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Tax revenues lag behind spike in home values

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton will not witness a tax-revenue windfall despite an 11-percent increase in residential property values – the biggest spike in nearly a decade.

That's because a state law, approved in 1994, limits property tax increases to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, meaning a mere 1.6 percent jump this year.

Tom Yack, township trustee and former supervisor, said he believes the 1.6 percent, tied to

the Consumer Price Index, is a "trumped-up" number. He said he believes most consumers would agree the cost of groceries, autos and other goods is higher.

"It's kind of frustrating," Yack said.

His remarks came as Canton's new property assessment notices hit the mail Friday. Despite the double-digit increase in home values, on average, tax revenues will remain sluggish.

"It's kind of hard to keep up with the cost of services when you're only going to get a 1.6

percent increase (in tax revenues)," Yack said.

Housing rebound

Canton Assessor Doug Shaw said the latest assessment notices indicate Canton is rebounding from the Great Recession, as residential property values witness the biggest growth in years based on sales from a two-year period ending last Sept. 30.

Shaw called it "a positive thing" but said taxable values remain sluggish at 1.6 percent growth, except in certain circumstances such as when a

house is sold. Then, a home's taxable value is essentially reset to more closely match its assessed value.

Yack said he is doubtful Michigan legislators will dismantle the 21-year-old law, Proposal A, that changed the rules, due to its popularity among voters.

"I can't imagine any state legislator wanting to revisit it or even discuss it," he said. "It's like the third rail. It's like talking about Social Security at the federal level."

According to Shaw, Canton tax revenues also aren't ex-

pected to show significant gains from commercial property values, which dipped 4 percent, or the industrial sector, which grew at 4 percent.

Under Proposal A, Yack said, property taxable values can increase no more than 5 percent, yet, on the other side of the equation, the law didn't prevent double-digit losses in revenue when the housing market crashed.

"You're always going to be behind (with tax revenues) in those kinds of circumstances,"

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Canton school helps food pantry feed the hungry

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A group of girls from Achieve Charter Academy in Canton decided to fight hunger one empty grocery bag at a time.

That's right – empty. Canton-based Open Door Ministry already has a food supply it distributes every week to more than 450 families, mostly in western Wayne County.

But, the ministry needed plastic grocery bags so volunteers could pack apples, tomatoes, onions and numerous other food items that struggling families pick up from a warehouse on Lilley Road, south of Michigan Avenue.

That's where Girl Scouts Junior Troop 40559 from Achieve Charter Academy helped, launching a school-wide plastic grocery bag drive to help Open Door Ministry, where some Achieve Charter students already had volunteered.

"I think we collected close to a million bags," Stephanie Abughannam, one of three troop leaders, said.

Organizers using a car and two mini-vans



Students hold large bags filled with smaller bags that would eventually be filled with food for the hungry.



Girl Scouts Junior Troop 40559 make heart gestures for their project helping a food pantry.

Price: Road repair projects coming to Canton, Plymouth

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price made road repairs a linchpin of his twice successful campaigns to represent the 10th district.

Price announced Friday that the Wayne County Commission has formally approved three major road projects he



Price

already had touted for the Plymouth and Canton communities.

The largest project involves reconstructing Beck Road from Warren Road in Canton to just

See ROADS, Page A2

School aid fund would take \$250 million hit

By Brad Kadrich
correspondent

Word of the passage of House Bill 4110, which takes more than \$250 million out of the state's school aid fund to plug a \$500-million hole in the 2014-15 general fund budget had social media users in the Plymouth-Canton district atwitter Thursday.

The bill, which would use more than \$250 million from the K-12 budget to pay down the general fund deficit, passed the house 62-48, largely along party lines.



Heise



Pagan

While parents and other stakeholders in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools lamented the loss of money to local schools, state Rep. Kurt Heise, who voted in favor of the bill, said the money will be used to

See HIT, Page A2



Police need help identifying this suspect.

CANTON POLICE

Canton police need help identifying fraud suspect

The Canton Police Department is asking for the public's help identifying a man suspected of using a cloned credit card and making illegal transactions at retail outlets in Canton.

Police captured the man's photo from a surveillance camera.

Anyone who recognizes the suspect is asked to call 734-394-5400.



Police believe the suspect drove this car.

CANTON POLICE



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REVENUES

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he said, adding that recovering from tax losses "will probably take years, and that's just to get us back to where we were before the recession."

\$20-million loss

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy has said Canton lost \$20 million in revenue during a five-year period starting in 2007.

One bright spot for Canton, however, is that it will witness tax revenue growth from a new boom in home construction.

Hundreds of homes are at some stage of development or planning.

Moreover, local real estate officials have said home prices in Canton are healthy due to strong demand in the community, acclaimed for its parks, schools, restaurants and other amenities.

ties.

"Canton has lots of great things," Patterson has said.

Yack singled out new home construction as a way Canton can grow its tax revenues by more than the rate of inflation, especially if current trends continue.

"At least we've got some growth," he said.

Meanwhile, property owners who choose to appeal their property tax assessments to the Canton Board of Review will have an opportunity at the Township Administration Building as follows:

» Monday, March 9, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4:30 p.m.

» Tuesday, March 10, and Wednesday, March 11, 1-5 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.

» Thursday, March 12, 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call the assessor's office at 734-394-5111.

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PANTRY

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made multiple trips to Open Door Ministry to deliver the plastic grocery bags, which they had packed into much larger bags.

"I thought it was good because we can help people who are in need," Abughannam's daughter, 10-year-old Mya, said.

Open Door Ministry Director Steve Darr said the organization gets about 25,000 pounds of food each week – and he estimated 25 percent of it has to be bagged up. He said Achieve Charter Academy students, aside from their earlier volunteer efforts, came through again.

"It is awesome," Darr said. "This is not just a one-time thing for the kids from that school. They're a great bunch of kids. We love them."

Troop 40559 took on the grocery bag project as it tries to earn its bronze award from the Girl Scouts of America.



ACHIEVE CHARTER ACADEMY

Classes at Achieve Charter Academy made it their goal to collect as many plastic grocery bags as possible.

The troop has 15 members, all fifth-grade girls, led by Abughannam and leaders Valerie Stone and Lynn Longridge.

The entire school, kindergarten through eighth grade, got involved. The class collecting the most grocery bags – Mrs. Ziolkowski's

kindergarten class – won a free pizza party from the Jet's Pizza shop near Cherry Hill and Canton Center.

"We were not expecting the turnout we got," Abughannam said.

"Some mothers brought in three big cases with 1,000 bags each."

Organizers say stu-

dents never tired of collecting bags, delivered earlier this month to Open Door Ministry. Every day they brought in bags – bags filled with a giving spirit and, eventually, with food.

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ROADS

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south of Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth Township – a project expected to begin as early as March, weather permitting.

Price had said in late 2013 that the project would likely be on Wayne County's radar for 2015. At that time, Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said local officials had received complaints about traffic congestion along Beck Road, especially near the high school complex.

"The road has been deteriorating over the last few years," Faas said.

The road will be expanded from two lanes to three between Warren and Ann Arbor roads. The project includes

storm sewer, culvert, sidewalk ramp, guardrail and sign work. Moreover, the project also includes installing some new sidewalks.

"The Beck Road project has been long overdue," Price, R-Plymouth Township, said in a prepared statement. "This project will address the poor condition of Beck Road, traffic congestion around the high school campus and flooding issues that have long been a problem at the Ann Arbor Road intersection."

Price chairs the county's Committee on Public Services, which oversees road projects.

The second project involves having Cherry Hill Road resurfaced and widened from two lanes to three between Beck

and Canton Center roads in Canton, and improvements at the Cherry Hill-Beck intersection to accommodate the new schools in the area and the resulting increased traffic.

That project will begin in mid-April, weather permitting, and include drainage, sign and traffic signal improvements.

"With the addition of two schools and an increase in new homes in the area, Cherry Hill Road is also in serious need of improvements," Price said.

Wayne County commissioners also approved a final contract to install a traffic light at the intersection of Beck and Saltz roads in Canton – an improvement long-awaited by residents in the area.

The county approved the traffic signal nearly a year ago and it was supposed to be installed in the fall. However, there was a delay with the bid process.

"It has been more than frustrating to have to wait for MDOT (the Michigan Department of Transportation) to send us back the final contract to begin this long-awaited project," Price said. "This is a very dangerous intersection, and it is imperative that we install this light as soon as possible."

Price is in his second two-year term serving the people of Canton and Plymouth townships and the city of Plymouth.

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HIT

Continued from Page A1

fund community colleges.

Those colleges, he said, were going to be funded partially by K-12 money and partially by general fund money. With the \$500-million deficit, the general fund money will be taken away from community colleges, Heise said, which will now be funded entirely out of the school aid fund.

But since the extra money comes from a projected \$283 million surplus in the school fund, he said, it won't affect Plymouth-Canton's budget at all.

"Everything else stays the same," said Heise, R-Plymouth Township. "We're fortunate to have a surplus in K-12. It's not going to impact Plymouth-Canton, Northville or any districts currently. K-12 (funding) is not taking the hit, and local governments aren't taking the hit."

Opposing view

State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, voted against the bill. She agrees the use of K-12 money technically isn't a cut to current school funding, she also doesn't think it should have been used.

"If we applied the surplus to schools, it would mean a \$110 (per pupil) bump for Plymouth-Canton schools," said Pagan, herself a graduate of the district. "Is that a cut? I would rather have seen it applied to schools."

HB 4110 and House Bill 4112, which passed by a 66-44 vote, now go to the Michigan Senate for consideration.

Heise said the budget shortfall this year is the result of businesses in Michigan taking advantage of Michigan Business Tax credits issued between 1996 and 2011.

He said the state has to set more money aside to pay for tax credits, try to renegotiate some of the tax breaks, and eliminate some of the funds by statute.

"We've got to fill the

hole but not by raising taxes and (or) fees," Heise said. "We're already looking at the 2015-16 budget, in which the governor is asking for a \$75 increase in per-pupil spending."

But Pagan disputes that, as well, saying the formula used to calculate funding amounts "to a 1% increase" for Plymouth-Canton.

Rather than taking money from education, Pagan repeated a campaign platform, saying the state has to quit giving tax breaks to corporations and "hold them accountable."

She said tax credits given to the MEDC, given in what she believes is a failed effort to stimulate Michigan's economy, haven't been proven to be working.

"I have no idea how many jobs (credits) are creating," Pagan said. "When we talk about getting our economy going, we have to do it in a responsible way. We need to hold these corporations responsible for paying their fair share. We're balancing the budget on the backs of kids."

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Figure-skating event to aid camp for kids

World-class figure-skaters will perform at Plymouth Township's Compuware Arena Friday in a fundraiser for children with life-threatening and chronic illnesses.

FrenchieSkate 2015, organized by University of Michigan student athletes in association with U.S. Figure Skating, the U-M Figure Skating Club and the Detroit Skating Club, will benefit North Star Reach, which provides camp experiences for children with serious health challenges.

North Star Reach has a barrier-free camp near Pinckney, Mich., that accommodates about 1,500 campers a year.

FrenchieSkate begins at 7 p.m. Friday at Compuware and will include some of the world's top figure skaters, including Olympic silver medalist Patrick Chan; four-time U.S. champion Jeremy Abbott; Olympians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje, the 2014 World Ice Dance silver medalists; and Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc



DAMIEN MEYER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
Canada's Kaitlyn Weaver and Canada's Andrew Poje perform.

Baker, the 2014 World Junior Ice Dance champions.

"We are honored to be the beneficiary of FrenchieSkate 2015," said Doug Armstrong, founder of North Star Reach.

Tickets start at \$30 each for adults, \$20 for children. For ticket information, photos of the cast and directions to Compuware, visit www.FrenchieSkate.com. To learn more about North Star Reach, visit www.northstarreach.org.



DAMIEN MEYER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
US Alex Shibutani and US Maia Shibutani perform in the Figure Skating Ice Dance Short Dance at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the Sochi Winter Olympics.



COURTESY THE CANADIA PRESS
Patrick Chan will appear at FrenchieSkate 2015 on Friday at Compuware Arena.



COURTESY PHOTO
Alissa Cizsny, two-time U.S. ladies champion, is scheduled to perform

USAF training

Kyle Spence, a 2013 graduate of Canton High School, is finishing training as a U.S. Air Force firefighter and paramedic and will take his first assignment in early March.

Spence, of Canton Township, completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas last fall and is completing his studies at firefighter school in San Angelo. He will be given the rank of Airman 1st Class upon graduation.

As a firefighter-paramedic, he will initially be stationed at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Spence enlisted for a six-year Air Force commitment.

Doctor from Canton to head Detroit Receiving Hospital

Dr. Reginald Eadie of Canton Township has been appointed CEO of Detroit Receiving Hospital.

The Detroit Medical Center made the announcement about Eadie, a board-certified emergency medicine physician and current CEO of DMC Harper-Hutzel Hospital.

Eadie will assume his new, expanded role when Dr. Iris Taylor retires March 27.

"Dr. Eadie brings a deep understanding of the DMC system and the surrounding communities we serve," said DMC CEO Joe Mullany. "His leadership and appreciation for the legacy of these facilities is at the heart of DMC's



Eadie

history of excellence, quality and innovation."

"As a Detroit native who was born, raised and educated in the City, Dr. Eadie embodies this community,"

said Dr. Glenda Price, Chair, DRH Board of Trustees. "We look forward to his continued focus on delivering high quality service to the citizens of this region, as he builds strong relationships with the medical community and the entire staff of Detroit Receiving Hospital."

Dr. Eadie joined the DMC in 2008 as vice president of med-

ical affairs at DMC Harper University Hospital and DMC Hutzel Women's Hospital.

In July 2010, he was appointed as president of Detroit Receiving Hospital, named president of DMC Sinai-Grace Hospital in January 2012 and became CEO of DMC Harper-Hutzel Hospital in October of 2013.

Prior to joining DMC, Dr. Eadie served as Emergency Department Chief and Associate Chief of Staff of Integrated Clinical Services at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit.

A native Detroit, Dr. Eadie is a graduate of the Wayne State University School of

Medicine and completed his emergency medicine residency at WSU/Detroit Receiving Hospital in 1998. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Emergency Medicine and a member of the American College of Health Care Executives.

He also received the Emerging Leadership Award from the Detroit Regional Chamber, recognizing individuals who have shown an unrelenting commitment to making a difference and positively impacting those around him.

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School district earns high rank from national site

By Brad Kadrich
Correspondent

Stakeholders in the Plymouth-Canton school district will line up to extol the virtues of the district.

Now Plymouth-Canton is drawing national attention for its curriculum, teachers, culture and other programs. The district, the fourth-largest in the state, earned high rankings on several lists from the website niche.com, which offers its Best Public School Districts list every year.

Plymouth-Canton ranks sixth on the list of metro-Detroit districts, 13th in the state and 410th nationally.

Best Public School Districts ranks 8,738 school districts based on dozens of key statistics and 4.6 million opinions from 280,000 students and parents. A high ranking indicates that the district contains great schools with exceptional teachers, sufficient resources, and a diverse set of high-achieving students who rate their experiences very highly.

Michael Meissen, Plymouth-Canton's superintendent, said it was rewarding to see the district getting that kind of positive feedback.

"It's always nice to be noted in various rankings," Meissen said. "The validation of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as high-performing is a testament to the importance placed on education by all of our stakeholders."

The district was ranked in a variety of categories. The district's grades:

- Academics – A: According to state standards, 69 percent of students in this district are considered proficient in math and/or reading. According to the survey, there were 39 reviews written about academics and they were mostly positive.
- Administration & Policies – A+.
- Educational outcomes –

A: Students in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools score well on both the SAT and ACT. There were 19 reviews written about the education outcomes of this district and they were mostly positive.

• Extracurriculars – A: The Plymouth Canton Educational Park has a vast number of choices for a student to choose a school sports team or a school club. Regular meetings are held by each of these clubs and the members are actively involved.

• Food – A.
• Health & Safety – B+.
• Resources & Facilities – B+.

• Sports & Fitness – A
• Student Culture & Diversity – A
• Teachers – A: There were 39 reviews written about the teachers and they were mostly positive.

Board of Education Trustee Mike Siegrist said district teachers and families have earned the rankings.

"It's a testament to our teachers, parents and school community that a district which ranks 549th in funding can earn the position of 13th highest in the state," Siegrist said. "Of the over 800 school districts, we face unique challenges, surpassed only by our exceptional ability as a district."

"Our investment in emerging technology through the STEM labs at the middle schools, 1:1 technology and partnerships with international engineering and manufacturing companies have provided us an edge as we face tomorrow's challenges," he added.

Meissen said the success of the school district helps make the communities it serves better.

"Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township consistently rank as some of the top places to live, work and play," Meissen said.

Teacher takes communication skill set to whole new level

By Brad Kadrich
Correspondent

As soon as he saw the posting, Nick Brandon felt like it was a job for which he was perfectly suited.

Apparently, officials at the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district agreed. They've appointed Brandon, 35, as the district's new associate director of marketing and external relations.

The district's Board of Education approved the hiring as part of the consent agenda on a 6-1 vote at its Feb. 10 meeting. Trustee Mark Horvath was the lone dissenting vote.

"The complete uniqueness of my background made this job perfect for me," said Brandon, in his fifth year as a teacher at Discovery Middle School. "There aren't that many teachers who have not only the education background in communications, but also the actual job experience."

Brandon, the son of former University of Michigan athletic director Dave Brandon, earned his bachelor's degree in communications from The Ohio State University in 2002.

He's worked in newspapers and radio – having been a staff writer for Heritage Newspapers and an intern for 104.3-FM (WOMC) – and he's been an on-line editor (for MGo-Blue.com).

His background in journalism, he'd wanted to work in newspapers. And although the industry was struggling, the young Brandon was still pretty happy.

"I could see what was happening to the newspaper industry, but that's not why I left," Brandon said. "I had a burning desire to teach. I knew the impact teachers had on me, and I wanted the opportunity to have that effect on young people myself."

He was a student-teacher at West Middle School, where



Nick Brandon is the new associate director of marketing and external relations for Plymouth-Canton Community schools.

veteran Tom Williams, who retired last year, and Cindy Ontko "inspired me."

"Whenever I thought about going into teaching, those are the two who came to mind," said Brandon, who got into teaching late in the game at age 28.

Brandon earned his master's degree in elementary education from the University of Michigan. After two years student-teaching at West and then a year off, Brandon was hired at Discovery in 2010. He's been teaching English and American History there since.

He and his wife, Leigh, have two daughters, 3½-year-old Ileana and 18-month-old Blake.

Dr. Michael Meissen, the district's superintendent, agreed Brandon's skill set matched the requirements of the job. He said the district is trying to "create an integrated leadership arrangement," and that Brandon will help in a move to merge work being done in areas like development and community education.

"(Brandon) has a skill set based on the ability to communicate internally and externally, to work with an organization

that's changing," Meissen said. "He'll help us as we get more comprehensive in our marketing of the district."

In a highly technological age, that comprehensive marketing is likely to include social media, including Facebook and Twitter. Brandon is adept at both, and knows it'll be important in his new role.

"I'm really engaged with social media; I'm part of the generation really involved in that," Brandon said. "We're going to broaden our social media campaign and make it more active. The time has come and gone when you communicate the way you need. Now you have to communicate the way they need."

Brandon certainly didn't apply for his new job because of any dissatisfaction with the teaching profession. The new job simply presented a challenge he wanted to take on.

"I loved being a teacher," said Brandon, who is also the Plymouth High School varsity girls' basketball coach. "But I felt I could have a greater role in the district, and use my unique skills and experience to make us a better district."

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Growth Works' annual recognition dinner lauds youths who overcame obstacles

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Growth Works began in 1971 as a Plymouth-based agency to help young people. Dale Yagiela, executive director, has been there all that time.

"We like to honor people who have helped the organization," Yagiela said of the agency's 26th annual recognition dinner, held Feb. 19 at Fox Hills Banquet Center. Local young people who've handled substance abuse or other problems well are also lauded.

"We like to acknowledge the changes they've made in their lives," he said.

The agency started as Plymouth Youth Inc. in 1971 and five years later became Growth Works. At that time, it was mainly for Plymouth and Plymouth Township young people.

"There wasn't much of a Canton at that point," he recalled. "It was a really different community then."

As youth culture expanded in the 1970s, drug use became a problem. "There wasn't a lot being done about it," said Yagiela, adding some hard drugs like LSD were used locally with marijuana and alcohol most often the problem. "People weren't really tuned into it" as a problem.

The youth activity center was followed by alternative education in the mid-1970s. Agency leaders realized young people with substance abuse issues didn't do well in school, which needed to be addressed.

Growth Works started Learning Options, the alternative school program, in 1977 in conjunction with Plymouth-Canton Schools. The agency obtained the federal grant along with the district to develop a way to re-integrate teens into the high schools that had been essentially removed from the regular school setting for an array of disciplinary matters. That effort led to a better understanding of the way drug use interfered with school performance and the first efforts to connect kids with hospital-based inpatient drug treatment programs, Yagiela explained.

Youth after-care for recovery soon followed. That initial aftercare program paved the way for the joint venture residential adolescent drug treatment program Growth Works has with Wolverine Human Services, called WCARE/I in Vassar, Mich., the two outpatient endeavors in Livingston and Washtenaw counties, tied to their respective Juvenile Drug Courts and the 10-bed residential program Growth Works operates in the Washtenaw County Juvenile



PHOTOS BY JULIE BROWN
Rick and Cindy Bergquist of Livonia are shown with their daughter, Tori Bergquist, and her fiancé, T.J. Elliott. Rick and Cindy presented a Growth Works scholarship to Taylor Struna.



Growth Works recognized with awards (from left) Adam Turner of Canton, Ter-Ri Uptegrove of Ann Arbor and Smeet Parikh of Canton at the Feb. 19 recognition dinner.



Honorees lauded at the Feb. 19 dinner included (from left) Draque Gamsjager of Howell, Sebastian Campbell of Ypsilanti and Taylor Struna of Livonia.

Detention Facility.

The juvenile justice focus started in the mid-1980s with the Youth Assistance program. That initial program relied on mentorship opportunities to help kids diverted by the local police agencies and the 35th District Court, which had just been allowed to serve local teens charged with misdemeanor and ordinance violations.

That experience allowed Growth Works to become one of Wayne County's Care Management Organizations when Wayne County developed its own juvenile justice program in 1999. Growth Works is one of five CMOs that provide probation and case management services to every youth tried in the Wayne County Juvenile Court. The Growth Works CMO service area entails 17 western Wayne County communities.

Services are provided in the community and youth are also placed in residential rehabilitation settings, Yagiela said.

Close work with police agencies is a key part of helping young people become and stay crime-free.

Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston counties now use Growth Works services, with the newer adult treatment program for substance abuse having mostly Wayne County residents. Some 80 such adults are about evenly split between inpatient and relapse prevention, he said. The Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Authority is the fund source.

In addition to primary treatment for adult substance abusers, mainly young adults, a second component of the program focuses on relapse prevention and how to maintain sobriety once it's achieved.

He noted young people from poorer communities tend to have less in the way of resources to help them, putting them more often in the juvenile justice system. "Generally speaking, I think we could do a bet-



Dale Yagiela, Growth Works executive director, shares a laugh at the agency's 26th annual recognition dinner.

ter job of that," he said. "Typically, they don't have access to the same services."

The recent recession also impacted law enforcement, Yagiela noted, with less policing meaning more criminal activity, including among teens.

Yagiela also pointed to newer research on adolescent brain development. Adolescence is starting earlier, he said, and going into the early 20s. Drug use interferes with brain development, and things like impulse control are impacted.

The annual awards dinner is a great chance to acknowledge young people, the staff and the Growth Works Board of

Directors, he said. Some former clients, now adults, serve on the board.

"The board's been great," Yagiela said. "We have a really engaged Board of Directors." Stephen Harper is the board president.

Of his staff, Yagiela said, "they have extremely hard jobs and face difficult challenges. I'm quite proud of the efforts they undertake to improve the lives of their clients and the willingness to take on tough assignments. The staff is very dedicated and highly competent. Most importantly, they are good-hearted people that really care about what they do."

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U.S. Rep. Trott talks politics with Rotary Club

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Dave Trott's first 40 days in office have been a whirlwind of political hobnobbing as he learns his way around the corridors of Congress.

Trott represents residents of Canton and Plymouth townships and the city of Plymouth in Michigan's 11th congressional district.

The Republican congressman shared some observations about the nation's capital and the inner workings of the U.S. House and Senate with the Birmingham Rotary Club on Monday. Trott said the House passed 42 bills in his first six weeks in office — and all but one had some degree of bipartisan support.

He also spoke about some of the nuances of Congress.

"When I was in business for 30 years, if I scheduled a meeting for

10 a.m. I wouldn't typically schedule anything else at 10 a.m. But in Congress they triple book you," Trott said. "So last week at 10 a.m. I had a briefing on Iran that I thought was pretty important to go to. I also had a committee hearing ... and I had the Oakland County Schools visiting my office. The consequence of that is you're running around a lot. I probably walk about 15,000 steps a day."

Trott was in good spirits as he talked about his experiences as a first-term congressman. While the GOP has a majority in the House and Senate, Trott noted it takes 60 votes in the Senate to stop a debate — or filibuster — and move an issue to a vote.

"In the Senate you need 60 votes — we have 54 votes on a good day — and you need 60 votes to get anything done," he said. "As described to me, there are a handful of members in the House



JAY GROSSMAN
Newly elected U.S. Rep. Dave Trott spoke to the Birmingham Rotary Club on Monday.

of Representatives that are highly relevant: the speaker, the majority leader, the committee chairs and the whips ... in the Senate every senator is relevant because one senator can hold the whole place up."

Trott then touched on

a number of hot-button issues being debated in Congress:

» He expects President Obama to veto the bill to construct the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

"I think it's an important bill and I hope he doesn't veto it, but the word is he's going to," Trott said.

» He expects Congress to approve Obama's request for military authorization to fight the so-called Islamic State (ISIS).

"I think it's necessary because ISIS is a threat that's not going away," Trott said. "But the question the Republicans in the House want to ask, and at least some Democrats, is what is the strategy? There's a lack of confidence among many members, as best as I can discern, that to give the president a blank check without a strategy behind it is a mistake."

» On the House vote to repeal the Affordable

Care Act, Trott said he doesn't expect the measure to go very far.

"We don't expect the president to sign a bill repealing his signature legislation," Trott said. "But still, it is a reminder that it's an onerous regulation that probably will not achieve the cost savings many of us believe is expected."

His first vote in Congress was to support the Hire More Heroes Act that allows small businesses to hire a veteran without being subjected to the Affordable Care Act health insurance requirements.

Trott said one of his bigger goals is to reduce the amount of bureaucratic red tape that small businesses face under the Obama administration.

He agrees that more action needs to be taken on immigration reform, and he supports sanctions against Iran in light of the country's nuclear program.

On the issue of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaking at a joint session of Congress on March 3, Trott said he expects the controversy to blow over quickly.

The invitation was made by House Speaker John Boehner, against the wishes of Obama.

"I'm not sure it was handled the best way, but the fact of the matter is he's the prime minister of a very important friend and ally of this country," Trott said. "I know I'll be there. Some members are apparently going to show up and walk out, which I think is highly disrespectful — it would be better if they didn't show up at all."

"I think this speech will come and go and things will return to normal pretty quickly. I'm glad he's coming."

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586-826-7030

Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Partnership with local United Way helps those in need

Chuck E. Cheese in Canton was hopping as Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) staff accepted donations of canned food for those in need.

The event, held Feb. 13, was part of a month-long drive to collect nonperishables at the Canton business on Ford Road known for its family fun environment.

The partnership came about earlier this year when Josh Faith, the venue's assistant manager, approached the local United Way with a desire to help the community.

All the nonperishables went to pantries serving Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County residents.

"The need continues in our communities so we wanted to be here to show our appreciation and support of Chuck E. Cheese for holding the food drive," said Randi Williams, PCUW Special Events Coordinator.

A collection box for food quickly filled up.

"The whole box is

overflowing," Faith said. "I never expected it would go so well."

It was definitely a party atmosphere. Children played, hopping from square to square on the interactive games while PCUW staff gratefully accepted donations.

Cleo Ssemakula and her son Kizito, 11, were enjoying the pizza and games.

The Canton family brought a bag of canned foods to donate. Kizito and his father, Emmanuel, regularly volunteer to make and deliver sandwiches for the hungry in inner city Detroit as part of the P.B. & J. Program at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth.

"He wanted to come," said Cleo Ssemakula. "I told my son we are helping feed people who are hungry, the homeless, and he wanted to play games."

Isabella Murphy was enjoying pizza and games with her friend Morgan Horning. The 13-year old Plymouth girls brought cans of corn and tomato



PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED WAY
Plymouth Community United Way and Chuck E. Cheese joined forces to collect nonperishable food to help those in need.

soup to help the less fortunate. Murphy has volunteered in the past for PCUW's raking events to help senior citizens and people with disabilities. Her grandmother, Marie Morrow, is President of Plymouth Community United Way.

"My grandma called and told me about the fundraiser," said Murphy. "It seemed like a lot of fun and helps United Way."

The Plymouth Community United Way Food

Drive was the first of its kind for Chuck E. Cheese although the family entertainment center collected Toys for Tots at Christmas. The partnership continues with a drive for new children's books in March. PCUW plans to distribute the donated items in time for summer.

Williams noted that March is Reading Month. "We want to help prevent the summer slide that children experience in reading during school

break. We're looking forward to partnering with Chuck E. Cheese to help the community."

"Lots of kids stop reading over the summer and we thought this could help," added Faith, who can attest to the slack in reading. His two nephews and a niece usually spend the summer playing outside or video games inside.

Meanwhile, the food drive continues through Feb. 28. The New Children's Book Drive runs

March 1-31. Customers receive 20 tickets for each nonperishable food item or new book brought into Chuck E. Cheese.

Tickets can be used toward the purchase of prizes.

Food and books can also be dropped off at the PCUW office, 960 W. Ann Arbor Tr., Suite 2 in Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or send email to randi.williams@pcuw.org.

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MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
(734) 453-1234**

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

1. Z 15-02 860 Penniman / 870 Penniman
Use Variance Requested
Private Parking Lot Use-North & West Lots
Non-Use Variance Requested
1. Landscape Buffer
2. Lighting Intensity, west & north parking lots
Zoned: B-2, Central Business
Applicant: Westborn Market/Guido Architects

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:

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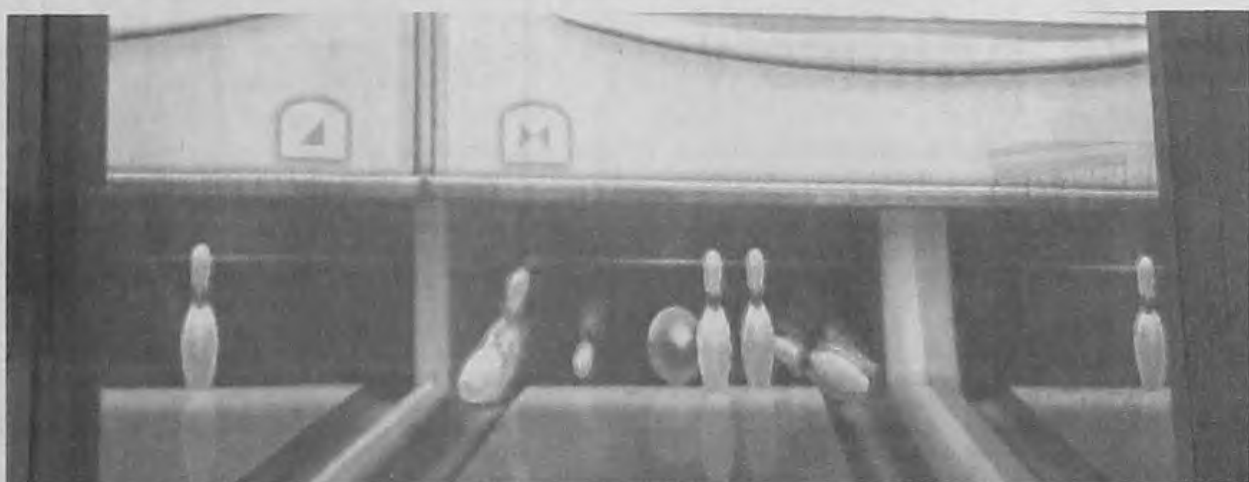
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Wii bowling looks and sounds like the real thing, and is scored for you.

STEVE CANTRELL

Wii not? Exercise, friends add up to a fun way to make aging easier

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Wii bowling is one of many ways seniors — and those of all ages — can have fun and shape up.

"This is my first time at Wii bowling," said Barbara Bushta of Livonia, at a recent Plymouth District Library Wii bowling session. "It sounded like fun, and try to get out in this weather and do something. A little exercise and meet new people."

Kathy Knezek of Plymouth Township said, "We've been coming a couple years." She and neighbor/friend Sue Baumgartner of Plymouth Township missed about five months but ventured out on a recent chilly Thursday.

"We bowl and then go to lunch," Knezek said. "We saw it in the paper and we thought it'd be fun to do."

The women enjoy their lunch after, varying the restaurants. "It's always a tough decision where we're going to go," Knezek said.

"She bowls a 200 game," Baumgartner said of Knezek, noting Wii is scored like tradi-



JULIE BROWN

At the recent Wii bowling at the library in Plymouth were (from left) Barbara Bushta of Livonia, Kathy Knezek of Plymouth Township and Sue Baumgartner of Plymouth Township.

tional bowling. Knezek added, "They score it for you."

The Wii bowling meets 11 a.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Plymouth library, 223 S. Main. It usually draws about seven, and "once

we had a request to tone down the noise," Baumgartner said with a smile.

The women acknowledge the Wii bowling isn't exhausting exercise but is enjoyable. Research backs them up, with the Mayo Clinic website

(www.mayoclinic.org) touting the benefits of both exercise and socializing as you age. The website recommends you:

» Keep your mind active. Mentally stimulating activities, such as puzzles and word games, and memory training may delay the onset of dementia and help decrease its effects.

» Be physically and socially active. Physical activity and social interaction may delay the onset of dementia and reduce its symptoms.

» Quit smoking. Some studies have shown smoking in middle age and older may increase your risk of dementia and blood vessel (vascular) conditions. Quitting smoking may reduce your risk.

» Lower your blood pressure. High blood pressure may lead to a higher risk of some types of dementia. More research is needed to determine whether treating high blood pressure may reduce the risk of dementia, the website reports.

» Maintain a healthy diet. Eating a healthy diet is important for many reasons.

Class ring lost for two years shows up on Friday, the 13th

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Some people believe Friday the 13th brings bad luck.

But Friday, Feb. 13, brought good luck to Matthew Flood, a Stevenson High School senior, who was reunited with his class ring after it had been missing for nearly two years.

A representative of St. Vincent de Paul found the ring in the pocket of a pair of jeans Matthew had donated shortly after Christmas and brought it to Stevenson High School. Staff members there traced the ownership back to Matthew based on the initials inscribed inside.

"I was really very touched that someone brought the ring to school," said Matthew's mother Crystal Flood. "That was such a tremendous gift; they could have easily pawned it if they had wanted to."

Matthew said he thought the \$200 ring, which he got at the beginning of his sophomore year, was gone for good. A percussionist, he suspects he put in into his pocket while practicing with the school band and then forgot about it. He tried looking for it, but couldn't find it anywhere.

He was afraid to tell his mother, so he didn't say anything and hoped she'd forget.

"I was just going to ride it out," he said. "She didn't say anything for the past year and a half, so I thought I was in the clear," he said. He did worry, however, come graduation day she might ask



Senior Matthew Flood is glad to be reunited with his Stevenson High School class ring.

why he wasn't wearing it.

Crystal Flood said she would not have been happy to hear he lost the ring so soon after he received it, especially since it was expensive.

She said she didn't notice he had stopped wearing it because "well it is a class ring, sometimes they wear it for a while, put it away and pull it out and wear it again."

Crystal Flood said it's a good lesson for her son: "that fundamentally people are good, that even though we live in a questionable world at times, people are kind, that even though sometimes life can be hard, that people do have compassion. God watches over each and every one of us and has a plan."

Matthew said he is glad to have the ring back.

And he's wearing it regularly now — not only because his mom is looking for it on his finger.

"I have to wear it around now," he said. "After the whole journey that it took."

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Married 67 years, Harry and Clairra Levy enjoy a slow dance together.



Judy and Jerry Beers step out on the dance floor at the Costick Center's annual Valentine's Day Dance last Friday. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seniors dance away Cupid's day

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is about more than chocolates and flowers, Cupid and hearts. It's also the time to tear up the dance floor with the rumba, tango, waltz, Cha Cha and more at the Costick Center's annual Valentine Party.

Some 130 seniors — many dressed in sparkling red or bright pink in keeping with the holiday theme — turned out for the party, which included lunch, entertainment by North Farmington High's Northern Lights, a 50-50 raffle and, of course, dancing to the tunes of the Mike Wolverton Band.

"It's fantastic," said Terry Bee of Belleville, a professional dance teacher who attended the event with his valentine, Marnie Britcher of Canton.

Britcher said she, too, was having a wonderful afternoon. "Awesome dance floor, awesome people, everybody is so friendly, awesome food — I

say it's a 10 out of 10," she said.

Carol Plotnick of Southfield also gave the event rave reviews. "It's just fun. And I love dancing. It's good for you, and it felt good," she said, taking a break after "cutting a rug" with Edwin Olepa moments earlier.

Olepa traveled from Dearborn Heights for the dance. "I like the band, the people — everybody's very sociable," he said. Just before spotting Plotnick, the 83-year-old said he was "still looking" for a dance partner — noting that he's partial to Mexican tunes and polka music.

Some, like Karen Carter of Farmington Hills, were content to just sit back and watch others hit the dance floor. "I come out to the Costick Center all the time," she said. "It's a chance to get out, enjoy the rest of the community and have fun."

The dance, she said, was a great reason to "take myself



Ron Sherman of Westland twirls dancing partner Terry Swierb, a Plymouth resident.



Meilang Ying and his wife Yi Ying Zhang have attended the annual Valentine's Day party at the Costick Center several times.

out for Valentine's Day."

"And it's wonderful — taking myself out and being catered to at the same time," Carter said, smiling.

Sister Mary Jane Kleindorfer, 85, a resident of Sisters of Mercy next door to the Costick Center, didn't need a partner to enjoy the music — and didn't let her walker slow her down, either. Grinning widely,

she boogied to the beat, leaving no doubt that nuns can dance, too.

"I'm having a lot of fun. I love line dancing," she said.

White Lake resident Joanna Folland, 68, and her date, Russell Vanderbilt of Westland, 71, couldn't agree on who was the better dancer — each saying the other was tops.

"She's really good — a lot

better than I am," Vanderbilt said.

Yet Folland said it's Vanderbilt who has the best moves. "He's light on his feet — that comes from playing football in high school," she said. "And hey, if they don't know how to dance, why date them, right?"

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Old thermostat may be problem causing new furnace to act up

Q: I have a newer gas forced-air furnace and when I set the thermostat at 64 degrees, the house heats up in the 70s, the furnace shuts off and won't come back on until the house feels like an icebox. What can be causing this? Do you have any suggestions?

A: I have heard of several people that have newer gas forced-air furnaces complain of the same thing you are experiencing. The problem is probably not the newer furnace, but your older thermostat. In your thermostat, there is an "anticipator," which turns off the furnace's burner before the temperature reaches your setting. The furnace still produces heat for a while, however, because the blower will keep running until the accumulated heat in the furnace drops to about 90 degrees.

Remove the cover on the thermostat. Inside you should see a small dial or scale with numbers. Set the dial to the electrical current rating of the furnace primary control. Sometimes it is noted on the gas valves, oil relays, stack switch, etc. You might want to check with your heating contractor about the proper setting or you can experiment yourself. If the furnace cycle is too long, as in your case, slightly lower the setting. If too short, raise the setting.

By the way, periodically blow the dust off the thermostat. If it has a battery for the clock, replace the battery. Now you'll be able to cool down and relax in comfort.

Q: My house is built on a slab and I find that



Lon Grossman

my feet are always cold when I walk on the floors. Is there anything I can do to make them warmer?

A: If your house or any room in your house sits on a concrete slab, the floors may always be cold.

Most, if not all, insulation manufacturers, such as Celotex, Dow, Owens-Corning, Trend Products, etc. make excellent insulation panels and kits specifically designed for insulating slab floors from the exterior. Follow these simple instructions:

- » Trench around the exterior.
- » Clean off the foundation walls and spread on a mastic adhesive waterproofing substance.
- » Install exterior insulating panels down several feet.
- » Add drip edges and apply caulking.

There is also a product from the Homasote Co. called Comfort Base. It can be applied over concrete slabs and floors as an underlayment for carpet or other floor coverings. Comfort Base has an insulating R-Value of 1.2, adds only 1/2 inch to your floor's height and can be easily installed by a flooring company or a handy person. It comes in easy-to-handle 4-foot by 4-foot sections. This product makes rooms feel warmer and will

help reduce your heating bills. Contact the Homasote Co. (800-257-9491) for cost and local distributors.

Q: My bathroom has a lot of mold and mildew on the walls and ceilings. How can I get this cleaned up so I can repaint my bathroom?

A: If your bathroom looks like a set from a horror movie because of all the mold and mildew on the walls and ceiling, you still can have a happy ending.

That black, furry stuff will be facing extinction when you do the following:

- » Clean everything thoroughly with a solution of one cup of trisodium phosphate (which can be purchased at local hardware stores), one quart of chlorine bleach and three quarts of warm water.
- » Repeat the above process for stubborn areas.
- » Rinse with clean water.
- » Let the walls and ceiling dry thoroughly.
- » Re-clean and spray the areas with Concrobium™ (available at Lowes). Concrobium not only kills all surface mold, unlike bleach, it also kills the roots.

When repainting the bathroom, add a mildewicide additive such as M-1 Advanced Mildew Treatment (priced about \$5) to your paint. A few manufacturers already add a mildewicide to their brand of paint, so check the contents on the can. A good product is Zinser's Perma-White™ paint.

Defendant in referee's death to serve 8-15 years in prison after plea deal

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The man whose punch killed a soccer referee in Livonia last summer has taken a plea deal with prosecutors and will serve at least eight years in prison.

Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter Friday morning. That plea will result in a prison sentence of 8-15 years, according to the plea deal. Saad was originally charged with second-degree murder, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

The deal in Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny's courtroom at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice took place just one business day before a jury trial was scheduled to begin. Jury selection in the case was scheduled for Monday in Circuit Judge Thomas Cameron's courtroom in Detroit.

"I believe it is Mr. Saad's wishes to move forward with the plea agreement," said Brian Berry, one of Saad's attorneys.

Saad was arrested one day after striking Westland resident John Bieniewicz, a soccer referee, during an adult league soccer match at Livonia's Mies Park. Witness testimony from Saad's preliminary examination stated Saad



FILE PHOTO

Bassel Saad, left, with his former attorney Ali Hammoud, right at Saad's preliminary examination in Livonia last summer. Saad took a plea deal Friday, pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of Westland resident John Bieniewicz.

struck Bieniewicz while the referee was in the process of ejecting him from the match. Two days later, Bieniewicz died from the injuries sustained in the punch, leading prosecutors to file murder charges against Saad.

Saad appeared in court wearing a white shirt, gray pants and black tie.

He spoke for the first time in the proceedings, answering Kenny's questions and admitting he did strike Bieniewicz that day.

Wayne County assistant prosecutor Erika Tusar said the plea deal offers had changed several times during the case, including with Saad's former attorney.

Offerings began at a minimum of 10 years under the second-degree murder charge before being negotiated to the 8- to 15-year agreement under involuntary manslaughter.

"There were intense negotiations in this case," she said.

Kenny also informed Saad that since he is not a U.S. citizen, the charge could lead to a possible deportation. Saad said he understood and wanted to move forward with the plea deal.

Cyril Hall, one of Saad's attorneys, said after the proceedings that there was no immediate knowledge of what would happen in regards to his immigration status.

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HOT TUB TIME MACHINE 2 (R)
11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:05, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:55
THE DUFF (PG-13)
12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:55
FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (R)
11:00, 12:00, 1:45, 3:10, 4:30, 6:20,
7:15, 9:10, 10:00
FRI/SAT LS 11:15
KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (R)
12:45, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 11:20
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS:
SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG)
11:20, 2:00, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00
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Traditional IRA or Roth: What's best for this twenty-something who lives with parents?

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my mid-20s and currently still live at home. I virtually have no expenses and I am able to save money. I just got done doing my tax return online. I don't have a 401(k) or anything like that at work and I've never made an IRA contribution in the past. My dilemma is whether I use a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA. If I did the calculations correctly, a traditional IRA will save me over \$700. My dad wants me to do a Roth IRA. What type of IRA



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

should I use?

A: There's an old saying and it applies in this situation: father knows best.

I agree with your dad that in your situation it would be much better to do a Roth IRA versus a traditional IRA. Even though the traditional IRA will give you some current tax benefits, it

will cost you in the long run.

It is important to understand the difference between a traditional and a Roth IRA. In a traditional IRA you can deduct your contribution on your tax return. All the money in the IRA would grow tax-deferred. When you withdraw the money, the entire withdrawal would be subject to income tax at your ordinary income tax bracket. In addition, traditional IRAs are subject to required minimum distributions, which means at age 70½ wheth-

er you are required to take some of the money.

The initial disadvantage of a Roth IRA is not being able to deduct your contribution. However, instead of the money growing tax-deferred, it is growing tax-free. In other words, when you withdraw the money from a Roth IRA, your entire withdrawal is tax-free.

In addition, there are no required minimum distributions, and thus you don't have to begin to withdraw the money when you're 70½.

Even though you take a short-term tax hit today, down the road when you retire you will be in significantly better shape. You will have greater flexibility as to when you can withdraw the money and it would be tax-free.

You may save \$700 today with a traditional IRA, however, down the road when you withdraw the money by using a Roth, you will literally save thousands.

Congratulations for beginning to save for your retirement. I wish more people in their 20s

were like you.

One last note. Those of you lucky enough to have a salary deferral program at work such as a 401(k) plan should maximize your contribution and also consider Roth IRA contributions. You can't have too much money saved for your retirement.

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

Two men face trial in woman's beating death

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Two Westland men have been bound over for trial on charges that they beat to death a local woman, whose body was found in a Dearborn Heights street last month.

Terrence Harold Johnson, 44, and Randy Batts, who turns 31 next week, are charged with first-degree murder and torture in the death of Diedre Akins, 46. Johnson was Akins's live-in boyfriend, sharing a home on Grand Traverse in Norwayne.

The medical examiner's autopsy report found Akins, whose body was found on Powers near

John Daly early Jan. 18, had died of multiple blunt-force trauma injuries, including to her head, and had suffered several broken ribs.

LaDarin Best testified that he had been renting a room at the home on Grand Traverse from Akins, whom he had known for more than 10 years. Due to mobility issues, Best said he primarily stayed in his room and never went down into the basement of the home where Akins was reportedly killed.

Best described an escalating dispute between Akins and Batts, who had accused Akins of stealing narcotics from him. Specifically, Batts

was upset over some missing cough syrup, Best said.

Akins denied taking any drugs but gave Batts \$10, Best said, but the dispute continued, becoming physical. When Batts appealed to Johnson to get Akins to return his missing drugs, Best said, Johnson responded that the situation had nothing to do with him.

"He (Batts) was upset and saying someone better find it (his drugs). He grabbed her (Akins) coat and shoved her up against the wall," Best said.

As the argument continued over an extended period time and more alcohol was consumed by



Terrence Johnson is one of two men charged with fatally beating a Westland woman, his girlfriend for over two years.

the trio, Best said he tried to convince Akins not to keep going down into the basement where the two men were during much of time.

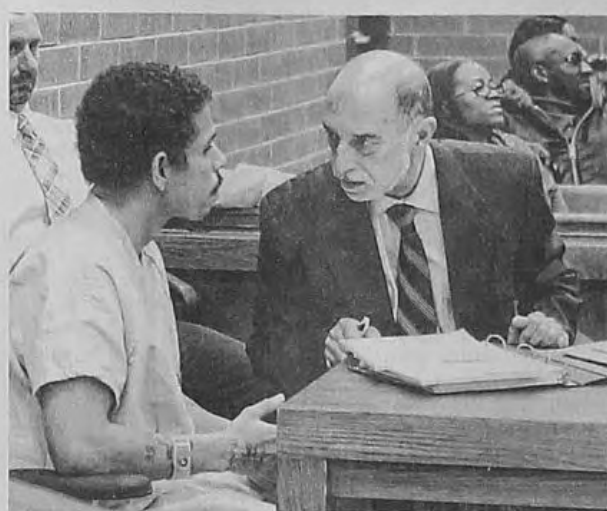
Batts struck Akins in the face with his fist a couple of times and ended up wrestling with her on the floor, Best said.

"I tried to grab him and break it up. I don't move too good. I kept telling her to stay upstairs," Best said. "I was telling her (Akins) to call 911. The phone wasn't charging. I told her to get the charger."

The last time Akins went into the basement of the home, Best said, he heard a series of loud booms, a male voice yelling he wanted his drugs and then, Akins saying "Get out."

"It got quiet. There was talking but for 10 or 15 minutes there was no argument," Best said. "I heard Batts say 'You better get her before she gets hurt.' Terrence (Johnson) said, 'She's OK, she's faking.' I heard her say something, then nothing more."

Best testified that he



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Defense attorney Martin Magidson confers with defendant Randy Batts during the preliminary examination.

never saw Akins again. The following day, Best said he asked Johnson about Akins.

"He said she probably was at the hospital. Terrence went to the store. When he came back, he asked if she (Akins) had called," Best said. "About half an hour later, the police came."

Two other Westland men, Michael Bashlor, 34, and Joshua Hurston-Herron, 23, are charged with being accessories after the fact. The charges are that Bashlor and Hurston-Herron helped dispose of Akins' body.

Both have already been arraigned in Wayne County Circuit Court and are jailed in lieu of \$250,000 cash bond.

Dearborn Heights Police began investigating the case after Akins' body was found without any identification.

Westland Police Sgt. Jon Torolski testified that later that day Bashlor, accompanied by a cousin who is a Detroit Police officer, came to the Westland Police Department to provide information in the case.

As officers executed a search warrant at the home on Grand Traverse, Torolski said he went to interview Johnson at the Dearborn Heights Police station.

Noting a fresh scratch on his face, Torolski said Johnson gave an inconsistent account of what had happened over two in-

terviews.

Johnson placed most of the blame for Akins' death on Batts, Torolski said, but he also described tying Akins with rope and putting tape over her mouth after she was injured and bleeding.

"In his Jan. 20 statement, Johnson acknowledged that it was due to his and Batts' actions that Diedra had died," Torolski said. "Her body was kept in a closet, wrapped in a hospital-style blanket, he agreed, for at least 12 hours until they moved the body."

Both men were ordered bound over for trial as charged and remain jailed in lieu of bond.

The preliminary examination had been delayed two weeks due to issues with material not being provided to the defense.

The hearing on Thursday before Westland 18th District Judge Mark McConnell also got off to a rough start when the first witness, Autumn Harding, who had apparently been present in the basement of Akins' home during the fatal beating, started to incriminate herself.

McConnell stopped the hearing and had court-appointed attorney David Lankford talk with Harding regarding her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Batts and Johnson are scheduled for circuit court arraignment Feb. 26.

Plymouth Charter Township, Wayne County, Michigan

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE SUBMITTAL

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following proposed Ordinance was introduced for first reading by the Plymouth Charter Township Board at its February 10, 2015 meeting:

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH AMENDMENT 14 to ORDINANCE NO. 1016

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY GAS FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. TERM. The CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, hereby grants to the Consumers Energy Company, a Michigan corporation, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called the "Grantee," the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

SECTION 2. CONSIDERATION. In consideration of the rights, power and authority hereby granted, said Grantee shall faithfully perform all things required by the terms hereof.

SECTION 3. CONDITIONS. No highway, street, alley, bridge, waterway or other public place used by said Grantee shall be obstructed longer than necessary during the work of construction or repair, and shall be restored to the same order and condition as when said work was commenced. All of Grantee's pipes and mains shall be so placed in the highways and other public places as not to unnecessarily interfere with the use thereof for highway purposes.

SECTION 4. HOLD HARMLESS. Said Grantee shall at all times keep and save the Charter Township free and harmless from all loss, costs and expense to which it may be subject by reason of the negligent construction and maintenance of the structures and equipment hereby authorized. In case any action is commenced against the Charter Township on account of the permission herein given, said Grantee shall, upon notice, defend the Charter Township and save it free and harmless from all loss, cost and damage arising out of such negligent construction and maintenance.

SECTION 5. EXTENSIONS. Said Grantee shall construct and extend its gas distribution system within said Charter Township and shall furnish gas to applicants residing therein in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE. The rights, power and authority herein granted, are not exclusive. Either manufactured or natural gas may be furnished hereunder.

SECTION 7. RATES. Said Grantee shall be entitled to charge the inhabitants of said Charter Township for gas furnished therein, the rates as approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission, to which Commission or its successors authority and jurisdiction to fix and regulate gas rates and rules regulating such service in said Charter Township, are hereby granted for the term of this franchise. Such rates and rules shall be subject to review and change at any time upon petition therefor being made by either said Charter Township, acting by its Charter Township Board, or by said Grantee.

SECTION 8. REVOCATION. The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by the party desiring such revocation.

SECTION 9. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JURISDICTION. Said Grantee shall, as to all other conditions and elements of service not herein fixed, be and remain subject to the rules and regulations of the Michigan Public Service Commission or its successors, applicable to gas service in said Charter Township. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the legal right of Grantee to challenge, contest or appeal any order, rule or regulation of the Michigan Public Service Commission.

SECTION 10. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. Grantee shall comply with all applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations regarding the installation, maintenance or operation of its gas system, whether federal, state or local, now in force or which hereafter may be promulgated; however, nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver by Grantee of any of its existing or future rights under state or Federal law.

SECTION 11. REPEALER. This ordinance, when accepted by grantee and published as herein provided, shall repeal and supersede the provisions of a gas ordinance adopted by the Charter Township Board on December 9, 2014 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

and amendments, if any, to such ordinance whereby a gas franchise was granted to Consumers Energy Company.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect upon the day after the date of publication thereof; provided, however, it shall cease and be of no effect after thirty days from its adoption unless within said period the Grantee shall accept the same in writing filed with the Charter

Township Clerk. Upon acceptance and publication hereof, this ordinance shall constitute a contract between said Charter Township and said Grantee.

Nancy Conzelman, Charter Township Clerk

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FILE PHOTO
Voters should support millage renewals for police and fire departments in Plymouth Township on Feb. 24. Both departments provide good service to the community.

Support public safety millage renewals

Plymouth Township voters will decide two public safety millages in an election set for Tuesday, Feb. 24.

The millage renewals represent \$3.6 million of the total \$8.6 million public safety budget.

Based on the township's track record of sound fiscal management and the need to adequately fund public safety, voters should say yes to the requests.

Plymouth Township compares favorably to its sister township to the north – Northville – in terms of public safety staffing and fiscal management.

Some may disagree and argue that the township needs more police and or more firefighters.

Others say why not consider more cooperation with neighboring communities. It depends on the statistics one considers when debating these issues. But that's not the question on the ballot.

Elected officials have done a solid job of keeping taxes low and delivering good service. Police officers and firefighters deserve a share of the praise. While the two sides have not always agreed on the direction of the departments, both do the job they have been asked to do – protect and serve township residents in a fiscally prudent manner.

Vote YES on both police and fire public safety millages on Feb. 24.

History, they say, is written by the winners. And here's a rock-solid political truth: The folks with the votes write the notes.

Michigan Republicans overwhelmingly control the House of Representatives (63-47). So if you look through the 24-page, nicely designed House Republican Action Plan for 2015 you get a pretty good idea of what notes Speaker Kevin Cotter, R-Mount Pleasant, and his colleagues intend to play this year.

That is, once voters decide May 5 whether to raise the sales tax to fix the roads, and once the governor and legislature agree how to fix a state budget that's currently several hundred million dollars in the red.

The target date for budget stabilization is June 1. Once that's done, you can bet the lawmakers will be turning their gaze to the GOP's 78-item action plan. It pretty much covers the entire waterfront.

Among other things, it calls for repealing the state's prevailing wage rules, eliminating local ordinances that require paid sick days, reforming the teacher retirement system, reviewing the role of land banks and establishing a uniform definition of a veteran.

Most consequential, however, are these four items:

- » Adopting a teacher-performance evaluation system that is accurate, fair, transparent, easy to administer — and one that won't be trashed by the teachers' unions.
- » Adopting stiffer certification tests for graduates of schools of



Phil Power

education. (This needs to come with some — any — system of accountability for the state's schools of education, which annually produce around 4,000 graduates of varying quality for only around 2,500 new openings.)

» Initiatives to deal with third-grade reading performance, a generally recognized benchmark that determines which children are likely to succeed in school. Last term, a proposal that would have held back every third-grader who didn't pass a proficiency exam withered after critics said it would be very expensive but not do much to help the kids who needed it.

» Reform of the state's corrections system, which now costs far more than Michigan spends to support the entire system of public colleges and universities. Lost during the chaos of last year's lame-duck legislative session were a number of carefully thought-through proposals by outgoing, term-limited State Rep. Joe Have- man, R-Holland, including sentencing reform.

The GOP blueprint was rattling around in my head last week while I listened to a fascinating presentation on school reform made by officials from Tennessee.

While Michigan's school performance has declined in recent years, other states have shot ahead, particularly Tennessee, Florida, Massachusetts and Minnesota. (The reasons why are featured in a series of articles in Bridge Magazine, published as "The Smartest Kids in the Nation," available at <http://www.bridge-mi.com>.)

Tennessee is particularly interesting. The state spends less per pupil in school and pays teachers substantially less than Michigan. Yet its academic performance as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress examination has shot ahead of ours.

There are lots of reasons Tennessee has excelled, including high-stakes teacher evaluations, increased investment in teacher on-the-job training and quick-turnaround student achievement data. It's impressive that some of those are included in the Republican house policy agenda.

Only one absolutely essential thing is lacking, not just in the recent GOP report but in, literally, decades of Michigan education policy from both parties. Yet it's a big one: Making schools better has to be our long-term top priority, period.

The Tennessee folks (can't mention names because the session, mysteriously, was off the record) made it perfectly clear: For more than a decade, under both Republicans and Democrats, the Volunteer State has made improving education a singular focus. Their suggestion: "Get widespread agreement

that the entire future of the state of Michigan depends on the education of your citizens at the state and local level."

Right on!

Without being disrespectful to the Republican Party policy agenda, any priority list with 78 items on it has no priorities.

I understand why they did that. Because our present political system requires slicing and dicing the world into specific constituencies with specific interests, there's a great tendency to pander to every known interest group by issuing lengthy cover-the-entire-waterfront policy proposals.

That may make political sense. However, in the real world, the rule is simple: No focus, no progress.

Try to do everything, and you accomplish little or nothing.

If we're ever going to get serious about our state's future, we need to recognize that, buckle down, and make improving the education of our citizens Michigan's overwhelming priority.

Former newspaper publisher and University of Michigan Regent Phil Power is a longtime observer of Michigan politics and economics. He is also the founder and chairman of the Center for Michigan, a nonprofit, bipartisan centrist think-and-do tank, designed to cure Michigan's dysfunctional political culture; the Center also publishes Bridge Magazine. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of the Center. Comment at ppower@thecenterfor-michigan.net.

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MICHAEL VASILNEK
Plymouth senior Kendall Rose launches a jumper over the outstretched arm of Livonia Churchill's Molly Pummill Thursday night. Rose scored 33 points including 23 in the first half.

KLAA TOURNAMENT

Rose thorn in Churchill's side

Plymouth senior sets team record with 33 points in tourney win

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For a while Thursday, it seemed Plymouth's Kendall Rose was supplying the only heat on an Arctic-like evening in metro Detroit.

Rose set a new team record with 33 points — including 23 in the first half — to spark the host Wildcats to a 55-40 victory over Livonia Churchill in a KLAA varsity girls basketball second-round playoff game.

Yet after the contest, the soft-spoken Rose wanted none of the spotlight, instead deflecting praise to her hard-working teammates.

"I was just happy that my teammates were able to get me the ball, and they were getting open too," Rose said. "And them driving and kicking it (out) to me gave me the ability to have open shots."

Wildcats head coach Nick Brandon, whose team (16-2) will face campus-rival Salem 7 p.m. Tuesday in the conference title matchup, praised Rose for still knocking down shots even with the Chargers trying to get in her face.

"She's had an amazing season," Brandon said. "What's

really incredible about what she's able to do is other teams know that. I know for a fact that Churchill is a very, very well-coached team and they know what No. 11 is able to do."

Contributing 12 points and a team-leading six rebounds was Plymouth senior post Patti Begoske while senior point guard Courtney LaVallee scored five.

For the Chargers (11-6), sophomore center Anne Yost registered 13 points and eight rebounds. Senior guard Natalie Spala chipped in with 10.

Smashing success

It actually was the second time this season Rose set a new Plymouth scoring mark. She

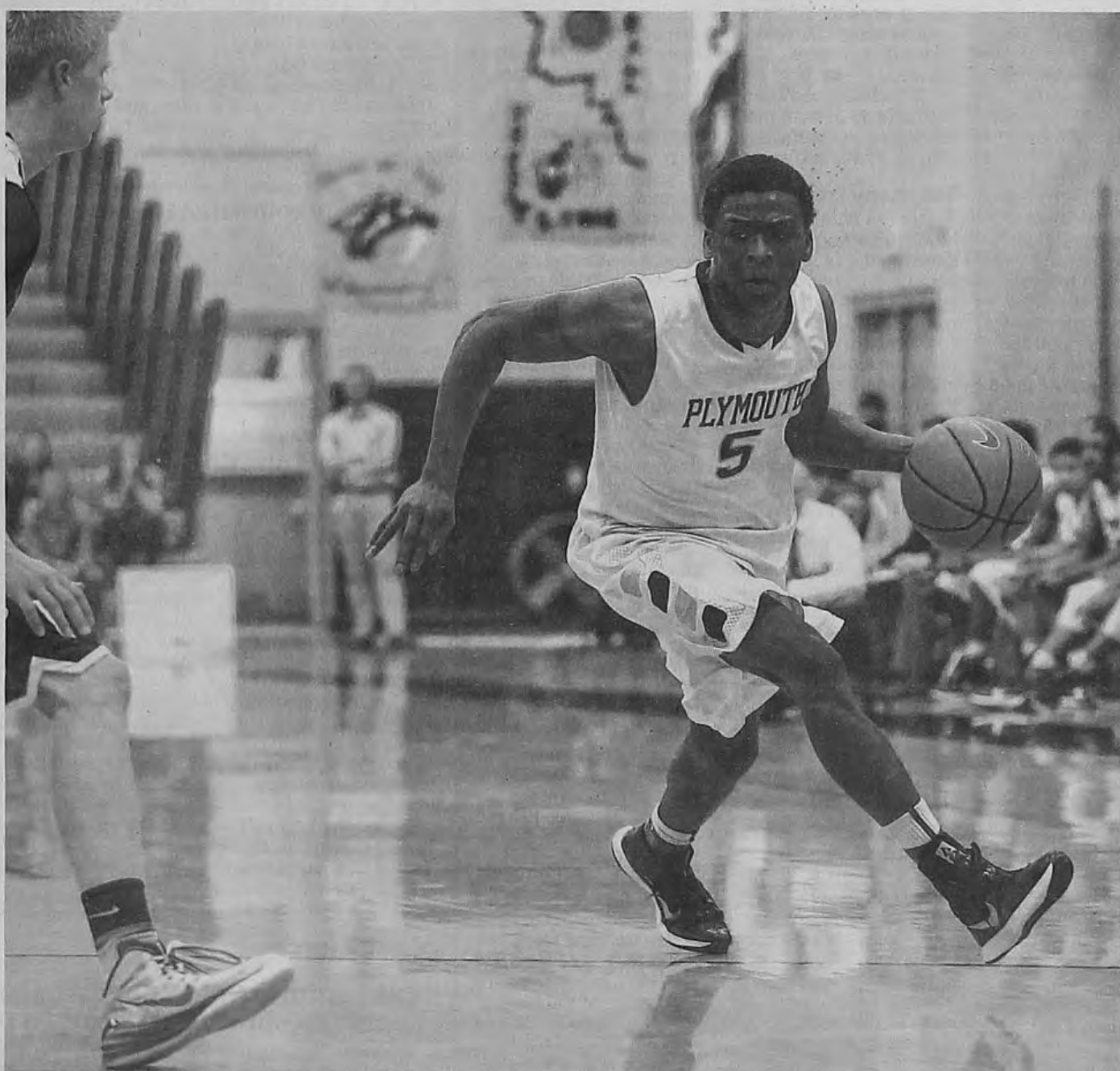
tallied 32 points earlier this season against Livonia Franklin.

Brandon added that "the best part about Kendall is I know the school record doesn't mean as much to her as the win does and I know she's genuine about that. She's a real team player. She's going to credit her teammates and she should, because her teammates did an excellent job."

They did, especially with hard-charging defensive pressure that forced Churchill into turning the ball over on 20 occasions. Yet Rose still had to display the finishing touch, which she did time after time.

See HOOPS, Page B2

KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNNEY



Plymouth senior Deji Adebisi (No. 5) looks to dribble drive around Salem's Jakob Lenders (left) during Friday's KLAA tournament game.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

TOURNEY THRILLER

Plymouth rallies to pin 78-75 OT loss on Salem in first-round matchup

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Plymouth junior Brent Davis threw down a tomahawk dunk late in the third quarter of Friday's KLAA boys basketball tournament game against Salem, it sent a jolt of electricity through the gym.

It also keyed what would become a furious charge by the Wildcats, who managed to tie the game at the horn to force overtime and then finished the job with a 78-75.

"We played with a different passion and enthusiasm after that," said Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup, whose team (12-5) moves on to Wednesday's second-round game. "It was fun to watch, what a good atmosphere in here tonight."

"You had both cheering sections going after each other and yelling, it was nice to see the Park here showing up in force tonight."

Veteran Salem coach Bob Brodie, whose KLAA Central Division championships fell to 13-4, said the "whole second half was kind of wild. First half we controlled pretty well and second half they came out guns-a-blazing."

Although disappointed in the outcome, Brodie said it was a game of breaks and close calls.

"We had our chances, the ball just

didn't drop for us," Brodie noted. "A couple of them went off our foot as we were dribbling, a couple bounced around the rim and they just didn't fall."

Plymouth needed to rally seemingly all night, after trailing 20-14 after one quarter, 35-15 at halftime and 47-43 after three.

Flipping the switch

The Davis dunk, according to Plymouth senior Deji Adebisi, seemed to flip the momentum in the Wildcats' direction after mostly being even with Salem throughout the opening three frames. That made it a tenuous 45-41 Salem.

"We definitely wanted to bring ener-

See THRILLER, Page B3

SCHOOLCRAFT HOOPS

They're No. 1

Ocelots climb to top with road win over Mott

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Finally, the Schoolcraft men's basketball team is at the top of the charts.

Wednesday's 79-71 victory over host Mott Community College upped the Ocelots' record to 24-3 overall and 13-1 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

And with the victory comes the limelight as Schoolcraft climbed from No. 3 to No. 1 in the weekly NJCAA Division II poll.

Moreover, the Ocelots clinched a share of the MCCA Eastern Conference title and thanks to owning the tiebreaker over Oakland Community College they will be the top seed in the NJCAA District 10 tournament.

Schoolcraft will have a bye in the district tourney and won't see action until Thursday, March 5.

But head coach Abe Mashhour and his squad has other matters to attend to in February.

On Monday, the Ocelots can clinch the conference title outright at home against Delta College. Then at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, Schoolcraft will host the MCCA championship game against a Western Conference opponent to be determined.

In the victory over Mott, the Ocelots needed to rally from a 39-33 halftime deficit.

Leading the way with 23 points was guard Lito Booth, while forward Javan Thomas chipped in with 13 points and eight rebounds.

Helping the Schoolcraft cause off the bench was forward and Canton alum Davon Taylor, with eight points. Dre Black (Westland John Glenn) added five points and five boards.

SC women win

Also victorious Wednesday at Mott were the Lady Ocelots' women's cagers, with a 63-57 win.

That gave Schoolcraft a record of 17-8 overall and 10-4 in the MCCA. The team is tied for third and a half-game back of first in the Eastern Conference entering the final week of play.

Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm) keyed Schoolcraft's win over Mott with 13 points, while Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial) scored nine. Adding eight points each were T'era Nesbitt, Rikki Sherdt and Jessica Parry.

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GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Canton streak keeps growing

Win over Huron Valley extends winning string to 56 meets

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton's gymnastics juggernaut continues to roll.

The defending state champions defeated Huron Valley 139.325-to-128.775 on Tuesday, extending the Chiefs' multi-season unbeaten string to 56. Canton is 13-0 overall this season, including 11-0 in the KLAA Kensington Division. The Chiefs have wrapped up the division championship and were slated to compete for the conference crown Saturday at Walled Lake

Central.

"Both teams suffered from not having a full team due to illness and midwinter break vacations," noted veteran Canton head coach John Cunningham.

Cunningham said first place finishes were "split up nicely" among Jana Hilditch (vault, 9.15; all-around, 35.65), Katie Dickson (uneven parallel bars, 9.175) and Stephanie Cox (balance beam, 9.45; floor exercise, 9.15).

Dickson's bars and 35.45 all-around tallies were season bests for her; Cox also had her best of the year on beam.

Several other Canton performers came through to help the cause. Rachel Socha scored with tallies of 8.6 on vault (fourth), 8.3 on



COURTESY
CANTON
ATHLETICS

Canton's
Jana
Hilditch
performs on
the balance
beam
recently.

beam (fifth) and 8.525 on floor (fifth). Also scoring were Sarah Plant (8.6 on

vault, fourth) and Bree Kalinski (7.325 on bars, fifth).

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

"We know how good a shooter Kendall is and we needed to make sure that we closed out on her at all times in the first half and we didn't do that," Chargers head coach Matt McCowan said. "She took advantage because she's a really good player."

In the first half, the Chargers (11-6) got off to a quick 4-0 lead on buckets by Jaelah Rivers and Natalie Spala before Rose scored to put the Wildcats on the board.

Rose gave Plymouth its first lead of the night at 5-4 midway through the quarter when she drained a trey from the right wing.

She followed with another 3-ball from the opposite side of the floor with 2:41 to play in the first, making it 9-4 with Rose scoring all of her team's points.

On target

Plymouth carried a 15-6 lead into the second quarter and Rose continued her onslaught with a jumper and two more triples — both from the left corner.

Her fifth 3-ball of the opening half gave the Wildcats a 29-13 cushion; she scored 22 of those points.

It was a 34-15 Plymouth lead at halftime, and that's when McCowan made some adjustments to give Rose a little less room to work her sweet string magic.

"We put a little more pressure on her and she still had 10 in the second half because she's a good player," McCowan said. "We just put ourselves in a huge hole in the first half, that's two games in a row now that we've come out and not played well in the first half."

Churchill tightened up considerably on defense in the third, shutting down Rose until 10:2

seconds remained in the frame (when she made two free throws).

In the meantime, the Chargers started to dominate in the paint, with strong work by Yost and senior center Hannah Pummill (seven rebounds).

Churchill sliced the deficit to 38-31 with 1:09 remaining in the third on a layup by Pummill.

Too many freebies

But the Wildcats bumped that up to 40-31 entering the fourth and benefited from the Chargers being in early foul trouble.

Plymouth kept going up to the charity stripe and expanding the lead. For the game, the Wildcats hit 24 of 32 free-throw attempts; Churchill made just three of 13 tries.

"We spent too much energy coming back," McCowan said. "There was a point where we got it back to (seven) ... we fouled too much and they

made their free throws."

Brandon said his team "definitely grinded" out the victory in the second half.

"Credit Churchill, who made a great run," Brandon noted. "Matt's a smart coach and he made some nice adjustments against our press."

"... Don't overlook the fact that they're just a very good team. There's a reason they got here tonight, and their size gave us some problems."

Having a player on a record-busting night helped the Wildcats persevere on a night where they were outrebounded 34-30.

Yet Brandon said it was far from a one-player show, noting how his squad played with composure during Churchill's desperate surge in the third quarter.

"I'm really pleased with the composure that we showed," he noted. "I thought our kids hung in there when Churchill made their big run."

Now comes the conference showdown against Salem (14-4). Interestingly enough, the Wildcats and Rocks already know they will square off on March 2 in a Class A first-round district tilt at Novi.

"Our goal was to have an opportunity to play Salem twice and it's worked out that way," Brandon said. "Salem is not a good team they're an outstanding team."

"And we know we had success against them the first game of the year, but they're different and we're different. So this matchup will bring a lot of new things and it's going to be a good one."

CANTON 43, WLN 25: In a KLAA tournament consolation game Thursday, the Chiefs held Walled Lake Northern to just six points in the second half.

Erin Hult (15 points), Madison Archibald (13 points) and Brianna Finn (eight points) led the Canton offense.

"Extremely happy with how the girls played defensively," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "Offensively we were playing against zone, which is something we normally struggle against."

"But we've been working the past two days on getting better ball movement, getting better spots and that showed tonight. We ended up getting a lot of girls open looks."

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Magical moment for Plymouth's Leah Kliczinski

Injured guard scores on senior night

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Her teammates are in the midst of a magical season, having cruised to the KLAA South Division varsity girls basketball championship.

Plymouth Wildcats' senior post Leah Kliczinski — who tore an anterior cruciate ligament in mid-January to suddenly end her final prep season — was relegated to watching and cheering from the sidelines instead of chipping in with her customary double-double production.

But Kliczinski did enjoy a moment in the sun on Senior Night, Feb. 13, late in the Wildcats' 47-30 victory over Westland John Glenn. That win also officially clinched the KLAA South, Plymouth's first division crown in team history.

With the Plymouth victory wrapped up, Wildcats' head coach Nick Brandon inserted Kliczinski into the line-up as a Senior Night gesture.

John Glenn head coach Derrick Jordan agreed to let Kliczinski score, instructing his players to leave a lane open to the basket.

"Not only did we officially become division champs," noted Kliczinski in a text message. "But I had an amazing opportunity I never thought I'd get. My chance to make my last shot of the season was undoubtedly one of the best moments in my life."

"Those few seconds were so valuable to me, and I can't thank the John Glenn coach enough along with coach Brandon who came up with the miraculous idea."

Brandon credited the Rockets coach for making the moment possible.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Leah Kliczinski (No. 33) is allowed to score a basket during the Feb. 13 Senior Night girls basketball game.

"We got her (Kliczinski) into the game late and the John Glenn coach (Jordan) was really cool," Brandon said. "He allowed her to score a basket in her last regular season home game. It was a really cool moment."

According to Kliczinski, getting out on the Plymouth High School basketball floor one last time was something she never thought would happen in the wake of her devastating knee injury Jan. 16 against Canton.

"I thought my last high school game was the night I tore my ACL," Kliczinski added. "But it turns out I was wrong. Now I know the importance of 'play it like it's your last.' When I'm recovered next year, that's exactly what I'm going to do."

Brandon said Kliczinski is healing well and wants to be able to continue her basketball career in college.

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OHL HOCKEY

Late Windsor goal nips Whalers

With the OHL regular season dwindling to a dozen or so games, every point in the playoff chase is precious for the Plymouth Whalers.

Unfortunately, the Whalers let one point slip away Friday night when the visiting Windsor Spitfires scored with 2:05 left in the third for a 2-1 win before 2,321 at Compuware Arena.

Barring a playoff series between the long-time rivals, it was the last-ever matchup between Windsor and Ply-

mouth, as the Whalers are moving to Flint next season.

Plymouth (19-32-2-2) trailed 1-0 after two periods but forward Ryan Moore tied the game with a tally at 3:54 of the third, with an assist to Sean Callaghan.

PLYMOUTH 3, WINDSOR 1: Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic made 42 saves to stymie the host Spitfires Wednesday night. Scoring a goal and assist for the Whalers was forward Sonny Milano.

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COURTESY CANTON ATHLETICS
The Canton Chiefs varsity boys bowling team poses with their trophy after winning the Farmington Hills Mercy Invitational.

PREP BOWLING

P-CEP bowlers excel in tournaments

Canton boys win Mercy, Valentine's Day invite

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park bowlers are rattling the pins with regularity these days. Such was the case at the Farmington Hills Mercy Invitational Feb. 14 at Drakeshire Lanes. In the varsity boys' tournament, Canton (4,527 pins) and Salem (4,390) finished 1-2 in the team standings and also had the top bowlers in the individual results. Canton's Aaron Madsen was overall medalist with a 752 series (235-239-278) while Salem's Mitchell Rusinek placed second with a 736 total (213-279-244). Right behind them in sixth place was Jacob Peltz of the Chiefs, who finished with a 681 for the day (233-233-215). In eighth was Salem's Tony Przytulski's 639 (264-198-177). Just missing the top-10 were Salem's Zach Gonyea (13th, 620), Canton's Dom Dimaya (14th, 616), Tyler Pozan (15th, 615) and Plymouth's

Bryce Smith (16th, 612). "Josh Criscenti only bowled one game for us that day but had a 269," Chiefs' head coach Karl Brubaker said. "He struggled early in the day, we took him out and he came back strong." In fifth place was Plymouth (3,320), led by Smith's solid performance. Other Park varsity boys bowlers finishing in the top-25 were Salem's Tyler Ridgeway (19th, 607), Plymouth's Donald Blevins (22nd, 598) and Plymouth's Jordan Orzech (25th, 583). Not to be outdone was Meghan Macunovich of the Canton varsity girls bowling team, who earned medalist honors with a 743 series (250-290-203). Macunovich helped the Chiefs finish third in the team standings, with 3,417 pins (behind Farmington/Harrison, 3,970 and South Lyon East, 3,589). Salem's girls varsity placed sixth with 3,153 pins. Leading the Rocks was Brynna Samuels, who finished seventh overall with a 556 series (242-135-179). Other Park girls in the top-25 were Salem's Rachel

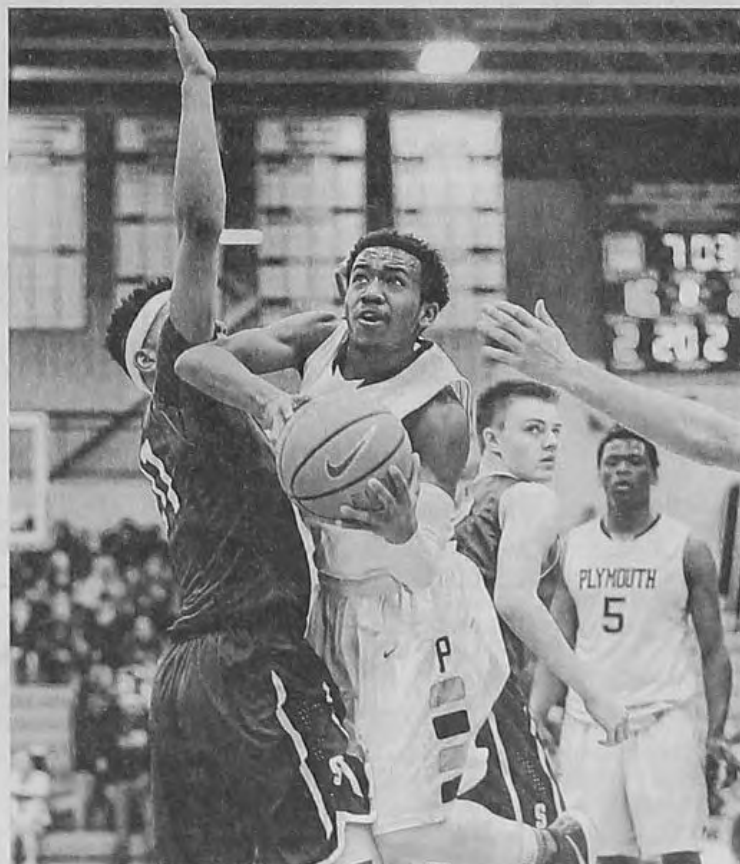
Lopez (17th, 499), Canton's Maranda McMaster (20th, 485), Plymouth's Lauren Vincent (24th, 461) and Salem's Leah Boucha (25th, 450). The three Park schools also took JV boys teams to the tourney. Salem won with 4,116 pins, followed by Canton (3,862). In fifth with 3,320 pins was Plymouth. In the top two spots in the JV tourney were Salem's Jacob Kurth (first, 668) and Canton's David Hess (second, 633). Others in the top-10 included Salem's Alex Mattson (fifth, 577), Canton's D J Jablonski (sixth, 573) and Plymouth's Mike Koski (seventh, 558). "It was a great day for the Park teams on Saturday," Brubaker said. At Sunday's Valentine's Day Invitational at Novi Bowl, Canton's varsity boys team won with 4,000 pins, besting South Lyon (second, 3,866) and Salem (third, 3,748). In the girls' individual standings, Canton's Macunovich (598) and Salem's Samuels (577) finished 1-2 respectively.

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THRILLER

Continued from Page B1

gy tonight," said Adebiyi, who tallied 17 points. "Coming in our house, KLAA tournament, we wanted to turn it up in here." Adebiyi also said the win gives his team confidence that it can challenge for the KLAA tournament title. "I would definitely like some hardware before I leave," he said. "We can make a run in the tournament, I feel like we definitely can." Yet the Rocks still had a 68-66 lead with 6.8 seconds to go in the fourth, following a trey by senior forward Allante Wheeler (18 points, eight rebounds) from the right corner, finishing a nifty inside-out dish from senior guard Jake Stropes. Aikins, a 5-9 senior guard who last week beat Canton with a last-second basket, then forced OT with a layup at the horn. In overtime, junior Salem center Kenny Topolovec — a standout all night with 22 points and 13 rebounds — put the Rocks up with a steal and layup. Soon thereafter, Adebiyi made a pair of free throws to give Plymouth a 71-70 edge and that set the stage for four minutes worth of lead changes. The Rocks again looked to regain control when Topolovec went strong to the basket for a deuce-and-one to put Salem up 75-73 with 1:56 left. **Finishing strong** Plymouth, however, scored the night's final five points, helped by a couple calls where it was ruled Salem lost control of the ball out of bounds. Davis (18 points) and Aikins



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Looking to make a scoop shot Friday for Plymouth is Randall Aikins, despite tough defense from Salem's Jon Swift (No. 11).

(21 points) tallied back-to-back layups, the latter putting the Wildcats in front 77-75 with 30 seconds remaining. Then came a timely block by Adebiyi on Topolovec, who was trying to muscle in along the baseline for a game-tying bucket. "We scouted out and they said he (Topolovec) is a left-handed guy who prefers going left," Soukup said. "Deji cheated on that side and was able to wall up and get a piece of it and force a poor shot. "And then get the rebound to boot and possess it, finish the game. It was a huge play." According to Brodie, the Rocks struggled defensively in the second half "and they did a nice job capitalizing on that." Scoring 12 points and contributing nine rebounds for the Rocks was Lenders, who was understandably dejected about how the game closed out. "We just got to take this as something" to use as motivation in districts, Lenders said. "We definitely want to keep on going." tsmith@hometownlife.com
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OHL HOCKEY

PUCKS AND PAWS

Plymouth Whalers teaming up with Michigan Humane Society for Feb. 28 fundraiser

By Pete Krupsky
Correspondent

On Saturday, Feb. 28, not only are the Plymouth Whalers taking on the Ottawa 67's at Compuware Arena, they'll also be going to the dogs and other animals. While the Whalers hound pucks against the 67's (7 p.m. puck drop), they'll also be playing in their first annual "Pucks and Paws Night." With the assistance of Farmers Insurance, the Whalers and their fans will join forces with proceeds of ticket sales, Chuck-a-Puck and 50/50 raffle going to the Michigan Humane Society. That's not all. Plymouth will be wearing special jerseys for the game with proceeds generated via silent auction also going to MHS. "There's something about hockey and dogs," said Ryan McTigue, public relations coordinator for the Michigan Humane Society, with a smile. "They seem to go together really well. We're extremely excited. "It's a cool thing — not only are we getting exposure for the Michigan Humane Society and our dogs, but we are also generating funds, too. We do not receive government funding, so the money donated to us will go to care for the animals in our area. So it's really important, but it's also a really fun way to do it, too." To that end, you understand that sometimes a dog adopts a human. That's the case on Feb. 28. Link — a free agent Icelandic Sheepdog from Utah — will join the Whalers for one night. He has been signed to a one-day contract and will drop the puck Feb. 28. Link will be participating in the ceremoni-

al faceoff in honor of all of his MHS siblings. Link is working with handler Gabi Vannini and shows excellent puck skills.

Quality time In preparation of the event, Link, with his friends Daisy and Snoopy (pit bull mixed breed), visited Compuware Arena on Feb. 16 to meet the Whalers and have photos taken with the boys. It didn't take long before Link literally jumped into the arms of Plymouth captain Gianluca Curcuruto and they were spending some quality time together. And while Link and Snoopy displayed energy and alert behavior around the Whalers, Daisy — a 7-year-old Shih Tzu — was content to sit in the arms of Mitch Jones and MHS project manager Christina Hill. Don't let Daisy's size fool you. She has a heart as big as the Compuware Arena ice surface. Daisy has multiple health problems but is fighting back with the assistance of the MHS staff. "Gabi Vannini does a TON of fostering for us — as well as being on staff — and Daisy is sort of a 'foster failure,'" Hill said. "She came to MHS because her owner was no longer able to care for her and Gabi took a special liking to her and her special needs. "Daisy was treated for dental issues, ear infections and eye issues at MHS and is currently on special food for bladder stones. At first, Gabi was just temporarily fostering Daisy but she has officially adopted her and taken her in despite her health issues so she can live out the rest of her life happy and with lots of doggy friends." For more about the Michigan Humane Society, visit www.michiganhumane.org.

Pete Krupsky is communications director and broadcaster for the Plymouth Whalers.



PETE KRUPSKY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Plymouth Whalers Jacob Collins (left) and Mitch Jones meet Michigan Humane Society dogs Link, Snoopy and Daisy. The Whalers and Humane Society are teaming up for the 'Pucks and Paws Night' at Compuware Arena on Saturday, Feb. 28.

PREP WRESTLING

CC grapplers Battle Creek-bound

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central's wrestling team appears to be on the fast track once again. The Shamrocks secured their seventh straight trip to the MHSAA Division 1 Elite Eight next week in Battle Creek by dominating Livonia Franklin, 75-6, in the Region 107 final Wednesday night at Westland John Glenn. The three-time defending state champs, who improved to 22-3 overall, also routed Salem in the semifinals, 69-9, while Franklin advanced with a 47-30 semifinal win over Dearborn Fordson. Scoring two pins on the night for the Shamrocks included Trevor Zdebski (130-135 pounds), who was a state champion last year at 119; Nick Giese (189-215), who was third at 189; and Tyler Morland (171-189). Heavyweight Nick Jenkins also won both his matches. Meanwhile, Myles Amine (160), who was state champ last year at 140, never touched the mat as Franklin voided four weight classes in the regional final after falling behind 39-0 following the first seven matches. CC also won by four voids in its semifinal match against Salem, which received its

only victories from Seth Dunn on a pin at 145 (in 4:40) followed by a 14-10 decision from Caleb McCabe at 152. "They're the returning three- or four-year in a row state champs, so I just wanted my guys to go out there and give it their best shot, wrestle tough," Salem assistant coach Jeremy Henderson said of the Shamrocks, "... as much as we knew we were up against it, they knew, too. No surprises. "Our kids went out there and wanted to wrestle every match with the same mindset, wrestle, give it their best shot and whatever happens, happens." The Rocks ended their season at 16-7 overall. "It's been kind of a roller coaster," Henderson said. "We came into the season with high hopes, had a lot of injuries, and we had a couple concussions, back injuries, so we only entered seven-to-10 wrestlers per tournament. "We were taking top six or seven in every tournament, but once everybody came back, which was the week before team districts, we put everything together, won district and we got five (individuals) to regional. The beginning wasn't going well because of injuries, but in the end it turned out to be a great season."

NOTHING GETS IN HER WAY

KICKING ADVERSITY

Albion-bound goalkeeper Bricely proof that grit, determination do pay off

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Ever since Megan Bricely was in elementary school, she wasn't about to miss out on a good game of soccer.

"At Leonard Elementary in Troy, we would just get a bunch of kids on the back soccer field and just play for the entire recess, boys and girls," Bricely said with a grin.

Now 18, the Bloomfield Hills Marian senior still can't get enough of the sport, despite suffering through four knee surgeries. Tear one ACL? No worries. Keep playing.

After her second torn anterior cruciate ligament — suffered during middle school — she changed positions from left-back defense to goalkeeper, considered a rare move, to stay on the pitch.

There were more physical setbacks to come, but nothing has chipped away at her mental toughness.

The Troy resident and goalkeeper for the 2014 state finalist Mustangs recently was rewarded for her determination and soaring ball-stopping skills.

Bricely signed a national letter of intent to play soccer at Albion College.

Bricely's total dedication to working hard and getting better undoubtedly tipped the college scholarship scales in her favor. After attending classes on a Wednesday, for example, she drove over to Next Level Training in Bloomfield Hills for a private session with Marian goalkeeping coach Tim Livingston.

Following two hours of fine-tuning skills there (working on lateral movement and reactions for diving stops), it was off to Total Soccer in Wixom for practice with the Livonia-based Michigan Hawks U18 woman's elite-level club team.

And since she carries a 4.05 grade-point average at the private, Catholic girls high school, naturally there must be time to squeeze in some homework. "I bring my backpack and get there early."

Bricely and her Hawks teammates — including close pal Sam Riga of Plymouth, a student at Livonia Ladywood — also do Futsal sessions (kicking a heavy ball on a small field) at Beech Woods in Southfield.

There's never enough time in the day for all of her soccer endeavors. Riga marvels at what her friend has been able to overcome and accomplish.

"When I look at Megan as a goalie, she doesn't show that she had surgery," Riga said. "She works just as hard, if not harder, than any goalie I have ever played with. As a result of switching from a field player to a goalie, she has excellent foot skills compared to most goalies."

Livingston and Marian head coach Barry Brodsky said they were excited to find out that Bricely — a consummate role model who even helps coach the school's JV team during off-season workouts — will get to continue playing soccer at Albion.

"I'm pretty familiar with the MIAA," Brodsky said, "because I've got some kids that have played in there and I think she'll do great. I think she'll be one of the top keepers in the league. They're going to be thrilled to have her, I know that."

Before that happens, though,

Bricely will try to help Marian return to the Division 2 girls soccer state finals and win this time. Marian lost in 2013 and 2014 to Gull Lake in the finals.

Bricely said she fell in love with Albion, both the campus and women's soccer team, during an autumn visit. She had also been considering schools in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

"When I was 12 years old, I was thinking I was going to go to a really high level, Big Ten or ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference)," she said. "And after those injuries, that kind of went away. Not the big dreaming, but I got a little more realistic after that."

"It's been hard finding colleges because, for a goalkeeper, I am kind of short (5-foot-6). A lot of colleges want 5-8, 5-9. I was just glad Albion contacted me. And then I went on the visit and I loved it."

Family matters

One reason Bricely opted for a Michigan college is how important family is to her.

That applies to her biological family (she is the youngest of Debbie and Tom Bricely's three children) and the "Marian soccer family" — not to mention that same warm-and-fuzzy feeling she senses being around her future Britons teammates and coaches.

"I had lunch with the players for a good hour and we just talked about Albion," Bricely said. "The team was just very welcoming, it was like the family-type Marian-style team and that's what I was looking for in a college."

Getting the chance with Albion, though, required that Bricely navigate obstacles and overcome plenty of lousy luck along the way.

At the root of maintaining her inner fortitude during tough times was the fact soccer's always been in her blood.

Not even a raft of medical misfortune between 2009-12 led Bricely to give her favorite sport the boot, so to speak.

It helped that, as a youngster, she immediately connected with soccer. That meant playing at recess, watching her brother Joe play in a community parks and rec program and constantly watching English Premier League games on television.

"I don't even know if I knew how to work the remote, but somehow I got it to the soccer channel," she said, chuckling.

When asked what clicked between her and soccer, she couldn't put her finger on it.

"I think it was just the competition," Bricely said. "Obviously all sports are competitive, but soccer's a back-and-forth game and it's a game of inches. I mean, losing state finals just taught us that."

Injuries mount

She began her playing career with a Troy youth team. In May 2009, in sixth grade, she tore her left ACL during a U12 game for Vardar (a club program).

"At that point, I don't think I knew what an ACL was," Bricely said. "I didn't know how serious it was. But after the doctor told me six to nine months out, I did at one point think, 'Am I ever going to be the same player; am I going to come back at a high level?'"

A year or so later, while with Vardar's U13 team, her right knee gave in at a state cup pool game. It was in her fourth game back from the first injury.



Megan Bricely wears a smile of pride, knowing her hard work is paying off with a chance to play women's soccer at Albion College.



Playing catch during a recent practice are Megan Bricely (right) and Marian goalie coach Tim Livingston.



Jaclyn Engle (from left), Plymouth's Sam Riga and Megan Bricely are best friends and club soccer teammates for the U18 Michigan Hawks of the ECNL. Here, they take a moment to pose together during a November 2014 training trip to Arizona.

"The first one (ACL injury), I just jumped up and, as I landed, I got pushed and my knee buckled," Bricely said. "The second one, I went to cut for a ball and just got kicked on the outside of the knee."

Her knees were successfully repaired both times by Dr. John Samani at the Institute for Athletic Medicine in Auburn Hills and she embarked on grueling physical therapy sessions.

There were endless exercise cycles, plenty of sweat and even tears. Never, though, were there doubts.

Unable to run long distances on the field any more, Bricely decided to change the script and become a goalkeeper in spring 2011 for U14 Vardar.

"I tried it out and I went to goalie training every weekend," she said. "Eventually, I got the hang of it and I just stuck with it ever since."

That specific position change doesn't happen too often, Brodsky noted.

"I've seen people switch positions on the field," he said.

"But very rarely do you see a field player who says, 'All right, I'm going to become a keeper.' So that's pretty unusual."

"You can tell in her foot skills that she used to play the field and things like that. It's a big asset to her game that she's still able to play the ball so well back in goal."

Scott Duhl, a longtime coach with the Michigan Wolves/Hawks elite program and Salem High School, said Bricely's "type of transformation is rare, but it does happen. ... Megan is a good hard-working player. She has made some good strides improving over the last few years."

Bricely emphasized that athleticism got her by in her first season as a goalie.

"I think if you're athletic, you're going to make some saves in goal, even if you don't have the technical ability yet," Bricely said. "So I think the first year or so I relied a lot on my athleticism and not getting the technical stuff down."

The unique journey then took another detour. Bricely suffered two meniscus tears (one per knee) after becoming a goalkeeper. Then, in fall 2011 and spring 2012, she had arthroscopic surgery on both knees.

Once again, she just bit her lip and endured another round of physical therapy. In the three years since, a daily exercise regimen has helped sustain leg strength.

Full throttle

These days, Bricely doesn't think about suffering another injury. Her parents do plenty of that.

"Yeah, they're always worried that something's going to happen, that I'm going to tear something again," she said. "But they've never told me to quit soccer, they've never told me to give up."

"I know it's painful for them

THE BRICELY FILE

Who: Megan Bricely, 18-year-old senior at Bloomfield Hills Marian. She recently signed to play college soccer at Albion College.

Now: She is a goalkeeper for the Mustangs and Michigan Hawks U18 women's team in the Elite Clubs National League, considered the highest level of girls club soccer.

Then: During middle school, Bricely played defense for Vardar club teams. But after suffering ACL injuries on each knee, she changed to goalie. She battled through those injuries and the unique position switch to become a college-worthy player.

Next: At Albion, she will play soccer and pursue a career in sports medicine or physical therapy. "It'll be something in the medical field, because I've had so much experience with it and I've had some really great physical therapists and doctors that have helped me through my injuries," she said.

to watch me play because of how scared they are and they've never asked me to give it up. I'm glad for that."

What she does think about is staring down opponents such as Riga, whose Blazers faced the Mustangs in last year's D2 semifinals. Bricely, a 2014 second-team all-state player, foiled her friend that time around.

"At that point, during a game, it's all serious," Bricely said. "We're not going to let up because we're friends off the field. We hug after the game, we do all that stuff, but we're too competitive, both of us, to let that influence the game."

Riga said she and Bricely are serious friends. But when the Blazers and Mustangs square off, the only thing each player is serious about is winning.

"When Megan and I play against each other during the high school season, our friendship definitely changes to a whole different level," Riga said. "We talk after most games either one of us has and give each other pointers about our opponents. However, when it's the week of the Marian versus Ladywood game, we do not talk at all."

Livingston marvels at Bricely's unwavering work ethic through it all. It doesn't hurt that she's pretty talented, too.

Maybe it's an underdog mentality. Maybe it's a quest for perfection. Maybe it's a pat on the back to modern science.

Whatever it is that fuels her unquenchable thirst to compete and conquer, Bricely isn't about to let anything stop her now.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Salem rocks and rolls against East

By Jeff Theisen
Staff Writer

Salem came out hot Thursday night at home and never cooled off in a 52-23 win against South Lyon East.

The win puts the Rocks in

the KLAA Kensington Conference finals Feb. 24. It was also the third win over the Cougars this year for Salem.

"It's very difficult to beat someone three times," said Salem coach Lindsay Klemmer. "I told them tonight the only

thing that was going to win was heart, hustle and hard work. Whoever wanted it more was going to win. I'm really proud of the way we came out and stepped up right from the beginning."

"This is one of our more consistent games. We didn't have too many lulls. We played pretty consistent throughout all four quarters."

Salem scored the first 10

points, holding the Cougars scoreless for almost seven minutes. East got a bucket with 1:05 remaining in the opening quarter, but that would be it.

East scored the opening bucket of the second quarter, but again went scoreless for almost four minutes while Salem went on an 8-0 run. The Rocks would go on to lead 26-6 by halftime.

The Cougars coughed the

ball up 15 times, while Salem on had five turnovers at the break. The Rocks had 11 field goals to just three for East.

The Cougars started to get some offense going in the third quarter and had the ball down 30-14. However, Salem forced a turnover and guard Jamyra Wilson hit a three. It started an 8-0 run to close the quarter and left the Rocks with a 38-14 lead heading into the fourth.



SUBMITTED

Ramsey Dowgiallo of Westland soaks up the scenery in Minnesota.

WESTLAND MAN SHARES LOVE OF THE WILD THROUGH CANOE TRIPS

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Attitude is everything in the wilderness.

A positive attitude can help you keep a cool head when a 1,000-pound bull moose charges straight for your canoe.

It can quell nerves as firefighters help you portage while 100,000 acres of forest burn all around you.

And it will keep spirits high when rain soaks through your leaf-and-fern-lined shelter.

"Attitude, it's huge," said Ramsey Dowgiallo, a Westland resident who leads trips through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northeastern Minnesota. "I had a couple book a 14-day trip for their 30th anniversary. They had never done anything like that. They did great, even when we had tough weather and wind. They were troupers."

"I've been very lucky in all these years," he said, recalling only one difficult client since opening his business, Wilderness Journey, 10 years ago in Novi. "Only one person wouldn't pitch in and I like to see everyone pitch in. But that is one out of about 1,000 people that I've ever had a problem with. Most people have a great attitude."

"I'm always trying to teach them. I'm always upbeat. I'm an interpreter between modern man and the wilderness. It's my job to teach people how to respect wildlife, wilderness, weather. It's not like we're just going out to the beach."

Variety of trips

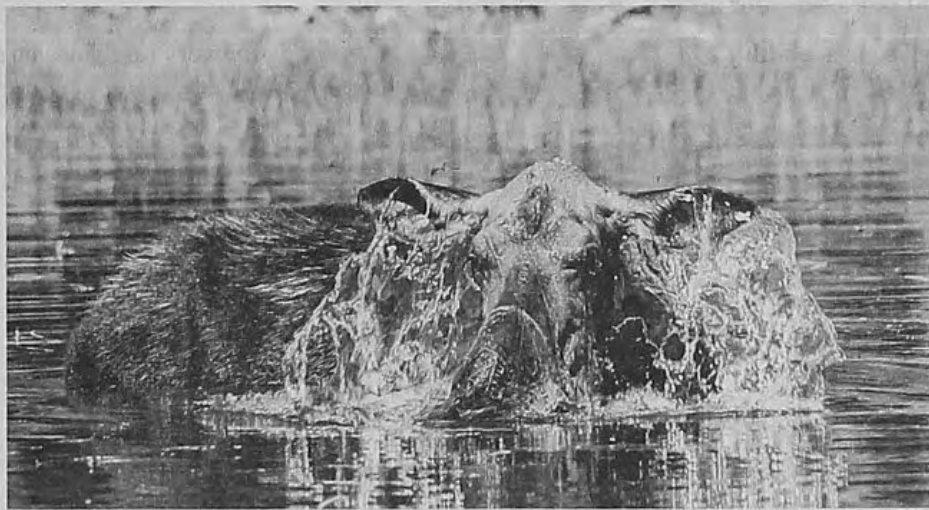
Dowgiallo tailors trips to suit his customers' interests and outdoor skills. He brings fresh food on the journey and cooks up fish caught along the way. Clients sleep in tents and learn wilderness skills as they paddle along with fishing gear or cameras. Approximately 75 percent of the trips he leads from May-October are fishing-related. His company also attracts wildlife lovers eager to photograph animals and the dramatic scenery, while enhancing their survival skills.

He'll talk about topwater fishing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, and 4:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at Outdoorama, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. The show will include more than a dozen speakers on topics ranging from the art of deer calling to mushroom hunting, along with a jet ski simulator, deer processing



SUBMITTED

Ramsey Dowgiallo of Westland shows off a pike he caught in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. He leads canoe trips to the area May-October. His guide and outfitter company is Wilderness Journey in Novi.



SUBMITTED

A moose takes a bath in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota.

demonstration, trained dog sport show, a trout pond and more. The show runs 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday, noon to 9:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children, 6-14, and free for ages 5 and under.

Dowgiallo is a frequent speaker at outdoor events, clubs and conferences during the winter. He also runs a part-time flooring business during the off-season.

When the weather begins to warm in mid-May, he returns to Minnesota's 1.3

million-acre Boundary Waters, with its 1,000 lakes and rivers. He has canoed on 220 lakes since he began visiting the area 25 years ago.

"You can spend the whole summer and not go over the same piece of water."

Survival skills

He credits his father for taking him fishing when he was a boy and his brothers for introducing him to mountain climbing and camping when he was a teenager.

"I've had just about everything happen. That is one thing that keeps me going. Every trip is different. ..."

RAMSEY DOWGIALLO

"I was always into the outdoors, but as far as primitive camping goes, I read a lot and watch a lot of survival shows and YouTube."

He practices survival skills when he takes primitive trips alone, two-three times each season.

"I go into the woods with a quart of water and two power bars, a magnesium striker, no matches and no sleeping bag," he said. It was during solo trips that Dowgiallo, 52, faced a menacing moose along the water and at his rain-soaked fern-and-leaf-lined shelter at night.

"Both times it was during the rut and I had been warned," he said, recalling the loud bellow he heard while paddling alone years ago. "I had never heard a moose before. I responded by making the same noise. Yeah, that was a huge mistake. I backed up and hit the shore. When it was five feet from me it stopped. I've been in close proximity to bear and wolves, but my moose interaction was the most scared I ever was."

"I've had just about everything happen. That is one thing that keeps me going. Every trip is different. You never know what you'll run into."

Reality show

He hopes his wilderness experiences and skills will help him land a spot on the Discovery Channel show, *Naked and Afraid*, which pairs naked men and women to survive 21 days in the wilderness. Teams find food, make shelter and clothing from nature.

"I think I'd do well on that show. I get along with everyone — it's part of being a good guide. You have to be a good listener and know how to talk with people, not at them."

Another of his dreams is to book deaf and hearing impaired clients for trips through the Boundary Waters. Dowgiallo is fluent in sign language and both of his parents were deaf. He hopes to work through clubs for deaf and hearing impaired to line up trips.

For more information about Dowgiallo's Wilderness Journey, visit go-wildernessjourney.com

Woman finds new washer after much research

Let me begin way back in the history of this column when I used to mention names of certain businesses which I thought to be honest and deserving of some ink. That ended abruptly when an editor took me aside and explained that the intent of my column should have a purpose of always educating the reader.

So, I dropped the commercial aspect immediately and have stuck to the informative side as best I can. You just have to respect the viewpoint of this paper to no end and although I have been asked to write for some other papers, I'm still here and proud of it.

During the last year, I mentioned the controversy in our home caused by a certain washing machine and tried to keep our new washer out of the picture. Before I tell you what that washer is I would like to thank the several hundred readers who sent me an



Joe
Gagnon
APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

email asking the name brand. You have made me feel very important in providing you with information that makes you a smarter consumer. To all those folks who come to the local home improvement shows and introduce themselves and mention this column, you give this column a serious consequence.

Many of you remember the days I owned an appliance store and sold a ton of Maytag washers for many years. In those days I gave away a commitment of a free five-year warranty on those products, and trust me, it didn't hurt my bottom line at all. In essence, they made the best washer in the industry at that time and today every service technician in Amer-

ica would tell you that is not the case today.

New washer

Let me inject an email I received from Debra in Plymouth who makes a solid case for the clothes washer in our laundry room today.

Debra writes: "Just read your column in the *Observer* about Speed Queen and their five-year warranty. I recently had to say good-bye to my 27-year-old Maytag washer and began the arduous task of looking for a replacement. The more research online that I did and the more I spoke with various salespeople, the more despondent I became that I would not find a washing machine like I was used to using. I kept hearing about 'high efficiency' coupled with complaints about water levels and clothes needing two or three rinse cycles to get all of the soap residue out, about how they 'don't make them like they

used to,' and that the new models only last (if you're lucky) about eight to 10 years. About locking lids and fancy digital displays (more to go wrong).

"I didn't know what to do! Then I spoke with a very knowledgeable salesman at a certain store who showed me a Speed Queen washer. Simple to use, a large enough tub for my needs and one of the last machines 'made like they used to.' I was sold! I love my new Speed Queen! I encourage anyone who is in the market for a new washing machine to consider a Speed Queen. But get them while you can before government regulations force them to change like all the others. After all, the bottom line is clean clothes and my new washer does just that with a minimal of fuss."

Keeping it ethical

Now, doesn't Debra's email hit the message right

on the nose? One final note that makes this column all above board. Speed Queen does not advertise on radio or television, and their quality of manufacturing doesn't require that they do so. Their recent announcement that their products carry a five-year full warranty shows their confidence in their products.

Speed Queen does not spend a penny with Joe Gagnon and apparently they do not know my stand on ethics. Their sales manager sent me an email to inform me that my recent purchase was for free. I have not replied to him and will tell you that I paid full retail price for the Speed Queen. I think I'll just let him believe he gave it to me and keep it between you and me. Stay tuned.

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

Church quilt group welcomes your sewing skills

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Volunteers at Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia are busy making quilts for charity. They've sewn approximately 30 quilts this year — and they plan to make more — but could use a few more hands to help out.

"They can just show up," said Sharon Strebbling, volunteer, explaining how to get involved in the project. "It's not just sewing, we still need people to iron. Or people who might like to redesign the patterns."

The church received a donation of fabric sample squares which volunteers piece together to create a variety of patterns for each quilt top. Batting and a muslin cotton for

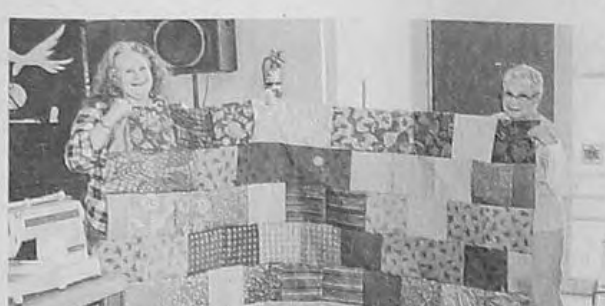


Submitted
Jean Coleman finishes raw edges of one of many quilts that volunteers piece together, sew and send to Lutheran World Relief from Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia.

the backing complete each coverlet.

The church donates them to veterans, the homeless, and Lutheran World Relief. In 2013, Lutheran World Relief sent \$14.3 million worth of quilts to people in 21 countries.

Thrivent for Lutherans gave the Timothy Lutheran Church group \$250 to buy supplies for their quilts. Volunteers held two "sewing bees" in January, and meet from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia.



Submitted
Merlin Knagg (left) and Janet Coleman show one of the completed quilts.

"This is an on-going project we work on every Thursday afternoon at the church," said Jean Coleman, volunteer.

Why quilts? "They're warm," Coleman said. "What's so amazing is some people use them as shelters.

They put them up as tents.

"We make quilts for safe houses and they give one to every child. It's warm and it's something that belongs to them. This is what they can wrap themselves up in. It's comforting.

"Besides doing this, we also did prayer quilts for our church. One went to a lady who had stage four cancer. We made a quilt and had it blessed. I took it to her," Coleman said. "When she saw it she started crying. She said 'you took the time to make this from love.'"

Coleman likes the idea that the volunteers recycle the donated fabric swatches into quilts. Other scraps and fabric odds and ends go to a volunteer who makes items for the Michigan Humane Society.

"We're recycling lot of things. All of these pieces have not ended up in landfills," Coleman said. For more information about Timothy Lutheran Church quilting sessions, call 734-427-2290.

Playwrights star at Two Muses festival

While all eyes will be on the red carpet Sunday, Feb. 22 for the Academy Awards, local venues are rolling out their red carpets for star-studded events. Take the Imagine Theatre Royal Oak last week, where plenty of handsome studs — or should we say Imagine's Men in Grey — came out to support the American Heart Association with a special screening of *Fifty Shades of Grey* and a panel discussion featuring DMC Sinai Grace Hospital Chief Medical Officer Monique Butler, M.D., a Farmington Hills resident. The Girls' Night Out included cocktails, appetizers, handsome men and, of course, popcorn. It's been a busy couple of weeks for the American Heart Association, which held its annual Go Red for Women Luncheon Feb. 6 at the



Detroit Marriott.

Theatre Oscars

Before hunkering down to a night at the Oscars, catch the last day of the Women's Playwriting Fest at Two Muses Theatre in West Bloomfield. The three-day event stages new short plays, written and directed by women. The final show is 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Two Muses Theatre, located inside Barnes & Noble, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Awards will go to Best Actor, Best Director and Best Play. Following the Fest, audience members are invited to an industry panel Q&A on How To Break



Photo by Julie Yolles, Social Scene Columnist
Farmington Hills residents Colleen Roberts (left) and Monique Butler, M.D., chief medical officer at DMC Sinai Grace Hospital, and West Bloomfield resident Tracy Roberts attend a special reception and private screening of "Fifty Shades of Grey" at the Imagine Theatre Royal Oak. The screening benefited the American Heart Association. Butler was the special guest at a panel discussion prior to the movie premiere.

into the Biz of Theatre. General admission tickets (which includes the performances and industry panel discussion) are \$10 at the door. www.twomusestheatre.org.

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



THE RIGHT DOSE

It is medical commonsense for physicians to prescribe the least amount of medicine needed for a patient's care. However, when a physician treats a person over age 70 for an arthritic condition, determining the correct dosage becomes difficult.

Consider a man age 75 who takes Enbrel for his rheumatoid arthritis and who comes to the doctor noting increased stiffness in the morning that does not clear through the day. The doctor has to decide if the patient's rheumatoid arthritis is flaring, if the patient, with age, has developed osteoarthritis, or if the patient, with age, is not sufficiently active.

If a flare of rheumatoid arthritis is the root cause of the arthritic complaints, more medicine is in order. If the patient has developed osteoarthritis of the knees, keeping medication the same and injecting a painful knee would be the treatment of choice. If the new pain stems from insufficient exercise, the doctor needs to obtain details of how the patient spends his day, and suggest ways that regular exercise could overcome the inertia that has set in.

None of these alternatives settles the problem by giving the patient medication for pain. The aching has a cause and the physician needs to take a path that addresses that cause.

A physician takes the same approach with night pain. Having a patient take a "pain pill" before bed time is dangerous. If the patient arises to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night, the risk is great of an unsteady gait. Physicians look for the cause of pain, not seek ways to mask it.

LO-000230562

Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

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248-352-4766

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Established Co. in Brighton is seeking quick learners. \$10/hr. No exp. needed. Paid training provided. Must have own vehicle.
Call Mon-Fri. 9-3pm. 810-229-6053

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CARING STAFF
to provide community based training and activities during the day for a gentleman with a disability \$11.00 hr.
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CARPET CLEANING TECHS & ASSISTANTS
Exp. helpful. Must have good driving record & be able to pass drug test. If you have a great personality & exc. work ethics come join our team. We are looking to hire at our Westland, Troy & Brighton locations.
Great pay & benefits.
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City of Livonia
Assistant Branch Librarian
Police Officer
Police Service Aide
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

For complete information visit our website at: www.ci.livonia.mi.us or apply in person at Livonia City Hall, 3rd floor, 33000 Civic Center Dr. Livonia, MI 48154
E.O.E.
M/F/H

CLEANING OFFICES
Mon-Fri. Nights. 6-9. Romulus area. \$10/hr. Responsible/Reliable. 810-227-1624

DIRECT CARE:
Staffing Agency seeks caring staff to assist and support individuals to live in their homes as independently as possible by assisting with recreation, daily living needs, transportation and other duties/services. Positions available in Canton/Westland Area. Contact: 734-722-4530 Ext #19 or apply on-line www.ahscareers.com/

Drivers w/CDL
Lease to Own a Freightliner One All-inclusive Payment. Earn \$1,400+/week! Contract rates up to \$3/mile. 888-796-4576

Help Wanted - General

DRIVERS CDL-A
Solos, CO & O/O's. New Openings! Round trip Dedicated Lane from Gray Court, SC to Warren, MI. Home 2days/ wk! Great Bonus Programs!
855-200-3671

Drivers: Drive Like a Champion. Penske Logistics hauling freight! Home Daily & Regional No-Touch Positions. •\$3000 Sign-on Bonus •Excellent Weekly Pay! •Plus, Monthly Bonus! • And, Brand NEW equipment Class CDL-A. 16 months exp. 1-855-395-6630

DRIVERS
For Non-Emergency Medical Transportation: Full & Part Time, 25 & up Chauffeurs License required. Clean criminal & driving record. Random Drug Testing. Starting pay \$8.50/hr. Email Resume: info@sandtransportation.com or call: 313-897-6200

DRIVERS
Waste removal firm looking for CDL A or B Drivers. Full Benefits. Accepting Applications Mon-Fri. 8-5
TLC Waste
28035 Beverly Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

TOW TRUCK DRIVERS
We are now hiring full & part-time DRIVERS. We offer competitive pay & benefits. If you have exp you may qualify for a \$1000 Sign On Bonus.
WESTLAND CAR CARE
Call: 734-722-7100

ENTRY LEVEL
DADCO, Inc., the global leader in nitrogen gas spring technology, is growing! We are looking for dependable, bright individuals with a strong work ethic to train for full-time, day-shift, positions. Job responsibilities include part quality inspection, sub and complete product assembly build, final product inspection and order packing. Qualified candidates will be quick learners with a high school diploma, technical aptitude, and strong attention to detail. Come and work with our talented team in our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. We will offer you training, competitive wages, and benefits, including 401(k), EOE.
Email resumes to: plymouthjob@yahoo.com
DADCO

WAREHOUSE Full-Time
Entry Level opening for Delivery Driver/Shipping & Receiving. Must have clean driving record. Will Train. Benefits. Daytime hours. Call: 586-843-2313

Help Wanted - General

General SUMMER HELP
Parents, will your students be returning home from college this summer and need a temporary job? Students are you looking for some extra cash this summer? If so, DADCO is an innovative manufacturing company located in Plymouth, MI and we are seeking conscientious, dependable students, at least 18 years of age, for temporary summer work in our state-of-the-art facility. Positions are available Monday through Friday 6:30am-4:00pm in our Assembly, Machining, Milling and Polishing Departments. No experience is necessary - we will train. Please, only students apply. EOE
Email resumes to: taw@dado.net
Please reference "Summer Work" in the subject line.
DADCO

SUNSET
INSPIRED BY FLAVOR
Sunset Produce, North America's leading grower/marketer of gourmet greenhouse vegetables located in Livonia, MI, is hiring for the following:

•STAND-UP HI-LO OPERATORS
•REACH TRUCK OPERATORS
•ELECTRIC RIDER-JACK OPERATORS
If you have a strong sense of responsibility and like a fast paced environment, this position offers opportunities for stability and growth.

Position Requirements:
-High School Diploma
-1 yr current experience on stand-up equipment
-Possess a Valid Driver License OR State ID AND recent vision exam
-Must pass internal hi-lo or rider jack certification
-Proficiency in use of English language with ability to communicate effectively & professionally

Working Conditions:
-Environment includes an expansive refrigerated warehouse where the temperature averages 70 degrees F and occasionally down to 55 degrees.
-Must be capable of lifting up to 30 lbs

This position offers the right candidate a competitive salary, vacation pay, and full benefits.
Please call for more information: 734.943.0387 or email HiloHR@sunsetgrown.com

Help Wanted - General

JANITORIAL CLEANING POSITIONS
Wixom, Howell, Novi area. Starting pay at \$8.15 Please fill out online application at www.usservice.com or fax resume: 248-926-9595
U.S. SERVICE, INC.

JOB FAIR
Howard Terres Packaging Co. Experienced PACKAGERS AND INSPECTORS NEEDED
Join us for our on-site Job Fair! Meet directly with WorkBox Staffing representatives for immediate consideration.
9am-11am
Feb. 18 - Wed.
Feb. 19 - Thurs.
700 Manufacturers Dr.
Westland, MI 48186
WORKBOX
734-284-2121
www.workboxstaffing.com
EOE

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Lincolnshire Village Apartments is currently seeking an exp'd Full-Time Maintenance Supervisor. The candidate must be exp'd in unit turns, basic plumbing & have the ability to lead others. Proficient technical skills required incl but are not limited to: carpentry, appliances, plumbing, electrical, & drywall repair. HVAC certification is req.
Qualified candidates fax resume: 989-953-4830
KMG Prestige is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MAINTENANCE TECH
Full-Time, Wixom town home community. Must have 2 yrs. multi-family exp in HVAC, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, snow plow driving skills, wheelbarrow check, drug test, background check. Benefits for the employee. EOE. Email intro letter, resume & wage request: jobopen0308@aol.com

MECHANIC/PM
Waste removal firm looking for truck mechanic/pm. Full benefits.
Accepting Applications Mon-Fri. 8-5.
TLC Waste
28035 Beverly Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

Help Wanted - General

MANUFACTURING
Contract manufacturer of powder & liquid laundry & dish detergent located in Wixom, MI is seeking individuals to fill the following positions:
Line Operator
Full Time for 1st Shift in Production. This position requires 4+ years of experience & a High School Diploma. The individual must have proven experience maintaining high speed packaging equipment, including but not limited to carton formers, conveyors, case-packers, hot melt glue systems, fillers, checkweigher scales and the ability to perform line changeovers. The qualified candidate will need to possess a proven ability to train and direct other employees associated with running production on the line.

Yard Switcher/Tractor-Trailer/Forklift Operator
Full-Time for 2nd Shift in the Warehouse. This position requires 1 year previous Hi Lo Experience, Michigan Drivers License and a Michigan Commercial Driver License (CDL) Group A and basic computer skills with a good attendance record. Responsible for (but not limited to) the storage, tracking, receiving, and delivering of raw materials, components, and finished product. Operate yard truck to move trailers within the Korx property and tractor/trailer between Korx, Annex, and outside warehouse.
Please fax resume to: HR Dept, 248-624-0506 or email to: dfannon@korx-us.com
The KORX COMPANY

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Brighton, Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, Northville areas. Rewarding positions serving persons with special needs in their homes or in group homes. Must be 18. Paid training.
QUEST
Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor 734-239-9015 or email: glengarry@questserv.org
New Hudson: 248-437-7535 or email: trelawney@questserv.org
South Lyon: 248-573-5023

REACH MORE potential employees with an O&E Media RECRUITMENT PACKAGE!
1-800-579-7355
hometownlife.com

Help Wanted - General

PRODUCTION MIG WELDER 1st SHIFT
Manufacturing firm in Livonia is seeking a motivated, experienced Production Mig Welder to join our team.
This position could require overtime as necessary. We offer a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, paid holidays and vacation.
Please email cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: eresume@hometownlife.com Reference Box 6011

REAL ESTATE SALES OPPORTUNITY
work with Michigan's #1 REALTOR
Real Estate One
Earn High Commission Income
Rapidly Expanding Real Estate Market
Start Earning Commissions Right Away
•Own Your Own Practice
•Be Your Own Boss
•Work Your Schedule
•You Determine Your Income
•Bonus Programs
•Health/Life/Disability/Retirement
•Full Time Support Staff
PAT RYAN, REALTOR
(734) 591-9200
PatRyan@RealEstateOne.com

SALES ENGINEER
Tier-One Automotive Supplier located in the Western Suburbs of Detroit, with a complete support staff is seeking a Sales Engineer to work on new opportunities and increasing our sales with the Automotive Companies.
Our goal is to add business in additional areas not presently covered
We offer a competitive salary, comprehensive benefit package, paid holidays and vacation.
Please email cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: eresume@hometownlife.com Reference Box 6010

Help Wanted - Office Clerical
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK/VEHICLE BILLER
Full-Time for Auto Dealer. Dealer experience preferred but will train. Email resume to: carolyn@mbblombfield.com

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Well organized full-time Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant. Payroll, bank reconciliation, accounts payable & receivable, necessary tax reports. Additional administrative duties include releasing incoming orders, answering phone, mail, filing, and other duties as assigned. Detailed organizational skills and multi-tasking. Working knowledge of QuickBooks Pro, Access, Excel, Word and Outlook. Send Cover letter, resume and salary requirements to **ROCK! Tool and Machine** jobs@rocktool.com
CLERICAL, Full-Time for multi-task real estate office in Roseville Park. Resume: frontdesk@remsalestate.com

LEGAL SECRETARY
Wanted for high volume fast paced Lathrup Village law firm. Applicant must have some knowledge of workers' compensation as well as being familiar with Microsoft Word, Outlook & Needles.
Position is permanent, full time with salary & benefits.
Please respond to: bprennow@lawfirmofbernstein.com

OFFICE MANAGER
For a busy private family practice office in South Lyon. Prior medical and management experience required. **See Family Docs**
Fax resume to: 248-437-5694

Payroll Assistant
Full-Time at Michigan Healthcare Professionals. Perform payroll processing & track benefits accurately and timely. Have general knowledge of deductions and payroll taxes. Capable of working with confidential personnel files. General math skills & data entry exp. are req. Resume & cover letter to: churren@mhpdactor.com
Visit us at: www.mhpdactor.com

Dental Assistant FULL-TIME
In Livonia/Dearborn offices. Pay to commensurate with experience. Experience only need apply. Call: (313) 569-3131

Dental Operations Manager
Progressive dental group w/ several Wayne City locations. See full ad CareerBuilder.com Keyward 2475016

Help Wanted - Medical

Caretel Inns of Brighton, a Skilled Nursing and Rehab Facility, has an opening for a MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR
This position will oversee all aspects of internal and external building maintenance & grounds care at our state-of-the-art facility. Must have experience in a supervisory capacity in a maintenance related position. Must be knowledgeable of electrical, plumbing, construction, remodeling. Must be knowledgeable in building codes and safety regulations.
Apply in person at: 1014 E. Grand River Ave Brighton MI
Or email resume to: hrcaretelbrighton@gmail.com

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Full-Time position for busy medical office in West Bloomfield. Experience helpful. Fax resume Attn: Andrea 248-851-0421

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR
West Hickory Haven
A 101 bed facility located in Milford MI, has an opportunity for an experienced Nursing Home Administrator. General Qualifications include: Current Michigan License, ability to demonstrate skills and experience related to financial management, planning, regulatory improvement, and regulatory knowledge. The successful candidate will join an experienced interdisciplinary team. A comprehensive benefit package is offered.
Please send resume in confidence to: adminposition@peplinskigroup.com

BREAKFAST COOK
Three Brothers Restaurant
Part or Full-Time
Leader in the kitchen who desires to become a manager. Plymouth, MI. Email resume: prespa195@gmail.com or call Chris: (734) 233-5951

COOKS EXPERIENCED
Immediate Openings at Beautiful Assisted Living Facility in Westland. Benefits available. Please fax resume to: (248) 350-9083

Help Wanted - Medical

WE'RE GROWING!
Immediate Openings for Full and Part Time
REGISTERED NURSE
Full & Part Time 2nd & 3rd Shift
We are looking for RN's that love what they do, and who will not compromise when it comes to providing the highest quality of care and kindness. Long Term Care/ Skilled Nursing experience preferred. MI RN license required.
CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT
Full Time, All Shifts!
This position is responsible for assisting residents with the activities of daily living. Certification preferred, or must be eligible for certification within 4 months.
GUEST ASSISTANTS
Part Time Openings for 2nd & 3rd Shift
Full Time, 3rd Shift
Responsibilities include providing daily personal care, meal service, light housekeeping, and social interaction.
If you are passionate about providing care and assistance to the elderly, our facilities provide a beautiful environment in which to work.
Apply in person at: 1014 E. Grand River Ave Brighton MI
Or email resume to: hrcaretelbrighton@gmail.com

Caretel
Inns of Brighton
Long Term Care Facility
You'll Want to Work Here!

Food - Beverage
DINING ROOM SERVERS
Exp'd. Immediate Openings at Beautiful Assisted Living Facility in Westland. Benefits available. Please fax resume to: (248) 350-9083
BEANS & CORNED BEEF
The Southfield location has immediate openings for •Servers • Cooks •Hosts • Dishwashers
Please apply in person Mon-Fri from 11am-5pm. 25508 Northwestern Hwy. Please call 248.208.1680

Therapy Choirs of Michigan sets annual Capitol Concert

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan (TCM) is gearing up for two of its major annual concerts, along with an open house.

The Farmington Hills-based organization, which brings individuals with developmental disabilities together to sing, will hold an open house for a start-up therapy choir in Brighton, 3-3:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at 2/42 Community Center, 7526 West Grand River Ave., Brighton. TCM will demonstrate what it does and will offer information about scheduling, funding and how to sign up. The choir is open to special needs individuals.

TCM's 17th annual Capitol Concert is set for noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, in the Capitol building, 100 North Capitol Ave., Lansing; 517-373-0184. The concert marks Choir Therapy Awareness Week in Michigan, which is the

first week of March. Performers will include The Original Therapy Choir, The MORC Singers, The Livingston County Area Youth Singers and Volunteer Voices, conducted by TCM founder and director, Len McCulloch. Sherry Cantrell will serve as master of ceremonies. Admission is free, but goodwill donations will be accepted.

TCM also will sing at noon, Sunday, March 22, at the Carnival of Care, an annual event that celebrates rehabilitation. It will be held at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. The event is free. TCM also will staff a booth with information about choir therapy.

For information about Therapy Choirs of Michigan, call Len McCulloch at 248-476-9329 or Sherry Cantrell at 248-435-7031. Visit its website at therapychoirs.org.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.midcalhnotes.com

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

ALTMAN, ANN LOUISE

Of Eaton Rapids, Michigan (formerly of Brighton, Michigan), was born March 14, 1928 to Henry and Viva Ray, and passed away peacefully February 15, 2015 at age 86. Ann is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Altman Jr. and daughter, Susan (Altman) Merkle. Left to cherish his memory are Roger and Kaylee Altman; son and daughter-in-law, Eaton Rapids, MI.; Ronald R. Merkle, son-in-law, Howell, MI.; Justin Merkle, grandson, Tampa, Florida; Lauren (Roy) Alisoglu, granddaughter, Metamora, MI. Ann married Charles Altman in 1948 and was a loving wife for 65 years. Over the years Ann was an active member of the Hartland and then the New Hudson United Methodist Church. She was a caring woman with a kind heart. A Funeral Service celebrating Ann's life will be at the New Hudson United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. With a meal following. Donations can be made to the New Hudson United Methodist Church, 56730 Grand River Avenue, New Hudson, MI 48165, (248) 437-6212, <http://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Ann-Altman-102197840>.



REININK, BERNARD ERWIN

Bernard Erwin Reinink Passed from this earth early Tuesday morning, February 17, 2015. Bernie was born June 19, 1929, the eldest of four boys to John Reinink & Velzie (Corwin) Reinink Brown. He married his childhood sweetheart Helen (Watson) Reinink on February 17, 1947, and she survives. In 1968 Bernie and Helen and their family of 5 kids left the suburbs of Detroit for the country life and moved to the Irish Hills where in 1969 they began the business of Bernie's Country Store on US 12.

Bernie was preceded in Death by: his father John, and mother Velzie; his stepfather Raymond Brown; and his brother Ronald Reinink, of Stevensville, MI. Bernie is survived by his wife of 68 years, Helen (Watson) Reinink of Provincial House Adrian, and their five children and their families:

Son B. Rex and Susan Reinink of Tipton, MI and their two sons: Andrew (Michelle) Reinink of Ann Arbor, MI and Ford (Kristin) Reinink of Grand Rapids, MI.

Son Barry and Candy Reinink of Brooklyn, MI and their three children: Barry (Colleen) Reinink of Idaho and their daughter Anna. Bert Reinink of MI. and his children Dustin Reinink & Savannah Reinink of Virginia. Sally (Tony) Vermilya of Brooklyn, MI.

Son Keith (Susie) Reinink and their daughter: Jenna Reinink (Jeff Pyciak) of Manistee Michigan

Daughter Roxanne "Penny" Helinski and her husband Terry Helinski of Brooklyn, MI and their four children: Amanda Helinski of Brooklyn, MI and her son Gabe Helinski. Clint Helinski (Lori Mason) of Brooklyn, MI. Tara (Joshua) Nance of AZ. and their daughters Cloie and Zoe.

Daughter Stacy Handy and her husband George Handy of Brooklyn, MI. and their two daughters: Laura (Phil) Wright of Cement City, MI. and their daughter Macy. Monica Handy of Brooklyn, MI and her daughter Mya.

Other survivors include Bernie's two brothers: John "Jack" (Marilyn nee Zschunke) Reinink of Westland, MI and their families. Robert "Bobby" (Dora nee Snyder) Reinink of Garden City, MI and their families. Sister-in-Law: Lucille (nee Neibauer) Reinink of Stevensville, MI. and her families. Also survived by many relatives and friends who will cherish fond memories of Bernie in their hearts.

According to Bernie's wishes he has donated his body to: The University of Michigan Medical School. A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions are suggested to: Arbor Hospice, The University of Michigan Medical School or a charity of your choice. For a full obituary and offer your condolences to the family, please visit: www.PurseFuneralHome.com



CRAMER, BETTY CUNNINGHAM

83, departed peacefully at home surrounded by family, February 18, 2015. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 15, 1931 to Peter Alexander and Mary Dollar Cunningham. Beloved wife of the late Victor Russell Cramer, Jr. Loving mother of the late Victoria Ann Cramer. Preceded by the passing of her sister Eunice Cunningham Harrison. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Lynne Myers and her husband, Michael; her devoted son, Mark Dollar Cramer and his wife, Kelly. Proud grandmother of six grandsons, Andy, Alex, Brandon, Jake, Eric, and Ian. Cherished great-grandmother to Riley, Ellie, Molly, and Logan. She graduated from Redford High School in 1948. Attended the University of Michigan and graduated from Wayne State University. Her retailing career spanned many decades and included LaSalle's in Toledo, Albert's in Southfield and Work 'N Gear in Westland. Family will receive visitors Tuesday, February 24 from 2-4 p.m. with a Memorial Service at 4 p.m. at Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Five Mile Rd., Livonia. In lieu of flowers, donations to Mercy Hospice would be greatly appreciated. Please visit the on-line guestbook at www.fredwoodfuneralhome.com

FREDWOOD
Rite Chapel Funeral Home



KORTE, AUGUST "GUS"

Age 92. February 16, 2015. Beloved husband of Doris for 54 years, dear father of Kenneth (Wendy), and cherished grandfather of Melissa and Jonathan. Gus was a proud veteran of WWII and a member of American Legion Post 271 and VFW Post 3941. He worked as a Meteorologist for NOAA for 35 years. A service with military funeral honors will be held at Great Lakes National Cemetery at a later date.

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



SCHMITT, MARGARET "PAT"

Age 88 of Sun City Center, Florida (formerly Livonia, Michigan) passed away on February 10, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Judge Marvin Schmitt; loving mother of Claudia (Clark) Doughty and John (Brenda) Schmitt; cherished grandmother of Brian (Sarah) Doughty and Christopher (Veronica) Doughty and proud great-grandmother of Reese Doughty. Funeral Mass will be celebrated March 7th, 12 Noon at Saint Anne Catholic Church, Ruskin, Florida.

STENROSE, LENA

February 16, 2015. Age 89. Wife of Edwin (deceased) and mother of Jerone (deceased) and David. Loving grandmother of Kenton, Devin, Kieth (deceased), Tammy, and Daniel, and four great-grandchildren. Loved by all who met her including a wonderful church family. Memorial Service to be held February 28, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 N. Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. Please, in lieu of flowers, a contribution to the church for a living memorial to "Louise".

May the memory of your loved one...
...bring you peace.



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



John and Lenore (Areola) Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills will mark their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 27. They were married in 1965 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Detroit.

Their children are Alex Ambrozaitis of Texas, Erik Ambrozaitis of Rochester Hills, Ryan Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills, Stase Wendland of Canton. They also have seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

John retired from the Cadillac Division of General Motors after 30 years as hi-lo driver.

Lenore is a retired school lunch room aide. John enjoys painting houses and doing various



John and Lenore Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills



John and Lenore Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills on their wedding day in 1965


kinds of handiwork. Lenore loves to cook for others. Together they

have volunteered at various schools, churches, and for St. Vincent De Paul.

They built a home in Houghton Lake where they lived from 1998 to 2013. They have relocated to Farmington Hills to spend more time with their family. The couple traveled over the years throughout the United States, including trips to Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, Washington D.C., Arizona, Texas, Kentucky and New York City.

They plan to renew their wedding vows at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington and take a trip to West Virginia.

BIRTH



Julia Nicolette Kramer

JULIA NICOLETTE KRAMER

Julia Nicolette Kramer was born Jan. 21, 2015 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia. She joins her parents,

Joel and Katie Kramer, and sister, Rose, 3, at home in Livonia.

Proud grandparents are Katherine and Richard Brown of Livonia and Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

- Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.
- Livonia Garden Club**
- Chris Lipinski, a Master Gardener, environmental consultant and co-chair of the Birds, Bees & Butterflies Committee, will talk about raising bees for pollination, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Lipinski also will identify the native plants that attract friendly pollinators, Mason bees. Visitors are welcome; livoniagardenclub.org
- Holliday Nature Preserve**
- Celebrate spring with a guided walk noon Saturday, March 21, starting at the preserve's Hix entrance on Hix Road, north of Warren Road, in Westland. The walk is free.
- Master Gardeners**
- Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County wraps up its series of Tuesday night classes 7-8 p.m. Feb. 24, at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Kevin Collins, garden center manager at Ray Hunter Flower & Garden Center in Southgate, will talk about hydrangeas. Cost is \$10. To register, email mgwwcorg@gmail.com
- Educational conference**
- Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Early bird tickets are \$70, \$80 after March 14. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. It will include a garden market, presentations by Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power; Matthew Benson, photographer, writer and organic farmer; and Kerry Ann Mendez, who teaches low-maintenance perennial gardening. Entertainment by Kerry Price and The Dave Bennett Quartet. Pay online or download a form for mailing. Visit mgso-c.org. No registration at the door.
- English Gardens**
- » Learn about fresh flower arranging, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Free
- » Create a "Zen Artistry" fresh flower arrangement to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Fee is \$29.99. Sign up at englishgardens.com.
- » Learn the ABC's of growing herbs, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Free
- » Make a kitchen herb garden to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Cost is \$24.99. Sign up in the store or online at englishgardens.com. Classes are held at all stores unless noted. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

ENGAGEMENT

RUIS-GRAHAM

Kristina Nicole Ruis and Joshua Thomas Graham announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Barb and Randy Ruis of Grandville, is a 2007 graduate of Grandville High School. She earned a bachelors degree in music performance and music education in 2011 from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, and a masters degree in music performance in 2014 from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. She performs for local symphonies.

Her fiancé, son of Janene and Greg Graham of Livonia, is a 2007 Churchill High School graduate. He earned a bachelors degree in music in 2011 from Central Michigan University and a masters degree in music performance in 2013 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He teaches students and ensembles in a home studio and at local schools. He plans to pursue doctorate studies in fall 2015.

A June 2015 wedding is planned. The ceremony will take place in the bride's grandmother's church in Grand Rapids, with the groom's cousin officiating. The couple plans to honeymoon in France.



Kristina Nicole Ruis and Joshua Thomas Graham

Trade Secrets fundraiser benefits JVS' Women to Work program

Melanie Bergeron, chair of Two Men and a Truck, will share her trade secrets of success at JVS's 7th annual Trade Secrets fundraiser March 18.

The event is at 6 p.m. at Knollwood Country Club, 5050 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Proceeds will benefit the JVS Women to Work Program, which helps women re-invigorate and re-invent themselves through career counseling, computer training and job search strategies.

In her keynote address, Bergeron will relate her family's story, which mirrors that of many Women to Work participants. Divorce left her mother, Mary Ellen Sheets, scrambling to provide for her family. Sheets launched a small moving business with an old green pickup truck left behind by her husband. As her business steadily grew, she awarded the first franchise to her daughter, Melanie Bergeron, who now serves as chair of the board of directors and has helped build the

company into an international corporation with more than 1,900 trucks and 300 locations worldwide.

Women to Work helps those who need immediate employment after drastic life changes, such as divorce or the death, disability or unemployment of their spouse or partner. The program includes individual and group support, job search assistance, financial education and other services to help participants overcome challenges, build self-confidence and become successfully employed.

"After completing the program, 85 percent of participants are employed or enrolled in further training or education," said Judy Richmond, Women to Work coordinator. "The program has changed the lives of thousands of women and their children, making a cross-generational difference for families throughout southeast Michigan."

Tickets are \$150. For ticket and sponsorship information, visit www.jvsdet.org/trade-secrets or contact Fran Victor, chief development officer, at fvictor@jvsdet.org or 248-233-4290.



Bergeron

KORTE, AUGUST "GUS"

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www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

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...bring you peace.



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Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



Researchers create focused diabetes prevention

University of Michigan researchers have developed a new approach to type 2 diabetes prevention that could keep more individuals from acquiring the disease.

Their new "precision medicine" model may allow better targeting of drugs and lifestyle changes to those who can benefit most.

Researchers looked at 17 different health factors, in an effort to predict who stands to gain the most from a diabetes-preventing drug, or from lifestyle changes like weight loss and regular exercise. Seven of those factors turned out to matter most. They are fasting blood sugar, long-term blood sugar (A1C level), total triglycerides, family history of high blood sugar, waist measurement, height, and waist-to-hip ratio.

"Simply having pre-diabe-



Sussman

tes is not everything," said lead author Jeremy Sussman, M.D., M.S. "This really shows that within the realm of pre-diabetes there's a lot of variation, and that we need to go beyond single risk factors and look holistically at who are the people in whom a particular approach works best."

Sussman is an assistant professor of general medicine at the U-M Medical School and a research scientist at the VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

The team developed and tested the model by analyzing data from more than 3,000 people in the study, all of whom had a high body mass index and abnormal results on two fasting blood sugar tests.

Most also had a family history of diabetes, and more than a third were African American or Latino — all known to be associated with higher risks of diabetes. In all, they looked at 17 factors that together predicted a person's risk of diabetes — and his or her chance of benefiting from diabetes-preventing steps.

They developed a scoring scale using the clinical trial data, assigning points to each measure to calculate total score.

Fewer than one in 10 of trial participants who scored in the lowest quarter would develop diabetes in the next three years, while almost half of those in the top quarter would develop diabetes in that time.

Risks, benefits

"Our research has found that it is common that, al-

though the average benefit in a clinical trial might be moderate, in reality those patients at high risk for a bad outcome get a lot of benefit, the average patient has modest chance of benefiting, and lower-risk patients may have little to no chance of benefiting, or are being harmed," said co-author Rod Hayward, M.D, a professor of medicine and public health at U-M and a senior research scientist at the VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

The team found that metformin, a drug used to treat type 2 diabetes, benefited only the people who the model showed had the very highest risk of developing diabetes. But for them, it made a difference, bringing down their risk of the disease by 21 percentage points.

By contrast, exercise and

weight loss, with encouragement from a health coach, benefited everyone in the DPP study to some extent, the new model shows.

For the one-quarter of study participants who the model says had the highest risk of diabetes, this lifestyle intervention cut their chance of developing the disease by 28 percentage points. For those who had the lower diabetes risk, this same intensive lifestyle change brought down their risk too — but only by five points.

The researchers hope to turn the new approach into a tool for doctors to use with patients who have "pre-diabetes." They also hope their approach could be used to develop similar precise prediction models for other diseases and treatments.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Balance class

St. Mary Mercy Livonia presents a free eight-week workshop for seniors, ages 60 and older, called "A Matter of Balance," 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, beginning Feb. 25, in the St. Mary Mercy Livonia Wellness Center, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Participants will learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risk at home and exercise to increase strength and balance. To register, call 734-655-1310

Blood drive

» 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 2, Providence Hospital Fisher Center Auditorium, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Sign up at redcrossblood.org and enter the code, PROVSFLD or call Abbie at 248-849-3067

» Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in classrooms 1-4 in the Allen Breakie

Medical Office Building, located on the hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Call 734-458-4259 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

Childbirth Class

Learn about the stages of labor, managing discomfort, relaxation and breathing methods, the partner's role in labor and delivery, medications and anesthesia, C-Section deliveries and more, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$75. Register by phone, 248-888-2500, or online, www.botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html.

Diabetes management

» Oakwood Healthcare offers a free seminar on managing your diabetes through meal planning, blood sugar control and other resources, 5-7 p.m. Feb. 25, at the Oakwood Physical Therapy and Wellness Center, 17101 Rotunda

Dr., Dearborn. To register, visit Oakwood.org under the Classes & Events tab or call 800-543-9355.

» St. Mary Mercy Livonia will present a free six-week workshop for adults with diabetes, 1-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4-April 8, at the Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, Redford. The workshop, called, Diabetes PATH (Personal Approach Toward Health), will teach participants to handle the challenges of diabetes, manage symptoms and communicate more effectively with physicians and family members. Participants will develop weekly action plans, share experiences and help others solve problems encountered during their self-management program. Register with the library at 313-531-5960, Ext. 103.

Heart month

» Board-certified cardiologist and Garden City Hospital health expert, Dr. William Nazzaro will discuss the latest

guidelines for preventing heart disease, screening for early detection, maintaining a healthy heart and common and uncommon indications of a heart attack, noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at Westland Shopping Center's east court, 35000 Warren Road, Westland. For more information, call 734-458-4259.

» Syamasundera Zampani, M.D., will provide advice on preventing heart disease at Lunch n' Learn, noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 25, in the north auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. Bring your lunch and learn how you can begin making healthy choices for your heart.

Mental health

Botsford Hospital's new support group, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, or NAMI, will meet 7-9 p.m. March 5 — and will continue meeting the first and third Thursday of the month — in Classroom A/B, Zieger Building, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The free NAMI

Metro Connection Support Group is for people living with mental illness. They can learn from each others' experiences, share coping strategies and offer encouragement and understanding. A trained volunteer facilitates. Call Nikki at 248-752-3381.

Shoulder pain

William Kesto, M.D., talks about causes and treatment options for shoulder pain 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the Fisher Auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile. Resister by calling 888-751-5465.

Walk with a Doc

Patricia Schmidt, D.O., a board-certified internist, will lead a walk and talk about prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Register by calling 877-477-3621, option #1.



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Job search tactics balance old and new technologies

By Robert Half

Unless you're looking for work at a medieval-themed restaurant, the last impression you want to give an employer is of being behind the times. That's one reason many job seekers become preoccupied with using only the latest tools and techniques to find a job. As a result, they often neglect some successful time-tested methods.

Of course, plenty of traditional techniques have gone extinct for good reason. Before you go retro, distinguish the do's from the don'ts. Here are some low-tech methods worth reviving. They can help you stand out and make a positive impression no matter the era.

Take cover

Some vintage tactics, such as writing a cover letter, aren't as passe as you might think. In a recent Robert Half survey of senior managers, 91 percent of respondents said cover letters are valuable when evaluating job candidates. Don't skip the cover letter just because a company's online application system doesn't request one. If there's no field designated for a cover letter, you can often attach extra documentation. In fact, 79 percent of employers said it's common to receive cover letters even when applicants submit resumes electronically.

Stock up on stamps

The vast majority of resumes are submitted online or via email. That's why mailing yours as a hard copy can be effective. Once the hiring manager recovers from the shock of receiving a piece of mail, he might open it out of sheer curiosity. That alone puts

you ahead of the dozens or even hundreds of other resumes waiting in the person's inbox. However, you shouldn't rely on regular mail alone; use it as a follow up to an online resume. Just be aware of the employer's preferences. Some make it clear in the job posting that they will consider only electronic submissions.

Use your phone's 'phone' feature

Follow up after submitting your resume by calling the hiring manager. A phone call may require more nerve than an email, but the results justify the effort. A voicemail beats an email in at least three key ways: it demonstrates your assertiveness, reaffirms your interest in the opportunity and comes across as more personal than words on the screen. If the hiring manager answers the call, that's even better. You've already established a direct personal connection.

Take the time to say thanks

Since even the most tech-savvy job seeker knows to follow up after an interview, why not do so in a way that conveys genuine gratitude and a personal touch? Reinforce your thank-you email with a handwritten note mailed within a day or two of the meeting.

Borrowing from the past won't strengthen your job search if you're not selective about the tactics you choose. The following bygone techniques and assumptions have earned their place in the job-search dustbin.

The all-purpose resume

It's been 20 years since altering your resume meant typing up a new document from scratch, or at least using an ancient sub-



stance known as whiteout. Now, there's no excuse for not tailoring every resume you send to each specific opportunity.

Resume relics

The traditional objective statement on a resume has seen better days. By focusing on your wishes, not on what you can provide the employer, you may start off on the wrong foot. It's much more useful to provide a targeted professional summary instead. Similarly, an exhaustive resume that lists every job you've ever had makes it hard for a time-strapped hiring manager to find the most relevant material.

Formality for its own sake. Good manners never go out of style, but that doesn't mean your correspondence should read like something out of Downton Abbey. Phrases like "To whom it may concern" and "Dear sir or madam" can distance you from the reader. Instead, try to find the hiring manager's name. Calling the company is usually enough to reveal this nugget of information. If you have no luck, use the person's title.

Today's most successful job seekers combine an awareness of modern technology with a desire to establish old-fashioned personal contact whenever possible.

Not by coincidence, that's the kind of versatility most employers, even medieval restaurants are looking for.

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734-453-2500

MALIBU 2014
1LT, 1400K miles, 1 owner,
loaded. Just like new except the
price! \$18,995
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Chrysler-Plymouth

TOWN & COUNTRY 2010
4 dr. wagon Touring, 4 wheel
ABS, Solar glass, 1 year FREE
maintenance (limited time of-
fer). \$11,995
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734-453-2500

Ford

FORD 12' FOCUS
Red, Hatch back, 6
speed Atuo, pwr win-
dows & locks, air, custom
wheels, new tires, approx. 28
MPG (city), 37 MPG (hwy), just
detailed. 48k Mi. \$12,900
248-613-0637

GMC

GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, ABS
Privacy Glass. \$12,995
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Honda

CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/nav.
Leather, moonroof. \$17,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Kia

CADILLAC CTS 2009
3.6L V6, AWD, Options galore!
\$14,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
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KIA RIO 2013
4 dr. sedan, auto Ex, ABS,
MP3 player, lots of extras!
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BUICK, GMC
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Lexus

LEXUS ES 350 2008
4 dr. Sedan, Leather, Heated
Seats, Loaded! \$14,995
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BUICK, GMC
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Pontiac

PONTIAC SOLSTICE 2007
2 dr. convertible, RWD, leath-
er. Hurry! This one won't last!
\$14,995
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BUICK, GMC
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**Sunday
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Pharaoh's amulet
5 Day of the wk.
8 Leave a mark
12 Gull's perch
13 "Exodus" hero
14 Strong and healthy
15 Grouchier
17 Old barge canal
18 Hundreds of mins.
19 Was a stockbroker
21 Emmy relative
24 Second-story man
26 Mends a toe
28 Startled cry
29 Ex-Gl grp.
32 Grandson, perhaps
33 Group of key personnel
35 — Lingus
36 Overhead railways

DOWN

1 Pumper's pride
2 Wimple sporter
3 RV haven
4 Dash
5 Pants measurement
6 Sooner than

37 Assoc.
38 Busybody
40 Cast a vote
42 Harvest
43 Measured
46 Perfume label word
48 "— cost you"
49 Outshone
54 Descartes' name
55 Use the scissors
56 Carryall
57 Heavy metal
58 Mouths, to zoologists
59 Deceive with charm

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	T	V	W	I	S	E	A	H	S	O
B	O	O	E	N	G	R	S	O	U	L
B	E	L	A	S	T	O	U	N	D	E
E	S	C	O	R	T	S	H	E		
	A	N	S				U	R	A	L
F	O	N	T	U	S	S	R	C	O	W
E	S	O	L	H	A	S	A	C	R	I
A	L	E	A	S	S	T		P	O	E
R	O	S	E	S			M	E	M	
		W	E	T	M	A	G	P	I	E
C	O	L	E	R	I	D	G	E	A	S
A	V	E	R		M	E	R	V		N
T	A	O	S	E	S	S	E		Y	E

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Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books
at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

CARDIAC WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ABDOMEN
ALVEOLI
ANGINA
AORTA
ARRHYTHMIA
ARTERY
ASPIRIN
BACTERIA
BLOOD PRESSURE
BRADYCARDIA
BRUIT
BYPASS
CARDIAC
CARDIOLOGIST
CAROTID
CATHETERIZATION
CHOLESTEROL
CONGENITAL
DIURETIC
DOPPLER
DYSPEA
ENDOCARDIUM
EXERCISE
FAILURE
FIBRILLATION
HOMOCYSTEINE
HYPERTENSION
INFARCT
LIPID
LUMEN
NITROGLYCERIN
PLATELETS
SHOCK
SHUNT
THROMBOLYSIS
VASCULAR

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

Word Search

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

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Ford Escape is most popular vehicle at Bill Brown Ford

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

When a customer is handed the key to a new car at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia, there's a good chance it starts the engine of a Ford Escape.

"Our customers have been extremely satisfied with the Ford Escape ever since its introduction back in 2001," said Richard Palaikis II, Marketing Director and Internet Sales Manager at Bill Brown Ford. "In fact, we are currently selling more Ford Escapes than any other vehicle in the Ford lineup."

"Since the introduction of the new body style in late 2012, we have been continually selling more Ford Escapes each year. Just last year alone, out of the 5,417 vehicles we sold, 1,520 of them were Ford Escapes — that's 29 percent of our overall new-vehicle sales volume."

The 2015 Ford Escape is billed as the "Smart Utility Vehicle that balances technology, design and engineering with intelligent, intuitive controls."

Right now, about 250 Ford Escapes are available for purchase at Bill Brown Ford, with another 90 en route to the dealership from the factory and an additional 200 on order with the manufacturer.

Palaikis said he highly encourages anyone who's looking for an Escape, or any other vehicle in the Ford lineup, to stop by the showroom, which is located at 32222 Plymouth Road.

"When you are looking for the very best vehicles made in America, work with the best: Bill Brown Ford," he said. "On a national scale, Bill Brown Ford is ranked nationally as one of the top-five dealerships in overall sales volume. We have continually received top honors year after year from Ford Motor Company with regard to our overall commitment to customer satisfaction



FORD MOTOR CO.

Right now, about 250 Ford Escapes are available for purchase at Bill Brown Ford, 32222 Plymouth Road.

as rated by our customers.

"One of the things that has made us successful throughout the years has been our honest, straightforward approach when working with our customers before, during and after the sale."

For the 2015 Ford Escape, those customers will find a wide array of options and packages. Popular items include the available SYNC with MyFord Touch System, Active Park Assist, Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross Traffic Alert, and the Panorama Roof (which covers approximately 41 percent of the roof area).

"In the midst of the winter driving season, the Escape's Intelligent 4WD System is

among the very best — only engaging the rear wheels when extra traction is needed, thereby making this vehicle more fuel efficient, even when operating in 4WD," Palaikis said.

Speaking of fuel efficiency, the Ford Escape, when equipped with the 1.6L EcoBoost, will get an EPA-estimated combined fuel economy rating of 26 miles to the gallon (23 city, 32 highway).

The Ford Escape also has several standard safety features, including:

- » the Personal Safety System, which tailors airbag deployment to the severity of the crash
- » the SOS Post Crash Alert System, which automatically

activates the hazard flashers and sounds the horn in the event of airbag deployment

- » the Tire Pressure Monitoring System, which uses an audible chime and instrument-cluster indicator light to alert the driver that one or more of the tires is low on pressure.

"Also, in the event of an accident," Palaikis said, "the SYNC system will automatically dial 911, provided your mobile device is properly paired to the vehicle, using the 911 Assist Feature of SYNC."

The 2015 Ford Escape's national competitors include the 2015 Chevrolet Equinox, 2015 Honda CR-V and 2015 Toyota RAV4.

"The Ford Escape offers customers a well-balanced mix

of power and fuel efficiency with the three available powertrain options — 1.6L EcoBoost, 2.0L EcoBoost and 2.5L IVCT I4 — while also mixing in several class-exclusive technology features," Palaikis said. "Additionally, a Ford Escape equipped with the 2.0L EcoBoost and the Class II Trailer Tow Package can effectively tow 3,500 pounds."

Bill Brown Ford is open for new and pre-owned sales from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Pre-owned sales are also available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call Bill Brown Ford at 734-421-7000 or visit www.billbrownford.com.



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THE SWITCH



Make the Switch at Bill Brown Ford

If you have been considering a new vehicle, now is the time to make the switch and get into a new Ford vehicle!

Early Bird Program is Back

Take advantage of the Early Bird Program to get out of your current Ford lease and into a new Ford today.

Make the Switch to Ford

If you are not currently driving a Ford vehicle, now is the time to make the switch to Ford and receive an additional Ford rebate of up to \$750.

NEW 2015 Ford Escape SE



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\$0 Due at Signing	\$203 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$182 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$162 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$141 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$120 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$100 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$79 ***

Buy For \$20,284+ MSRP \$26,245

Featuring: Equipment Package 200A, Front Wheel Drive, 2.5L I4 VCT Engine, SYNC® with MyFord®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry

\$144...

\$423 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

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NEW 2015 Ford Fusion SE



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\$0 Due at Signing	\$205 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$185 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$164 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$143 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$123 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$102 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$82 ***

Buy For \$18,348+ MSRP \$24,860

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\$149...

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24 Month Lease

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NEW 2014 Ford Focus SE



Sign & Drive 24 Month Lease

\$0 Due at Signing	\$192 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$172 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$151 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$131 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$110 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$90 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$69 ***

Buy For \$13,637+ MSRP \$20,535

Featuring: Equipment Package 200A, 2.0L I4 Engine, Leather Seats, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Remote Keyless Entry

\$135...

\$384 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

NEW 2014 Ford Edge SEL



Sign & Drive 24 Month Lease

\$0 Due at Signing	\$296 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$275 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$255 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$234 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$214 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$193 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$172 ***

Buy For \$26,748+ MSRP \$35,380

Featuring: Equipment Package 205A, Leather Comfort Package, Front Wheel Drive, 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry

\$230...

\$611 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

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NEW 2015 Ford Explorer XLT



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\$500 Due at Signing	\$310 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$289 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$269 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$248 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$227 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$207 ***

Buy For \$30,576+ MSRP \$38,215

Featuring: Equipment Package 202A, Comfort Package with Leather Heated Seats, Driver Connect Package, Front Wheel Drive, 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry

\$268...

\$524 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

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NEW 2014 Ford Flex SEL



Sign & Drive 24 Month Lease

\$0 Due at Signing	\$314 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$293 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$273 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$252 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$232 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$211 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$190 ***

Buy For \$27,455+ MSRP \$35,370

Featuring: Equipment Package 202A, Front Wheel Drive, 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine, Leather Heated Seats, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry, Universal Garage Door Opener

\$246...

\$651 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

NEW 2015 Ford Taurus SEL



Sign & Drive 24 Month Lease

\$0 Due at Signing	\$318 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$298 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$277 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$257 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$236 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$216 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$195 ***

Buy For \$22,560+ MSRP \$31,360

Featuring: Equipment Package 201A, Front Wheel Drive, 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine, Adjustable Pedals, Cruise Control, Power Seats, Power Windows & Locks, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®

\$255...

\$540 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

NEW 2015 Ford C-Max Hybrid SEL



Sign & Drive 24 Month Lease

\$0 Due at Signing	\$327 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$306 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$286 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$265 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$244 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$224 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$203 ***

Buy For \$24,736+ MSRP \$30,190

Featuring: Equipment Package 302A, Hands-Free Technology Package, Premium Audio & Navigation Package, 2.0L Atkinson I4 Engine, Cruise Control, Intelligent Access w/ Push Button Start, Power Liftgate, Power Windows & Locks, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®, 17" Aluminum Wheels

\$266...

\$442 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

NEW 2014 Ford Transit Connect XLT Wagon



Sign & Drive 24 Month Lease

\$0 Due at Signing	\$260 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$239 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$219 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$198 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$177 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$157 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$136 ***

Buy For \$25,057+ MSRP \$28,485

Featuring: Equipment Package 210A, 2.5L DOHC I4 Engine, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Privacy Glass, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry

\$198...

\$495 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

NEW 2014 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4



Sign & Drive 24 Month Lease

\$0 Due at Signing	\$320 ***
\$500 Due at Signing	\$299 ***
\$1,000 Due at Signing	\$279 ***
\$1,500 Due at Signing	\$258 ***
\$2,000 Due at Signing	\$238 ***
\$2,500 Due at Signing	\$217 ***
\$3,000 Due at Signing	\$197 ***

Buy For \$31,553+ MSRP \$44,795

Featuring: Equipment Package 302A, 5.0L FFV V8 Engine, XLT Convenience Package, XLT Chrome Package, XLT Plus Package, Cruise Control, Power Adjustable Pedals, Power Driver's Seat, Power Sliding Rear Window, Power Windows & Locks, SIRIUS XM Radio, SYNC®, Remote Keyless Entry, Rear Defroster, Reverse Sensing System

\$254...

\$599 Due at Signing with \$1000 Down

24 Month Lease

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* Early Bird Program is effective January 6, 2015 through March 31, 2015. For current Ford Credit RCL/RCD customers. Up to three (3) waived payments with a maximum of \$1,800 with a scheduled lease termination date from April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 on Edge, Escape, Explorer, Fiesta, Flex, Focus, Fusion and Taurus. Must lease or purchase with Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the Early Bird Program. Past due payments, payment extensions and delinquent payments beyond the original agreement are not eligible. Excess wear/mileage are customer's responsibility. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by March 31, 2015.

** Competitive Lease Conquest is effective January 6, 2015 through March 31, 2015. Offer available to current lessees of competitive (non-Ford/Unicom/Mercury/Molar Company Car, SUV, or Light Duty Truck) vehicles with valid proof of ownership. Trade-in not required. Residency restrictions apply. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by March 31, 2015.

*** All payments and prices are for qualifying A1Z Planners. For qualifying non (not new) A1Z Planners an additional \$800 to \$1,500 down would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,000 miles per year. To buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect of publication and are subject to change. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 03/31/15.

2015 Lincoln MKZ is 'attracting next generation of luxury car buyers'

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

The 2015 Lincoln MKZ continues to represent the road ahead for the Lincoln Motor Co., said Steve Hunsinger, sales manager at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn.

"With its design, performance and technology, the MKZ is attracting the next generation of luxury car buyers," he said.

Those customers enjoy a wide range of standard features, plus three power train options:

The standard 2.0L EcoBoost I-4.

The available 3.7L Ti-VCT V6 engine.

The Lincoln MKZ Hybrid, which offers the third-generation 2.0L Atkinson-cycle I-4 gas engine.

The 2015 Lincoln MKZ competes head-to-head in the luxury mid-size sedan market with brands like the Acura TL, Cadillac CTS, Infiniti Q50 and Lexus ES 350, while the Lincoln MKZ Hybrid contends with vehicles like the Infiniti Q50 Hybrid and Lexus ES 300h.

"There are many standard features on the MKZ that aren't offered on many of the competitive models," Hunsinger

said.

"One of the most intriguing features of the MKZ is the push-button transmission, which is on the dashboard, alleviating the center console shift and offering a more open feel to the cabin of the vehicle," Hunsinger said.

The 2015 MKZ incorporates the new Lincoln design language of "elegant simplicity."

Exterior design features include:

Adaptive LED auto headlamps.

Auto high beams.

Body-color exterior door handles with chrome insert.

Configurable daytime running lamps (available with select and reserve equipment groups).

LED tail lamps and light-pipe driving lamps.

Split-wing grille with chrome surround.

Pedestal-mounted heated side-view mirrors with integrated turn signals, blind spot mirrors and security approach lamps.

Power up/down deck lid (available).

Rectangular dual exhaust with bright tips.

Retractable panoramic roof.

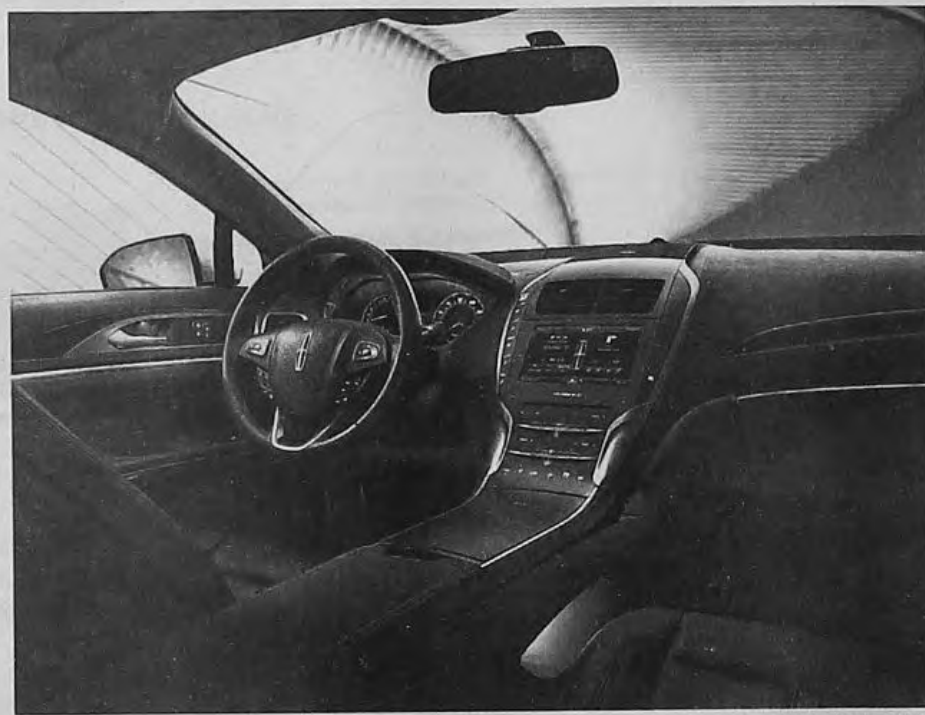
Interior design features include:

10.1-inch LCD instrument cluster.



FORD MOTOR CO.

The 2015 MKZ incorporates the new Lincoln design language of "elegant simplicity."



FORD MOTOR CO.

Interior design features include a 10.1-inch LCD instrument cluster.

Ambient lighting — customers can choose from seven different colors (select equipment group).

Flow-through front

console with storage bin, trinket tray and two cup holders.

Genuine wood applications.

Illuminated scuff

plates.

Premium leather seating surfaces (select and reserve equipment groups).

"The luxury and ele-

gant attributes of the MKZ have not gone unnoticed by today's luxury car buyers," Hunsinger said. "The MKZ has done very well with current Lincoln owners, but Lincoln is looking at the big picture of attracting the competitive buyers and converting them to Lincoln owners."

In fact, Lincoln predicts that 45 percent of sales will be to past or current Lincoln owners, while 55 percent of sales will come from "conquest" customers, Hunsinger said.

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\$199

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$199 + tax
Per Month, \$3080 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.
All Payments Based on A/Z Plan

Vin #3LFR617345



2015 LINCOLN MKC

\$269

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$269 + tax
Per Month, \$1953 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.
All Payments Based on A/Z Plan

Vin #5LFUJ28623



2014 LINCOLN MKS

\$299

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$299 + tax
Per Month, \$2430 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.
All Payments Based on A/Z Plan

Vin #1LEG609912



2015 LINCOLN MKX

\$299

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$299 + tax
Per Month, \$1767 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.
All Payments Based on A/Z Plan

Vin #2LFBL20793



2014 LINCOLN MKT

\$399

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All Payments Based on A/Z Plan

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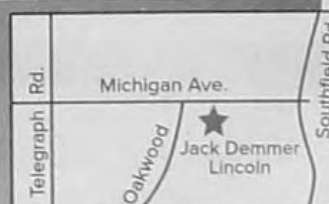
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