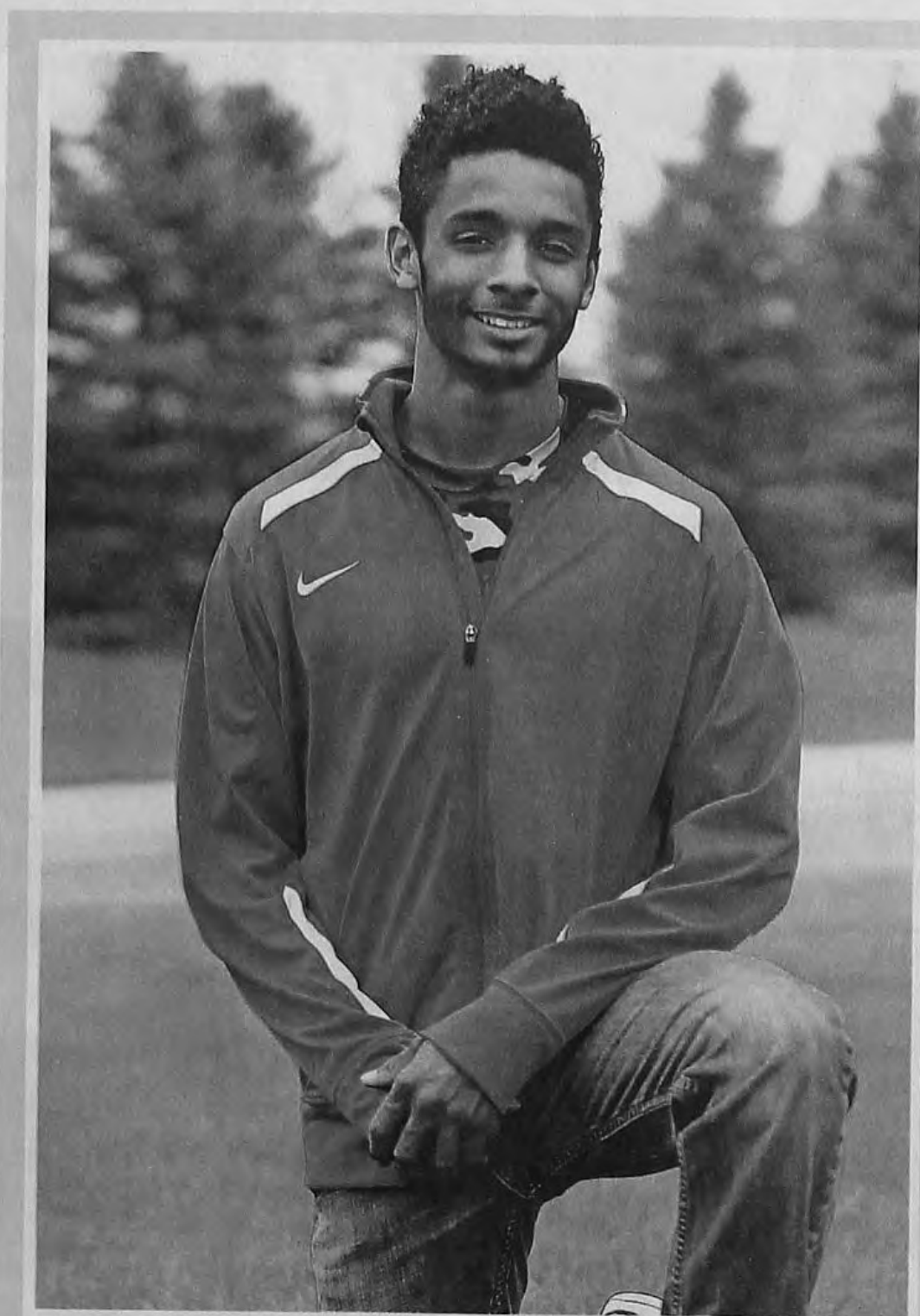
"I've never seen anybody seem to enjoy their job so much as much as he does. He puts his life into it."

There is a mutual admiration thing going on between Jeffress and Aspinall and that's perfectly fine.

Aspinall rightfully gushes over the career Jeffress carved out, both in cross country and track.

"It has been a joy coaching Chaz over the past four years," Aspinall said. "He has grown as both a person and an athlete and he has the potential to be an

See JEFFRESS, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

For Salem senior Chaz Jeffress, taking a moment to reflect on his Rocks legacy is worth smiling about.

ALL ABOUT CHAZ

Who: Chaz Jeffress, 18, senior distance runner in cross country and track at Salem.

What: Jeffress added to his impressive legacy when he recently qualified for the Division 1 state track meet in the 1,600 and 800 runs. The state meet is June 4 in Hudsonville.

Family: His parents are Conway and Tara Jeffress of Canton. His dad set records at Novi High School in sprint events and went on to run at Eastern Michigan University. Chaz's sister Hannah is a sophomore at Salem and also runs cross country and track. Younger brother Curtis attends Pioneer Middle School, where he is on the track team. His grandfather is Dr. Conway Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College.

Track: Jeffress is one of a select few to qualify for the state meet in track all four years. He is No. 1 in school history in the 3,200 run with a time of 9:08.54, which also is a Plymouth-Canton Educational Park record. Other top Salem marks include sixth in the 1,600 run (4:24.91) and eighth in the 800 run (1:58.11). He also is a key member of the 1,600 relay.

Cross country: He has broken 20 class or course records and is the school record holder in the 5K. In 2015, he won the Wayne County, KLAA and regional championships before earning all-state honors by finishing ninth with a new Salem record time of 15:30. His senior year also was outstanding, as he earned all-state honors and qualified to represent the state in the Mid-East Meet of Champions.

Misc: Jeffress holds a grade-point average just under 3.0 and intends to study for a degree in business, possibly at Eastern (which has interest in him for cross country and track). He also played varsity football for the Rocks his sophomore year, as a wide receiver and defensive back, while running cross country that same autumn.

DIVISION 1 BOYS GOLF



Boczar

'Cats roll through districts

Plymouth led by medalist Boczar; Canton also qualifies as team

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The hits keep on coming for Plymouth's varsity boys golf team.

Three days after the Wildcats topped the 24-team KLAA field to win the Association championship at Tanglewood Golf Course in South Lyon, the squad captured the Division 1 district at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center.

Plymouth shot 283, to headline the six teams moving on to the regional.

Sparking the Wildcats was overall medalist Jack Boczar, a junior who broke his own school record for 18 holes with a stellar 6-under 64 score at the Plymouth course.

"My guys played well today and Jack got on a roll again," Plymouth head coach Dan Young said. "Another school record. Very happy for him. He deserves it because he works."

Young also pointed to standout performances from the rest of his lineup. Senior Kyle Kozler had a great day with 71, followed by senior James Baldwin and junior Justin Kapke, both registering 74.

Rounding out the Wildcats' impressive scorecard was junior Matt Decker, with 82.

"Kyle Kozler also got it going today, which I feel will be very important to our team going forward," Young said. "He's a great ball striker and he can play with anybody in the state."

"Kapke and J.B. were again also very good. This is a great group. We have awesome chemistry and we can't wait for the next opportunity."

That next opportunity will be the regional Wednesday at Pine

See GOLF, Page B2

GIRLS LACROSSE

Gutsy effort by 'Cats falls short

Despite three goals by Nowicki, Plymouth falls 10-9 in regional

Tom Morelli
Correspondent

As she gracefully lifted her stick to unwind a shot with 46 seconds left, little did Northville's Charlotte Beaudoin know that she was about to the score the game-winning goal.

Beaudoin has been a bit of a dream-weaver for this Mustangs team, having also come through in the clutch just nine days earlier in a 9-8 decision over Brighton to secure the KLAA Association girls lacrosse crown.

This time, the stakes were even higher as the sophomore did it again in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 1 regional as the host Mustangs

held off Plymouth, 10-9, at Tom Holzer Field.

While Beaudoin downplayed the importance of her play afterward, Northville coach Amanda Asher and teammate Sarah Chase couldn't help but gush about the web of excitement that this particular Charlotte had sewn.

"She's just been a clutch player for us," said Asher, whose team improved to 15-2 overall and is riding an 11-game winning streak.

"You can always rely on Charlotte," said Chase, who led Northville with three goals.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Vying for the ball Wednesday night are Northville's Sarah Chase (left) and Plymouth's Marissa Cirino.

See LACROSSE, Page B3

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OPENING NIGHT FOR CANTON CUP

It's a hot time at the Canton Cup

Fun, family atmosphere abounds as 34th annual soccer tourney kicks off

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Canton Cup got off to a rousing start Friday night at Independence Park, with soccer action quickly heating up to match the high-80s temperatures at Independence Park.

One of the 5 p.m. games featured two Canton Soccer Club teams, the Dragons and Panthers, in a Girls Under-10 Yellow Division match-up.

After falling behind 2-1, the Dragons roared back on three late goals — two by Amelia DiCicco and an insurance goal in the final minute by Carly Noe — to win 4-2.

"This is actually my first year playing the Canton Cup," said Amelia, 10, who buried a shot from in front of the Panthers' goal for the winner. "I wasn't with them before. But it's just really fun playing with this team and getting to play Canton Cup. It's just a great opportunity."

Amelia then downed a bottle of water, something her coach insisted they do with regularity over the course of the three-day tournament (which concludes Sunday night).

"We brought spray bottles, wash cloths to cool them down," Dragons coach Stephanie Pickerel said. "I told them all week they were supposed to be drinking gallons of water. ... They were ready."

The victory wasn't secure until the Carly Noe goal (her twin sister Caitlin assisted on Amelia's equalizer). But it took a great, diving stop by Dragons goalie Isabelle Ahme (against speedy forward Nora Schley) to keep Pickerel's team in the lead.

They love it

But Pickerel insisted that, although winning is a great feeling, the best feeling of all is just being part of such a festive celebration of club soccer and family that sweeps through Canton every Memorial Day weekend.

"This is this team's third year in the tournament," Pickerel said. "We love this tournament. To us, the spring season is Canton Cup season."

Pickerel's players are young veterans of the tourney, hosted by Canton Soccer Club in partnership with Canton Leisure Services. For others such as Mary Ronayne of the Plymouth Reign U13 White squad, this year marks her first such tourney experience.

"It's a new experience because I've never been," Mary said, adding that she was moving from her usual goalkeeper position to forward or center mid for the game. "And I'm playing up. It's my first year, so I'm pretty excited."

Her mom, Denise Ronayne of USA Hockey (formerly of the Plymouth Whalers), said they knew all about the Canton Cup in previous years — but finally decided to join the fun.

"We've always driven around it and known about it," Denise said. "But this is our first year to participate."

Mary just shook her head and laughed when asked what she thought



Good game by all. Members of the Livonia City Soccer Club and Garden City Soccer Club U10 girls teams congratulate each other after their Friday evening contest.



Tyler Noel (right) of the Canton Celtic Boys U13 team puts a leg into it against Kingdom.

of the atmosphere at Independence Park. "Crazy, it's crazy," she said.

Not too far away from the Ronaynes, Canton Soccer Club U10 Girls White players worked on passes and then received mandatory wristbands (signifying they are tournament players) from parent manager Chris Shaw in advance of their 7 p.m. game against the CYSC Strikers.

"The atmosphere is pretty awesome," Shaw said. "We like the tournament atmosphere here, the festival."

No sweat

Over at Field 11, referees Brian Downey and Jeff Vkratsis waited to

call a Premier 03 Black Division game between the Canton Celtic and (Kalamazoo) Kingdom. The game counted in the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program standings as well as in the tourney itself.

"It's good. You can see it's a big economy boost for Canton and this club," Downey said. "It's kind of crazy to see how this one keeps growing and growing, year after year."

Vkratsis said he was a U16 player at the very first Canton Cup, in 1982.

"We won it on a penalty shot, so I get sentimental about that," Vkratsis said. "I've got to say it (the original tourney) was very small, I would say maybe 150



Soccer referee Jeff Vkratsis played in the first Canton Cup tournament when he was 16 years old, back in 1982.



Amelia DiCicco of the Canton Soccer Club's U10 Dragons enjoys a victory drink.

teams back then. That was it."

Then he was a young player enjoying the surroundings and competition. Thirty-four years later, he still likes to be involved with the tournament — albeit from the officiating side of things.

"My daughter's played in this tournament before and I've reffed it a few times," Vkratsis said.

Like the players, he will need to stay as hydrated as possible to beat the heat, of course.

"It's supposed to be 87 tomorrow and 85 Sunday," he said. "I've got nine games Saturday and seven games Sunday."

For the soccer crowd, however, that'll be no sweat.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Schoolcraft ousted

Schoolcraft College's inaugural baseball season was a definite success, but the Ocelots did not get past their second tourney opponent.

Waubensee (Ill.) swept Schoolcraft 10-0 and 16-3 on May 21 in the NJCAA Division III districts, thus ending the year for the Ocelots.

Salem coaching vacancy

Salem High School is looking for a new varsity girls swimming coach, to succeed the retired Chuck Olson.

Interested applicants should email athletic director Brian Samulski at brian.samulski@pccsk12.com.

Minimum requirements for applicants include the following: high school graduate or equivalent; experience in high school level coaching or competing at the college/university level in swimming; have a time schedule compatible with that of high school; CPR and/or first-aid training preferred; demonstrated ability to work with parents and children.

Salem camp offerings

A series of summer camps is being offered at Salem High School. Contact athletic director Brian Samulski at brian.samulski@pccsk12.com or go to the Salem athletics website if interested. Following are the various offerings:

Sports Camp Grades 1-5: Fee is \$60 for residents, \$70 for non-residents; camp is 9 a.m. Monday through Thursday, July 11-14; for boys and girls of all ages in grades K-5.

Basketball Skills Camp (Boys - Grades 5-9): Fee is \$85 for residents, \$95 for non-residents; camp is 8 a.m. Monday through Friday, June 20-24.

Basketball Youth Camp (Girls - Grades 3-6): Fee is \$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents; camp is 10 a.m. Monday through Thursday, June 27-30. Boys also are welcome to sign up.

Basketball Youth Camp (Girls - Grades 7-12): Fee is \$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents; camp is 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, June 6-9. Boys also are welcome to sign up.

Volleyball Skills Camp (Girls - Grades 3-6): Fee is \$70 for residents; \$80 for non-residents; camp is 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, June 27-29.

Volleyball Skills Camp (Girls - Grades 7-12): Fee is \$85 for residents, \$95 for non-residents; camp is 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, June 27-29.

Hole-in-one club

» Doo Hwan Oh, of Sylvania, Ohio, registered a hole-in-one May 14 at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center. He aced the 170-yard No. 12 hole on the Golden Fox course.

GOLF

Continued from Page B1

View Golf Course in Stoney Creek.

In the mix

Also getting that chance will be the Canton Chiefs, who finished sixth in the team standings; the top six squads and top six additional individuals made the cut.

The Chiefs tallied 315, led by junior Suhas Potluri's outstanding 69 score.

"Suhas placed in the top five individuals out of 90 golfers and received a medal," Canton head coach Tom Alles said.

Other Canton finishers were as follows: junior Dominic Dimaya, 80; senior Brian Oldani, 82; senior Phillip Conrad, 84; and sophomore Patrick McDougall, 95.

Finishing between the two Park teams in the standings were Ann Arbor Skyline (292), Ann Arbor Huron (294), Saline (305) and Northville (310). Individual qualifiers were Lincoln's

Jeremy Gould (77), Ann Arbor Pioneer's Andrew Carey (80), Wayne Memorial's Andrew Aigeltinger (80), Belleville's Ryan York (80), Salem senior Hayden Winch (81) and Pioneer's Jack Margolis (82).

Winch nearly lifted the Rocks into the final team qualifying spot. Salem totaled a 338 score to finish seventh.

Other Salem finishers included senior Travis Stott (83), junior Shawn Weldon (84), senior Adam Marcero (90) and sophomore Bryce Henderson (91).

Also finishing for their respective KLAA teams were the following:

Northville (fifth, 310): Jimmy Dales, 72; Aaron Youmans, 74; Drew Kearis, 80; Max Antilla, 84; Abhinav Alluri, 89.

Westland John Glenn (11th, 415): Guespe Crachiolo, 90; Matt Wilkins, 97; Jason Buford, 108; Tyler Riblett, 120; Nick Butkevich, 149.

Wayne Memorial (12th, 448): Aigeltinger, 80; Joseph Quiton, 95; Tyler Albrecht, 132; Zachary Cuvelier, 141.

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Coach Dan Young (left) and the Plymouth Wildcats celebrate Thursday after winning the Division 1 boys golf district at Fox Hills.

PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS

PREP ATHLETICS

Drive to succeed indeed a family thing

Athletic-academic combination is important to all generations

Tin Smith
Staff Writer

The connection between athletics and academics is something Schoolcraft College President Dr. Conway Jeffress firmly believes.

"Absolutely, there is," Dr. Jeffress said during a recent family interview at Schoolcraft about Salem senior Chaz Jeffress. "Now, I can't prove that by me. I couldn't jump over that rock. But I did OK otherwise."

Dr. Jeffress also doesn't hesitate to give credit where it is due when it comes to his grandson, who is closing out a stellar prep career in cross country and track and field at Salem.

"I think the competition is good, the winning is certainly good," Dr. Jeffress said. "It gives purpose to what they do, above and beyond the classroom and other sorts of things. I think it's a good thing to do."

For the Jeffresses, competitive running is familiar territory that precedes Chaz by a couple of decades.

Chaz's dad, also named Conway Jeffress, was a sprinter at Novi High School and Eastern Michigan University.

Dr. Jeffress made sure to point out his other grandchildren also are pretty talented. There's Hannah, 15, a sophomore at Salem and 13-year-old Curtis, now at Pioneer Middle School. Both



Family ties is a key reason why Chaz Jeffress continues to excel as a student-athlete at Salem High School. From left are mom Tara Jeffress, brother Curtis Jeffress, Chaz Jeffress, grandfather Dr. Conway Jeffress, dad Conway Jeffress and sister Hannah Jeffress.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

also run track.

"There's me, mini-me, micro-me and nano-me," Dr. Jeffress said with a hearty laugh as he pointed toward his son and grandsons. "I'm a grandpa first and father and so this is all very nice for me. I love to see them run and to feel good about what they're doing, that's great."

Standing nearby with smiles on

their faces were the rest of Chaz's family, including his mom (Tara), dad and younger siblings.

"We're very excited for him (Chaz)," said Tara Jeffress, who, by the way, took up recreational running as an adult. "We knew from middle school on that he's a great runner and we're glad that he decided to drop the football career (after his sophomore year

at Salem) and move on to his running career.

"So we're very excited with what he's done this year and the Eastern (Michigan) thing."

Chaz Jeffress could get the chance to run cross country and track at EMU, where his father competed.

She added that the family has long made the importance of athletics an important topic in the Jeffress household.

"We've always pushed them all to do something, even if they're not necessarily great at it," Tara said. "I think doing something makes you better as a full-rounded person, because you just don't want to sit and play video games."

According to Hannah Jeffress, another Salem standout in cross country and track, "That's pretty much all we talk about is running."

Hannah and Curtis (who conceded he wants to play high school lacrosse when he gets to Salem) both gave kudos to their older brother for setting the competitive tone.

"He'll be out running and I'll be playing video games and I think, 'Hey, I should probably start exercising like him,'" Curtis said with a laugh.

That sounds like a winning plan. As proven by the Jeffresses, the family that runs together, has fun together.

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Throughout his Salem career, Chaz Jeffress and coach Steve Aspinall have enjoyed a special relationship.



Salem's Chaz Jeffress (left) nips Novi's Joost Plaetnick to win the 2015 Division 1 cross country regional.

MICHAEL VASILNEK



Salem senior Chaz Jeffress runs the 1,600 during the recent Division 1 track and field regional at P-CEP.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

JEFFRESS

Continued from Page B1

outstanding college runner."

Record-setter

Aspinall cited Jeffress, who broke more than 20 records in cross country, as the Salem record holder in the 5K.

"He is the only Salem runner to win multiple individual county championships and is only the fourth runner in school history to earn all-state honors more than once," Aspinall said. "Chaz will graduate this spring as the most successful cross country runner in school history."

And hopefully, if Conway Jeffress has anything to do with it, the senior's career will continue to grow and flourish at the collegiate level. Eastern Michigan is seriously interested in Chaz Jeffress, and vice versa.

"If (EMU) picks him and he picks that school, then that will be the second-generation Jeffress to run at that school and it would be special," said Conway Jeffress, who set records in sprint events during the 1990s at Novi and went on to have a standout career at Eastern. "But even if he broke his leg or his foot fell off, then we're proud of everything the kids do and what he's done so far."

The love of running is something that ultimately was passed down to him by his dad and is shared by siblings Hannah (a sophomore at Salem, who also runs cross country and track) and Curtis (who is running track at Pioneer Middle School).

"From however long we've been doing this, it's been a passion of mine," Conway Jeffress said. "I think I passed it on to the family quite well and it's very rewarding to see them succeed and want to do it."

Change of plans

Yet it took Chaz a while to move away from his initial goal of playing high school football before firmly planting his athletic ambitions onto the course or track.

"I played football (at Salem) my freshman and sophomore years. I was varsity my sophomore year toward the end," he said. "And the freshman team my freshman year. My freshman team ended up going 8-1. That made me excited to play football my sophomore year and thought I was going to continue."

"But it ended up not working out that way and that's when I went and fully committed to cross country and track."

Football might have been on his radar when the high school years rolled around, but family members definitely encouraged him about becoming a runner as early as grade school.

"I started running competitively

probably around third grade at that (USATF) Hershey's Track and Field thing we did," Jeffress said. "And I qualified for the state finals there and went to Holt, Michigan, and ran there for the state finals."

"Then come middle school (at Pioneer), I started doing cross country and track. Then I carried it over to high school."

Was there anything or anybody in particular that influenced him to go full-steam ahead into cross country and track? There is no doubt that Conway Jeffress had something to do with it.

"(My dad) kind of said, 'Run!'" Chaz said with a laugh. "So that's what I ended up doing. I look at him and he still has all his records that he had at Novi and how well he did in college and it makes me want to be great like that."

Chaz Jeffress has been great, but in his own way. And now, the next milestone in his career lies ahead.

LACROSSE

Continued from Page B1

Late surge

Up until that magical moment, Plymouth had been in hot pursuit, having trailed 9-6 before scoring three goals in a six-minute span.

A shot from the top of the outer crease by Natalie Nowicki (three goals) after a penalty restart got momentum tilted back in the Wildcats' favor with 7:29 remaining.

Nowicki wasn't done yet, as she forced turnovers in the Mustangs' defensive zone on two separate occasions to set up a pair of goals for Cathryn VandenBosch.

Plymouth coach Jake Wieloch talked about the impact Nowicki had in igniting the team's offensive spark.

"Natalie's a four-year starter who's always hustling out there and working hard," he said. "She has a lot of speed and a high lacrosse IQ."

Down by a 7-4 margin at halftime, the Wildcats (16-3) managed to cut it close right out of the gates in the second half, with Nowicki finding the back of the net from five yards out with 1:34 elapsed.

Marissa Cirino centered a picture perfect pass from the side of the net to a streaking Cierra Steiner shortly thereafter to make it a one-goal game.

The Mustangs' Erin Scott took the pressure off temporarily, courtesy of an unassisted goal with 16:17 left, before Kendall Wasik provided a dump feed to Chase less than six minutes



Plymouth's Cathryn VandenBosch (right) maintains a step on Northville's Jessica Tardich during Wednesday night's regional contest.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

later.

Chase set the tone right from the get-go, having won the opening face-off before charging downfield to put Northville on the board just 10 seconds into the contest.

Following an equalizer from VandenBosch (three goals), the Mustangs responded by finding the back of the net on four consecutive occasions.

Jessica Tardich fought off a loose-ball scramble to the left of the net to restore the lead back to Northville, which was complimented by Emma

Dietrich's laser from the top of the crease off a foul a minute later.

A nifty pass from behind the net by Tardich to Wasik made it a 4-1 affair with 14:11 left in the half, before team captain and Central Michigan University commit Chase scored off the ensuing face-off.

"Chase sets the tone for us and is a leader on the field," Asher said. "She executes plays, has a will to win and is someone who not only sees the field, but sees her teammates and plays with confidence."

Closing the gap

Plymouth scored the next two, from Cirino and a power-play goal by Steiner.

A rebound off a shot from Chase allowed Alethia Blough to tilt the scoreboard back in Northville's favor, as she scooped up the loose ball and made a mad dash toward the net.

Chase's cradle-to-cradle pass to Tardich allowed for a one-on-one situation with her and goaltender Elizabeth Elliot, in which Tardich prevailed with 1:31 to go.

With intermission looming, Nowicki executed an impressive wraparound to sneak the ball past goaltender Madison Caffee a mere 43 seconds later.

"Our girls fought all year. We brought the fight to this Northville team," Wieloch said. "I'm so proud of our team and we left it all on the field."

The Mustangs shout their counterparts 19-16, with 13 of them coming in the first half.

Elliot recorded nine saves, compared to Caffee's seven.

"We knew Plymouth was going to be tough, having beaten Brighton in the pre-regional," Asher said. "It was an emotionally-charged game and we came out with a lot of intensity. We used our fresh legs to help us transition and we just hit the ground running."

Northville now awaits the winner of Friday's regional first-round game between Salem and Ann Arbor Pioneer. The Mustangs will host a regional semifinal beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, at Holzer Field.

PREP SOFTBALL

Rocks, Wildcats tune up for postseason

Park teams racking up victories in week before districts

Tim Smith
Staff Writer



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Plymouth's Mikayla Rose, shown from a game last season, had a big game against Tecumseh, collecting three hits and three RBIs.

hits, RBI). Bressler helped her cause with two hits and three RBIs. Others chipping in were Haley Gagnon (double, RBI), Kiersten Metz (hit, RBI) and Holden (hit). Plymouth's offense took a one-game respite in the opener of Thursday's doubleheader against Tecumseh, as the Wildcats lost 1-0. Bressler was the tough-luck loser; she struck out 12 over six innings and allowed just one hit and one walk. Bressler, Gagnon and Metz each went 2-for-3 with the only other hit a single by Tucci. » But the Wildcats revved it up

again with an 18-17 win in Game 2, sparked by a three-hit, three-RBI game by Mikayla Rose. One of her hits was a double.

Plymouth collected 22 hits, with Haley Gagnon knocking in three runs with four "hard-hit singles," in five at-bats, Evans noted.

Another player going 4-for-5 was Tucci, who singled, doubled and tripled and tallied three RBIs.

Also coming up big was Rutkowski, with a bases-clearing double in the fourth.

Picking up the win in the circle was Metz.

Sweep for Salem

Not to be outdone, the KLAA Central Division champion Rocks easily took a pair Tuesday from Waterford Kettering to improve to 27-7.

In the opener, Maddy Rosiewicz threw a complete game shutout and contributed a run-scoring single to Salem's 10-hit attack.

The Rocks broke out early, scoring once in the first inning and three in the third.

Keying this attack was Morgan Overaitis, who went 3-for-4 including a double.

Also tallying two hits were Jamie Squires (triple, two RBIs) and Hailey Dechalk.

Other hits were registered by Caroline Miller (two RBIs) and Emily Stewart.

» The nightcap was even more fun for the Rocks, needing just five innings to dispatch the Captains.

Combining in the circle were starter Overaitis (three innings) and Rosiewicz, who threw a pair of perfect frames to close out the mercy win.

Overaitis (3-4) also had her hitting shoes on. She tripled and drove in three runs.

Also enjoying a three-hit day was

senior catcher Kara Hutchison while Rosiewicz doubled, singled and drove in five runs.

Helping out were Dechalk (2-for-2), Miller (double), Squires, Makayleigh Silverman and Alys Hauser (each with one single each).

"That's five in a row since our disappointing loss a week ago (to Canton in the conference championship game)," Salem head coach Bonnie Southerland said. "It's great to see the girls still so focused this time of year. This team is still moving forward."

"These were certainly good games to show the depth we have on the team as we were able to move some players around in different positions today."

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Whether pitching or hitting, Salem's Morgan Overaitis continues to come through.

PREP BASEBALL

Big inning lifts Brother Rice to fifth straight crown

Marty Budner
Staff Writer

Brother Rice, led by star right-hander Karl Kauffmann, captured its fifth straight Catholic League baseball championship Thursday afternoon at Comerica Park.

The Warriors scored all five of their runs in the decisive fourth inning and went on to a business-like 5-1 triumph over Orchard Lake St. Mary's to secure the 2016 A-B Division crown. It marked the second time in three years Rice defeated St. Mary's for the Catholic League title as it won by a near-identical 7-1 score in 2014.

"As a coach, you just try to give your kids an opportunity and give them the chance to experience coming down here and playing where the big leaguers play," veteran Rice head coach Bob Riker said. "Every time you play the game of baseball, you dream of playing where the big leaguers play."

"This is good for the kids. It's a memory for them that they'll have forever and, when you can be victorious, that makes it extra special," he added. "It's good just coming down here."

After three scoreless innings of the fast-paced game, Rice took advantage of some shaky Eaglets defense and batted around in the bottom of the fourth.

Kauffmann began the rally when he reached base on an error. Kevin Tyranski came in to run and was sacrificed to second, went to third on a wild pitch and scored Rice's first run on a wild pitch.

The Warriors then loaded the bases for junior shortstop Christian Faust, who smacked a sharp two-out single to right field that scored two runs. Two



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brother Rice sophomore Reese Trahey reacts after being thrown out at home plate on a close play that ended the five-run fourth inning in Thursday's Catholic League championship game.

batters later, freshman first baseman Antonio Flores belted a bases-loaded double that scored two more runs. Rice's Reese Trahey was thrown out at the plate on the play for the final out of the inning.

Rice scored five times on just two hits.

"(OLSM pitcher) Drake Titus did a good job. They didn't field too good and they kind of gave it to us," Riker said. "Anytime you can throw strikes and not put too many guys on base, play good defense and catch the ball, you're going to win a lot of games."

"In those two aspects today, I think we did better than they did, especially the defensive part," he added. "You

can't give four or five outs to teams and, in that one inning, they did and we took advantage of it. When Kevin scored that first run, that was a big play. That kind of got us going."

The lone St. Mary's run came in the top of the seventh.

With one out, Kauffmann walked a pair of batters before senior shortstop Joe Carlini lined a single up the middle to bring home his team's only run. The hard-throwing Bloomfield Hills resident walked the next batter before getting the final two outs on a fly ball to center and a fielder's choice.

Besides the two run-scoring hits by Flores and Faust, Rice's only other hits — all singles — were by Trahey, senior



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Veteran head coach Bob Riker led Brother Rice to its fifth straight Catholic League championship Thursday at Comerica Park.

Preston Pilat and freshman designated hitter Jack Orlovski.

Kauffmann, a University of Michigan commit, went the distance, allowing just two hits, striking out six and walking five to help extend Rice's winning streak to 12 straight games.

"It was Karl's game to win or lose and he was still good at the end," Riker said. "His fastball looked like it had good life today. He didn't throw many breaking pitches, but he was efficient and economical. He pounded the zone pretty good and they didn't take too many good swings."

Brother Rice hiked its overall record to 28-7. Brother Rice, which defeated St. Mary's in three of the four league games they played, won the Central Division regular-season title with a 15-5 record.

PREP SOFTBALL

Mercy sweeps two from Chiefs in battle of state powerhouses

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Farmington Hills Mercy chalked up four more softball victories since winning the Catholic League final Monday, including an impressive sweep of state-ranked Canton.

The Marlins, who won a doubleheader Thursday over South Lyon East, pushed their record to 31-1 going into another two-game set Saturday.

In a battle of perennial Division 1 powers and league champions Tuesday, No. 2-rated Mercy defeated No. 10 Canton, 6-2 and 5-2.

"We have the ability to schedule extra games at this time of year against better competition, because some tournaments were rained out and game dates are still available," Mercy coach Alec Lesko said. "We try to find teams who are playing well to get some good competition before the playoffs. To get games against high-quality teams is definitely going to help us moving forward."

"At this time of the season, it's about

fine-tuning and getting ready for the playoffs. Playing Canton was a tremendous opportunity, because they're a fine team. Winning the KLAA is a great achievement."

"They came to our house and we had a couple good ballgames. It allowed us to work on some things that had given us a bit of an issue in the past."

In the first game, Abby Krzywiecki hit a two-run homer and Mary Reeber a two-run double for the Marlins.

Nicole Belans and Andrea Elmore added RBI singles in a two-run fifth inning. Sophia VanAcker and Krzywiecki were 2-for-3.

Canton's Mackenna Payne went 3-for-3 with an RBI double and Sydney Dawson drove in the other run with a sacrifice fly. Hannah Zajdel walked, doubled and scored both Canton runs.

Elmore was the winning pitcher. Payne pitched five innings and Dawson one. The Marlins had a 10-6 advantage in hits.

Krzywiecki pitched the second game, allowing seven hits and two walks while striking out four. Elmore

fanned five, walked three and hit one.

"We were really happy with (the overall pitching)," Lesko said. "If they're beating up the strike zone and have a little movement, we'll have a chance to win."

"When balls are put in play, our defense normally does a nice job. We made a couple nice plays to keep (the Chiefs) in check."

Krzywiecki, who hit two more home runs and had eight RBIs in the South Lyon East games, is a candidate for the Miss Softball Award. She raised her season totals to 17 and 73, respectively.

"I mostly certainly will be nominating her," Lesko said, adding that is done right after the district tournament. "She certainly has the numbers and has had the career to be a leading candidate to win that award."

If she were to win, Krzywiecki would be the second consecutive Mercy player to gain the honor. Alex Sobczak won last year.

Krzywiecki might have been overshadowed by Sobczak, who plays for the University of Michigan, but she's a

star in her own right, according to Lesko.

"Abby comes in with a workmanlike attitude and gets her job done," he said. "She might have been in the wings and missed out on some attention as she went through, but her numbers are every bit as good as when Alex won last year."

Mercy sophomore Nicole Belans showed she can hit the long ball, too, with a two-run homer in the first inning of the second game. Sophomore Anna Dixon hit the first two of her career Monday in the Catholic League final.

Krzywiecki had an RBI on a sacrifice fly in the first inning. In a two-run fifth, Belans doubled home a run with two outs and scored on a two-base throwing error.

For the Chiefs, pitcher Peyton Philbeck had an RBI single and Payne a solo homer. Izzy Dawson was 2-for-3 and Elizabeth Yager 2-for-4.

Philbeck had five strikeouts and four walks. Four runs were earned. Canton had a 7-6 edge in hits.

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