

Local Relay for Life events merge

Organizers to hold one ceremony for Plymouth, Canton

Darrell Clem hometownlife.com

In a major shift in local fundraising efforts to fight cancer, once-separate Relay for Life ceremonies in Canton and Plymouth this year have merged into what one organizer called "a beautiful marriage.'

This year's combined fundraising goal is \$200,000, up from \$190,000 the two communities raised collectively last year.

Denise Staffeld, Relay cochair, said she believes the

merger will make the event better. She said the two com-munities shared the event years ago.

"I'm very excited about this," said Staffeld, who also is on the Relay leadership team. "We're sister cities. We're one community. Our school district is the same. For us to come back together and be united under one Relay is just phenomenal. ... It is just so symbol-ic of a beautiful marriage, in my opinion."

Megan Schaper, Relay For Life community manager, said the merger occurred after

volunteers and leadership teams from Canton and Plymouth indicated they needed help as they struggled to pull off two separate events.

They wanted to combine and do a bigger and better event," Schaper said. "It was the right decision to make."

Relay will occur from 10 a.m. to midnight May 20 in Canton's Heritage Park, but organizers plan to have discussions about whether the event should be rotated between Canton and Plymouth, which in recent years had its ceremonies in Kellogg Park.

To celebrate the merger, the



See RELAY, Page A2 Crowds gathered in Plymouth for a past Relay for Life.



Knife-wielding man guilty of robbing chiropractor

Darrell Clem hometownlife.com

A knife-wielding man who robbed a Canton chiropractor in broad daylight has been returned to prison after he was paroled for a Plymouth Township bank robbery in 2013.

Michael James Stachowski, a 37-year-old Westland man, has been sentenced to five

years/six months to 20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to charges of armed robbery, larceny in a building and

being a fourth-



Stachowski

Cory Jacobson of Phoenix Theaters and Shane Vida, general manager of the State Wayne, talk about the history of the theater and honored people who worked there.

STATE WAYNE MARY 70 YEARS OF MOVIE

LeAnne Rogers hometownlife.com

Among the people who worked at the State Wayne Theater over its 70-year history, Samantha Lawfield and her husband David may be unique among the former employees.

Not only did the couple meet while working at the theater in 2001 — she was Samantha Franklin back then - but they actually got married inside the theater in 2010

"We all went to Wayne Memorial, but I didn't know Dave. We met working here," said Samantha, a Belleville resident who with her husband was among former employees and customers who to turned out to celebrate the theater's 70th birthday.

Along with dinner, free concessions and a showing of a digitally remastered version of "The Godfather," Phoenix Theaters owner/CEO Cory Jacobson also presented awards to returning employees from each decade.

"I worked at the old theater (the Wayne) in 1945-46 it was just down the street near the bank. One of the girls from school worked as an usher. They needed some-



It's hard to find another business like this that has been around 70 years. For many people, this was their first job. For many of the people I met, it was a special experience."

CORY JACOBSON, Phoenix Theaters owner/CEO

com

one for the candy counter," said Virginia Dean Lear, who attended Wayne High School. "Then they found out (the second girl) wasn't 16 yet. She said I had to give the job back when she turned 16 - and I

did."

But Lear, who has lived in Garden City for 58 years, said the theater also needed a cashier and she was hired by owner Walter Shafer, who was later succeeded by his

A9

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Volume 42 · Number 63

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Sisters Stephanie Yurich Armes and Joelyn **Yurich Stier** worked in the box office while in high school, from 1972-74.

sons, Charles and Martin, known as the Shafer Brothers

At one time, the family owned 10 theaters and driveins. In addition to the State Wayne, the Shafers owned the Quo Vadis and the Algiers Drive-in, both in Westland; the Shafer-Garden City which was later remodeled into the La Parisien; the Dearborn Theater in Dearborn; and the Dearborn Drive-in, which was located in Dearborn Heights. All are gone

See WAYNE, Page A2

degree habitual offender.

Stachowski was sentenced in December by Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas Cameron for an incident that occurred about 4 p.m. last March 3 inside Village Wellness Center, a chiropractic office on Ford Road, near Haggerty, in the heart of Canton's busiest retail corridor.

Stachowski pulled a knife on owner Sherry Sieber, seized \$187 and ran off, but Canton police captured him a short time later near two hotels across Ford Road.

'I don't think their response could have been more perfect," Sieber said at the time. "They did a great job. They actually gave me my money back immediately.

Stachowski had pleaded guilty in October after a defense attorney was unsuccessful in attempts to have him declared incompetent to stand trial and aid in his own defense. Cameron declared him competent after he underwent a psychiatric evaluation at a state forensic center.

Authorities have said Stachowski already had spent time in prison for bank robbery for an incident that arose in July 2013. He went inside the Bank of America branch at Five Mile and Beck in Plymouth Township and handed a teller a note demanding money.

Stachowski could have faced life in prison for the latest charges out of Canton, but he received a lesser sentence by accepting a plea and averting a trial.

The case had stalled in the court system after Cameron last spring ordered a psychiatric evaluation to determine Stachowski's competency.

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WAYNE

ful that after seven

this that has been

around 70 years," said

Jacobson, who grew up

in the movie business in

Wisconsin. "For many

people, this was their

first job. For many of

a special experience.'

bygone era of movie

unfamiliar to people

who have spent their

lives going to a multi-

plex. There was an era

when many downtown

areas had their own

orate Egyptian and

movie palace - elab-

Chinese decor themes

were the rage at one

theaters that would be

the people I met, it was

It's also a look at a

RELAY

Continued from Page A1

American Cancer Society has issued a public in-vitation to a free kickoff party Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the ceremony lasts until 8 p.m.

Organizers are hoping for a good turnout at the kickoff party.

"We are very excited to host a huge party in honor of this exciting merger," Schaper said. "The volunteers for both events asked the American Cancer Society to support them in this merger and we are very excited to officially kick it off.'

The kickoff party is open to all residents of Canton and Plymouth. Activities will include face-painting, a photo booth, live entertainment, light appetizers

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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"It was the right decision to make."

MEGAN SCHAPER Relay For Life community manager

and beverages. A short program will highlight Relay accomplishments over the past year, including contributions made by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district.

Organizers will honor cancer survivors and caregivers, some of whom will address the crowd at the Village Theater. Also, an American Cancer Society researcher will give an update on how the fight against cancer is making a difference, Schaper said

Those attending can register a fundraising team for this year's Relay and talk with other volunteers and businesses about how to become involved and motivated.

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Relay For Life move-ment unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer,

remember loved ones lost and take action amid hopes of winning the battle against cancer. Teams and local businesses will raise money during the months leading up to the event.

"The excitement coming about as a result of the merger will elevate Relay to great heights again," Staffeld said, adding later, "It's a wonderful feeling for all of us. We all want it to succeed and be great." She is co-chairing the event with Kelvin Elvidge.

Organizers say the

Relay for Life is billed as the world's largest fundraising event to involve local communities in fighting cancer, with four million participants in 5,000 events worldwide. Last year, 850 people collectively participated in the Canton and Plymouth communities and celebrated more than 250 cancer survivors and caregivers.

This is our community's opportunity to help free the world from the pain and suf-fering of cancer," Schaper said, adding that efforts of local volunteers "can make a big difference.'

For more information, go to http://relayfor life.org/Canton PlymouthMI or contact Schaper at 248-663-3417 or by email at Megan. Schaper@cancer.org. She can offer advice on getting businesses in-

Twitter: @CantonObserver 734-972-0919

GUILTY

Continued from Page A1

ruled Aug. 29 that the defendant should, indeed, face court proceedings, court records show.

After the chiropractic office was robbed, Sieber



Dave and Samantha Lawfield met working at the theater and got married on stage six years

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Stephanie Rainey and Macey Wolf add a bit of style to the event.

time. It was also a time of a single auditorium that often showed double features.

Under Jacobson's management, the State Wayne replaced all of its seats with state-of-theart recliners and added fully digitized projection systems, along with an upgraded marquee light-

fied police and directed them to an area across Ford Road where the suspect had fled. Police caught up with him near ing up Michigan Avenue. We have 24 screens

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

at three theaters. We just had the most successful years at the State Wayne in 50 years," said Jacobson, who also who owns Phoenix Theaters at Laurel Park mall in Livonia and in Monroe. "I'll never make a million dollars at the State Wayne. It's like my '57 Corvette that I drive in parades.'

Charles Shafer had planned to attend the celebration, but was a bit under the weather - his brother Martin has died. "Charlie Shafer sends his best. He was a bit ill today, but in general, he is well," Jacobson said. Shafer's secretary

Cheryl Ann Johnson came to accept an award for her boss. "He still manages the Ford-Wyoming (drive-in). He is in fine shape and will con-tinue to work," Johnson said, adding Shafer still knows the revenues from his theater. "When I give him his award, I'll say, 'You missed a fine party, young man.'"

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after he allegedly held a knife to his own neck, police have said.

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Patient Sister Marie from Dearborn says,

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Dr. Kramer has restored my health and allowed me to work and live healthy!

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that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

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

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

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Sciatica Relief Expert Greg Kramer, says: In 20 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain.

A cop's job: Canton residents get up-close look

Darrell Clem hometownlife.com

Riding along with a Canton police officer, Greg Greco witnessed firsthand what a day in law enforcement is like.

He encountered a resident who was a vic-tim of identity theft and credit card fraud. He saw a police officer pull over an elderly couple to warn them to turn on their car's headlights at dusk. He made the rounds to a baseball tournament to ensure the large crowd was peaceful

"The biggest thing I learned is that Canton police officers strive to help the citizens and not just go after them," Gre-co, 55, said. "I can't say enough about the Canton police and how well they conduct themselves."

Greco and 28-year-old son Joshua last year became graduates of the Canton Police Department's Citizens Police Academy, which returns for a free, eight-week program April 6 to May

25. Classes are 6-9 p.m. Greco got to see the police canine unit, learn about use of force including a Taser gun and see a video-based sim-



Canton Detective Dave Juras taught Citizens Police Academy participants about crime scene work, such as lifting fingerprints, during a previous academy.

ulation that tested his ability to react quickly to a potentially deadly situation.

The latest Citizens Police Academy marks the third since public safety officials revived it in 2015, after it had been shelved about 30 years. It's intended to give residents insight and knowledge of how the police department works to serve the Canton commu-

nity. "Academy partici-pants will gain insight into the difficult challenges law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis, through interest-



CANTON PUBLIC SAFETY Citizens Police Academy participants learn the proper policies for traffic stops from Officer Jessica Nuottila during a previous academy

ing and informative instruction," Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said.

Using demonstrations, hands-on activities and outings with police officers, the program educates academy participants on the department's policies and procedures and gives them personal knowledge of the role police have in the broader criminal justice system.

The program also reveals the training and education police officers have to receive to do

their jobs. The mission of the Citizens Police Academy is to develop positive relationships between police officers and citizens

New this year, the program also will include a mini-Citizens Fire Academy to give resi-dents an up-close look at how firefighters do their jobs. They will get to ride along with firefighters, though they have to stay safely away from any potential fires, Deputy Chief of Fire Christopher Stoecklein said Moreover, residents

will learn what firefighters do beyond fighting fires and providing medical rescues. And they will be taught CPR, a move that could potentially help them save lives, he said.

Citizens Police Acad-emy participants have to be Canton residents, 21 or older, have no felony convictions and no misdemeanor convictions for the past three years. They have to agree to a background check.

Applications will be accepted online Feb. 1-28 at www.cantonpublic safety.org or in person at the front desk of the Canton Police Department, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Questions may be directed to Special Services Sgt. Ed Johnson at 734-394-5411.

Greco is glad he and his son attended last year's academy.

"It was definitely worth my time, because I gained a greater amount of respect for what the police have to go through and what they try to do to help the citizens," he said. "I would recommend it for all citizens."

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Scholarship essay contest will have focus on diversity, inclusion

In partnership with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, the Beloved Community is sponsoring its third annual essay contest. It is open to all students in grades 6-12 in Plymouth and Canton, including those who attend public, charter and private schools or who are homeschooled

Participation in the essay contest is intended to foster a deeper understanding of the concept of community and the importance of diversity and inclusion in our communities. The contest this year asks students to

FO

reflect on what it means to be a community that welcomes diversity and values inclusiveness.

Students are asked to consider the following:

A community is a group of people who are responsible to each other and support one another through activities that build on common interests while maintaining respect for community members' unique differences. Think about the Plymouth-Canton communities and your school community and please answer each part of the question below: Have you seen people

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or groups of people excluded or not included in your communities? Please give examples of how people are excluded

from your communities. How did it make you feel? How do you think it made them feel?

What could your communities do to be more welcoming and inclusive of all people? What would you change to make your communities more welcoming and inclusive? What would you be willing to give up or sacrifice to have your communities be more welcoming and include everyone?

The top submissions

will be awarded as fol-

lows: » Middle school students: first place, \$300; second place, \$200; and third place, \$100. » High school stu-

dents: first place, \$600; second place, \$300; and third place, \$200. This year, the contest

also will award the mid-

dle school and the high

school teacher whose

.us. Applicants are re-

\$150 each.

gle email to TheBeloved-CommunityCanton@gmail.com, no later than April 3. Winners will be notified no later than May 1. Contest winners will be honored during a recog-

cation materials in a sin-

nition ceremony May 19. Inquiries about the application process for The Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest may be directed to Loren Khogali at lorenkhogali@ gmail.com.



Dr. James Stewart is a general dentist from Livonia, MI. Today, he answers a question about preserving natural teeth.





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- 3. Don't ignore changes in your oral health. If you have an aching tooth or if your gums bleed easily, talk to your dentist. Often, problems that lead to missing teeth can be treated if you just see your dentist in a timely manner.
- 4. Be mindful of what you eat. Frequent consumption of sugary foods can lead to cavities and acidic foods (mainly soft drinks) can be a source of tooth erosion and sensitivity.

If you have a question about your oral health or would like to schedule a complimentary cosmetic consultation, contact Dr. James Stewart at 734-425-4400 or visit www.jamesstewartdds.com

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I am an American We are One Nation

PROMOTING ELECTION DAY HEALING

Seeing a loss of civility, pastor organizes service to foster reconciliation

JOHN BOYLE USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit onenation.usatoday.com.

Among the casualties of the 2016 election, civility — even among Christians topped the list.

And that deeply bothered the Rev. Rennie Salata, who acknowledged that he found it difficult at times to embody Christ's admonition to love your enemies and bless those who persecute you.

"Jesus does this in a way I only aspire to do," said Salata, the pastor of Acton United Methodist Church in Candler, North Carolina. "He's able to love his enemies while at the same time confronting them where they're supporting injustice or oppression, and I admit I have not figured out how to do that."

But he also refused to give up.

As a small step toward reconciliation and healing, Salata, with the help of several other pastors, organized an Election Day Communion service that was open to anyone..

About 40 people attended that evening.

Church member Diana Corbin attended the special service, describing it as "very moving" and sorely needed.

"We need to put our faith in God and believe that he will take care of us, regardless of who is in office," said Corbin, 66.

A native of Louisiana who grew up outside of Knoxville, Tennessee, Salata, 32, earned his divinity degree from Duke University and was ordained in 2015.

His approach involves a "subtle determination" to reach his flock, as Salata puts it. The idea is to hash out different perspectives, and then journey to understand what God is inviting them to see.

"Perhaps it might be neither of the positions that's being offered but a third way, really, that God is calling us into," said Salata, who came to Acton in July



ANGELA WILHELM/USA TODAY NETWORK The Rev. Rennie Salata is pastor of Acton United Methodist Church in Candler, N.C.

2015 with his wife, Lauren.

He plans to extend that reach to include the Islamic community by bringing in a speaker from that group later this year. With other pastors, Salata also plans to organize a "pilgrimage of reconciliation," the idea being "to put ourselves physically in different context than what we're used to" and get out into parts of the community we're not familiar with.

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Q&A WITH THE REV. RENNIE SALATA What does it mean to you to be an

American? For me, being an American is being part of something that is larger than an individual or even a national interest; it's being part of a larger experiment of democracy. One where even in a country where the majority of the people voted for one candidate, the other candidate who has been declared the winner by our democratic process is going to peacefully transition into power. That's rare and maybe even unprecedented around the world.

What moment touched and motivated you to take part in this effort?

There wasn't any one specific event or statement or altercation that motivated us having this service. But ... as the election season wore on and things became more and more vitriolic and tense and heated, and more and more families were being at odds with one another because of the election options, it seemed like it was even more appropriate to have a time when we could come together and pray and share communion and really remember what it is that unites us.

What gives you hope?

First and foremost, as a Christian and as a pastor, my hope is in Jesus Christ. ... But what gives me hope in the immediate, and perhaps in a concrete way, is the ways in which I've seen members of my congregation who are on diametrically opposed ends of the political spectrum really respect and support one another in the midst of the outcome of the election.

What did you hope to accomplish with that effort?

I hoped and I think we were successful in accomplishing the beginning of dialogue and also an opportunity for people to really look around and find some points of unity in the midst of such division. I hope that this will be a stepping-off point for my congregation and for this com-munity. ... I'd like to explore the possibility of having some public dialogue with a member of the Muslim faith, maybe even in concert with a member of the Jewish community. I've also talked with a another pastor about the possibility of doing a sort of reconciliation pilgrimage where we travel to different sites ... and just put ourselves in places where those we may not normally interact with live.

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Age: 32 Profession: Pastor

Mission: Community reconciliation and healing





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'Big Fish the Musical' comes to Plymouth



Ypsilanti resident Aaron Greunke as Ed and Morgan Gagnon of Canton as Sandy, in "Big Fish."

Plymouth-based For-ever After Productions will stage "Big Fish the Musical" Jan. 26-29at the Playhouse in the PARC, 650 Church Street.

Based on the celebrated novel by Daniel Wallace and the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton, "Big Fish" centers on Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest and then some. Edward's incredible, larger-than-life stories thrill everyone around him, most of all his devoted wife Sandra. But

their son Will, about to have a child of his own, is determined to find the truth behind his father's epic tales. Overflowing with heart, humor and spectacular stagecraft, "Big Fish" is a new Broadway musical that reminds us why we love going to the theater for an experience that's richer, funnier and bigger than life itself. "Big Fish" is a time-

less love story unlike any other because of Edwards' ability to blend fact and fiction. We are forced to ask ourselves:

"What is the truth? And in the end, does it really matter?" artistic and music director Brandon Waldenmayer said.

'Big Fish' is a spectacular and sincere story that spans generations; you're sure to be hooked by its magic!" said Tyler Dean, director and graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance.

Forever After Productions has produced more than 35 full-stage musical and dramatic productions throughout metro Detroit, including

the Power Center in Ann Arbor, The Berman Cen-ter in West Bloomfield, and The Village Theater in Canton.

Tickets are \$10 and are on sale for all six performances Jan. 26-29. Showtimes are at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may be purchased at www.iheart foreverafter.com or by calling Forever After Productions at 734-547-5156. Go to www.iheart foreverafter.com for additional information.

The Cashore Marionettes come to life at Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Experience the magic of Cashore Marionettes as they come to life under the hand of master puppeteer Joseph Cashore at 2 p.m. 7 p.m. Sat-urday, Feb. 4, at The Village Theater at Cher-ry Hill. This internationally acclaimed troupe returns to present two uniquely different shows a matinee for families of all ages and an evening performance for older children and adults. "Simple Gifts," will be

presented at 2 p.m. and will include 14 short pieces similar to a concert with several standalone vignettes. This family friendly production



A sample of Joseph Cashore's marionettes in action.

for all ages will include a series of scenes and portrayals from everyday life set to the music of Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland.

Through a combination of skilled puppetry, music and theatrical illusion, the original vignettes presented in "Simple Gifts" provide an entertaining vision of what it is to be human. The performance explores a range of emotions and actions with the characters. Tickets to this performance for all ages are \$12.

In "Life in Motion," presented at 7 p.m., in-cludes a Joseph Cashore collection of marionette masterworks. This series of nine vignettes runs the gamut of emotions from high-spirited good humor to quiet reflection. This

production is recommended for adults and children ages 8 and up. Tickets to this performance for all ages are \$15

These productions have been described by the Center for Puppetry Arts of Atlanta as, "A wonderful world of breath-taking magic that is created by one man and his exquisite marionettes. The range of movement truly has to be seen to be believed.'

Cashore first became interested in marionettes at age 11, when he saw one hanging in a shop window and asked the clerk if he could try it

out. When that wasn't allowed, he decided to make one himself, using blocks of wood, clothes pins and a tin can. He experienced his first "magical puppet moment" shortly thereafter while giving a show for his family, but didn't make another marionette until years later, after he had graduated from the University of Notre Dame, where he studied sculpture and portraiture

These internationally acclaimed performers have entertained audiences in Europe, the Far East and North America since 1990, including a

stop at the Kennedy Center. Cashore has received numerous awards for his artistry, including a 1995 Citation of Excellence from Union Internationale de la Marionette USA, the highest honor an American puppeteer can receive. UNIMA states that citations are "awarded to shows that touch their audiences deeply; that totally engage, enchant and en-thral." In addition, Cashore is also a recipient of a grant from the Jim Henson Foundation, which recognizes the creation and development of innovated works of puppetry for adult audiences.

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LOCAL NEWS

Americans in o







A s Bill Bresler watched the 2016 presidential campaign, he couldn't help but notice Americans are "a divided people."

But Bresler also believes this reality: The U.S. is a big country, with widely divergent ideas.

"This has always been true," said Bresler, a longtime photographer for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. "Even the founding fathers who wrote the Constitution were a mix of contradictions."

In a time of heightened anger and division, Bresler turned to what he knows best – photography – to show that everyone, despite their point of view, is an American. He started posting images on his personal Facebook page Nov. 9 – one a day – until Inauguration Day, 73 in total, to show we are a diverse nation.

The series culminates with an image Bresler made during the inauguration of President Obama as it was shown live on the big screen at the Canton Cinema in 2009.

"We are all Americans," he said. "Whether you're a politician running for president or a prisoner in custody, you're an American."

The people in this series are, Bresler notes, a diverse group. Not just their ethnic backgrounds, but politics, religion and even worldview. But, he insists, they are all Americans.

"I hope that people who look at these photos stop and think when they see someone who is different from them," Bresler said. "I hope that they consider what we all have in common."























DEFARTMENT 246

IRE







- Brad Kadrich

The complete gallery is online at http://www. hometownlife.com/picturegallery/opinion/2016/12/18/ americans-in-ourcommunities/95588522/





















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VOTE









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LOCAL NEWS

Canton native is Naval Aviation Museum's history keeper

Melissa Nelson Gabriel Correspondent

From records of a tiny squirrel monkey's journey to space to original Disney artwork from World War II to a dinner program signed by three aviation pioneers, the archives of the National Naval Aviation Museum help tell the story of Americans in flight and at war.

But it's a file folder containing critiques from flight instructors that is the favorite of Marc Levitt, the first full-time archivist hired to maintain the massive and growing collection of rare letters, artwork, maps and other documents now stored in the archives of the museum at Pensacola Naval Air Station.

The worn, brown file folder contains notes on Neil Armstrong, a young midshipman trying to earn his wings in 1950 under the critical eyes of NAS Pensacola instructors who kept detailed records on his progress.

"It is great when our historian shows it to our flight students today," Levitt said. "The first thing they want to do is to see what grades he got."

Like most flight students, the famed astronaut's marks improved throughout his training from "average" with the occasional "below average" to "average" with an occasional "above average."

"Nice hop, improved greatly," one instructor wrote in an Aug. 3, 1950, assessment of the man who, 19 years later, would become the first human to walk on the moon.

Levitt, who grew up in Canton, was hired two years ago as the museum's first professional archivist. He is overseeing work to scan many of the collection's 2.5 million historic records so that they can be viewed online.

In years past, the museum's Emil Buehler Library, which opened in 1992, managed its collection with the help of volunteers who worked under the direction of Hill Goodspeed, the museum's historian.

The museum's direc-



GREGG PACHKOWSKI | GANNETT

Archivist Marc Levitt poses with Neil Armstrong's flight log that is archived at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.

NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM

For more information on the National Naval Aviation Museum and its archives, go to www.navalaviationmuseum.org

cal documents donated to the library.

"Our collection has grown exponentially since the library opened. We needed someone with the skills required to maintain such a unique collection," Goodspeed said. "Someone who understood how to best preserve the items and organize them in the most user-friendly way."

Levitt is also going through a backlog of items that have yet to be inspected and officially added to the collection.

Unlike librarians, archivists handle mostly one-of-a-kind and original documents.

"You can find the same books in a lot of different libraries, that isn't the case with archives," said Levitt, who previously worked in the archives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and for the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education.

Levitt said one of the hardest parts of his job is not having the time to spend with all of the cool things he comes across as he categorizes, organizes and decides how to

HOW TO ACCESS THE NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM ARCHIVES

 » The archives are located in the National Naval Aviation Museum's Emil Buehler Library at Pensacola Naval Air Station.
» The library is open from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. » Some archived information is available online at http://www.navalaviation museum.org/education/emil -buehler-library/. » To request information from the archives, email library@navalaviation museum.org.

tion.

"People might not think anyone would want some old letters that their parents exchanged years ago, but the letters can be some of the most relevant items in terms of social and cultural history," he said.

The museum's collection includes the handwritten letters of Henry C. Mustin, the Naval aviation pioneer who established an air training base at Pensacola.

In a Jan. 21, 1914, letter to his wife, Mustin describes the conditions at the Pensacola base.

"The whole place is in a scandalous condition and I surely have a job on my hands. It looks as if it had been abandoned 50 "It will take two weeks hard work before we can start the flying school for we have to build runways and do a lot of grading; I have 200 blue jackets on that kind of work and they seem to enjoy it."

Goodspeed said his favorite items in the archives are the letters.

"Personal letters offer a window into time that is unique to that person and there are a host of those letters in the archives collection," said Goodspeed, who especially likes a letter written by a Marine who was in Paris when World War I ended Nov. 11, 1918. The letter includes descriptions of the massive celebration marking the end of long years of war. "It brings the history to life.

Not all of the archived materials are written.

The archives include an original cassette recording of radio communications from the 1968 Vietnam rescue mission by Medal of Honor recipient Clyde Lassen, a Navy pilot who flew into North Vietnam to rescue two pilots who had been shot down.

"You can hear the gunfire and the talking back and forth. It's pretty amazing," said Levitt, who is in the process of converting the recording so that it can be accessed online.

Another prized item in the archives is a 1931 dinner program signed by aviation pioneers Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh and Adm. Richard E. Byrd. The program is from a meeting of the Trans-Atlantic



World War II Italian propaganda archived at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.

Flyers' organization honoring meteorologist James Kimball.

Among the quirkier items in the archives is a collection of photographs and local news stories about a squirrel monkey named Miss Baker, who was sent into space in 1959 and cared for by researchers at NAS Pensacola. The tiny monkey, who was launched into space inside a thermoslike container with a tiny opening for her face, was one of the first two monkeys successfully sent to space and recovered by U.S. scientists. News stories chronicled the famous monkey's return to earth and her subsequent marriages to two other squirrel monkeys. Miss Baker survived her fist husband.

The museum's archives is built mostly from the private donations from naval aviators and their families.

The family of famed World War II Naval aviator Joseph C. Clifton, known as "Jumping Joe," donated many of his personal items. Clifton, who died in 1967, commanded the VF-12 "Peg Legs" squadron in World War II. Clifton's collection includes an original painting of Peg Leg Pete, the sword-wielding parboost morale during the war.

Levitt encourages families to go through the items of their deceased family members with an eye toward history. Families do not always know the historic significance of the things they inherit, he said.

While the Pensacola museum specializes in all things related to Naval aviation, the museum has close ties with other Navy and military museums and can help families find the right place for items of historical interest.

Levitt, who has a passion for the history of Reconnaissance Europe, said he has come to have deep appreciation for the history of Naval aviation and for the sacrifices made by generations of aviators.

"For me, it is meaningful to be able to preserve that history," he said. Although Levitt deals

Although Levitt deals with the past in his job as an archivist, he is worried about the future. He fears modern history could be lost in the internet age where Facebook posts have replaced handwritten letters and physical photographs. Archivists around the world are looking at ways to compile and

tors decided to bring on a full-time archivist to get a better handle on the growing number of personal letters, photographs and other historibest preserve them for use by historians and other researchers.

Personal letters are often the most interesting items in the collecyears ago and since then had been used as a dump," he wrote.

Later in the letter, he detailed his plans for flight training. rot, created by a Walt Disney Co. cartoonist as a mascot for the squadron. Disney artists designed squadron logos and mascots as a way to preserve electronic information of historic importance.

"That is a big issue for us when we look at the future," he said.



LOCAL NEWS

White House reporter comes to town to promote new book

Jay Grossman hometownlife.com

April Ryan started reporting on the White House in January 1997 just around the time that former President Bill Clinton began his second term in office.

Over the next two decades, she continued as the first black female reporter covering urban issues from the White House. Next week, the veteran correspondent will be in the Birmingham area to promote her new book, "At Mama's Knee: Mothers and Race in Black and White."

The book includes personal narratives from key figures in the racial debate, including Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter, U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee and singer Harry Belafonte. She also talks to Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, actress Cindy Williams, U.S. Rep. John Lewis and others. Ryan, a single parent

of two daughters, said the book addresses social and racial issues on a number of levels. She also acknowledges the difficulty that America faces in defeating rac-

"When we as a country elected our first Afri-

LIFESPAN trip to

Right to Life-LIFES-

PAN will host a Youth

Bus Trip to Washington,

D.C., for the 44th March

for Life at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26. Buses

leave from San Marino

Club Parking Lot in Troy (Big Beaver and John R)

and Madonna University

The students travel

overnight to participate

in the March and make

their opposition to abor-

tion heard by legislators.

At the Madonna site, the

bus should arrive for

pickup at 7 p.m. Ask to

speak to a bus captain at

in Livonia (Levan and

Schoolcraft)

248-816-1546.

featured

Camera Club

Washington



CHUCK KENNEDY | THE WHITE HOUSE

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama with White House correspondent April Ryan.

can-American president, it felt like there was real change, similar to the way people of color felt after the civil rights movement," Ryan said. "Then we re-elected him

... and it seemed like a confirmation that minorities could achieve anything, even being the president. Black kids didn't have a role model like that until then, so it gave everyone hope that change was here.' Yet she fears much of

that optimism was wiped out with the well-publicized shootings involving police officers and young black men.

"It was hard for any of us to believe that these horrific events could happen in this country," Ryan said. "But they did and they continue to this day, unfortunately."

Ryan's first stop is Thursday, Jan. 26, at Cranbrook Schools, where she'll talk to alums and parents and sign

copies of book. She'll then team with Lighthouse of Oakland County for a special luncheon, Friday, Jan. 27, at the Iroquois Club at 43248 Woodward Ave. in

Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$75 (\$50 for college students) and include a lunch and signed copy of Ryan's book. Reservations can be made at www.lighthouseoakland.

Ryan will next team with the Race Relations



"At Mama's Knee: Mothers and Race in Black and White" raises the issue of how parents talk to their children about race.

& Diversity Task Force for a speaking engagement at the Baldwin Public Library, set for 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27. This event is free to the public

On Saturday, Jan. 28, Ryan will be the featured speaker at a luncheon at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Detroit, in celebration of Delta Sigma Theta Detroit Alumnae Chapter's Founder Day

Ryan serves as a correspondent for the American Urban Radio Networks. Along with her news blog, "Fabric of America," she's able to reach millions of listeners and readers each day.

"I know we all have prejudices," Ryan said. "But it's how we deal with them and overcome them that matters. When I meet people and talk about the book, I learn more about how they feel and how they are treated. I've learned that we all need to remember to keep our hearts and minds open. It's not always easy, but it's worth it.'

jgrossman@hometownlife.com 586-826-7030 Twitter: @BhmEccentric



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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers

Holiday deadlines are subject to change. BENDICK

CRACCHIOLO



on January 8, 2017. Born June 13, 1913 and raised in the D, then lived in Allen Park. Beloved husband of the late Anne. Loving father of Bob (Mireille), Jim (Nancy), and Carole Kubitskey (Jerry Witkowski). nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Funeral was January 14 at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit. Memory Eternal!

COURTNEY



DOMINICK "DOM" January 16, 2017. Age 81. Beloved husband of the late Rose. Loving father of the late Anthony (Sharon). Cherished grandpa of Michael (Melissa) and Christopher (Katie) and five great-grandbabies. Proud National Guard Veteran. Longtime member of the Livonia Civic Chorus. Memorial Mass Monday 9:30 a.m. at St. Aidan Church. Grandsons will greet visitors beginning at 9 a.m. Share memories at jarzembowskifuneralhome.com

GEER



GEORGE R. 71, of Farmington Hills, died January 17, 2017. George was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lynda, in 2001. He is survived by children, Tim Geer, Tammy Koc, Terri (Kelly) Stegman, and Michael (Mary) Grussner; grandchildren Nichole, Christopher, James,



An example of photographs featured by the Detroit Camera Club at the Livonia Arts Commission exhibit.

\$3. Everyone receives a free glow accessory with purchase. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood.

Garden City Valentine sweetie contest

The Garden City

For more information, contact her at KristyPagan@house.mi.gov or call her Lansing office at 517-373-2575.

Guardian Angel dinner

The Italian American Club of Livonia has a unique relationship with the Italian priests of St. Louis Center in Chelsea and members continue to show their commitment to supporting persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the Guard-ian Angel Dinner Dance, now in its 22nd year.

The IACL Banquet Center is at 39200 Five Mile Road. near I-275, in Livonia. This year's event will be Sunday, Jan. 29, starting with a noon Mass, followed by an Italian buffet dinner at 1 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the

Wayne.org. Jazz at the Elks Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month.

to StMarySchool

There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy jazz in a listening room setting close to the entertainers.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, join The Boogie Woogie Kid Trio with the awardwinning singer Emma-Lee Aboukasm, You-Tube's viral sensation The Motor City Boogie Woogie Kid and drummer Gary Stevens for a night of piano and song favorites from the swing dancing days of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Classics include "Women be Wise," "In the Mood, "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "Basin Street Blues," "Blue Moon" and JOHN W. age 103, of Regent St. West Bloomfield, passed

second floor of the Bob and Janet Bennett Civic Center Library will feature the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council for the month of February.

Livonia Arts Commis-

sion announces that the

Fine Arts Gallery on the

GDCC is composed of members from the Grosse Pointe Camera Club, Livonia Camera Club, the Motor City Camera Club located in Bloomfield, the Oakland Camera Club located in Waterford, The Photographic Guild located in Southfield, the Seven Ponds Nature Center Camera Club located in Dryden and the Shutterbug Camera Club located in Detroit, the Toledo Camera Club, the West Oakland Camera Club located in New Hudson, and the Windsor Camera Club. These photography clubs meet on different days and different times but share a common interest: photography.

Each club has competitions in their Electronic Imaging Divisions, including Monochrome, Color, Nature and Color Creative (altered reality). They also have competitions in the two Print **Divisions: Monochrome** and Color. During the year, all of these clubs will compete against each other in all of the digital division as well as print division. All of the winners from each competition go into the GDCC's End-of-the-Year Print and Digital competition

This month they celebrate with an end-of-theyear banquet and preparation for the February exhibit.

Friday Night Glow Skate

The Mike Modano Ice Arena in Westland hosts Glow Skate 7-9:20 p.m. each Friday. The cost is \$8 for kids and \$9 for adults. Skate rentals are

Downtown Development Authority will host a Valentine Sweetheart Photo Contest with firstand-second-place winner announced on its Facebook at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Sweet talk your Valentine into posing for a picture with Willy, the Garden City "Cupig" located in the Commons, at the northwest corner of Middlebelt and Ford, for a chance to win a free Sweetheart Date Night Gift Package. Pictures must be posted to the Downtown Garden City Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ downtowngardencity by 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8. Pictures must be from 2017; only one entry per couple/group; must be age 18 or older to win.

'Hello Dolly!' auditions

The Spotlight Player will host auditions for the musical, "Hello Dolly!" 7-9:30 p.m. Jan. 23-24, at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Go to the back stage entrance. The show will be presented March 31 through April 2 and April 7-9 in the Village Theater. For rehearsal schedule, character descriptions and information on audition preparation, go to www.spot lightplayersmi.org. It is free to audition.

Pagan office hours

State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, will host her monthly coffee hours in January

The fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road, Canton. The fourth Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road, Belle-

ville.

band Amici and there will also be a silent auction and a gift raffle.

Tickets are \$60 per person and can be obtained by contacting member Anna Skowronski at 734-437-9067 or PR director Joe Yekulis at St. Louis Center at 734-475-8430.

St. Louis Center is a residential care facility for children and adults with I/DD and has been run by the Servants of Charity Congregation since 1960. Proceeds from this event benefit the transportation program for the residents. For more information about St. Louis Center, go to www.stlouiscenter.org or call 734-475-8430.

St. Mary school open house

The public is invited to attend the St. Mary open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at 34516 W. Michigan Ave. in Wayne. St. Mary offers highly qualified teachers and an exceptional academic program to Catholic and non-Catholic students in a diverse environment. It also provides enrichment programs beyond the basic curriculum such as C.Y.O. sports, spelling bees, academic Olympics, student council, children's vocal and bells choirs, band, Scouting programs and before and after school care.

St. Mary is fully accredited and its students score consistently above average nationwide on the Iowa Standardized Test. Grades 6-8 teachers use the "middle school model" to prepare students for high school. For more information, contact the school at 734-721-1240 or schooloffice@ stmarywayne.org or go

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many more. For a preview, go to www.boogie woogiekid.com.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks @gmail.com.

Auto art workshop

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will host an auto art workshop 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, featuring "Old Truck No. 6.'

Students will participate in a gallery tour and art-appreciation lesson using the diverse art pieces in the January exhibit. Then, students will create their own 2D version of Tim Tonachella's photograph, "Old Truck No. 6," inspired by the work in the exhibit.

A variety of media will be available for students to use and they will be encouraged to be creative with paint, colored pencils, collage materials and illustration marker. Photos of each piece will be exhibited on the website as part of the Interpretations Exhibit Artists' group. Instruction and all materials provided. The instructor is Lisa Howard. The program is for ages 7-18. The cost is \$24 per student. To register, call 734-416-4278 or go to www.plymoutharts.com. The PCAC is at 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

Bag book sale

The Friends of Westland Library invite the public to two-day Bag Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12. Both days are \$4 Bag Day only.

Livonia, Michigan, passed away peacefully, on Monday, January 16, 2017 at her son's home in Houston, Texas. Mrs. Courtney was born June 10, 1935 in Salem, Ohio to William and Eva Massaro. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, John F. Courtney; children, Sharon Courtney Walker and husband Mark Thomas Courtney and wife Sally, Daniel Courtney and wife Thaisla; grandchildren, Andrew, Larissa, Olivia, Samuel, Luke, Dylan, Erik, and Anna, Loretta is also survived by her sister, Marlene Battaglia and husband Dominic, Loretta arew up in Youngstown, Ohio There she attended Ursuline High School and was Head Majorette in the Band. It was in Óhio that she met the love of her life, John, through the Dominicana club. Loretta and John married and settled in Pittsburgh. John's career moved the family to Livonia MI where they spent many happy years. It was during these years that Loretta worked as a secretary and raised her three children. She enjoyed traveling with her husband, cooking, working with ceramics, playing bridge, and in recent years, spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. Loretta spent her last 8 months in Houston Texas surrounded by family. Loretta was a kind, loving, and devoted wife, mother and grandmother who was known to her family and friends as a person with an easy going attitude and a calm spirit. She was loved by those who knew her and will be greatly missed. The Courtney family will be present to receive friends Tuesday, January 24, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with the Holy Rosary being recited at 7:00 p.m. at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. The Funeral Mass will commence Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at Epiphany Of The Lord Catholic Church, 1530 Norwalk Drive, Katy, TX 77450. Mrs. Courtney will be laid to rest in Livonia, Michigan at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions in Loretta's memory to The Cancer Research Institute. Visit www.DettlingFuneral.com to find more service details and leave words of condolence for the family.

Katelyn, Logan, Austin, Mason; and proud grandfather of three great-grandchildren. Visitation Monday, January 23rd, 10-11 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. Memorial Service at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200) Contributions suggested to Residential Hospice heeney-sundquist.com





KAREN ROWLAND January 15, 2017 Age 78. Longtime Birmingham school teacher. Beloved wife of Richard for 48 years. Dear mother of Kathryn Rios (Antonio) and Greg Keier (Lindsay) Cherished grandmother of Antonio, Isabel, Sofia, Simone and Genevieve. Sister of Barbara Martin (Larry) and the late Joan Pugh (the late Joseph). Aunt and great aunt of many nieces and nephews Memorial services were held at Northbrook Presbyterian Church, 22055 W. 14 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills 48025. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorials to the church, American Cancer Society or Michigan Parkinson Foundation. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500. View obituary and share

memories at AJDesmond.com



Have lunch with Lincolns at Plymouth Historical Museum

Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, will stop at the Plymouth Historical Museum for lunch Sunday Feb. 12, the anniversary of President Lincoln's birthday.

The Lincolns — portrayed by Fred and Bonnie Priebe — will talk about Michigan's involvement in the Civil War and about mourning customs of 1862 at the time of their son Willie's death.

The lunch and program will be from noon to 2 p.m. and includes a menu of Lincoln's favorite foods. This event will be most enjoyable for adults and older children.

"We are fortunate to have the largest collection of exhibited Lincoln memorabilia in the state," executive director Elizabeth Kerstens said. "Lincoln's birthday seemed a perfect time to invite folks here to enjoy it."

Opened in 2002, the Abraham Lincoln Exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum is a result of the lifetime collection amassed by Dr. Weldon Petz.



Fred and Bonnie Priebe portray Mary and Abraham Lincoln at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Highlights of the Weldon Petz Lincoln Room include: » Artifacts from Lin-

ing to Lincoln as a boy » Rare family geneal » Handwritten legal documents and law books
» Life mask of Lincoln made in 1860
» Civil War art
» Lock of Lincoln's

LO-0000309050

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hair

ogy and photographs

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO STATE LAW 257.252, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE(S) WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE AT MAYFLOWER AUTO TRANSPORT, 1179 STARKWEATHER RD, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170 ON THE DATE AND TIME LISTED BELOW:

DATE 01/27/2017 at 700pm

VEHICLE(S):

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	STYLE	VIN	CASE#
2013	DODGE	JOURNEY	SW	3C4PDCBBXDT583334	16-5385
1998	FORD	EXPLORER	4D	1FMZU34E3WZB12102	16-5478
2007	DODGE	DURANGO	SW	1D8HB48P07F537705	16-5119

INQUIRIES REGARDING THESE VEHICLES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO OFFICER BABER, CITY OF PLYMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT, AT 734 453-1234 x544.

LINDA J. LANGMESSER

Published: January 19, 2017



» Artifacts from the Lincoln assassination » Lincoln and Hamlin presidential campaign banner that hung on the Starkweather home in Plymouth in 1860

» Lincoln archives containing more than 1,200 books, photographs and clip files

» Classes and tours of the museum and the Lincoln collection are available by trained Museum guides and teachers.

Bill Cottrell, a guide in the museum's Lincoln Room, said that interest in Lincoln and the Civil War remains high more than 150 years after his death.

"There are several Civil War round tables in the area, including one here in Plymouth," Cottrell said. "It's a reflection of how people still regard Lincoln and his presidency."

Tickets are available at www.plymouth history.org \$25 members, \$30 non-members (price increases \$5 after Feb. 3.) Admission includes the special exhibit "Celebrating Plymouth -150 Years," the Lincoln Room and all other museum areas.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth.. The Plymouth Historical Museum features a late 19th century Victorian recreation of Main Street, tracing the growth of the small town from the railroad depot to the general store. The largest Lincoln collection in the state of Michigan is housed in a separate room off of Main Street. And a Timeline of Plymouth is the newest permanent exhibit, featuring displays on the Daisy Air Rifle, Ford Village Industries, the Alter Motor Car, World War II, communication history and much more.

Nothing forcing divorced woman to file joint return

Q: I have a tax question that I hope you can help me with. Last year, my daughter filed for divorce. Because of the bickering and fighting, the divorce was not finalized until this year. We were told that, for her 2016 tax return, she is considered married; is that correct? My daughter's ex has requested that for 2016 they file a joint tax return. My daughter does not trust her ex, nor their CPA, her ex's best friend. My question is, does she have any other options? You should know that nothing was in the divorce papers with regard to taxes, her ex was the breadwinner in the family and my daughter only works part time and only earned about \$10,000 last year. A: For 2016 tax pur-

poses, your daughter is considered married. According to tax laws, someone's filing status is determined Dec. 31. The fact your daughter was still married at the end of the year would mean that her tax status for 2016 is married.

With regard to filing a joint return, she's absolutely under no obligation to do so. Since the divorce settlement did not discuss tax filings, your daughter is not required to file a joint return. She can file as a married person filing separately — that is what I recommend. In most situations,

married couples file joint returns. The way our tax laws work, it is generally more favorable for a married couple to file a joint return. However, there are many situations, including the one at hand, where filing as a married person filing sep-



arately, is appropriate. It is important to remember that when filing a joint return, both parties sign the tax return so they are both liable for the accuracy of the return. If there was an irregularity in the return two years down the road, your daughter could have some responsibility.

Considering that the divorce was difficult and she does not trust the CPA, my recommendation is to file a return on her own. In this way, she doesn't have to deal with her ex-husband or the CPA. In addition, in looking at the numbers you have provided me, it appears that her tax liability, if any, will be minimal; filing a joint return probably won't save her any money.

I've mentioned this many times before: When you sign a tax return, you are liable for what's on that return. If you do not have confidence in your tax preparer, that is a sure sign you need a new tax preparer.

One last note — what may give your daughter a sense of satisfaction is that if she chooses to file as married filing separately, the result will probably be that her ex-husband will end up paying more in taxes

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





LOCAL NEWS

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By-Law Nos. 0164.1: Regular Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (except there will be no meetings on the fourth Tuesday in July; no meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday in November (November will be the first and third Tuesday), and no meeting on the fourth Tuesday in December) beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the following location (except as agreed herein) unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the members:

> E. J. McClendon Educational Center 454 South Harvey Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170 By-Law

No. 0164.2 Special Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Special meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, and place of such special meetings, or by a majority vote of the Board.

Service of the notice shall be by:

- 1. Delivering the notices to the members personally at least twenty-four (24) hours before such meeting is to take place, or
- 2. Leaving the notice at the member's residence with a person of the household at least twenty-four (24) hours before such meeting is to take place, or
- 3. Depositing the notice in a government mail receptacle enclosed in a sealed envelope plainly addressed to such member at his/her last known address at least seventy-two (72) hours before such meeting is to take place.

Services as above described may be made by a member of the Board or any employee of the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE of each meeting of the Board of Education shall be given by posting a copy of the NOTICE on the message board by the front entrance to the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time of the meeting. Elizabeth Adams or other Central Office staff in her absence shall be appointed the designee for posting notice of meetings

Published: January 22, 2017

Senator touts value of Education Savings Accounts

would you like to increase education spending by more than \$3,000 per pupil without raising taxes? It is possible. In fact, all of the building blocks needed to make it happen are already in use within innovative schools within our state. All that remains is to offer this revenue opportunity as the norm, not the exception.

Where does the money come from if it is not from taxes? Businesses. No we are not talking about shaking down businesses for higher fees or taxes. In a free market, a customer is willing to give up their hard-earned money in exchange for something they find of equal value.

So what are businesses looking for that could help raise \$3,000 per pupil? Good employees and good information.

and good information. Regarding good employees, businesses are eager to fill job openings in Michigan's growing economy. Many are already willing to invest \$7,000 per year per pupil



in student-specific accounts called Education Savings Accounts for students in grades 9-12 who are willing to work part time during the school year for as few as five days a month. Businesses get much-needed help. Students get muchneeded work experience - work experience that can help bring valuable focus to their future studies and sharpen their resumes for future jobs.

Regarding good information, many businesses are already willing to provide monetary incentives in exchange for information in the form of awards programs. In fact, most of us participate in multiple award programs. Unlike what happens under Common Core, the information collected is not specific to the student, but it is specific to the consumer voluntarily

participating in the award. There are award program aggregator businesses that are able to monetize and collect awards from multiple programs and even multiple individuals. Families can direct these monetized awards to their child's account. Organizations can direct these awards to groups of students for distribution. It is estimated that more than \$1,000 per pupil per year could be directed to student-specific savings accounts for students of any grade level.

When I applied these figures to the student profile for Detroit Public Schools, these funding sources work out to an additional \$3,086 per pupil per year.

What could parents spend this money on? If we limit the funding of these student accounts to third-party funding sources, parents could spend this money on education-related services provided by public schools (traditional and charter), parochial Education Savings Accounts provide us with a rare opportunity to solve a government problem in a manner that benefits everyone's best interest.

schools, special education services, extracurricular activities, tutoring services or higher education.

If we were to provide parents with additional control over how this money is spent, we could seed each student account with the state portion of the foundation allowance (roughly \$6,000). If this were to happen, the choices for parents would be effectively limited to public schools. Michigan's socalled Blaine Amendment (Michigan Constitu-tion Article VIII, Section 2) effectively blocks the use of public funds for core education services delivered by non-public organizations.

Additional ways to increase parental control over the specific educational needs of their child would be to allocate federal at-risk and special education dollars directly to the accounts for students who qualify for these designations. These funds could be used to pay for school lunch programs or special education programs.

Why is parental control so important? Accountability. Many lament what is seen as a lack of accountability for the performance of many of our schools. State governments typically respond to such laments with transparency mandates that increase the administrative burden on schools, which in turn diminishes the funding available for teachers in the classroom. We can do better. An important total quality management

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principle is that "the customer defines what quality is." Parents and students are the customers of education.

In summary, Education Savings Accounts provide us with a rare opportunity to solve a government problem in a manner that benefits everyone's best interest. Educators receive more than \$3,000 more per pupil. Businesses are able to develop good employees. Taxpayers receive improved accountability for their tax dollars. Parents and students are able to customize their education to best suit their needs and interests. ESAs even provide a way to offset the rising costs of higher education. Open minds and innovation can yield some pretty awesome results.

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

LO-0000309533 3X4

Local churches to gather for unity

At 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, four area churches will come together for an ecumenical prayer service at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Other participating churches include St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy Catholic Church, Westland; Timothy Lutheran Church, Livonia; and the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland.

Clergy and the choirs from the four churches will participate in the service. There will be a reception following the service and those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item

EST. 1942

to share with area families in need.

The Church Unity octave was first observed in January 1908. This new prayer movement gradually blossomed into a worldwide observance involving millions of people and many nations. Traditionally observed the week of Jan. 18-25, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity belongs to all Christians who are sincerely interested in the fulfillment of Christ's prayer "that all may be one.

The theme: "Reconciliation – the Love of Christ Compels Us " celebrates the irrevocable reconciliation that we have received through faith in Jesus Christ.

Participating clergy includes:

» St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy Catholic Church, Westland; the Rev. Kenneth Mazur, PIME, pastor

» Timothy Lutheran Church, Livonia; the Rev. Eric Stenson, pastor

» The Newburg United Methodist Church, Livonia; the Rev. Steven McCoy, lead pastor

» Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland; the Rev. Teodor Petrutiu, parish priest

The service begins at 7 p.m. at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. For more information, call 734-422-0149.

Steine dourd bar.



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE

CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234 A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following: Z 17-01 499 N. Main Non-Use Variance Requested Front Yard Setback and Projection into Front Yard Setback Zoned: B-3, General Business Applicant: Sundance Inc. / Rick Eccles 2 Z 17-02 1327 S. Main Non-Use Variance Requested Signage Zoned: B-1, Local Business Applicant: Harmon Signs All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

> Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

> > jcp salon

Published: January 22, 2017

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SATURDAYS

INSIDE: SALEM PLAYERS GET TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE AT ADRIAN, B3

SPORTS

SECTION B (CP) SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS BASKETBALL

Canton comes up big down stretch

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Friday's campus rivalry game between Canton and Plymouth came down to the wire, as such games usually do. And the host Chiefs prevailed, 53-49,

thanks to some clutch work on the boards and on the free-throw line. "It was close throughout," said Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy, whose

ton head coach Jimmy Reddy, whose team improved to 7-4 overall and 4-1 in the KLAA South Division. "Even the fourth quarter was back and forth. They had a few leads, we had a few more leads. We just made a couple more plays down the stretch tonight.

more plays down the stretch tonight. "Defensively, we had a lot of breakdowns. Plymouth did a nice job throwing it inside to Tariq Woody and they did a nice job skipping it out and hitting some corner threes. We need to clean some things up, but at the end, we got some stops when we needed to get stops."

Canton nursed leads of 26-25 at halftime and 37-36 after three quarters, but the game was up for grabs in the fourth quarter.

Plymouth (5-6, 2-3) went up 45-44 with about three minutes remaining in regulation, but Canton's Vinson Sigmon came through with a trey to put the Chiefs ahead. Sigmon was outstanding with 21 points and strong defense.

After the Wildcats knotted the score, Eian Barker scored on a baseline bucket to make gave Canton a 49-47 lead. Reddy said the game finally went Canton's way thanks to timely "hustle plays" by Barker and Colin Troup. Both grabbed rebounds after teammates missed the front end of one-and-ones. Their effort gave the Chiefs another chance and Sigmon hit two free throws to make it a four-point edge. "They missed two front ends (of one-and-ones) and they got the re-

"They missed two front ends (of one-and-ones) and they got the rebounds," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "I wish we could have gotten one of those. To have a chance to either tie or win the game would have been nice. But it is what it is. Either you win or you learn and today we learned." A big performer for the Wildcats,

See CANTON, Page B3



TIM SMITH, EDITOR

248-926-2237

TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Canton's Vinson Sigmon goes to the basket Friday against Plymouth defenders Connor Bush (left) and A.J. Neal.



BOYS HOCKEY



Showcase puts spotlight on prep teams

P-CEP teams competing Jan. 23-28 in Chelsea

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

This is the time of year when stakes begin to get raised for varsity boys hockey teams such as Salem, Livonia Churchill and Plymouth.

Churchill and Plymouth. Those three KLAA South Division teams are among 52 squads from around the state traveling to the seventh annual Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase, scheduled for Monday through Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Chelsea Arctic Coliseum. Among others from the area making the 40mile trek are Canton, Novi, Northville, Farmington and Farmington Hills Unified.

Each participating squad is guaranteed two games during the six-day extravaganza. It is becoming a go-to destination for college and junior hockey scouts to see as many teams and players they can over a short time span. "The Public School Showcase is the

"The Public School Showcase is the biggest high school showcase in the state," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "From a statewide stand-





macher said. "From a statewide standpoint, it gives the opportunity to get a good collection of teams from all across the state. From an individual team's standpoint, we know we're going to get two competitive games.

"When the schedule's made, it's based on, as much as it can be, strength of teams ... it also provides our guys with an opportunity for increased exposure, a spot where scouts can come and look at a bunch of teams."

Salem is scheduled to face Escanaba at 5:45 p.m. Thursday on the North Rink; the Rocks will follow that up with a game at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27 against East Grand Rapids (also on the North Rink).

Livonia Churchill plays games at 8 p.m. Thursday against Hartland and at 6 p.m. Jan. 28 against Troy, both on the

See SHOWCASE, Page B3

The Plymouth varsity boys hockey team had fun meeting U.S. Army veteran Pete Cook, who happens to be a Toledo Walleyes hockey fan.

HUMBLING AND INSPIRATIONAL

Plymouth hockey team gains new perspective after spending time with military heroes

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Sometimes, hockey players consider eye-opening experiences to be watching an end-to-end rush by Red Wings players such as Andreas Athanasiou or Dylan Larkin.

But for the Plymouth Wildcats, a recent trip to the VA hospital in Ann Arbor did that and more.

'It was truly an inspiring experi-

"I definitely hope I get another chance to visit again someday, because it was that great of an experience." ZACH GALLAHER

senior defenseman and captain

ence," senior defenseman and captain Zach Gallaher said. "These are the men and women that put their lives on the line to allow us to live in a safe and free country and it made me feel very thankful. And it was very easy to see that all they needed was just someone to talk to, to make their day.

"Some of the stories were amaz-

See VISIT, Page B3

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Huge first half lifts Canton over Wildcats; Rocks fall to Stevenson

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

Canton's varsity girls basketball team came out scoring Friday night and didn't let up against crosstown rival Plymouth.

The Chiefs led 20-6 after one quarter and didn't look back, earning a 61-30 KLAA South Division victory.

"Our team dedicated this game to

one of our captains, Brianna Finn, who was unable to play tonight as she has been sick the past couple days," Canton head coach Rob Heitmeyer said. "We knew we needed to come out strong on the defensive end of the floor and be balanced on the offensive end."

balanced on the offensive end." Canton (8-3 overall, 4-1 in the division) built a 30-15 halftime lead thanks to strong shooting (44 percent) from the floor. Leading the Chiefs with 15 points was Erin Hult, with Madison Wolfbauer scoring 10. Other Canton contributors included Shamya Butler (eight points) and Alaina Heitmeyer (seven points).

Ashley Criscenti scored six and pulled down six rebounds.

For Plymouth (4-7, 3-2), Chantal LeDoux scored 11, while Elle McCaslin and Alexa Ebeling had six and five points, respectively. Wolfbauer (16 rebounds) had her best game of the season, recording the double-double. Also solid on defense was Raquel Church.

Spartans edge Rocks

Livonia Stevenson defeated Salem, 40-32, Friday night, with Diane Senkowski (11 points, five steals) and Grace

See ROUNDUP, Page B3



BOYS SWIMMING

Rocks fall at Rock Kilgore Invitational

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Home isn't always where the victories are, as the Salem varsity boys swimming and diving team recently found out.

The Rocks hosted the annual Rock Kilgore Invitational on Jan. 14 at the Charles E. Olson Natatorium, but finished sixth out of six teams with 108 points despite what Salem head coach Brandon Larkins called "plenty of good times and a lot of personal bests."

Taking first place with 290 points was Saline, followed by Northville (239), Zeeland (197), Livonia Stevenson (180), Novi Detroit Catholic Central (153) and Salem.

"This meet really pushed our team and I would say it made us a stronger team," Larkins said. "The boys have realized that they still have half of a season left and they have to work for

PREP WRESTLING

what they want."

Salem sophomore Eugene Li gave the Rocks something to cheer about. He finished first in a heat of the 200-yard IM with a time of 1:58.41 (a state cut performance).

Earning first for the Shamrocks were Jacob Skwirsk and Conor Brow-nell, both winning different heats of the 100 butterfly with respective times of 1:00.06 and 57.02

Stevenson sophomore Benjamin Rojewski won a heat of the 500 freestyle, finishing with a state cut of 4:51.83.

Meanwhile, the Mustangs had plenty of success, both in individual events and relays.

Freshman Craig Maibach (50 free, 24.18), junior Orion Shi (100 free, 53.20), senior Taiyo Ichikawa (500 free, 5:15.83) and freshman Brian Ding (100 breaststroke, 1:08.65) took first in individual events.

Northville also won two heats of the 200 free relay and 400 free relay.

In the 200 free relay, wins were chalked up: Michael Alameddine, Ro-man Grossi, Connor Hart and Jimmy Huang, 1:40.92; and Shi, Jacob Grim-mer, Ding and Ichikawa, 1:36.64. Taking first in the 400 free relay

were: Shi, Arthur Greenlee, Alemeddine and Nicholas Mouaikel, 3:36.54; and Gabriel Trevino, Jonathan Kollen, Austin Mills and Connor Robertson, 3:17.21 (state cut).

PCEP Tri-Meet

Meanwhile, Jan. 5, Canton won the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Tri-Meet with 518 points, followed by

Salem (494) and Plymouth (335). Leading the way for the Chiefs with first-place finishes in individual events were junior Daniel Mullen (200 free, 1:45.86; 500 free, 4:54.13), senior Kyle Amick (50 free, 22.78) and junior Tris-

ten Shao (100 back, 57.71). Canton also captured the 200 and 400 free relays. In the former, Mullen, Amick and juniors Caleb Styles and Derek Goderis won with a time of 1:31.65. The guartet of Mullen, Amick, Goderis and Shao took the top spot in the latter, finishing in 3:20.53.

Salem won the other relay event, with sophomores Ryo Hirose, Eugene Li, Nathan Budnick and Tom Cousino combining in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:41.63.

Both Li and Budnick also won a pair of individual events. Li won in the 100 free (47.95) and 100 breast (1:02.12), while Budnick captured the top spot in the 200 IM (2:05.29) and 100 fly (55.74).

Plymouth's lone first-place finisher was senior Jordan Groves in 1-meter diving, with 208.35 points.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Victories for Ocelots bowlers, hockey team

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Nothing like a tournament championship to boost a team's confidence. Such was the case with the Schoolcraft College men's bowling squad — winner Jan. 13 at the Great Lakes Invitational, hosted by Muskegon Community College.

The Ocelots, coached by Patrick Yelsik, topped the 13-team field with 6,877 total pins in a photo finish. Schoolcraft held off a challenge from Ball State (6,854).

Sparking the Ocelots to victory were Michael Rees (a four-game series of 789), Matthew Gury (767) and Cody Farr (766). Livonia Stevenson graduate Eric Deyonker chipped in a 730 series, featuring a high game of 209 pins.

"This is the best competition that we're going to face until we get to the national tournament," Yelsik said. "So to perform the way that we did was big for our confidence, knowing that not only can we hang with schools like this, but we can beat them

"But we want to keep the focus on us and control the things that we can control and not necessarily worry about the other teams and what they're doing. If we can do this and we keep progressing, then I like our chances against anyone.

On the women's side of the tournament, Schoolcraft finished fifth overall with a 2,296 pin count. The top performer was Kayla Jackson, who earned a berth on the all-tournament team with a four-game series of 679.

Salem alum Rachel Boucha and Livonia Franklin product Ashley Schou followed with respective series of 575 and 573.



Catholic Central's Rory Cox (top) gets the upper hand on Brighton's Jacob Soop

SCOTT CONFER

Shamrocks fashion 3-1 mark in Super Duals

CC beats state opponents, but falls to Ohio powerhouse

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

A top 20 national showdown against No. 3 Lakeland (Ohio) St. Edward's highlighted the action Saturday as host Novi Detroit Catholic Central finished 3-1 in its own CC Super Duals wrestling tournament.

The three-time defending MHSAA Division 1 state champion and topranked Shamrocks scored victories over Division 4 top-ranked Hudson, 58-15; returning Division 2 finalist and No. 4-ranked St. Johns, 58-7; and Divi-sion 1 No. 7-ranked Brighton, 59-3.

In the marquee match-up under National High School Federation weight classes, No. 12 CC won eight of the 14 matches (with a forfeit at 195 pounds), but came out on the short end against the Ohio state power, 36-30.

We commit ourselves to challeng-

ing our young men on and off the mat and that's what we did today and I think our guys responded pretty well," said CC coach Mitch Hancock, whose team is 19-1 overall. "I think we took a backseat to Ed's in certain match-ups, which is a bit frustrating. I think our guys believe we could've competed harder and limited bonus points, which is a must if we want to accomplish our goal of winning a state championship."

Cam Amine (145 pounds) and Nick Jenkins (heavyweight) both went 4-0 on the day, while Ben Kamali (113) and Tyler Morland (182) both finished 3-0 to lead the Shamrocks.

Meanwhile, Rhett Newton (113) and Rory Cox (170) both finished 2-0, while Devon Johnsen (106), Kevon Davenport (132), Aidan Wagh (152) Brendin Yatooma (160) all posted 3-1 a record. "St. Ed's is a darn good team and

very well-coached," Hancock said. "What an incredible day. We had some fantastic wrestling talent here today and we are grateful for the opportunity to compete against a team like St. Ed's

"We commit ourselves to challenging our young men on and off the mat and that's what we did today and I think our guys responded pretty well." **MITCH HANCOCK** Catholic Central coach

"Our alums our important to this program. They are great contributors and believers in what we do in that wrestling room. It's nice to thank them and honor them when given the chance."

The Shamrocks return to action at 6 p.m. Thursday at Davison to take on the Cardinals, ranked No. 2 in Division

bemons@hometownlife.com bemons1@Twitter.com

Hockey team wins two

Schoolcraft College won a pair of men's club hockey games Jan. 13-14 at Purdue, 8-2 and 5-4.

In the series opener, the Ocelots scored four straight goals in the second period and coasted to the American Collegiate Hockey Association victory.

Lighting the lamp twice during the period was Livonia Stevenson alum Vinnie Glenn, while Sheldon Varhol (Garden City/Cabrini) and Livonia Churchill product Derek Klisz made it 4-0 in the final seconds of the period. Klisz finished with a hat trick, scoring

twice in the third period to keep the rout going for head coach Rob Lindsay's team. Playing well in goal was Matt Monendo. Also behind the bench for the first time

was his son, new associate coach Andrew Lindsay - who the previous week ended his playing career because he is not taking classes (a prerequisite to remain an active player). The younger Lindsay worked with the forwards, while Brendan Ryan ran the defense.

The next night, the Ocelots overcame a sluggish start with two third-period goals by Zach Nichols, who tied the game at 44 and then scored the winner with 15:29 remaining.

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PREP GYMNASTICS

Chiefs' win streak ends at 17

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

Livonia Blue provided more evidence it intends to be heard from all season with Wednesday's 142.275 137.925 gymnastics victory over Canton, which left both teams with a 2-1 record in the Kensington Division.

Chiefs head coach John Cunningham lamented that his team "could never get traction in the meet, taking no firsts or seconds and struggling throughout. Our only nine was Victoria Faber's 9.05 on floor."

Nines were plentiful for Canton's opponent, however.

Leading the way was Weak, with scores of 9.2 on vault, 9.325 on bars, 9.125 on beam and 9.2 on floor. She

shared honors on vault with Aniessa Conway and on beam with Megan Lord. Also surpassing the 9-mark was Maddie Williams, with 9.125 on floor.

Cunningham said Kelsea Kernosek was the best performer for the Chiefs, registering an all-around of 34.575 (vault, 8.9; bars, 8.575; beam, 8.35; floor, 8.75).

There were several other solid performances for Canton, however. Those included Katherine Najduk (vault, 8.9), Annika Wang (beam, 8.4), Katie Dickson (floor, 8.9), Jana Hilditch (floor, 8.8) and Rachel Socha (floor, 8.7)

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Northville fights off a shot by Green Bay's Josh Dunne at USA Hockey Arena on Jan. 14. Helping St. Cyr on the play are Phil Kemp (left) and Max Gildon. Team USA won, 4-2.

CAMPUS VISIT

Salem players soak up college hockey life

Team spends weekend at Adrian College, learning about what future might hold

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Recently taking an inside look at what the "next level" in their hockey careers might be like were players

from Salem's varsity boys hockey team. The Rocks earlier this month made the trip to Adrian College, where they visited the Bulldogs locker room, listened to head coach (and Livonia Churchill alum) Adam Krug and watched a NCAA Division III game between Adrian and Aurora.

Oh, the team also was able to play a high school game at Arrington Ice Are-na against Livonia Stevenson, too.

"We have three freshmen who are just out of middle school," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "It's good for them to really see what college is like. What's a dorm like, what's a class like, what's a student union like. It's an

eye-opening experience for that." Ossenmacher added that it was good for the players to hear Krug talk about the nuts and bolts of being a college

hockey player. "It's a lot of the same things that we're saying, but it's just a different vocabulary, a different voice, different perspective," Ossenmacher said. "At the same time, these guys get to see what that life is like. A lot of these guys they want to do that, they want to move on. For them to actually see it in person, it's a good time for them."

The Rocks and Spartans made a similar college trek in 2015-16, to Western Michigan University.

"We want to make these games mean something," Ossenmacher said. "Not that they don't mean something, but make these kids take something more than just the game away from the experience.'

Several Salem players gave a thumbs up to the trip to Adrian and think the weekend junket will provide benefits both now - to the team for the rest of this season - and to them as prospective college student-athletes down the road.



Salem's varsity boys hockey team enjoys watching the Adrian Bulldogs play in an NCAA Division III game at Arrington Ice Arena.

"It's a really good way to figure out what the next level's like," Salem senior forward Marty Mills said. "It's a great learning experience; you get to see what they do, all the stuff they get. It just makes everyone work harder to get to the next level.

"We learned their locker room hab-

its, how they practice, what they do before games and certain things it takes to compete."

Senior forward Joey Driscoll, who hopes to play men's club hockey at Eastern Michigan University, said Krug's message resonated with the Rocks.

"He gave us a lot of great advice," Driscoll said. "Actually, our coaches (at Salem) are saying the same things he's saying. Win your small battles, you have to bear down and just have a great love for the game.'

Driscoll also enjoyed seeing the rest of the campus, including the Bulldogs football stadium.

"Adrian's a really nice college cam-pus," Driscoll said. "They have three club teams that are very good and then they have their NCAA D-III team. They're very good, too. The school itself is just a great campus. It can just benefit you.'

Mills (who will play men's lacrosse at Grand Valley State) was all about the Adrian campus and watching a college game at Arrington.

"It's definitely a hockey-based city, they like their hockey," he said. "It was cool to see a game."

ROUNDUP

three blocks) leading the charge for the Spartans. Helping the cause with eight

For Salem, Jayna Lenders and Darby

Lamerson (nine points, eight steals,

CANTON

despite the loss, was Woody. He scored 21 points and pulled down nine rebounds.

Other solid showings were turned in by Connor Bush (11 points, seven rebounds), Joey Robb (nine points) and Anthony Crump (eight points).

In addition to Sigmon, the Chiefs were sparked by White (11 points), Barker (10 points, five rebounds) and Noah Brown, who led the team with six rebounds.

Both coaches cited the electric atmosphere inside the Canton gym for the back end of a girls/boys doubleheader between the Chiefs and Wildcats. The schools' girls teams opened the evening.

"The atmosphere in here was great, probably the best crowd we've had in this gym since I've been the head coach," said Reddy, in his eighth sea-son at the Canton helm. "I wish we'd see more of that. There's good basketball played in this gym."

Salem falls short

Livonia Stevenson scored 25 points in the fourth quarter Friday to pull out a 65-54 win over Salem in a KLAA Central Division matchup

Salem (5-6) was led by senior Cameron Grace (19 points, 10 rebounds) and senior Camren Barden (11 points).

Ian Knoph and Devin Dunn scored 15 points each for the Spartans.

Eagles prevail

Matt Malcolm scored 30 points Friday night to spark Plymouth Christian Academy to a 73-69 win over MIAC Red Division rival Oakland Christian

Jayme Fadden also had a strong



Plymouth's Anthony Crump (right) dribbles around Canton's B. Artis White during Friday's contest.

night for the Eagles with 17 points, while Max Okolo chipped in 14 points and 10 rebounds.

"We're playing well together as a team," PCA head coach Matt Windle said. "We still need to learn to finish games. Max was a beast on the boards, Matt Malcolm is doing a great job attacking the glass and hitting his shots."

Plymouth Christian improved to 7-2 overall and 5-0 in the division, while Oakland Christian dropped to 5-2, 2-2.

Robichaud tops RU

Jalen Poole poured in a game-high 19 points, while Rashad Williamson

added 10 as host Dearborn Heights Robichaud (7-2, 3-1) earned a 55-43 Western Wayne Athletic Conference Blue Division win Friday over visiting Redford Union (6-4, 2-2).

The Panthers, who trailed 24-17 at halftime and 40-27 after three quarters, cut the deficit to three in the final quarter but couldn't overcome their shooting woes, including a 5-of-13 effort from the foul line (38.4 percent).

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TOM BEAUDOIN

"The game was a battle," Stevenson head coach Karen Anger said. "Our goal was to push and run non-stop and we did that. Salem played us hard and we didn't do the best at boxing out to-night. We only had 15 team rebounds."

Scott scored nine and eight points, re-

RU downs Thurston

points was Jackie Green.

spectively.

Sisters Johnnae and Johnnia Steele scored 13 and 12 points, respectively, leading Redford Union to a 45-31 Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division triumph Friday at Redford Thurston (5-5, 2-2).

The Panthers, who led 23-13 at halftime and 35-23 after three quarters, also got 13 steals and four blocks from Angelica Wellons.

'It was a really good game and I thought our defense kept us ahead of Thurston all night to get us the win," RU coach Scott Purdy said. "But Thurston is a really good team and constantly improving.

Thurston's Naudia Jackson led all scorers with 16 points, while Megan Abela was next with five.

Tigers cage C'ville

In a WWAC Red Division game Friday, host Garden City (5-6, 2-2) got 13 points from Brittany Radtke in a 52-13 win over Livonia Clarenceville (1-10, (0-4)

Myla Hoskins-King tallied a teamhigh eight for the Trojans.



Army veteran Jack Smith is visited by Plymouth hockey players Jack Back and Colton Borke at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor.

Continued from Page B1

ing and one of the men I talked to could have gone on with them all day long. I definitely hope I get another chance to visit again someday, because it was that great of an experience.

Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said the team already had a strong knowledge about the sacrifices made by United States military personnel. Assistant coach Dave Smiatacz's father (Chestor) was a military veteran who died a few years ago.

"We wanted to reach out of our comfort zone as a team to try and show our appreciation and respect," Vento said.

He added that the visit was humbling for him, too. "We constantly remind our players

every day how fortunate we all are to live such a privileged life," Vento said. "And while there are several reasons for that, one of them is certainly the sacrifice that members of the military make on a daily basis so all of us can continue to enjoy the lifestyle that we have

"By visiting the VA hospital, it gave the players and coaches a chance to see it first-hand and make it a reality. I know it was a humbling experience for myself and, in talking to my players after, I know they felt the same way.

That certainly was the case.

"I thought the day at the VA hospital was very rewarding and it was nice to give back a little bit to the

senior forward Colton Borke, who along with sophomore forward Jack Back enjoyed kibitzing with Army vet Jack Smith.

Junior forwards Jack Chumley and Josh Weber also had nothing but awe and respect for what they saw and heard during the visit.

"It was a very humbling experience to meet some of the men that fought to keep us safe," Chumley said. "Everyone was so nice and it was a ton of fun. I really enjoyed the experience and I hope to visit again in the future.

According to Weber, things were put in proper perspective thanks to the visit.

Whatever huge problem I think I have, whether it be having a bad game in hockey or being stressed about school with finals, it is near nothing compared to what the men and women we had the privilege to meet had gone through and are going through," Weber said.

Meanwhile, Vento said the entire team gained perspective with a capital 'P

"With sports, we sometimes get caught up in thinking that athletes are heroes and warriors who do battle,' Vento said. "But the reality is, it is our military members that are the real heroes, who battle with life and death issues on a daily basis.

While it was our first visit to the VA hospital, it certainly won't be our last. It is and understatement to say that our visit was inspirational."

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SHOWCASE

Continued from Page B1

North Rink.

"The Showcase has become an annual part of our schedule," Chargers head coach Jason Reynolds said. "Each year, we've been seeded against very competitive opponents. Given the timing of the event, it serves as a great precursor to the postseason.

"In addition, it's a great opportunity to gain exposure for our players who aspire to play at a higher level after graduation.'

Plymouth also will compete twice, at 1:45 p.m. Thursday against Troy (South Rink) and at 4:15 p.m. Jan. 28 against Forest Hills Central (North Rink).

Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento noted that his team also will take part Feb. 2-4 at the annual Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Prep Hockey Showcase, at Kennedy Ice Arena in Trenton. Also going to the back-to-back showcase tourneys will be Salem and Churchill.

"Both (events) are a great opportuni-ty for high school teams and players to do exactly what their name states and that is to showcase themselves," Vento said. "It gives scouts and coaches from

various junior leagues a unique opportunity to see the talent level that is playing high school hockey, which in turn gives the players a unique opportunity to possibly advance their playing career's after high school.'

Vento said this will be his 10th trip to the MIHL Showcase and third to the Public School Showcase "and what I enjoy most about them is not being so hyper-focused on winning or losing the games, but seeing how my players respond playing in that environment, knowing that several scouts are watching them play. For sure, both showcases are a highlight to our season.

Meanwhile, the Canton Chiefs are

scheduled to play at the Chelsea event at 5:45 p.m. Monday against Grand Blanc and at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday against Bloomfield Hills, both on the South Rink.

Farmington and Farmington Hills Unified both play at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday on different rinks - the Falcons on the South Rink against Dearborn, while Unified takes on Lapeer on the North.

For more information about the Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase, go to mphsh.com. The arena is located at 501 Coliseum Drive in Chelsea.

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Watch for these employment trends in 2017

BY MATT FERGUSON CAREERBUILDER

Whith a divisive election season behind us and a new administration taking over, many job seekers may be wondering how their employment prospects will be affected in the new year. The good news is that employers are entering 2017 watchful yet optimistic, an approach that is reflected in their hiring plans.

According to CareerBuilder's annual job forecast, three out of four employers report that they are in a better financial position than they were a year ago, which is making them more confident about adding people to their payrolls. In turn, the hiring outlook for 2017 is the best the U.S. has seen in a decade, with 40 percent of employers planning to hire full-time, permanent employees this year, up from 36 percent in 2016. Thirty percent of employers expect to increase their number of part-time, permanent employees in 2017, up from 26 percent last year. Temporary and contract hiring is also



ers to fill in-demand roles. At the same time, employers expect job seekers to evolve their skills to keep up with the modern workforce.

Here is a closer look at the key employment trends to track in 2017:

Opportunities abound in

into a career, as 63 percent of employers plan to transition some temporary or contract workers into permanent roles in 2017, up from 58 percent last year.

Companies are under pressure to pay better.

With more employers planning to hire in 2017, competition to recruit top talent will be fierce, which will ultimately benefit workers' pocketbooks. Two-thirds of employers plan to increase salaries on initial job offers, with 30 percent of all employers increasing salaries by 5 percent or more. Forty-seven percent of employers expect to increase the minimum wage at their organizations, and of those employers, 44 percent will increase it by \$3 or more.

Hard skills alone won't get job seekers hired.

As more functions within organizations become automated, employers are placing a higher value on workers' soft skills (e.g., having a positive attitude, being team-oriented, dependability), which can't be replicated by technology. When and soft skills will more likely get them the job offer.

Workers must be comfortable with social media.

Social media has officially crossed over from a hobby to a professional skill. According to the survey, 63 percent of employers say they expect employees across job functions to have some experience with social media. Employees in today's workforce must be social-media-savvy if they want to stay competitive.

Employers are more open to hiring less experienced workers.

One of the key challenges for companies in 2017 will be bridging talent gaps within their organizations. To do this, employers are reskilling and upskilling workers for difficultto-fill positions: 55 percent of employers say they will train workers who don't have experience in their field and hire them in 2017.

Job seekers who on paper may not be the right fit for a role but who show potential will have a chance to pursue

GEITTI

it allows employers to have more flexibility with their staff levels. In fact, 51 percent of employers plan to hire temporary or contract workers in 2017, an increase from 47 percent last year.

Temporary hiring also offers job seekers the advantage of flexibility, as it gives them



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Car Report

On the whole,

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FORD AND FLAT ROCK PLANT WILL GAIN AS COMPANY PIVOTS TO SELF-DRIVEN, EV FUTURE – EVEN WHILE NODDING TO TRUMP



more of the same to Metro Detroit residents who've been waiting a year for the next

gander at the hottest new sheetmetal and the most robust new engines that the Big Three and their rivals will be rolling out in coming months and years.

But have no doubt: The weight of the show is quickly shifting to showcase developments in electrification, automated driving and mobility services, including the new adjunct to the show this year, AutoMobili-D.

And Detroit's two leading hometown automakers exemplify the shift.

North excitement at the press preview so that it can meet stiffening U.S. of the show this week, as usual. It American introduced an improved version of the F-150 pickup truck, America's best-Auto Show this selling vehicle. Ford also confirmed week promises that it will be bringing back two iconic nameplates: the Bronco SUV and the Ranger mid-size pickup truck, which are expected to be built in Wayne.

For good measure, Ford is showing off its ear-splitting, \$400,000 Ford GT sports car at NAIAS again this year, demonstrating to those concerned that the auto industry has not lost touch with its performance fans even in the era of quiet, fuel-sipping electric cars that everyone wants to see driven by machines.

And Ford has made clear that it has become an aggressive player in the forming market for ride-sharing, car-sharing and other mobility services as well as self-driving cars. Like other automakers, Ford also is pushing hard for further



Ford generated its share of electrification of its vehicle fleet and California fuel-economy and emissions requirements-and have them available assuming that mainstream demand for EVs eventually picks up.

At the same time, CEO Mark Fields has been tapping the brakes on immediate expectations for Ford, for its sales and prospects for the year ahead.

The company began taking a dimmer view of the near-term future of the U.S. auto market last summer, when it controlled production and kept inventories in check in anticipation that 2016 overall car sales might not match last year's record.

Meanwhile, cross-town rival General Motors took a more optimistic view, with its production figures underscoring that.

Sure, GM has had to close a few small-car plants this month for a week or two. But automotive CEOs at the Detroit auto show seemed to be coalescing around the view now that 2017 US sales could be at least as good as 2016, in which sales came in at a record for the seventh consecutive years, at 17.55 million vehicles.

For its part, Ford is sticking with a rather sober view of 2017. Fields said in a presentation at Deutsche Bank's global automotive conference that he expects lower profitability for Ford's auto operations this year, in part because of investments in new-



The new 2018 Ford F-150

well as in 11 new product launches residents al over the country." planned globally for this year.

Ford expects its profitability to strengthen in 2018 due to its ongoing works, Steyn said, is that "we see the efforts to strengthen current product rise of the gig economy, especially pillars such as its F Series truck line and SUVs, and to optimize weak areas of the business such as the Lincoln brand, and small cars sold abroad.

Meanwhile, General Motors' Maven car-sharing unit is an important arena for the automaker not only to explore and innovate mobility services but also is becoming an important business in its own right, Julia Steyn, who heads Maven for GM, said at NAIAS.

Steyn said that after just a year or so in business, GM decided that Maven "is not just a mobility experiment; we can truly build a era services and technologies—as business. We're now serving 8,000

Among other reasons to believe But, Fields said in his presentation, that Maven is a business with strong potential rather than simply a skunk with the young workforce who want to work flexible hours" - and so are prime customers for Maven.

> And as far as building a startuptype company in Detroit, and under the wing of GM - neither of which have great reputations for fostering that sort of thing - Steyn was enthusiastic.

"It's extremely easy" to recruit the right talent to Maven from anywhere, she said. "People are proud to be part of Detroit. The auto industry is on the cusp of merging technology with the real assets that the automotive industry has created. There's no more exciting industry on the planet."

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