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Plans scrapped for local outlet center

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Paragon Outlet Partners LLC has scrapped plans to build a sprawling outlet mall in Canton, scuttling hopes for hundreds of jobs and scores of upscale stores, but easing fears of worsening traffic congestion along the Ford Road corridor.

Baltimore-based Paragon has indicated the costs of buy-

ing land, improving traffic flow and addressing potential wetlands issues doomed the outlet mall, once proposed southwest of Ford and Lotz roads, local officials said.

"It's a big disappointment," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "I thought it was a good project for the area. It would have been a quality project. I felt we could work through the traffic concerns."

Company officials had indicated the 375,000-square-foot outlet mall could house as many as 100 stores, making Canton an even stronger shopping destination alongside IKEA and other shops along the Ford Road corridor.

Paragon Outlet Partners LLC may, instead, work with New England Development of Newton, Mass., on another outlet mall planned in Romulus, near Detroit Metropolitan

Airport.

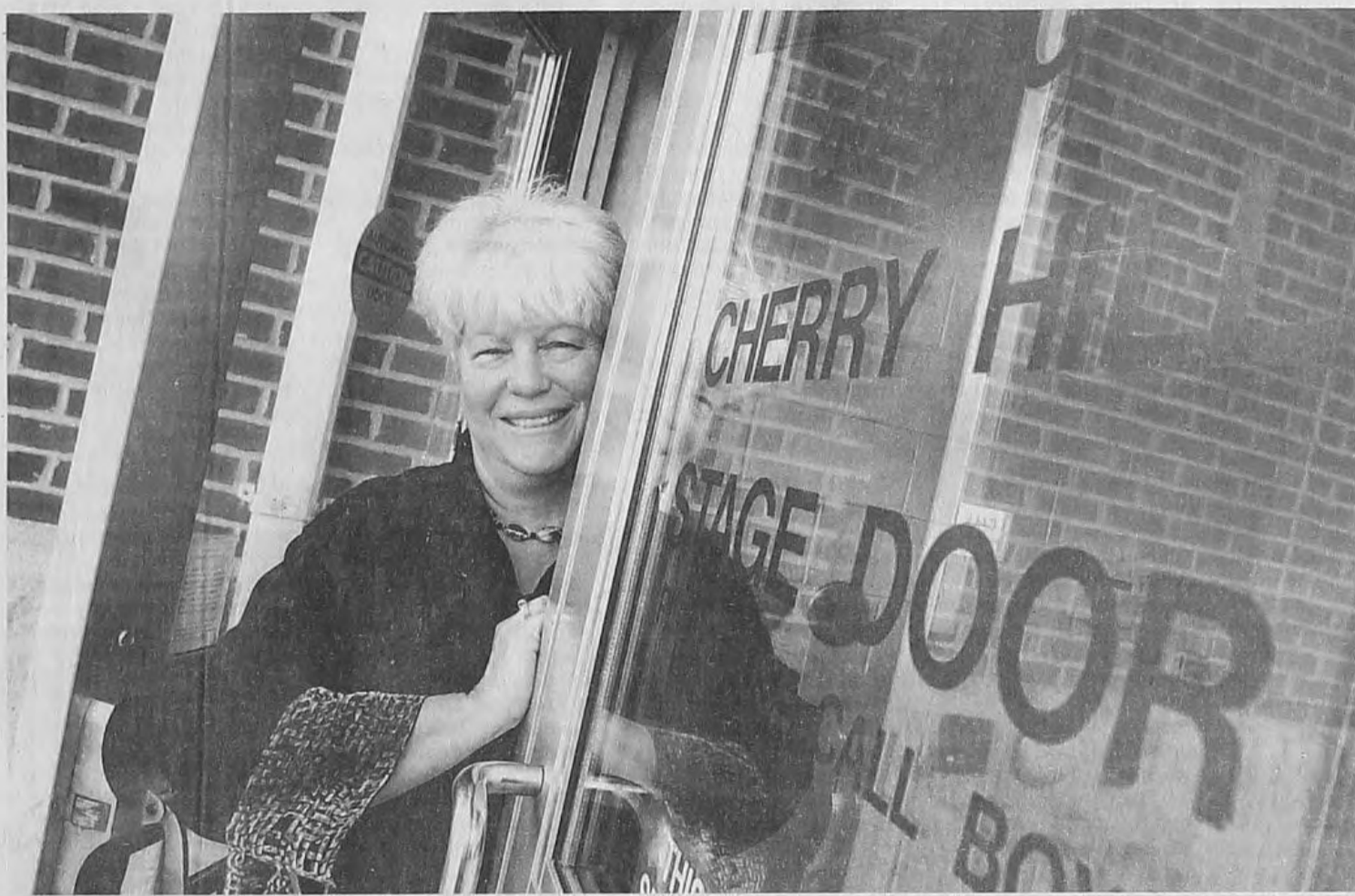
The decision dealt a crushing blow to hopes of local officials who believed the outlet mall would be a good fit for the community.

Canton Economic Development Manager Kristen Thomas described herself as "very disappointed" by Paragon's decision to abandon the local mall, though she said she is confident the Ford-Lotz site will remain desirable.

Paragon officials couldn't be immediately reached for comment. However, they have indicated in correspondence to Canton officials they were impressed with the willingness of local leaders to help move the now-abandoned project forward.

Supporters had said the new outlet mall would create hundreds of jobs and pump money

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Canton Arts Coordinator Jen Tobin, who runs the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, said the venue has attracted more than 50,000 patrons a year.

Lotz, Ford road project designs 'moving along' in Canton

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton motorists weary of traffic congestion along Ford Road could get a glimpse as early as February of two projects officials believe will begin to ease the problem.

One project involves a \$5 million effort to pave the pot-hole-riddled section of Lotz Road between Ford and Haggerty, giving motorists a north-south option to avoid heavily traveled roads such as Ford and Haggerty.

A second project centers on improvements such as lengthening turn lanes and improving ramps near the I-275/Ford area from Haggerty to Lotz. That comes as a precursor to longer-term effort to possibly convert Ford into a boulevard through much of Canton.

Canton is expected to host a public meeting as early as February to reveal plans for the Lotz paving and the initial phase of Ford Road work from Lotz to Haggerty, Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said.

Canton already has received from Wayne County a \$274,015 payment that allowed the township to hire an engineering company, Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc., to design the Lotz Road paving, which Faas said is slated for completion in 2015.

Spalding DeDecker already has completed about 50 percent of the engineering work, Faas said. Lotz will be transformed from a dirt-and-gravel road into a three-lane paved thoroughfare.

Canton has worked with Wayne County on the Lotz Road project, funded through the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said he is encouraged Spalding DeDecker's work is progressing and Wayne County has paid Canton for its role in hiring the engineering company.

"That's very good news," LaJoy said, adding the project "is moving along."

Moreover, Faas said MDOT's design of the initial improvements to Ford Road between Lotz and Haggerty has been 90 percent completed.

Local officials say the projects slated for the upcoming public meeting reflect the beginning of larger efforts, as money is allocated, to address Ford Road traffic congestion that has long troubled local officials and motorists alike.

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SETTING THE STAGE

Welcoming atmosphere contributes to Village Theater's success

By Robin D'Angelo
Correspondent

Spotlight Players president Lia De Biasi describes the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton with one word — family.

"I don't really remember life before the Village Theater," she said. "We're so close-knit that we could put on a show without even communicating with each other, which is odd, but very comforting. I live in Plymouth and I work for Plymouth Township, and I'm always telling my boss that I wish I lived in Canton, just to get him going."

"The venue is just gorgeous," she added. "That adds a whole other element of quality and professionalism to what we do."

De Biasi and others in the arts community wouldn't have a local home if it weren't for a dedicated group that posed the all-important question of whether the area could support a local theater back in 1996.

And that initial inquiry in 1996 has become a jewel in the crown of Canton's Cherry Hill Village. Ten years after opening, the 400-seat Village Theater is still going strong as a hub for entertainment, education and appreciation of the fine arts.

Canton Arts Coordinator Jennifer Tobin said Canton Township has always promoted the arts well, beginning with the Canton Project ARTS program. That group of volunteers started the Annual Juried Fine Art Exposition in 1993, and held concerts and programs at The Summit and the Canton Pub-



The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is often a destination for school field trips, as it was for Wayne-Westland students for this production of "Tarzan, the Stage Musical."

lic Library.

"Arts and cultural activities serve as an economic engine wherever they exist," Tobin said.

Community support

Canton Township began researching the need for a performing arts center in April 1996, which involved establishing numerous committees to study the feasibility, level of interest and gauge community support. The Cherry Hill Village location was chosen based on its

prime combination of residences, small businesses and restaurants.

The Partnership for Arts and Humanities was able to raise more than \$5 million toward the construction and operation of the theater. Several donors committed over \$250,000 for the project. After four years of discussion and analysis, construction began in spring 2003, and the Village Theater held its grand opening in the fall of 2004.

A number of local arts

organizations, such as Ever After Productions, Spotlight Players, the Canton Community Band and the Canton Community Chorus now call the Village Theater home.

The theater, which is owned and operated by the township, receives contributions from the township's general fund, as well as grant support from the State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"Once the theater was

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Volume 40 - Number 55

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Emagine schedules free showings of 'The Interview'

By J.C. Reindl
Michigan.com

Those willing to wait a week can see *The Interview* for free on a big screen.

Michigan-based theater chain Emagine Entertainment announced last week that its Emagine Canton will have free showings of the movie beginning Dec. 31.

Tickets will be first-come, first-serve during the one-week run and as many as 5,000 guests will be accommodated, according to the eight-theater chain.

Times have not been released.

There was a Christmas Day release of the controversial comedy to a limited number of theaters across the coun-

try, including several in Michigan.

Sony is also making it available via video-on-demand.

Emagine had been leaning toward a Christmas release of the film until learning of the studio's plans for the simultaneous video-on-demand release, a precedent that might hurt the movie theater busi-

ness model in the future.

Paul Glantz, Emagine's co-founder and chairman, said the free Canton showing will be an exercise in free speech and a bonus for the public.

"Exhibiting the film at Emagine Canton allows us the opportunity to exercise our liberty while ensuring that moviegoers benefit, free

of charge, from the exemplary experience of seeing feature films on the big screen," Glantz said.

Emagine Canton is at 39535 Ford Road in Canton Township.

Sony had pulled the movie from its planned Christmas Day release of the comedy starring James Franco and Seth Rogen about an outland-

ish plot to kill North Korean dictator Kim Jung Un after most major theater chains said they wouldn't show it in the wake of anonymous threats alluding to 9/11.

The threats are part of an ongoing hack of Sony that has included the release of company emails and private information.

THEATER

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built, the arts, culture and history have attracted over 50,000 patrons and participants annually, and businesses have moved into Cherry Hill Village," Tobin said. "The total budget for 2014 was under \$700,000, of which Canton subsidizes about half, while the other half is generated by rental

and program fees."

In 2013 alone, 37,542 patrons attended 181 performances featuring 8,636 performers. The 665 events, rehearsals and classes had 55,056 participants and 4,300 volunteers assisted with marketing and usher duties.

Tobin added that the Village Theater is so popular for rentals that all weekends are booked solid for 2015.

"It is one of the most

sought-after venues in the region because of the price and because the staff is amazing," she said.

"Rentals are all-inclusive and come fully staffed with technicians to run sound and lights, front of house, concessions with wine and beer available, and a wide range of amenities from dance floor to fog machine."

Popular shows

The Spotlight Players are now in the early stages of rehearsal for the play *Get Smart*, which is set to open March 1, 2015, and will soon hold auditions for *Young Frankenstein*, which will open in mid-April. Auditions for the Spotlight Players are open to all ages.

"(Senior group) The Still Got It Players are auditioning in January, but we haven't voted on a play yet," she said. Auditions for the Still Got It Players are open to ages

50 and up.

Auditions at the Village Theater typically draw larger numbers for musicals, De Biasi said, but it also depends on the popularity of the show.

"When I directed *The Music Man* we had over 70, and with *The King and I*, we had about 45," she said. "I would highly encourage everyone to come out and see one of our shows, or just go look at the gorgeous art exhibits, or consider being a volunteer. It's really a wonderful facility, and everything is of great quality and very enjoyable."

The Village Theater gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday from 7-9 p.m., Sunday from 5:30-7:30 p.m., during public performances and by appointment.

In November, the gallery displayed the works of the legendary *Detroit Free Press* chief photographer Tony Spina

with the exhibit, *He Was The President*, showing photographs of John F. Kennedy during his visits to Detroit and on the national circuit. The theater has hosted a wide variety of artists, from Michiganders Kyle Culps, Scot Ferguson, Topher Crowder and Xia Gao to the internationally acclaimed.

"Exhibitions by Armenian artist Yuroz and extraordinary glass artist Paul Stankard have been a couple of my favorites over the years," Tobin said.

The lineup of performing artists have included humorist and author David Sedaris, musicians John Corbett and Darius Rucker, comedian Tom Papa and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Local groups such as the Spotlight Players and Spotlight Youth call the theater home, as well as Central City Dance, the Michigan Philharmonic and the Canton Concert Band.

Theater tours

For those interested in learning more about the workings of the theater and what is involved in putting on performances, the Village Theater offers two-hour theater tours for up to 200 students. Tours include a technical theater session with a tour of the scene shop, wardrobe, green room and dressing rooms, demonstration of the counterweight fly system, trapdoors and orchestra pit; a Fine Arts appreciation with an exhibit gallery walk and talk, a Performing Arts sampler on choreography and a chance to create and perform their own play.

The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For a full schedule of performances, more information on the Village Theater or to purchase tickets, visit www.canton-mi.org or call 734-394-5300.

CANTON OBSERVER

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Community Office:

29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.00 (Sun. & Thurs.)
\$8.00 EZ pay per month
\$49.00 six months
\$98.00 per year
\$77.00 six months mail delivery
\$154.00 per year mail delivery

Home Delivery:

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OUTLET

Continued from Page A1

into the area economy, though critics have said Canton's development appeared destined to spiral out of control, threaten locally owned businesses and cause worsening bottlenecks.

After the outlet mall had been publicly touted earlier this year, Canton

resident Bill Tufts told the *Observer* he welcomed the idea because he already visits similar retail centers in Howell and Birch Run. He supported the idea of an outlet mall closer to home.

However, residents such as Pam Cortese said the outlet mall would be intrusive in a community they fear is already becoming overly developed.

"It's not a good idea," Cortese has said. "We need to have our small businesses in Canton. I want to put the money back into Canton."

Some residents in Canton and elsewhere have said they already try to avoid Ford Road because of traffic bottlenecks. They feared the situation would only worsen with an outlet mall, even with plans still on track next year to

pave Lotz between Ford and Cherry Hill and improve that north-south corridor.

In the end, the debate has been silenced by Paragon's plans to abandon the Canton outlet mall.

"We worked so hard on this," LaJoy said, "but that's it."

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Plymouth library partners with annual ice festival

Come January, the Plymouth District Library will join other community organizations as an active partner in the 2014 Plymouth Ice Festival.

A host of free library activities will take place over the weekend, Jan. 9-11, to appeal to festival goers of all ages.

"Many of us who grew up in southeast Michigan have fond memories of the ice festival in Plymouth," Library Director Carol Souchock said. "We look forward to having the library be a part of those memories."

Jazz vocalist Cynthia Kaay Bennett will warm up the audience in a concert at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the library. She'll charm an Ice Festival crowd, accompanied by Kevin Korecki on piano and Will Kinsey on drums.

An Ohio native, Bennett performs regularly throughout southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio, bringing her unique sound of jazz standards, country and blues. Her first two jazz CDs, *Wish I*



THOMAS RICHARDSON
Jazz vocalist Cynthia Kaay Bennett will warm up the audience at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the library.

Knew and That's the Spirit, have received airplay on more than 50 radio stations in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Her works have also received accolades from such jazz periodicals as *JazzTimes* magazine, *JazzReview.com*, the *L.A. Jazz Scene*, *JazzViews UK* and the *Nashville Scene*. Noted jazz critic Scott Yanow of *The Jazz Singers: The Ultimate Guide* names her of one the top 500 jazz singers of all time.

Register for this free concert by contacting the



Samantha, Caleb and Miles Ostella of Plymouth and snow friends at the Plymouth District Library.

library at plymouthlibrary.org or 734-453-0750, ext. 4.

The entire family is invited to come into the library and enjoy some

hot cider and fun winter activities 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Kids of all ages will enjoy the winter crafts and the Disney sing-a-long. Drop in; no

registration required. Folks can stop by and pose for a photo with the library's Ice Festival sculpture and festive reading snowmen.

For more information on the library, go to plymouthlibrary.org and for additional information on the Ice Festival, go to plymouthicefestival.com.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m.

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

Details: This event features Judie Cochill with the Ron Kischuk Trio. The group features Judie Cochill on vocals, Ron Kischuk on trombone, Tad Weed on piano and Jeff Halsey on bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

SENIOR FITNESS

Location: Plymouth Senior Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth

Dates: Jan. 6 to Feb. 13, Feb. 16

to March 27

Times/Details:

Silver Sneakers, Tuesday and Fridays, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Seniors 65 and over. Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activities for daily living. Hand held weights, elastic tubing with handles and Silver Sneakers balls are offered for resistance. Chairs are available as needed.

Silver Sneakers Yoga, Wednesday, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Classes offer a modified variety of stretching exercises in both seated and standing positions. The movements and stretches done during a Yoga Stretch workout help increase muscle tone and build strength. Exercising the joints keeps them functional and helps you remain pain-free. Flexibility, range of motions and balance are im-

proved through yoga, each of which help prevent falls.

Zumba Gold, Wednesday, 11-11:45 a.m. A specialty dance inspired fitness class that takes the same fun Zumba flavor and modifies the moves and pace to suit the needs of active older adults, baby boomers and the beginning fitness person. Zumba Gold has a longer warm up and cool down to allow participants a program to improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular strength.

Contact: For more information, contact cmorency@ymcadeloitrois.org or 734-453-2904.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:

Jan. 2, noon to 5:45 p.m., Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road, Canton
Jan. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Jan. 5, 12:30-6:15 p.m., St. John's

Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Jan. 8, 2:30-8:15 p.m., Bird Elementary School, 220 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Jan. 11, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The American Red Cross asks eligible blood donors to make a resolution to give blood regularly in 2015, beginning with National Blood Donor Month in January. Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with O negative, A negative and B negative.

Contact: To learn more about donating blood and to schedule an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

LIBRARY BAG SALES

Dates: Jan. 23-26; Feb. 20-23; March 27-30

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: The Canton Public Library hosts several Bag Sales to benefit Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public Library bookstore. Visitors can shop during the monthly sale and fill a big with books for just \$5.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Dates/Times: First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman

Details: Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although

a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

Contact: For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third Thursday, January through May 2015, 11 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

Details: Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Wal-tonwood Cherry Hill.

Contact: To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

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Students among auto show poster contest winners

The North American International Auto Show has announced the winners of its annual high school poster contest held in conjunction with the 2015 edition of the show, which takes place Jan. 17-25 at Cobo Center in Detroit.

This year's contest drew 781 entries from 58 schools.

Two Plymouth-Canton students were among the winners. Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student Colin Burke won the \$1,000 prize for the State Farm Insurance Award, while sophomore Kara Hug won a \$250 prize for a second-place award in the 10th-grade category.

The grand prize, the Chairmen's Award of \$1,000, will be presented to Daniel Fullan, a student at the Utica

Center for Science and Industry. NAIAS 2015 Chairman Scott LaRiche selected the winning entry, which will be printed in the official auto show program.

Established to engage the creative minds of Michigan's future artists, the 27th annual contest recognizes students from throughout the state.

"The caliber of entries speaks volumes about the creative talent in Michigan and its direct application to NAIAS and the global auto industry," LaRiche said.

"Nurturing young people is not only critical to their success, but to the industry that will one day be the beneficiary of their talent. We congratulate the winning artists."



DETROIT AUTO SHOW
Colin Burke's poster won the \$1,000 State Farm Insurance Award in the annual auto show poster contest.

DETROIT AUTO SHOW
Kara Hug's poster won a \$250 10th-grade category award.

The posters were reviewed and judged by the NAIAS 2015 chairman, a General Motors automotive designer, a College for Creative Studies instructor and State Farm Insurance representatives.

All winning entries are posted on naias.com and will be on display Jan. 12-25 at the auto show.

The 27th annual High School Poster Contest was open to all Michigan students in grades 10-12.

ON CAMPUS

Albion College

Anna Cieslak of Canton was chosen by Albion College to be featured as the We Are The Independents "Student of the Day."

Cieslak was selected from among more than 41,000 students attending the 15 independent colleges and universities that make up the Michigan Colleges Alliance. Students are showcased as part of the Alliance's collective marketing campaign, We Are The Independents, and offers helpful information and scholarship opportunities for high school students and their parents who are considering college choice in Michigan.

Currently a senior with a major in biochemistry and a minor in cellular and molecular biology, Cieslak plans to attend graduate school for accounting and become a CPA. She was recently accepted into the master of accounting program at the College of William and Mary. Cieslak was involved in the National Greek Academic Honor Society and captain of the Albion College



Cieslak

dance team.

Cieslak attended Canton High School.

National University of Health Sciences

Nicole Potter of Canton was among the students who received the doctor of chiropractic degree from National University of Health Sciences during commencement ceremonies held Dec. 11.

While completing the doctor of chiropractic degree at NUHS, the students also served a one-year clinical internship with a special focus

on integrative medicine.

"We are very proud of all of our graduates, as our academic program is among the most rigorous in this profession," NUHS President Dr. Joseph Stiefel said.

Saginaw Valley

Jennifer First of Canton will join a group of Saginaw Valley State University students participating in the Alternative Breaks program, which sends students to volunteer across the globe during traditional school break periods such as the upcoming holiday recess.

First, a pre-secondary education major, will travel with eight other SVSU students to Tucson, Ariz., from Dec. 28 to Jan. 10, when they will help Habitat for Humanity with building housing developments.

"From the Alternative Breaks program, I hope to gain a better knowledge on the issues at hand, as well as making friends and supporting and being there for people and animals in need," First said.

The initiative is one of sev-

en opportunities being organized through SVSU's Alternative Breaks, a student-run program.

The initiatives include students traveling to Harlan, Ky., where they will help the organization Harlan Community Action Agency organize a soup kitchen and perform house repairs; to Miami, where students will help the organization Ronald McDonald House organize activities for children and families; and to New York City, where students will help the organization Gods Love We Deliver to provide food, shelter and meals for ill people.

Marietta College

Marietta (Ohio) College's Emily Lang of Plymouth has been named to the fall 2014 dean's high honors list.

Lang is majoring in petroleum engineering and is scheduled to graduate in 2017.

Any full-time Marietta College student completing at least 15 credit hours with a grade-point average of 3.75 or better in a given semester is recognized as a dean's high

honors list student for that semester.

Located in Marietta, Ohio, at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers, Marietta College is a four-year liberal arts college.

Belmont University

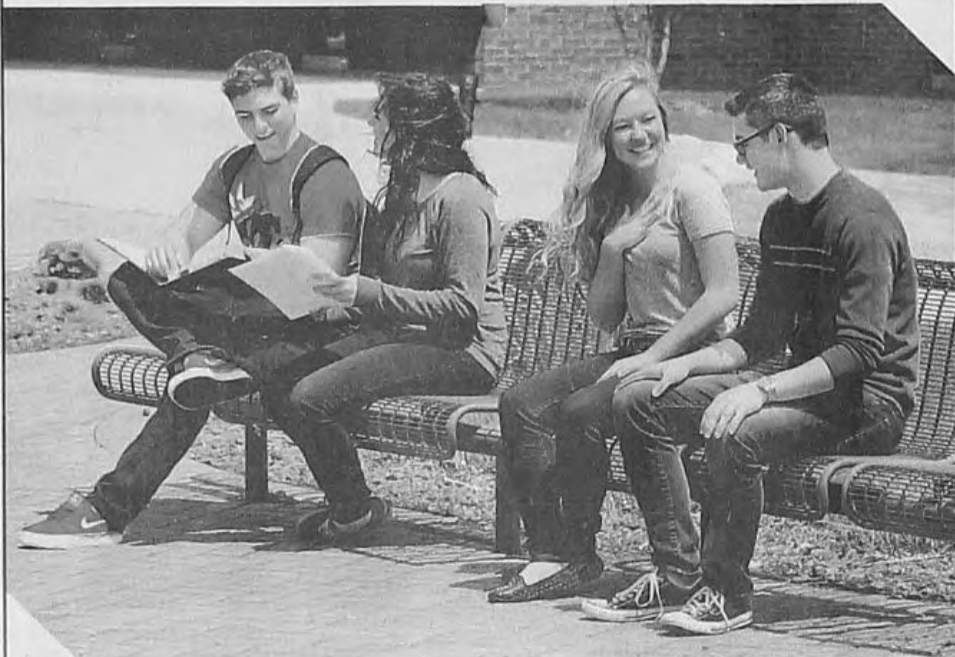
Mackenzie Elliott of Plymouth qualified for the fall 2014 dean's list at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade-point average of 3.5, with no grade below a C.

Approximately 30 percent of Belmont's 7,300 students qualified for the fall 2014 dean's list.

"This achievement for the fall semester indicates that these students have placed a high priority on their work at Belmont and have invested time and energy in their studies," said Dr. Thomas Burns, Belmont provost.

"It is our strong belief that consistent application in this manner will reap great benefits, which will equip them for a lifetime of learning and growing."

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CANTON LEISURE SERVICES

Canton Township hosts the annual Butterfly Ball Daddy-Daughter dance Feb. 6-7.

Canton set to host daddy-daughter dance

Dads and daughters are invited to put on their dancing shoes and step out together at Canton's Butterfly Ball Daddy-Daughter dance, an annual Valentine's Day tradition, which returns to the Summit on the Park community recreation center Feb. 6-7.

Tickets for the dances, which will take place in the Summit gymnasium at times of 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 6-7 as well as 2-4 p.m. Feb. 7, are now on sale for Canton residents. Tickets will become available Jan. 19 to non-residents. "Canton's Butterfly Ball truly offers a treasured experience where dads and daughters can create special memories that they'll cherish forever," Recreation Specialist Jennifer Girard said. "What's also nice about this event is that grandfathers, big brothers and other male role models are also welcome."

All ticket sales must take place in person at the front desk of the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton. No tickets will be sold after the sale deadline of Feb. 2, without exceptions. Those interested in attending are advised that tickets are likely to sell out before that date. Tickets are \$10 per Canton resident and \$13 per non-resident ages 2 and up. Any attendees under the age of 2 will be admitted free of charge, but will require an ad-

vance ticket that can be ordered alongside paid admission. Participants will make plenty of sweet memories that are sure to last a lifetime as they enjoy dancing to age-appropriate music, refreshments, a special butterfly souvenir and the always dazzling balloon drop that caps off the festivities. Keepsake photos are available for an additional cost and semi-formal/dressy-casual attire is recommended.

There will be no sale of corsages prior to this year's event. For more information on the event or ticket sales, contact the Summit on the Park front desk at 734-394-5460 or go to cantonfun.org.

the loss of Neil Patel, who was a former honors student at the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. He was an exceptional young man with a great mathematical mind," said Neal Searle, president and CEO of Lotus Bank. "It is fitting that the scholarships for these two remarkably bright students, Sonu and Kaval, were awarded in Neil's memory."

Sonu S. Patel was awarded the first-place scholarship of \$500. She graduated from Carlson High School in Gibraltar in 2014 and is studying biology and pre-med at Wayne State University. Kaval Shah of Canton was awarded the second-place scholarship of \$400. A graduate of Plymouth High School, he is studying mechanical engineering at University of Michigan-Dearborn and plans to pursue studies in aerospace engineering. The requirements for the scholarships included a 3.5 or higher grade-point average, a college-bound high school senior and an outstanding mathematics student. Neil Patel was a graduate of the University of Michigan and North Farmington High School in Farmington Hills.

Angela Szalai of Livonia has been tapped to serve as assistant principal at Stevenson Middle School in Westland, while Kurt Miles of Fenton has made supervisor of transportation. Szalai has been with the school district since 2008, working as a math intervention specialist. She also worked as a fourth-grade teacher at the Academy of Southfield and as a fifth- and eighth-grade teacher in the Taylor Public Schools.

Canton student receives Lotus Bank scholarship

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She has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education in math and science from Eastern Michigan University and two master of arts degrees in education in curriculum and instruction and administration and supervision from the University of Phoenix. A Wayne-Westland graduate, Szalai told the school board she looks "forward to going home."

"I was a Stevenson Saint," she said. "I look forward to being a part of a team of amazing staff, teachers, students and parents." Miles was the director of transportation in the Plymouth-Canton school district before joining Wayne-Westland this year. He joined Plymouth-Canton in 1990 and worked as a mechanic, fleet service manager, transportation coordinator and transportation supervisor before becoming the director.

"I really look forward to getting started," he said. "I've met some really nice people and want to assist Sherice (Roark, transportation director) in providing safe transportation for the students. I spent many years with Plymouth-Canton and I look forward to many years with Wayne-Westland."

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W-W fills two administrative, supervisory positions

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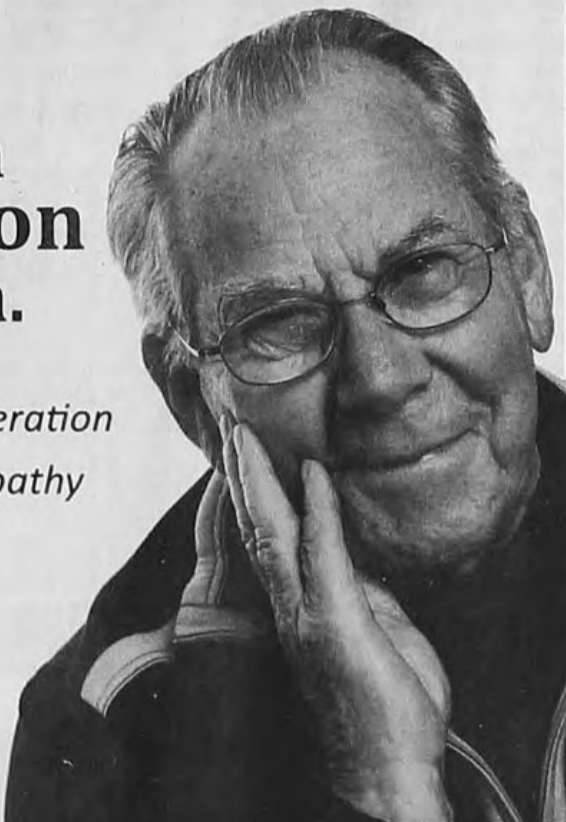
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Canton tribute honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Canton Township will once again honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a special tribute, "Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Monday, Jan. 19, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill.

A display of artworks and essays by Plymouth-Canton Arts Academy students and a punch-and-cookie reception will begin at the Village Theater at 5:30 p.m., followed by the main program at 6 p.m. This annual event is presented by Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage; members of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sub-Committee; and Canton Township. Admission is \$2 at the door.

This year's keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. William Reese Jr., pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Detroit, psychotherapist at Henry Ford Hospital Dearborn Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic and adjunct professor at Oakland Community College.

The program will also feature the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Step Team and musical performances by the BeckRidge Chorale.

This year, community youth who are part of the P-CCS Arts Academy, under the direction of Amy Morgan, will share their thoughts and ideas about Dr. King through artworks and essays, which will be on display from Jan. 19 through Feb.



A Jan. 19 ceremony at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill will pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

28 in the theater gallery.

This year's art and essay winners are respectively:

- » First place – Ashley Jablonski, "Unarmed Truth"
- » First place – Alia Alsharif, "Now is the Time"
- » Second place – Avery

Matthews, "Dreams Become Reality"

- » Second place – Ava Lovsin and Alyson Grayshaw, "We Are All the Same Color"
- » Third place – Conner Bublitz, "MLK Jr."
- » Third place – Alec Mac-

Donald, "dogmatism"

Frames for the 40 selected works were donated by IKEA Canton. The frames will be used each year for this and other cultural events. The reception is sponsored annually by Darian and Ralynda

Moore of Keller Williams Realty of Plymouth.

For more information about this performance and the latest exhibition in the Gallery@VT, call 734-394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

W-W board to elect new set of officers

The Wayne-Westland school board will have new leadership in 2015.

The board will elect new officers during its organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, in the district's administrative offices on Marquette in Westland.

Under the board's policies and procedures, members are polled prior to the organizational meeting to hear their preferences in serving as officers in the coming year. Board

officers serve one-year terms.

Shawna Walker has indicated an interest in serving in any of the four leadership positions: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The Westland resident is completing her first term as board president.

Thomas Buckalew, the current vice president, and Trustee Sally Madison also expressed an interest in any one of the positions.

Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin, who was elected to serve a partial two-year term in November, indicated his interest in serving as board vice president.

Board Treasurer Frederick Weaver also was specific, expressing an interest in being the vice president or secretary, while board Secretary Carol Middel said she was open to any position but president.

— By Sue Mason

Stabenow names academy nominees

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow announced she's nominated 52 Michigan students,

including three from Canton, for placement at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.



Stabenow

"I'm proud to see so many exceptional students from Michigan want to serve our country through military service," Stabenow said. "Having demonstrated a strong commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom, I know that they will represent Michigan and our country well."

Canton students nominated by Stabenow are Alexandra Davis, nominated to attend West Point, and Joel Moriarty and Benjamin Stanz, both of whom were nominated to the Air Force

Academy.

Students seeking appointment to a service academy must first obtain the nomination of their U.S. senator, their U.S. representative or the vice president.

Students nominated by Stabenow's office went through a competitive application process that included interviews by community leaders.

Now that the students have been nominated, they must await acceptance for admission by the academy to which they have applied.



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Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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Former Ss. Simon and Jude Parish Music Director Alan Knight plays Bach on the organ. Carol Simkow won the Evola Music contest that gives the church the use of the organ through the holidays.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alan Knight was finishing his doctoral when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's, but doesn't make a mistake.

Organ hits the right notes at Ss. Simon and Jude

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Over the Christmas holidays, the music during services at Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church will have richer sound, thanks a contest won by a parishioner.

Carol Simkow wrote a short essay to win the loan of an organ from Evola Music in Canton for a month through early January.

"I'm in love with the organ. I take lessons at Evola. We have no organ at the church," Simkow said. "It's a matter of money."

Located on Palmer, Ss. Simon and Jude parish is 55 years old. The church was expanded to its current size 25 years ago.

"We built a bigger church; we wanted to get an organ," Simkow said, adding the expansion is igloo-shaped with a ceiling made for organ music.

The church has a grand piano, but Simkow said that isn't same as having an organ.

"If you're an old-fashioned Catholic, the organ is everything – there is no service without an organ," Simkow said. "The

piano doesn't really have it. The organ makes it fuller and more churchy."

Evola Music has loaned an organ to a church before – Easter and Christmas are busy times in the church organ business, said Lance Luce, manager of Evola's church organ department.

"The essay contest was just an idea that we had. If we have an organ in the store, it could be out giving people enjoyment," Luce said. "We had a lot of entries. Ss. Simon and Jude was the only church without an organ at all. That tipped the scale in their favor."

It's an Allen digital organ made in Pennsylvania. Like photography, music has seen vast improvements in quality with digital products, Luce noted.

"I have hybrid pipe/digital organs and people can't tell the difference between them," Luce said. "This is just a cool thing that helps improve the quality of worship."

Parish Music Director Aidan Rickel, who plays both piano and organ, has been giving the organ a workout. So has former Music Director Alan

Knight. "He plays it night and day. He has Parkinson's (disease), but never makes a mistake on the organ," said Simkow, who has been taking organ lessons for 10 years.

"I love to play. I have a huge organ in my house. I have been upgrading," she said. "I had to get rid of my mother's mahogany leg piano – a great piano. I gave it to the Westland Historical Society."

It was like Christmas had come early, Luce said, based on how excited Simkow, Rickel and Knight were at having the organ, which has a \$70,000 price tag, at the church.

No final decision has been made on a long-term future of Ss. Simon and Jude parish as the Archdiocese of Detroit consolidates churches. Still, Simkow would like the church to be able to lease an organ.

"I'm hoping for a miracle – a Secret Santa or someone. Maybe with more publicity," Simkow said.

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Great time to adopt a pet from Humane Society

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Brian Prebus and girlfriend Carolyn George of Dearborn were eager to welcome home a new dog. "We named her Bonnie," Prebus said, in the hallway of the Michigan Humane Society Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland. George added, "I'm very excited. I love animals." She's at home and can care for a pet and noted Bonnie is a great yule gift. "We're very excited," George said. "This one just tops it," she added of her gift list. "We've been wanting to find the right time to adopt," Prebus said. "We really want to get to know what the families are looking for," said Ryan McTigue, public relations coordinator for the MHS. "We're always trying to make that perfect match. Some animals can be a little more of a challenge." The folks at the Michigan Humane Society generally don't encourage pet adoptions right before Christmas. Dec. 25 yule celebrations have plenty of hubbub and pets new to a home can get stressed out. "Each person, like each animal, is a little bit different," McTigue said, noting some pre-holiday



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lionel only has three legs, but that doesn't seem to slow him down.

adoptions do work out. Humane Society officials and volunteers are eager to showcase pets up for adoption. The MHS Berman Center for Animal Care is at 900 N. Newburgh, just south of Marquette (south of Ford Road), in Westland. Its Adoption Center

hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday. The phone is 734-721-7300, the website www.michiganhumane.org.

A couple of days before Christmas, Sarah Pustulka of Wyandotte, behavior program manager for the Berman Center and the MHS in Rochester Hills, showed off some adoptable dogs and cats with pride. She's worked for the MHS about five years.

Benji, a terrier mix, mugged for the cameras as he explored Pustulka's shoes. A Jack Russell terrier female, Eclair, also showed stage presence when photographed.

Yorkie Lionel is missing a leg due to an injury and recently came out of fostering. The Westland facility has a number of dogs as well as cats, such as playful Evergreen, a

male, and female feline Dee, who peered out from her cardboard box inside her cage.

The MHS in Westland has "get acquainted" rooms for those mulling adoptions and has one room with more unusual pets like rabbits.

Susan Scheffer of Belleville said Dec. 23, "I come here all the time just looking. I like to see what they've got." She has one cat at home and another died last winter.

Scheffer brings her granddaughter from Westland to the Berman Center. Scheffer was looking at cats recently at a facility in Romulus and there weren't many. "I'm glad. That means somebody took them home," she said.

She's more of a cat person. "Cats take care of themselves a little bit more," Scheffer said.

The Humane Society's McTigue explained those adopting a pet must have the interest and the financial means to care for

the pet throughout life. Some parents pick a pet with children who later leave for college. "You're ultimately going to be the one providing that care," said McTigue, a Royal Oak resident.

The MHS is the state's oldest and largest animal welfare organization. It's a private, nonprofit organization serving the animals and people of metro Detroit and beyond since 1877. It provides care for tens of thousands of animals each year in southeast Michigan, with a focus on finding homes for thousands of pets. Education of children, a cruelty hotline, emergency rescue, low-cost spaying/neutering and legislative advocacy are on the MHS agenda.

"It's definitely extremely important," McTigue said of the Westland facility. "It's important to be able to serve as many people as possible."

The MHS operates

centers for animal care in Detroit and Rochester Hills as well as Westland. You can get information by calling 866-MHUMANE or the general administrative number at 248-283-1000.

McTigue said the MHS also welcomes help with volunteering, fostering or financial donations, noting no government money is received. "We're just thankful for the wonderful support of our community," he said.

He and colleagues love to match visitors to MHS centers with pets who'll love them back for years to come. "It's the reason for everyone doing what we do," he said. "It makes it all worthwhile."

Some animals come back to the MHS for financial reasons or for difficulty in getting along with other pets in a home, he said. Some animals stay with the MHS a number of months.

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NEW CONDITIONS IN OLD PATIENTS

Physicians are seeing what appears to be a new condition in old patients. What I am talking about is the appearance of intense pain in the hands involving the digits and the palm, and at times, the back of the hand.

To physicians the hand looks like the result of a bad injury or an untreated infection. The doctor braces the patient's hand places the person on intravenous antibiotics to be given daily for six weeks. Eventually, the doctor realizes that such treatment may not be in order because x-rays and special imaging such as CT scan reveal no fracture; furthermore if the person is receiving intravenous antibiotics, even after days of this therapy the patient's pain has not diminished and redness and swelling are unchanged.

Re-assessment of the patient usually leads to the correct diagnosis: the patient has gout. IV's are discontinued and the hand splint removed; the patient receives a course of cortisone with resolution of the pain and return of the hand to its usual function. It means the patient can return to living independently.

What caused the missteps was the way the patient's hand pain presented. Gout is supposed to present is with a sudden and intense pain in a single joint like the great toe, wrist or 3rd knuckle. When gout comes in a different guise, such as swelling of the whole hand, physicians feel they are facing another or new condition.

Aging is not simply a breakdown of the body, but a reorganization of resources that remain. The elderly body changes its approach to inflammation with physicians still in the learning stage of what those changes are and how they show themselves

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YAM invites military veterans to celebrate VE Day

The Yankee Air Museum is inviting World War II veterans to be its special guests for a visit to the site of its next home Friday, May 8, 2015, the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

The museum has acquired the final assembly and roll-off portion of the historic World War II B-24 bomber plant and is giving everyone the opportunity to share in its rebirth. The structure at Willow Run will be undergoing restoration and outfitting in the coming years.

Museum officials want everyone to share the excitement in the next chapter of this storied place and are extending a special welcome to World War II service and home front veterans.

"Yankee Air Museum is known for making history accessible in a very big way," said Kevin Walsh, executive direc-



YANKEE AIR MUSEUM

The Yankee Air Museum plans to turn the final assembly and roll-off portion of the historic Willow Run bomber plant into the National Museum of Aviation and Technology at historic Willow Run.

tor. "Each year we have several big events open and at no cost to the public. This is colossal and we want everyone to bond with the building and be part of shaping the next great destination in the region."

Walsh said the sheer expanse of the bomber plant gives rise to the imagination and amazement of the accomplishments of the Greatest

Generation. While the museum is just entering the next phase of fundraising to restore and furnish the building, Walsh said the experience of being inside the cavernous space while under construction helps people visualize the possibilities and then become part of something fundamentally important to America.

"The 70th anniversary

of VE Day is the perfect opportunity for the public to visit, for the first time, the future home of the museum," said Ray Hunter, chairman of the board of the Yankee Air Museum. "The building is an historical artifact of the war that was waged on the home front. The planes that rolled off the assembly line here were Ford Motor Co. products. These Liberators became

the largest part of the vast air armada that claimed supremacy over the skies of Europe leading to the demise of the enemy."

Hunter said that the manufacturing capacity of the Willow Run bomber plant was attributable to the innovations made possible by Detroit's automotive industry and the women who worked there. Hunter added that the entry of women en masse into the American workforce changed the war effort, the nation and the world.

"We want this commemoration of VE Day to honor the veterans who fought for us and the women who stood behind them, building the armaments and aircraft that they relied on to win the war," said Alison Beatty, a University of Michigan graduate student who portrays Rosie the Riveter for the museum. "I'm so proud that the original Rosie the Riveter worked

here at Willow Run. She was joined by hundreds of thousands of women across the country who waged war from the home front. They made a difference."

Beatty, Hunter and Walsh are encouraging the public to turn out May 8 for World War II veterans.

"Mark your calendar, we've invited the world and as big as this place is, we hope space will be limited for this very important recognition," Walsh said.

Located at Willow Run Airport, the Yankee Air Museum is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Go to www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

Should you preplan and prepay a funeral?

Q: Dear Rick: I'm a widow in my early 80s. My husband passed away about 10 years ago. Over the last few years, I have lost a number of friends and I've been thinking about when my time comes. I belong to a book club and one of the topics of conversation is whether it makes sense to preplan and prepay for a funeral. What are your thoughts?

A: There are two separate issues. The first is whether you preplan your funeral and the second is whether you prepay.

When it comes to preplanning a funeral, I believe it makes sense. After all, death always occurs at the wrong time and it is always emotional for our loved ones. I am



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

not sure that the best time to plan a funeral is in the midst of grieving for a loved one.

Preplanning a funeral makes sense because it will save your loved ones a substantial amount of aggravation. In addition, it could also save quite a bit of money. If you preplan your funeral, you can decide what you want, from the type of casket you use to the type of service.

Anyone who has had to arrange a funeral will tell you that caskets can be very expensive. In fact, when you read studies,

you will find that it is not unusual for funeral homes to mark up caskets by 300, 400 and even 500 percent. To funeral directors, funerals are a business and, of course, in many situations they will try to sell you the most expensive casket and accessories. In the midst of grieving and not wanting to look cheap when it comes to a loved one, many people will overpay for a funeral.

If you preplan a funeral, it is possible that you can purchase the casket elsewhere. Many people are under the mistaken belief that you must purchase a casket through the funeral home. This is not the case. In fact, the law provides that funeral homes must accept caskets from other places.

When it comes to prepaying a funeral, I'm not as big a fan. What happens if the funeral home goes out of business? What if you change your mind with regard to the details regarding the funeral? What if you no longer reside in this area?

If you know what funeral home you want to deal with and there is a provision stating that if you change your mind, you can get a 100-percent refund, then prepaying could be an option that you consider.

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

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UNBROKEN (PG-13)
12:00, 3:15, 6:20, 9:30

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB (PG)
11:10, 1:30, 4:20, 6:45, 9:00


ANNIE (PG)
1:00, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20

THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES (PG-13)
11:30, 12:15, 2:40, 3:25, 6:05, 6:35, 9:10, 9:40
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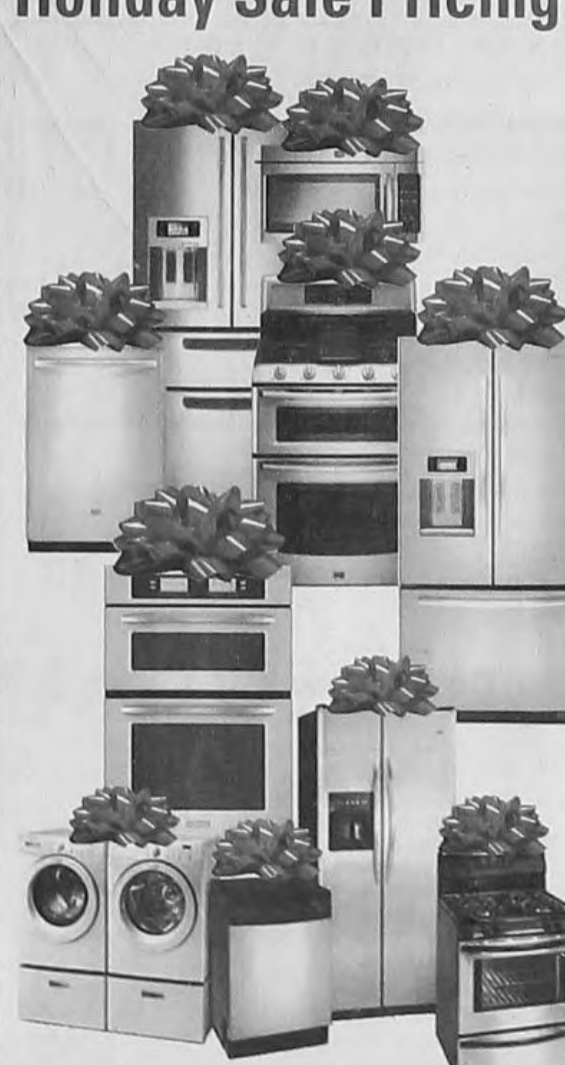
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Thompson reacts to finding the \$1,000 shopping spree certificate. Emcee Ralph Cabildo is as excited as Thompson.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WLND's video crew, including Craig Herbert, followed shopping spree winner Stephanie Thompson through Macy's.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Thompson finds a coat she likes at Macy's.

Shopper beats the clock on Westland mall spree

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Stephanie Thompson was not only up to the challenge of spending \$1,000 in 1,000 seconds — she exceeded that amount with time to spare.

A Detroit resident, Thompson won the shopping spree at Westland Shopping Center after being selected as one of three finalists through a drawing. Thompson unwrapped a box that contained the shopping spree gift certificate.

The contest allowed the winner to shop at the store of their choice. On the third floor of Macy's, a large-screen television had a clock counting down the seconds as



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Thompson raced through Macy's as the 1,000-second, \$1,000 shopping spree began. She wore a video camera to record the spree.

Thompson raced through the store, up and down the escalators.

Followed by helpers, Thompson selected items she wanted with a sticker

and they were collected as she hurried on to the next department. Thompson had a shopping cam strapped to her chest to record the shopping

spree. "I didn't expect such a workout. I'm tired and sweating," Thompson said, sitting on a bench in the main court after her shopping spree. "I think I did well. I'm pleased."

The items Thompson picked were added up in the order selected and some didn't make the cut after the total hit \$1,000. In the end, Thompson had clothes for her family, books and a wallet and for herself, a new coat and a watch.

Describing herself as a good shopper, Thompson said she hadn't expected to win the shopping spree.

"I honestly forgot I entered the contest until they called me," said Thompson, a single mom

with six children. "I'm going straight for clothes for myself and my family. I picked Macy's."

There were nine wrapped gift boxes for the finalist to open in rounds until the certificate was found, but Thompson found it in the first package she opened.

The other two finalists, Jenny Ellick of Garden City and Inkster resident Randall Dietz, each received a \$100 mall gift certificate.

Ellick had selected Macy's as her store, while Dietz had planned on shopping at Sears, if he won the shopping spree.

Emcee Ralph Cabildo also awarded some \$25 gift cards through a raffle, although one went to

someone from Alabama — the person who had come the furthest distance to be at the mall.

Speaking to the crowd in the court, Westland Mayor William Wild noted it had been five years since the city started its Shop and Dine District campaign. Kicking off the day after Thanksgiving, the campaign promotes local business, including Westland Shopping Center.

"In 1966, the city was named after the Westland Shopping Center, so we have a very close relationship," Wild said. "Happy shopping. Happy holidays."

rogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Legal Notice Charter Township of Plymouth 2014 Winter Taxes

Winter Taxes are due December 1, 2014 and payable through February 17, 2015 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the **Treasurer's Office.** After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The **Treasurer's Office** will be open December 31, 2014 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

RON EDWARDS
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170

Publish: December 11, 2014
December 28, 2014

LO-0000224035 3x2.5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan (the "Township"), at 9955 North Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, on January 13, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the hearing may be held, with respect to a plan of finance by the Colorado Educational and Cultural Facilities Authority (the "Authority") to issue its Revenue Bonds (USA Hockey Project), Series 2015 (the "Bonds"), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$25,000,000, in one or more series. The proceeds of the Bonds will be loaned by the Authority to Plymouth AC, LLC, a Colorado single member limited liability company (the "Borrower"). The USA Hockey Foundation, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation ("Corporation") is the single member and manager of the Borrower. The proceeds of the Bonds will fund a plan of finance comprised of the following elements: (a) to current refund the outstanding Variable Rate Demand Bonds, Series 1996 used to finance the office building located at 1775 Bob Johnson Drive Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906, (b) to finance the acquisition and improvement of the Compuware Arena located at 14900 North Beck Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 (the "Facilities"), and (c) to pay certain costs of issuance of the Bonds. The initial owner, operator or manager of the Facilities will be the Borrower or an affiliate thereof or related party thereto which in all cases will be, or treated as, an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The Borrower will be entering into a lease of the Facilities with USA Hockey, Inc., a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

The Bonds and the interest thereon shall never constitute the debt or indebtedness of the Authority, the Township or any political subdivision of the State of Michigan (the "State") within the meaning of any provision of the Constitution of the State and shall not constitute nor give rise to a pecuniary liability or a charge against the general credit or taxing powers of the Authority or the State, the Township or any political subdivision of the State. The Township is conducting the public hearing as an accommodation to the Borrower to facilitate the financing of the acquisition and improvement of the Facilities. The Township will not be the issuer of the Bonds and takes no responsibility for the financing of the Facilities.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed financing and the nature and location of the Facilities may either appear in person at the public hearing or submit written comments, which must be received by the Township prior to the hearing. Written comments should be sent to the Plymouth Township Clerk, 9955 North Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, fax number (734) 454-1643, until 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2015.

Publish: December 28, 2014

LO-0000225800 3x5

PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

SECTION 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 5B, consisting of:

- Canton High School Science Lab Remodeling Project
- Salem High School Dance Studio Remodeling Project

will be received at the office of Mr. Patrick Briggs, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

- 103: Selective Demolition 108: Carpentry / General Trades
- 114: Glass & Glazing 115: Metal Studs / Drywall
- 117: Acoustical Treatment 118: Resilient Flooring
- 120: Painting 124: Wood Flooring
- 129: Science Casework & Equipment 140: Plumbing
- 142: HVAC 143: Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange. Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday,

- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 at 1:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

December 17, 2014, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-

Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the

END OF SECTION

00 11 13 - 1

Publish: December 21 & 28, 2014

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Boy Scouts from Troop 755 sharing the Peace Light and its history Dec. 14 with the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Northville.

Scouts share Peace Light with church

By Gretchen Osgood
Correspondent

Boy Scouts from Troop 755 shared this year's Peace Light from Bethlehem with the First Presbyterian Church of Northville on Dec. 14. FPC, in turn, transferred the flame to the candles on its Advent wreath for the worship service.

The Peace Light from Bethlehem originates from the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Holy Land. Every year, a flame from one of the Grotto's oil lamps, which have been burning continuously for hundreds of years, is shared with Scouts from all over Europe, who have gathered together in Vienna for a special Peace Light ceremony. The Scouts then take the flame back to their own countries and begin sharing it with others in their home communities and asking each individual who receives the flame to pledge to become a peacemaker through



Joshua Osgood and Joseph Reding at the Peace Light distribution at Camp Miakonda in Toledo, Ohio. Reding traveled from Bayport, Minn., to JFK Airport in New York to receive the Peace Light flame as it arrived Dec. 11 in the U.S. He has been stopping and sharing the flame with Scouts along his drive back to Minnesota.

his/her own words and actions.

For 12 of the past 13 years, the flame has also been flown to New York City so American Scouts can spread it across the North American continent as well.

At this very moment, the flame is being shared throughout Europe, the U.S., Canada and parts of the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Star Scout Joshua Osgood traveled Dec. 12 to Camp Miakonda in Toledo, Ohio, to receive the flame as it travels across the country and

he brought it up to Northville in his oil lantern to share with Troop 755.

He hopes to keep his lantern burning until Epiphany, Jan. 6, and would be happy to share it with anyone in the area who contacts him at peacelightmichigan@gmail.com.

This light gives us hope that, even though there is much darkness in the world today, there are people committed to keeping the promise of peace alive.

More information is available at peacelight.org.

Alumni sought for Stevenson anniversary

Plans are well underway for the 50th anniversary of Stevenson High School and all alumni are invited to share in a special three-day celebration.

Alumni are expected from near and far to take part in the commemorative events next October. The SHS Alumni Association has been busy gathering members in order to keep everyone in the loop prior to the anniversary. To sign up for this free association, go to <http://goo.gl/cePOGx> and complete the contact information form.

A Facebook page has also been set up under <http://www.facebook.com/LivoniaStevensonAlumni> and a Twitter account can be found at @SHS_Alumni.

All Stevenson alumni are encouraged to

"like" the Facebook page and sign up with the Alumni Association in order to stay informed about the events and also find out about opportunities to help plan the festivities.

A re-dedication of the building's namesake facilities is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in the SHS gymnasium. The homecoming football game against Churchill High School will be held Friday, Oct. 23. An alumni tent will be set up on game night. An all-class reunion open house will take place at Stevenson High School from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 24.

Anyone with questions about the anniversary events should email Stevenson-alumni@livoniapublicschools.org.

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EFFECTIVE THRU
 Dec. 28-Jan. 4, 2015

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Park volleyball coaches resign

Coaches for Canton, Plymouth and Salem cite personal reasons

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There has been plenty of successful seasons turned in recently by the Canton, Plymouth and Salem varsity volleyball teams.

But all three teams will have new coaches at the helm when the 2015 season convenes next fall. The timing

might be coincidental.

Canton coach Steve Johnson is soon to marry Plymouth coach Sarah Marody; both have announced they are resigning due to personal reasons. So too is veteran Salem coach Amanda Nies — just weeks away from having a baby.

Athletic directors for all three high schools have not

yet responded to the *Observer* about the resignations.

"After 10 seasons (as a high school coach) it wasn't an easy decision but I'm ready to move on with the next phase of my life," Marody said. "Steve and I are getting married in June and I'm in a position to take on leadership roles at my school (she teaches at Christ the King Lutheran in Southgate). My family and career come first. It's just time."

Nies, meanwhile, said "family" is the one and only reason

she is leaving after spending the past 10 years at the Salem varsity helm. Including four years as a player and another four either coaching freshman or JV teams, Nies has 18 years invested in the Rocks' volleyball program.

"In three weeks I'm due with my second child," Nies said. "I can always go back to coaching, but watching my children grow up goes by all too fast. I'm very sad to leave and I have left behind an

See COACHES, Page B4

Livonia 'Y' leagues and classes

The Livonia Family YMCA, located at 14255 Stark Rd., is accepting registrations for both winter sports leagues and classes.

Ten-game youth basketball (ages 6-14) and volleyball leagues (ages 8-14) begin Jan. 12, while eight-game adult basketball and volleyball leagues begin Jan. 4-5. Winter classes for toddlers through adults — including gymnastics, karate, aikido and preschool sports — begin the week of Jan. 4.

Contact the YMCA at 734-261-2161 or email Chris Jackett at cjackett@ymcadetroit.org for more information.

Spalding update

Westland John Glenn graduate Devon Spalding capped a stellar true-freshman football season at Central Michigan University in Wednesday's inaugural Bahamas Bowl.

Spalding rushed for 371 yards on 73 carries (5.1 average) and four touchdowns. Spalding also caught three passes for 23 yards. He played in 11 games for the Chippewas, who finished the season 7-6.

Spalding rushed eight times for 12 yards and caught two passes for 17 yards in the Chippewas dramatic 49-48 loss to Western Kentucky. CMU rallied from a 49-14 second-half deficit.

As a senior at John Glenn in 2013, Spalding rushed for 1,761 yards on 190 carries and a school-record 27 touchdowns.

He also broke the school record for rushing in a single game with 491 yards.

Franklin baseball camp

Livonia Franklin's 9th Annual Future Stars Baseball Camp will be held Saturday, Feb. 21. The first session — which will focus on hitting, base-running and infield work, will run from 9-11:30 a.m.

Following a half-hour lunch, the afternoon session — which will focus on defensive work, pitchers' fielding practice, catching drills and outfield approach — will run from noon to 2:15 p.m.

The camp will be held in the Franklin High School fieldhouse, which is located at 31000 Joy Rd. in Livonia.

Each camper will be assigned to groups based on age and ability. The camp is open to boys and girls in grades two through sixth. Each camper should bring his or her own sack lunch, which should not have to be refrigerated.

For more information, contact Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org.

HOLIDAY HOOPS

Warriors topple Thurston, 66-60

Bailey's double-double lifts W.L. Western to tourney title

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

'Twas two nights before Christmas, and all through the gym, the Warriors were leaping, hands high above the rim.

Fueled by a tenacious display of offensive rebounding, Walled Lake Western skywalked to a 66-60 victory over Redford Thurston in Tuesday night's Livonia Franklin Holiday Basketball Tournament championship game.

The Warriors improved to 5-0 while Thurston slipped to 5-1.

Leading the spring-loaded winners was senior 6-foot-4 forward Marcus Bailey, who recorded 20 points and 17 rebounds. Senior 6-2 guard Jerald Booker also scored 20 points for Western, which was making its debut appearance in the annual tournament.

Thurston's balanced attack was spearheaded by senior guard Rickey Hudgens, who scored 18 points. Senior forward Isiah Crofford netted 14 for the Eagles while Deaunte Jackson, Marquie'l Thomas and Brandon Marshall all contributed nine points.

See HOLIDAY, Page B2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Aaron Burbridge looks for room to run against Jacksonville State.

MICHIGAN STATE ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Burbridge does his part to help Spartans

Former Harrison all-state player is three-year contributor at wide receiver for Michigan State

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Michigan State University's football team is working on a nice winning streak in post-season play, having ended the last three seasons with bowl victories.

The No. 8-ranked Spartans hope to make it four in a row on New Year's Day when they battle No. 5 Baylor in the Cotton Bowl at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

That record of success parallels MSU's rise to national prominence, and it's players like wide receiver Aaron Burbridge of Farming-



Burbridge

ton Hills who have helped to make it happen.

"That's the reason all of us come to Michigan State," Burbridge said. "We expect to win here; we expect to go to big bowl games. It's just an honor to be a part of this and what's going on."

Though he might be considered a role player, Burbridge, a former all-stater at Harrison High School, has made a solid contribution to the MSU program.

He played as a true freshman in 2012, has appeared in 35 games and made 10 starts. Burbridge has 76 career receptions for 859 yards and three touchdowns.

The 6-foot-1, 201-pound junior is third on the team this year with 25 catches for 301 yards and one score. He caught a season-high five passes for 48 yards against Indiana.

"I'm very happy with my production," Burbridge said. "I feel like I developed a lot this year. I learned more about the game, and it has

See BURBRIDGE, Page B4



ED WRIGHT

Redford Thurston junior guard Treven Gary forces a jump ball with Walled Lake Western's Daryl Porter during the final minute of Tuesday night's game.

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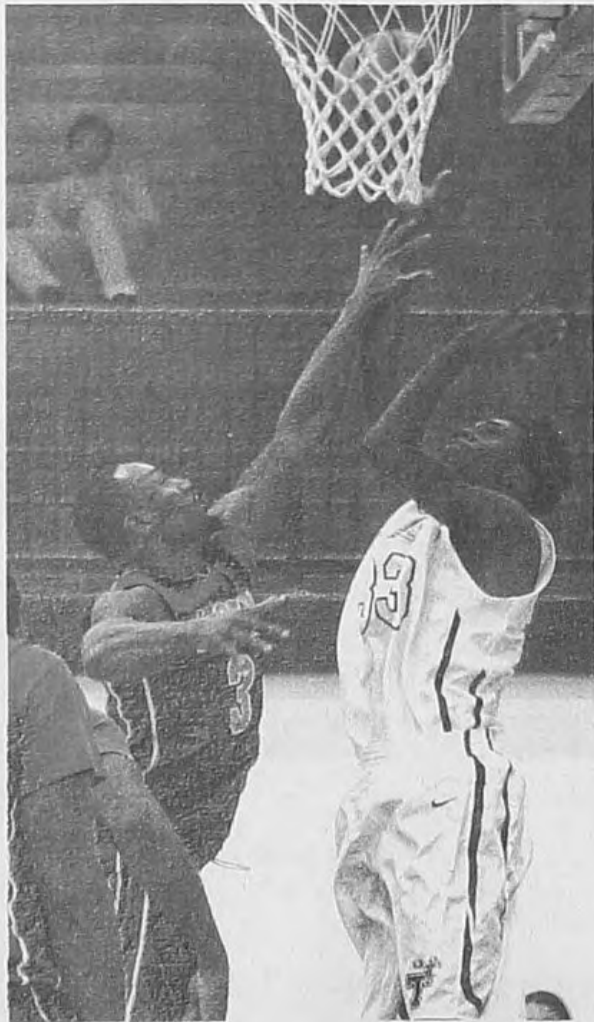
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ED WRIGHT
Redford
Thurston's
Isiah
Crofford
connected
on this
put-back
against
Walled
Lake
Western's
Marcus
Bailey.



HOLIDAY

Continued from Page B1

Early on, the Eagles appeared headed to their sixth consecutive victory when they raced to a 20-11 lead after one quarter. The Warriors sliced their deficit to 35-31 at the half before outscoring Thurston 23-12 during the third stanza to seize a 54-47 advantage. Deaunte Jackson's basket on the opening possession of the fourth quarter closed Thurston's deficit to 54-49, but Western answered immediately at the other end on a put-back by 6-2 senior guard John Flowers to make it 56-49. Thomas closed Thurston's gap to 56-52 moments later with a clutch top-of-the-key three, but the Warriors retaliated with back-to-back buckets by Porter and Flowers to pad their lead to 60-52. Trailing by eight with 60 seconds to play, Crofford scored on a put-back, which was set up by a hustling play

by Teven Gary, who forced a jump ball near mid-court. The Eagles then forced another Western turnover before giving the ball back seconds later. Thurston made 7 of 10 free throws. The Warriors were 7 of 9 from the stripe. The bulk of the Warriors' second-half points were the product of their relentless pounding of the offensive glass. In Tuesday night's consolation game, Salem (3-2) rode Jakob Lenders' team-high 13 points to a 62-36 victory over the host Patriots. Sophomore guard Johnny Cantrell led Franklin (0-6) with 12 points. Voted to the all-tournament team were Bailey and Booker of Western; Hudgens and Crofford of Thurston; Salem's Allante Wheeler and Lenders; and Cantrell and Charles Keith of Franklin.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP WRESTLING

PUSHING FORWARD

Garden City stays resilient in wake of head coach's sudden death

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Confronted by a wall of daunting adversity, members of Garden City's wrestling team have forged together like a high-powered battering ram.

Just a few days after attending funeral services for their 47-year-old coach and mentor Mike Howell, who died suddenly Dec. 10 from a massive heart attack, the Cougars returned to the mats Dec. 20 at the Panther Invitational hosted by Redford Union.

With their hearts heavy with sorrow and their young minds still clouded by shock, the Cougars' nine-man squad performed like warriors, according to interim co-coach Don Giese, whose return to the program was compelling in its own way.

"Considering they were at their coach's funeral less than a week earlier, the way these guys performed was remarkable," Giese said. "They've really committed themselves to dedicating the rest of the season to Mike. Although it's going to be hard to win any dual matches with the low numbers we have, they're working hard and pushing forward."

The Cougars' trio of senior captains - Brendon Bergstresser, Cody Kirkpatrick and Ali Arab - each went 4-1 at RU.

The captains are the lone holdovers from Giese's tenure at Garden City. He stepped down at the Cougars' head wrestling coach following the 2012-13 season due to health issues of his own.

"It turns out I had suffered a heart attack during the (2012-13 wrestling) season, but I wasn't aware of it," Giese said. "My doctor dis-



TOM BEAUDOIN

Interim co-coach Don Giese rallies his Garden City wrestlers during last week's Panther Invitational at Redford Union High School. It was the Cougars' first action since the death earlier this month of Mike Howell.



Shirts were printed for members of the Garden City wrestling team in memory of coach Mike Howell, who died two weeks ago.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Garden City senior captains Brendon Bergstresser, Cody Kirkpatrick and Ali Arab meet before the Cougars return to the mat following the death earlier this month of head coach Mike Howell.

covered it after doing a battery of tests on me.

"Mike and I went to school together (at Garden City) and wrestled together. When he heard about my health issues, he asked if I wanted him to step in and take over the program and I told him I thought he'd be perfect for it."

Giese was stunned to learn of Howell's death via social media during the early morning hours of Dec. 11.

"As soon as I heard about the tragedy, I wanted to do whatever I could to help the program continue to run," Giese said. "I offered to help out (assistant coach) Joe Hay. My health is much improved now, so that wasn't an issue."

The Cougars' first practice following Howell's death was somber and surreal, but then team members were energized by the desire to keep plugging for their late coach.

Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips ordered each of the wrestlers' T-shirts that have the saying "Whatever journey you take, I'll walk beside you" and Giese said there are plans to have a memorial patch placed on each of the Cougars' singlets.

"Other than the three seniors, we're pretty young; we have mostly freshmen and kids who have never wrestled," Giese said. "But it's a strong group and they're working hard to get through this."

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FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Matt Skibinski, OL, Churchill: A dominating 6-5, 275-pound tackle who has committed to play for Miami of Ohio, Skibinski was one of the catalysts of a Churchill offense that averaged over 40 points, 250 yard rushing and 200 yards passing per game.

A two-year captain and three-year starter, Skibinski did not yield a sack this season in 250 pass attempts.

He is a standout in the classroom as well, sporting a 3.44 grade-point average.

"Matt is a gym rat, a hard worker and he cared about all the little details to become better," said Churchill coach Bill DeFillippo.

Michael Jordan, OL, Plymouth: An imposing physical specimen at 6-6, 285 who is being eyed by recruiters for Division I football programs, Jordan was a force for the Wildcats both on the offensive and defensive lines.

On the O-line, Jordan registered 27 pancakes and did not allow a quarterback sack. Defensively, he tallied 42 tackles including 25 solos.

He was named to the all-conference team for his excellent season and he still has one more year to go, certainly bad news for other KLAAs teams.

"Michael is a flat-out beast and a great character kid," coach Mike Sawchuk said. "Obviously, with his size and strength he is able to dominate the line of scrimmage."

"He is only a junior so he still has some room for improvement. We are excited to see how he plays his senior year."

DeShawn Baker-Williams, OL, Glenn: A two-way starter at offensive and defensive tackle, the 6-4, 310-pound Central Michigan University commit was a key reason why the Rockets were able to rush for 3,015 yards this past season.

Defensively, he recorded 16 solo tackles and 19 assists.

Darin Tuttle, OL, Canton: The 5-10, 220-pound senior offensive guard was Canton's most durable and consistent lineman, standing tall against enemy defenses.

The second-year starter also excelled with physical play and as a pulling blocker, important factors for the major success of Canton's multi-pronged running attack.

Tuttle, an all-KLAA selection, started every game and also took over as the team's long snapper midway through the year.

"He also played on the defensive line and played excellent there when he did," coach Tim Baechler said. "Darin was our most valuable linemen this year and an excellent leader."

Nolan Gilo, TE, Canton: One of many offensive weapons for the Chiefs, the senior tight end led the team with 18 catches for 500 yards (a school record for yards receiving in a season) and scored two touchdowns.

A big target at 6-1, the second-year starter averaged 27.8 yards per catch and helped Canton's cause by adding two crucial 2-point conversion catches.

"Nolan made the big catch all year long to keep drives alive or to give us a big play," Baechler said. "Nolan was also an exceptional blocker."

For his efforts, Gilo was named to the all-KLAA squad.

CJ Weiss, WR, Stevenson: Weiss capped his career in spectacular fashion, hauling in 59 passes for 725 yards and six touchdowns.

He will graduate as Stevenson's all-time leading receiver with 87 receptions for 1,148 yards. A multi-purpose threat, Weiss also added

39 carries for 289 yards and two touchdowns, and six punt returns for 79 yards and a TD.

Defensively, he racked up 24 tackles and blocked three kicks.

"CJ is one of the smartest football players and toughest competitors that I have had the opportunity to coach," said Stevenson coach Randy Micallef. "He pushed all of us to get better each day."

Tim Dulin, WR, Churchill: The primary receiving threat on a team that threw for over 2,000 yards, the 6-4, 180-pound Dulin registered 51 receptions for over 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns, including a last-minute 50-yard score on fourth down that sent the Chargers' early-season game against Brighton to overtime (they eventually won).

With 4.5 speed in the 40-yard-dash and soft hands, the rangy Dulin is drawing interest from MAC and FCS college programs.

"Tim made some great catches, including some at very key moments this year," said DeFillippo. "His height and speed made him a dangerous player on offense."

Dez Fitzpatrick, WR, Farmington: The junior wide receiver (6-2, 192) spurned multiple Big Ten offers and committed to Louisville late in the 2014 season. He caught 32 passes for 511 yards, and he scored a total of 11 touchdowns.

His stats could have been greater, but he didn't play a lot in the second half as the Falcons, who averaged more than 40 points per game in winning the OAA Blue Division, were often well ahead by that time.

Fitzpatrick is a cover corner on defense. He had three interceptions and 25 tackles, and he also returned punts and kicks.

"Dez is an incredibly gifted athlete," coach John Bechtel said. "He has great size and spectacular hands, and he's a fantastic route runner. He's one of the best players around."

"He's a major match-up problem for people. He's a big, strong receiver; he can play a physical game, or he can run away from you. It's a tough match-up for teams on defense, too, because of his size."

Jevon Shaw, QB, Harrison: A three-year starter and repeat member of the all-area team, Shaw led the Hawks to a share of the OAA White Division crown, a state semifinal appearance and a 10-3 record.

He was the leading rusher and passer with 987 and 1,024 yards, respectively. Most of his 16 rushing touchdowns were runs of 40 yards or more. Shaw averaged 10 yards per carry. He was 63-of-129 passing with 10 touchdowns.

Shaw (5-9, 180) is seventh on the all-time passing list with 2,338 yards and 14th in rushing with 1,663. He is an outstanding punt and kick returner, and he will play at Ferris State next year.

"Jevon was the heart and soul of our offense," coach John Herrington said. "He could improvise on runs. If pass protection broke down, he could make big runs. On the run plays designed for him, he could run around people or through them; he's very strong."

"It was a huge loss when he was injured (in the first playoff game). He stayed with the team and had the courage to come back and try to play in the semifinal game."

Brian Alsobrooks, QB, Churchill: The 6-2, 215-pound field general, who has committed to play at Eastern Michigan University, completed 151 of 248 passes for 2,258 yards.

He threw for 23 touchdowns and just six interceptions while rushing for over 500 yards. One of the state's best kickers as well, Alsobrooks finished with 142 career extra-

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE
 Sr. Matt Skibinski, OL, Churchill
 Jr. Michael Jordan, OL, Plymouth
 Sr. DeShawn Baker-Williams, OL, Glenn
 Sr. Darin Tuttle, OL, Canton
 Sr. Nolan Gilo, TE, Canton
 Sr. CJ Weiss, WR, Stevenson
 Sr. Tim Dulin, WR, Churchill
 Jr. Dez Fitzpatrick, WR, Farmington
 Sr. Jevon Shaw, QB, Harrison
 Sr. Brian Alsobrooks, QB, Churchill
 Sr. Greg Williams, QB, Canton
 Sr. Kyle Penny, QB, N. Farmington
 Jr. Cameron Stella, RB, Plymouth
 Sr. Paul Romain, RB, Churchill
 Jr. Austin Petrie, RB, Stevenson

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
 Jr. Khalid Kareem, DL, Harrison
 Sr. Laymon Gidding-Whatley, DL, Thurston
 Sr. Renardo Brown, DL, John Glenn
 Sr. Justin Banks, DL, Farmington
 Sr. Michael Ojemudia, LB, Harrison
 Sr. Jake Pagel, LB, Canton
 Sr. Shane Raymond, LB, Plymouth
 Jr. David Reese, LB, Farmington
 Sr. Devin Cameron, LB, Salem
 Sr. Hussein Youssef, LB, Plymouth
 Sr. James Hill, LB, Clarenceville
 Jr. Alonzo McCoy, DB, Thurston
 Sr. Devon Cook, DB, Harrison

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE
 Sr. Nick Davis, OL, Churchill
 Sr. Dorian Williams, OL, Harrison
 Sr. Luke Callahan, OL, Salem
 Sr. Brad Scott, OL, Stevenson
 Sr. Elijah Bean, WR, Clarenceville
 Sr. Angelo Wiggins, Wayne Mem.
 Jr. Christian Walls, WR, Plymouth
 Sr. Billy Morgan, WR, N. Farmington
 Soph. Chris Tanderis, QB, Stevenson
 Sr. Tyler Hubbs, QB, Garden City
 Sr. Kyle Collins, QB, Farmington
 Sr. Deji Adebisi, QB, Plymouth
 Jr. Joe Bob Walker, QB, Wayne Mem.
 Soph. Marcus Sanders, RB, Canton
 Sr. Brian Newton, RB, Canton

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE
 Sr. Justin Whitted, DE, Harrison
 Sr. Courteous Preston, DL, Farmington
 Sr. Iwairi Smith, DE, Harrison
 Jr. Jalen Cochran, LB, Canton
 Sr. Kevin Justice, LB, Plymouth
 Sr. Marvin Yaldo, LB, N. Farmington
 Sr. Nick DeHetre, LB, Garden City
 Sr. Austin Olson, LB, Lutheran Westland
 Sr. Donte Eubanks, DB, Harrison
 Sr. Justin Gasaway, DB, Franklin
 Jr. Jared Stephens, DB, Canton
 Sr. Tyrrik Hunter, DB, John Glenn
 Sr. Kalen Dunham, DB, Plymouth
 Sr. Steve Szymanski, DB, Stevenson
 Jr. Alex Bolstrum, SP, Harrison

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR
 John Herrington, Farmington
 Harrison
 Tim Baechler, Canton

HONORABLE MENTIONS
Farmington: Kyle Brunson, Mark Thomas, Omar Mitchell, Michael Raad, Jakkar Jackson; **Harrison:** Derrick Parker, Jared Char, Brendann Brown, Tyrone Lyte, Omaury Rodgers, Markeith Hunt; **N. Farmington:** Mason Cornell, Noah Hobson, Clayton Gaines, De'on Jenkins, Nathan Penny, Mher Tcholakian, Sassoun Tcholakian; **Clarenceville:** Jake Kubiak, Jonathan Hogan, Jermell Johnson, Santoy Reese; **Stevenson:** Hyder Mansour, Connor Vaughan, Robert Schneider; **Churchill:** Shakur Lockett, Armon Perham, Aaron Kerr, Nick Najarian, Jake Weiss; **Franklin:** Nathan Rodgers; **John Glenn:** Javahugh Burns, Leon Crawford; **Wayne:** Julian Jones, Jarvis Martin, Malik Bryant; **Lutheran Westland:** Jacob Davenport, Cleveland Tapp; **Canton:** Robert Guajardo, Chuck Turle, Jake Stephan, Brett Lee; **Plymouth:** Victor Abraham, Anthony Kenney, Logan Lurrell; **Salem:** Jason Arnold, Calvin Crawford, Trevor Nowaske; **Garden City:** Cody Johnson, Jay Englen, Easton Hayter, Stephen Fox, Nick Clark, Tommy Segars; **Redford Union:** Tyrone Robinson, Aerhmoni Harrison; **Thurston:** Damian Booker, Isalah Crofford, Aaron Griffin.

also set a single-game standard with 356 yards.

Penny completed 100 of his 172 pass attempts in the past season and threw 12 touchdown passes. He had 17 career TD tosses.

Penny also started on defense, made 41 tackles and picked two passes. He punted 37 times for a 34.1 average and put the ball inside the 20-yard line a dozen times.

"Kyle is the ultimate competitor," coach Todd Schultz said. "He loves the game and plays with such passion. And it showed every time he was on the field. Every game, every snap, he truly enjoyed playing the game at a high level."

Because of his experience and grasp of the playbook, Schultz gave Penny a lot of latitude in calling plays.

"I would send in three or four plays and allow Kyle to choose the correct play based on the defensive formation," Schultz said. "Ninety percent of the time, he chose a play I would have called if I was on the field, too."

Cameron Stella, RB, Plymouth: One of the key contributors to another strong season for the Wildcats, the 6-0, 180-pound Stella made opponents pay with power running and a knack for coming up big in clutch situations.

The junior rushed 113 times for 973 yards (8.6 average) and scored six rushing touchdowns. He also chipped in on returns and as a receiver, with 1,228 total yards and one receiving TD.

He was named to the all-KLAA team for his excellent all-around season.

"Cam is an unbelievable athlete," Sawchuk said. "He has the speed and agility to make defenders miss and not get a good shot on him."

"I can't wait to see how he looks as a senior after getting one more year in the weight room."

Paul Romain, RB, Churchill: The senior was a ball-carrying beast for the Chargers, piling up 1,771 yards rushing and 25 touchdowns. He also tacked on 19 receptions for 304 yards and three six-pointers. A threat as a kick returner as well, Romain exceeded 2,200 all-purpose yards during his highly-productive senior season.

"Paul is a dynamic player with tremendous speed and the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield," said DeFillippo.

Austin Petrie, RB, Stevenson: The junior combined speed and power running skills to register 1,134 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns. He also caught 15 passes for 165 yards and two scores, and had 20 tackles, three pass break-ups and two blocked kicks on defense.

"Austin is a talented young man who is just beginning to understand the impact he can have on both sides of the ball," said Micallef. "We look forward to his senior season."

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
Khalid Kareem, DL, Harrison: Kareem (6-4, 240) had an outstanding junior season and will be a big-time recruit next year. He was a major reason the Hawks were so good on defense.

Though he played a down position at tackle, Kareem was the third-leading tackler with 69. He had two sacks and three quarterback hurries. He has offers from Northwestern, Minnesota, Iowa, Wake Forest and Miami, Fla.

"He's the No. 1 up-and-coming player in the state," Herrington said. "He has all sorts of offers. He's definitely one of the top players in the state."

"He was a real force on defense as a pass rusher and played the run very well. He'll be the leader of the defense next year and, hopefully, we'll be able to play him on offense."

Laymon Gidding-Whatley, DL, Thurston: The three-year starter was a stud on both sides of the ball for the Eagles, notching 60 tackles (including



Gidding-Whatley

15 for loss), seven sacks and one fumble recovery on defense, while churning out 762 yards on 119 carries and 15 touchdowns on offense.

"Laymon was a three-year varsity starter whose speed and size made him a dangerous pass rusher off the edge," said Thurston coach Bob Snell. "In addition to his outstanding defensive play, he was a tough runner who racked up yards by pounding the ball and used breakaway speed for big plays when he got into the secondary."

Renardo Brown, DL, John Glenn: The 6-3, 318-pound two-way starter registered 23 solo tackles and 16 assists on defense.

Justin Banks, DL, Farmington: The 6-foot-5, 265-pound senior was a three-year starter at offensive tackle and a regular on defense for two seasons.

Banks was a strong pass rusher and was superb against the run, according to Bechtel. He had 49 total tackles, including 20 solos. Banks is a three-year starter at center on the basketball team, too.

"Justin has great feet and quickness for his size," Bechtel said. "One of his greatest assets is his length. He's tall and has long arms."

"With his quickness, that reach came in handy, moving up and down the defensive line. He's very, very mobile for a down defensive tackle."

Banks planned to visit Grand Valley and will likely play somewhere in the GLIAC.

Michael Ojemudia, LB, Harrison: While not big for a linebacker, Ojemudia (6-2, 190) is a tremendous football player, according to Herrington.

His closing speed to the ball is outstanding. He demonstrated his athletic ability by playing wide receiver and tight end on offense.

Ojemudia was the leading tackler with 105. He also had four sacks, three interceptions, one pass block, three breakups and two fumble recoveries.

"I think he's one of the top linebackers we've ever had at Harrison," Herrington said, adding Big Ten and MAC schools are interested in him.

"He's a sideline-to-sideline player. He was really effective. And don't overlook the fact he played tight end and was one of our best blockers. He led by example."

Jake Pagel, LB, Canton: Tough as nails at linebacker, the 5-10, 180-pound senior registered 73 tackles along with 1.5 sacks and a fumble recovery. Pagel led the Chiefs in tackles and was instrumental in the defense meshing all season.

The second-year starter and co-captain was honored for his exceptional performance by being named to the all-conference team.

"Jake was our quarterback on defense," Baechler said. "He made all of our line and check calls for us. Jake was extremely fast with a 4.5 40-yard dash and was a very smart football player."

Shane Raymond, LB, Plymouth: The senior and third-year starter at middle linebacker might have been Plymouth's most valuable player, going down with a knee injury for two games during the regular season. The Wildcats struggled to stop teams without Raymond quarterbacking the defense.

The all-KLAA selection still led Plymouth with 53 total tackles, including 23 of the solo variety. He chalked up 8.5



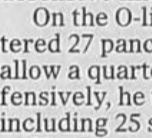
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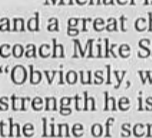
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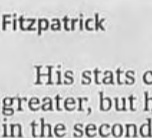
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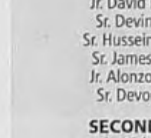
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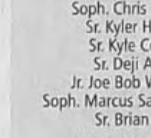
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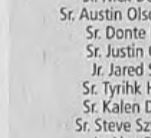
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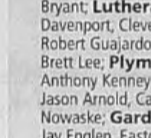
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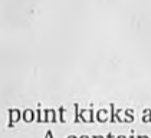
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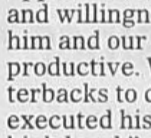
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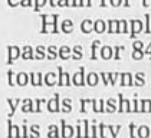
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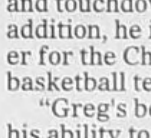
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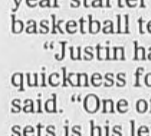
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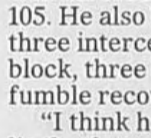
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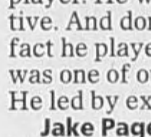
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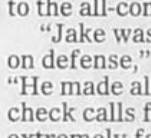
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ALL-AREA

Continued from Page B3

tackles for loss. And for good measure, the 5-10, 205-pounder excelled on the offensive line.

"Shane was one of our best offensive linemen as well," Sawchuk said. "Just one of the smartest football players I have ever coached."

David Reese, LB, Farmington: The junior middle linebacker is a three-year, two-way starter, and he is a repeat member of the all-area first team.

Reese (6-2, 231) led the team with 107 tackles, which included 56 solos, and is Farmington's all-time leading tackler with 288.

He was primarily a blocking fullback on offense, but he rushed for nearly 300 yards (7.1 average) and seven touchdowns. Many of the MAC schools want Reese, and Big Ten offers could follow in the near future.

"David is an incredible downhill player," Bechtel said. "He has great speed, great size and quickness and a great nose for the football."

"He does a great job of reading his keys. When he gets to the ball carrier, he's punishing. He's certainly one of the best players in the state."

Devin Cameron, LB, Salem: Some Michigan colleges are looking to recruit the 6-2, 225-pound Cameron, and for good reason.

The senior was a defensive force at linebacker for the Rocks, with 77 tackles (seven for a loss), four sacks and a fumble recovery.

Cameron was named to the all-conference team to recognize his stellar season.

"Devin is a great teammate, hard worker on and off the field, high energy player, he never left the field for us," coach Kurt Britnell said. "He's a very high-character individual that definitely will be missed as both student (3.2 GPA) and athlete. He would do anything if it helped his team."

Britnell said Cameron is catching the eye of recruiters from Mid-American Conference and Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference schools.

Hussein Youssef, LB, Plymouth: The senior played bigger and tougher than his 5-11, 195-pound frame might suggest, once again sparking Plymouth's linebacking corps.

Youssef, also a standout varsity wrestler, tallied 51 total tackles — 32 of them solo take-downs. When needed, he helped out on offense, too, and caught three passes for 59 yards.

He was named to the all-conference team for his superb performance for the Wildcats.

"Hussein is one of the toughest football players I have ever coached," Sawchuk said. "He played through some painful injuries this year. He has an unbelievable motor and hates to lose at anything."

"I really had a fun time coaching my linebackers this year."

James Hill, LB, Clarenceville: The 6-2, 195-pound senior excelled at running back and outside linebacker. Hill was a three-year varsity player and two-year

starter for the Trojans.

He rushed for 1,100 yards and 14 touchdowns, averaging 6.7 yards per carry. He also caught 12 passes for 166 yards and two scores.

Hill had 30 solos among his 58 tackles, and he recovered a fumble for a touchdown. He's being recruited by a number of Division II schools.

"He's really good out of the backfield, not only running the ball but catching the ball," coach Ken Fry said. "Some schools saw he could do both and really liked that. He can do some things after he gets the ball."

"The only rest he got was on special teams. We had to have him on the field. He could make a mistake, but his stride and ability to recover quickly made it really nice. With his size, it was hard to throw over him. I can't say enough about him."

Alonzo McCoy, DB, Thurston: A junior two-year starter, McCoy did it all for the Eagles, compiling 68 tackles (four for loss) from his cornerback position, with one fumble recovery and six interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown.

Offensively, he caught 26 aerials for 403 yards (15.5 average) and two touchdowns. As the Eagles' holder for extra points and fields goals, he was 5-for-5 on two-point runs on fakes.

"Alonzo is a unique combination of speed, skill and toughness, which allows him to be not only an excellent cover corner but also a physical force against the run," said Snell.

Devon Cook, DB, Harrison: Cook was a three-year starter at strong safety and a solid, reliable tackler. He was sixth on the team with 46 tackles,



Cook

and he helped to make the Hawks a solid defensive team.

Cook (6-0, 180) also had four interceptions and four pass breakups.

He blocked an extra point in overtime that enabled Harrison to beat Walled Lake Western in the district final, 10-9. Cook played tight end and split end on offense, too.

"He was a very good tackler and could force the run very well," Herrington said. "His ability to get to the football and tackle (was outstanding). He's a very aggressive player. He was around the football a lot."

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

John Herrington, Harrison: The Hawks narrowly missed getting to the championship round of the state tournament for the 18th time in their storied football history.

Legendary coach John Herrington, the only head coach since the school opened in 1970, led his team to another outstanding season (10-3).

Harrison shared the OAA White Division crown with Southfield and Oak Park and followed that with Division 2 district and regional championships.

The Hawks came up a point shy of high-scoring Muskegon Mona Shores in a state semifinal game, 25-24.

Herrington has 413 career victories in 45 seasons at Harrison and has led the Hawks to a record 13 state titles.

In the last regular-season game, Harrison gave top-ranked and two-time defending D1 state champion Clarkston a good battle before conceding a 31-24 defeat.

"If you play a big school

that's No. 1 in the state and you hang with them, I feel good about it," Herrington said.

"I never feel good about losing, but we went out to play the game hard and our kids played hard. I thought they played with a lot of character."

Tim Baechler, Canton: It was a special season for the Chiefs and veteran coach Baechler, as Canton overcame

injuries to win the KLAA South Division and come within an eyelash of defeating Saline in the Division 1 regional final.

The Chiefs finished 9-3 to pad Baechler's 17-year Canton career record to 145-44. During that span, Baechler's teams have reached the postseason 14 times.

"I have an excellent staff of assistant coaches here," Baechler noted. "Guys that believe in our offense and defense, and in how we practice. It starts with their belief and their loyalty to our program."

Moments after the heart-breaking 42-35 loss to the Hornets, Baechler talked about how the 2014 season was the most gratifying for him on a personal level. In his comments to the *Observer* about being co-coach of the year, he didn't back away from that sentiment.

"This was a very rewarding year," Baechler said. "We dealt with a lot of adversity as far as health issues and a couple of suspensions of key starters at various times. Our guys just kept improving and trusting us and each other."

"Besides making a deep run this year, which made the season even more fun, we had a true team. We did not have any stars, just a group of guys that played for Canton and for each other."



Reese



Youssef



McCoy



Cameron



Hill

GIRLS PREP HOOPS

Faulty free-throw shooting dooms Pats

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A career game by three-year varsity player Erin McNally couldn't compensate for a miserable night at the free-throw line for the Livonia Franklin girls basketball team Monday night against host Novi Franklin Road Christian.

McNally, a senior forward, chalked up 10 points, 11 rebounds, five blocked shots and two steals, but the Patriots canned just 6 of 22 freebies during a 56-46 setback.

The Patriots slipped to 0-5 with the loss while Lady Warriors improved to 3-2.

Eighth-grader Alexis Johnson paced the winners' attack with 19 points and 23 rebounds.

"We were trailing 36-35 at the beginning of the fourth quarter, but we missed four straight free throws and then they pulled away a little bit," said Franklin head coach Jim Milican. "We've struggled at the free-throw line all season."

Milican heaped high praise on McNally.

"It was good to see all the hard work she's put in pay off,"

said Milican. "That was her best game ever."

Senior Sarah Cramton also played well for the Patriots, netting a team-high 15 points. Cramton drained one three-point shot.

Senior Tyonna Tate also played well for Franklin, scoring eight points to accompany 15 boards.

Franklin Road struggled at the line as well, making just 11 of 34 attempts.

The Patriots led 10-9 after one quarter before the Lady Warriors stormed back to seize a 28-23 halftime lead. The Patriots made it a game in the third quarter when they out-scored Franklin Road 12-8.

The Patriots launched an astounding 85 shots, but converted on just 17.

"We were getting pretty good looks; the ball just wasn't dropping for us," said Milican. "The break comes at a good time for us; we need a breather."

Franklin returns to action Jan. 6 when it hosts Garden City.

ewright@hometownlife.com



ED WRIGHT
Livonia Franklin senior forward Tyonna Tate, pictured during a game earlier this season, netted eight points and 15 rebounds in Monday's loss to Franklin Road Christian.

COACHES

Continued from Page B1

amazing group of girls and program."

Despite strong showings in the KLAA South Division and a number of impressive players earning college scholarships, Canton's Johnson decided to resign after three seasons as varsity coach.

Although his upcoming marriage to Marody is a factor, Johnson said his decision to leave now was much more complicated. He emphasized there was the perception of unhappiness from parents which had a bearing on his

decision.

Johnson noted that "people not being happy (with decisions) seemed to be my biggest fault as a coach and has led me to my decision. Truth be told, I always thought me making the tough decisions and coaching my team without flirting with the notion of trying to make people happy was my strongest trait as a coach."

"I am confident that I leave the program better than I found it and know that it is set up for whoever is hired to replace me, to have the continued success that these special athletes deserve."

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Aaron Burbridge cuts through the Purdue defense after making a catch in October.

BURBRIDGE

Continued from Page B1

helped me to become the receiver I am today."

Senior Tony Lippett is the leading receiver with 60 receptions for 1,124 yards and 11 touchdowns. Burbridge is one of four others who follow Lippett with 22 to 26 catches.

"We do have a lot of weapons on offense," Burbridge said. "(Quarterback) Connor (Cook) does a great job of getting all of us the ball every game."

"We just try to do what we can to help him out and keep the offense moving and progressing every week."

Burbridge also had his career-best game against Indiana in 2012, making eight catches for 134 yards. He hauled in 29 passes for 364 and two scores in his rookie season.

One of Burbridge's buddies on the team is running back Jeremy Langford of Wayne and Westland John Glenn High School.

Other area stars

Langford is MSU's leading rusher for the second straight season with 1,360 yards and 19 touchdowns on 249 attempts (5.5 average). He averages more than 113 yards per game.

"We're cool; we hang out," Burbridge said. "We like to play video games (when they do). We do the stuff friends do."

Every now and then, Burbridge, who occasionally lined up at tailback in high school, gets to run the ball, too, mostly on end-around plays.

"I'm just excited to go down there; I know it's going to be tough. It ought to be a good experience."

AARON BURBRIDGE
Michigan State receiver

"I love doing that," he said. "I get to show off my versatility. I used to be a running back when I started playing football. It brings me back to my glory days."

Burbridge, who was the No. 1-rated prep player in the state in 2011, has remained close with former Harrison teammate and Michigan wide receiver Devin Funchess.

Funchess recently announced his intention to forgo his last year of college ball and enter the NFL draft next year.

"I talk to him almost every day," Burbridge said. "I support him all the way and I'm proud of him. Hopefully, he can make a name for himself in the NFL."

"I'm not really surprised (Funchess is leaving early) with everything going on over there. I support his decision 100 percent."

Eyes NFL, also

Burbridge hopes to be drafted in 2016 and have a chance to play professional ball, too.

"Of course," he said. "I'm just working toward bettering myself as a person and player to get myself ready for the next level."

Burbridge also was an excellent punt and kick returner for the Hawks and

would like to do more of that for the Spartans.

"I do play on most special teams; I'm just not returning right now," he said. "Hopefully, I can return a couple kicks. That's what I've been asking. It would be nice to get back there one time."

Burbridge plans to work hard in the off season and do his part to keep the Spartans on a winning track next fall.

He doesn't expect to be the go-to guy necessarily because of all the other talented receivers on the team, but he wants to play a key role again.

"We just have to finish this year strong and come back next year and have the best year," he said. "We'll get together with Connor in the off season, get the chemistry and timing down and come into camp ready to roll."

"My goal was to become a complete receiver this year, and I think I've done that. I know the offense like the back of my hand. I'm doing pretty well going into my senior season."

Bowl business

In the meantime, he and the Spartans, who left Dec. 26 for Texas, want to keep their bowl winning streak intact.

"Going against an elite team like Baylor, just like ourselves, will be exciting," Burbridge said. "I'm just excited to go down there; I know it's going to be tough. It ought to be a good experience."

"We've got a good game plan. If we execute, we should be just fine. (The Bears) do have an explosive offense but so do we. Hopefully, our defense can hold them down, and we can come away with a win."

Keep track of 2015 with animal rescue calendars

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Strong men love dogs — even fluffy little pups with pretty faces. And they're not afraid to throw their arms around big mutts who love to cuddle.

The concept is captured in photos and stories, month by month, in the 2015 Last Day Dog Rescue calendar. It's the fifth year the Livonia-based animal rescue has created and sold a wall calendar as a fundraiser that also raises awareness of its work.

"We wanted to show that all these dogs are cute as can be and they all deserve a good home and that even strong men love these dogs. They are their best friends," said Aileen Klebba, a volunteer who designed the calendar. Dee Maggio photographed the adopters and fosters with their dogs in various locations.

Last Day Dog Rescue mostly saves dogs from high-kill shelters, but has some cats for adoption as well. Klebba said that the nonprofit rescue saved approximately 900 animals last year and has approximately 200 dogs in foster homes.

"The name last day is we literally take dogs on their last day before they are put down," she said. "It doesn't matter what breed, what color."

The organization is based in Livonia, but runs adoption events throughout southeastern Michigan and has volunteers as far away as Michigan's Thumb area and northern Ohio.

All work on the calendar, including printing and photography, was donated, meaning that all proceeds are used for rescuing animals. Cost for the calendar is \$12 although customers who buy five get a sixth for free. For more information, email to lddr.calendar@gmail.com.

Klebba's favorite dog, Penelope, graces the cover of the calendar. She was in a kennel for two years before Last Day Dog Rescue found her a home.

"She came from an abusive home, but she is the sweetest dog you'd ever meet. We were all so happy when she was adopted."

Shelly Houchins at Waggin' Tails, a Northville-based animal rescue, got a chance to meet all 12 of the dogs featured in the organization's 2015 calendar.

The Plymouth woman photographed the canine models that had been fostered at Waggin' Tails before they were placed in permanent homes.

"The attention span is short with dogs. Sessions aren't more than a half hour or so. I did five a day. My own foster was the worst to photograph because she was afraid of the light. She is Miss July.

"But the fun part for us is getting to see the dogs. Foster parents come to the shoots to see their (adopted) dogs. Dog rescue is not easy and can be frustrating, but to have a full day to get to see the fruits of your labor ... we get excited."

The Waggin' Tail calendar costs \$20 and all proceeds enable the foster-based, all-breed dog rescue to buy food, supplies and veterinary care for foster dogs until they find their permanent homes. Buy the calendar at waggingtails-dogrescue.org/special-events.html or at any Waggin' Tails event.

Here's a sampling of other 2015 animal rescue calendars:

Michigan Humane Society: You might just spot a friend or family's pet in this 13-month calendar that features more than 300 pets of Michigan Humane Society supporters. The calendars cost \$15, plus tax, and include references to holidays, Michigan Humane Society events and pet health and safety tips. Vader, a horse in the Detroit Police Mounted Division, graces the calendar cover. Buy calendars at shop-michiganhumane.org or by calling 800-866-9189 weekdays. Or visit a Michigan Humane Society adoption center at 900 N. Newburgh, Westland; 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit; or 3600 W. Auburn, Rochester Hills.

Detroit Bully Corps: The "Pretties for Pities" calendar costs \$15.60 and features models with bully breed dogs. Proceeds enable the organization to re-home and rehabilitate dogs, as well as educate the public about bully breeds. Visit dbcdogs.org.

Humane Society of Huron Valley: "Friends Forever," a 12-month wall calendar, showing animals adopted through the year, also includes animal holiday reminders — such as Hug Your Cat Day — and information about the shelter's programs and services. The calendar costs \$20.95 and is available online at shop.hshv.org/. Or visit the shelter gift shop, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor; 734-662-5585.

Buster Foundation: The Belleville-based organization rescues and re-homes pit bulls and bully breed mixes. Its 2015 calendar is \$18 and features pit bulls from the foundation. Visit busterdogsstore.com.

Leader Dogs for the Blind: The 2015 wall calendar includes photos submitted by puppy raisers, clients, employees and more. Cost is \$18, including shipping and handling. Visit leaderdog.org/calendars.

Detroit Dog Rescue: The 2015 wall calendar shows Detroit Dog Rescue volunteers and dogs in action. Cost is \$18. Visit detroitdogrescue.com.



Shelly Houchins of Plymouth is a Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue member. She photographed dogs adopted through the organization for its 2015 calendar.



Keep track of your schedule with Livonia-based Last Day Dog Rescue's wall calendar. Each month shows a different man with his four-legged best friend.



Detroit Bully Corps features models and pit bulls inside its 2015 calendar.

Grandparents make babies laugh, smile, burp, with ease

Being a mom is one of the most rewarding, if not the most rewarding thing I have ever experienced before. I am so much in love, more so than I ever imagined I could be. It's amazing how quickly your life can change when your newborn is welcomed into the world. One thing that hasn't changed, however, is me reaching out to my own parents for much-needed advice.

I talk to my parents often. Some might say I talk to them too often. But I don't feel it is too much at all. Any time I have a question about life, about raising my daughter, about household repairs or proper etiquette, I ask my parents. They always have the answers I am looking for, and the majority of the time I like the advice they give me. But now that I am a parent myself,



Sarah Davies
THEN THERE WERE TWO

I wonder if my daughter will take after me, and want to call her mother for all the answers. How in the world will I ever be prepared enough to have all of the world's answers like my parents do for me?

I hope that the answers come naturally, and that I have all the right ones before my daughter starts asking the tough questions. I also pray that I will become as much of an educator and positive role model that my folks have been to me. Parenting is not easy, and there is no manual that lays out all the rules. And nobody has all the answers. Yet somehow, my parents know the

answers I need to hear, sometimes even before I know the question I am asking.

Baby whisperers

It would be great if my parents could write down every parenting question they think I might ask them at some point; put it all into a reference book for easy access for the days when they are on vacation or working or just taking a nap. I want to have all of their advice at the tip of my fingers at any given moment. Somehow, they raised three daughters themselves without any prior education on the subject, and we all turned out pretty decent.

My folks have become the "baby whispering grandparents." They can pick up any crying baby, and immediately soothe them. They know how to get the babies to laugh, to smile, and to burp. Not every

parent has these talents like my folks do, and I hope that when my daughter has children she will think that I have good advice, too.

Incredible parents

I am sure that over time the answers will come and that I will become a better mother and have the ability to easily calm down any baby. But I don't know if this trait will come gradually over time or if I will wake up one day and be full of knowledge. Maybe it's not something you learn until you become a grandparent, and if that is the case then I have many years ahead of me before I will have all the answers. For now, though, I feel so blessed to have such incredible parents available to me whenever I need them. My folks are there to help teach me the ropes of parenthood

and to baby sit and shower my little girl with love. They have been teaching me for over three decades about love, and now as grandparents they are teaching my daughter the same lessons they had instilled in me.

I may make mistakes during this road of motherhood, and certainly I will not be perfect. But I will love my daughter like my parents have loved me, and hopefully that will be enough. One day I hope to have the answers for my daughter like my parents always have for me. And maybe, just maybe, I too can be called a baby whisperer.

Sarah Davies lives in Livonia and writes about the ups and downs of being a new, single mom. Contact her at sarahmari Davies@gmail.com.

Glass half full: Optimistic outlook can help others to overcome distress

This December 2014 holiday installation of my *Our Mental Health* column is sent to all of our *Observer & Eccentric* family and to like-minded readers to whom you choose to share it with. My wish, to us all, during this special season is the gift of hope. "Hope springs eternal," said one philosopher. Another said, "The greatest virtues are faith, hope and love." Yet another said, "Hope depends on faith and the outcome of both is love." While hope is a small word, it is a big antidote for despair. The importance of hope in recovery from despair is no more or no less important, regardless of the source



Len McCulloch

of the suffering. It is essential to recovery. Despair is the submission to loss. It is giving up. It is concluding there is no way out. It is dependency and accomplishes nothing. It is suicide of the soul.

Offering hope
Hope, on the other hand, requires faith in optimism and in one's self. Hope usually requires interaction with another person. Despairing people cannot usually discover hope on their

own. They need another person, able to enter their world of despair, and offer them a deal. The deal, psychologically, is a "working alliance." This is a technical term usually reserved for the positive relationship developed between a psychotherapist and a patient. But it can occur between any two people wherein one has hope to offer to the other in a realistic manner. This "working alliance" amounts to two or more people agreeing to be optimistic in their combined efforts to deal with, overcome or tolerate major personal distress. Some people are trained, professional

"therapists" who can offer hope. Some are ordinary people with an extraordinary life experience or natural endowment of resilience, so as to be able to offer hope to others. Hope motivates one to act with the belief there will be a positive outcome from the ingredients of optimism, hard work, and perseverance.

Hope requires action

Hope differs from a wish. Wishing is an attempt at a solution to a life problem in a passive manner. It can be done in solitude and the wish does not always come true. Hope, on the other hand, is an active event and implies a willingness to work toward a solution or an ability to tolerate seemingly insurmountable problems, also known as suffering.

So, I encourage hope. If you are struggling with trauma or despair, try to find another person, group, cause, or organization with which to establish an empathetic relationship. Hope is contagious and we can give it and get it to and from others.

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in trauma, mental health, brain injury, addictions, and social work. He is a psychotherapist of 30 years, and has more than 200 publications archived at www.famlib.org Visit his website at www.therapychoirs.org to learn more about The Therapy Choirs of Michigan: A Tour of Hope created by McCulloch and Sherry Cantrell, vice president of operations. McCulloch can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22.

Cope with holiday blues by spending time with others

The holiday season is a festive time to celebrate, enjoy family and be thankful. But some individuals feel depressed, lonely and stressed during the season.

The Detroit/Wayne County Mental Health Authority offers a 24-hour crisis and referral line at 800-241-4949. Wayne County residents can speak with someone to help them cope now and throughout the year.

The authority also offers these tips to help banish the holiday blues:

- » Don't isolate yourself - attend a party
- » Call a friend
- » Go to a movie
- » Go to a church, synagogue or mosque
- » Volunteer your time, serve in a soup kitchen

Individuals may find this time of year particularly difficult because holidays generally are associated with a time to share with families. Feelings of loneliness and depression are common.

Family and friends should be aware of loved ones who have a history of depression and other mental illnesses over the holidays. Don't allow them to isolate themselves. Reach out to help as needed or call a professional to intervene.

If you're feeling stressed during the holidays, take time to exercise, read a book or do something that relaxes you. The key during the holidays is to remind yourself that pleasing everyone is unrealistic.

Make time now, more than ever, to do something for yourself.

For more about the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, visit www.dwmha.com.

BIRTH



Nash Nixon Hewlett

SUBMITTED

NASH NIXON HEWLETT

Nash Nixon Hewlett was born Nov. 10, 2014, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Nash joins his parents, Brooke and Bobby Hewlett, and big brothers, Cruz, 4 1/2, and Easton, 2 1/2, in South Lyon.

Great-great-grandmother is Deana Abe of Livonia. Great-grand-

parents are Patricia Krutz of South Lyon, Bob and Lin Krutz of Leesburg, Fla., Barbara and John Kapnas of Lake Station, Ind., and Kathy and Robert Hewlett of Orchard Lake.

Grandparents are Michele and Craig Lundquist of South Lyon and Mary and Robert Hewlett Jr. of New Hudson.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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

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

View Online www.hometownlife.com



ABRAMOVICH, HILMA

Age 94 December 20, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Joseph. Dear mother of James and Robert (Jessica). Grandmother of Jennifer (Carl) Haslett. Sister of the late Bernice Peterson. Aunt of Charlene, Karen, Ronald & William. Visitation Tuesday, December 30, 2014 10a.m. until 1p.m. Funeral service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5885 Venoy Rd., Westland, MI 48185. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Santeiu Funeral Home



HACKETT, JEANNE P.

December 13, 2014. Age 95. Beloved wife of the late Robert V. Hackett. Loving mother of Hilary Small and Amy Palmer (David). Beloved grandmother of Garrett Small (Tara), Stephanie Young (Erron), Jeffrey Small (Amber), Drew Palmer (Sarah), and Amanda Palmer. Great-grandmother of Hudson, Turner, Beckham, Aiden, and Mackenzie. Jeanne was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated from Hillsdale School for girls in Cincinnati and went on to study Art at both the Cincinnati Art Academy and Chicago's Ray Vogue School of Design. After her marriage, she moved to Birmingham and became involved in the community, working for 26 years as a volunteer in the Emergency Department of Beaumont Hospital. She was a great supporter of The Community House and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center, as well as a member of The Village Club for 54 years. Her interest turned to creating jewelry and she enjoyed what she always said was a modest success. Memorial Service Saturday, January 17, at Christ Church Cranbrook (Lone Pine, West of Woodward), Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial tributes to The Village Club Foundation, 190 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, or Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, or The Community House, 380 Bates St., Birmingham, MI 48009. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

A.J. DESMOND & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS



HURT, LEON STANLEY

Age 91, December 25, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Cora Ann and Rose Marie. Loving father of Felix, Theresa "Teri" Friedman, Raymond and David. Dear grandfather of Amanda, Raymond Jr., Jason, Jonathan, Kaysee and Sarah. Great-grandfather of Leo. Funeral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Tuesday at 11 a.m. Visitation Monday from 1-8 p.m. with a Rosary Service at 7 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Please share a memory at www.rgharris.com.

KERT, HARRY

Died December 23, 2014, age 81. Beloved husband of Corrine. Dear father of Caroline Kert of Boulder, Colorado, Kevin (Donna) Kert of Hartland, Michigan, and Brian (Rebecca) Kert of Livonia, MI. Grandfather of Dylan, Donna Lee, Owain, Mackenzie, Reagan. Brother of Friedell Wolson and Glorine Katanick. Visitation Tuesday, December 30 9:30 until time of services at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Harry's memory to the organization of your choice. Share a memory: mannsfuneralhome.com



LANPHEAR, BETTY JO

It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing of our dear sweet mother and grandmother. On the evening of December 21st, Betty lost her battle with cancer, while surrounded by her loving family. Born in Sparks, Oklahoma, on September 14th, 1935, she moved to Plymouth, Michigan, with her mother and father in 1937. She resided in Plymouth until 1979, when she purchased her home in Northville, MI, where she spent 30 years celebrating Christmas, birthdays, Thanksgiving and family parties. She is survived by her sister, Jayna Eckler; her children, Duane (Kathy) Lanphear, Mary Ellen (Jimmy) Hover, Diane (Glenn) Keen, and Suzie (Chris) Dominique; and grandchildren, John and Kristine Lanphear, Jamie Hover, Haden, Haley and Victoria Keen, Nathan, Austin and Logan Dominique. Preceded by her father, Leo Wilson Arnold; mother, Ellen Lenora Moody; brother, Jimmy Arnold; and former husband and dear friend, Neal Lanphear. A memorial celebration will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth on December 30, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.



OLSEN, SHIRLEY IRENE

Age 79 of Monroe, formerly of Garden City, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, December 13, 2014 in her home. The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 3, 2015, 12 noon until a memorial service celebrating Shirley's Life at 2 p.m. from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2275 S. Custer Rd. Rev. Katherine Kolodziejczyk, pastor of the Church will officiate. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution in Shirley's honor are asked to consider the Humane Society of Monroe County. For more information, to send a floral arrangement or leave an online condolence, please visit www.allore.com

SPEHAR, MARIE C. (UCHA)

Age 84 of Livonia passed away surrounded by her children on December 23rd. Cherished wife of the late Russell J. Spehar and Mother of Diane (Dr. Ross Powell) Spehar, Gregory Spehar, Jeffrey (Danielle) Spehar, Julie (Earl) Freda, Arthur (Karen) Nowosatko. Proud Grandmother of 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Memorial Gathering at Fred Wood Funeral Home on December 29 from 5-8pm. Funeral Mass held at St. Collette's Church on December 30 at 10:30 am. Donations may be made to Angela Hospice Care Center where Marie was a volunteer.

STEWART, MARY L. "MARY LOU"

Of Dexter, Michigan, age 77, died Tuesday, December 23, 2014. Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at St. Joseph Village Church, 3430 Dover, Dexter. Visitation at Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea, on Friday, January 23, from 6-8 p.m. with Scripture service at 7:30 p.m., and at church on Sunday from 10-11 a.m. Obituary at www.mitchellfuneral.com



Plymouth resident Mary Ann Foss (left) and Carole Porambo of Canton collect new children's hats, mittens and scarves at the Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle event.

SUBMITTED

Women's Giving Circle aids Salvation Army, Goodfellows

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle recently donated four bags of winter wear accessories to the Salvation Army in Plymouth to distribute to area children.

Approximately 40 women from the Plymouth-Canton area donated the clothing earlier this month at a fundraising social at the Dixboro General Store in Ann Arbor. A monetary donation also was collected for the Goodfellows.

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle is a fund of the Canton Community Foundation that provides grants to address the needs of women and children in the greater Canton and Plymouth areas. Approximately 80 women comprise the Giving Circle, which aspires to make a positive community impact through philanthropy.

Visit <http://www.cantonfoundation.org/giving-hope/>.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, features editor, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Livonia Garden Club

Lisa Steinkopf, a certified indoor landscape technician and nurseryman and a member of the Garden Writer's Association, will give a PowerPoint presentation on succulents, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Succulents are low maintenance and come in all shapes and colors. Plants will be available for purchase. Visitors are welcome. livonia-gardenclub.org

Kensington Metropark

» Help count birds with experienced leaders who will lead teams to various parts of the park, 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3. Meet at the nature center at the park, 2240 W. Buno, Milford. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Register at 810-227-8917. The event is free, but park admission is \$7.

» Take a hay ride or sleigh ride noon to 4 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, Dec. 28-Jan. 1, 2015, at the Farm Center. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children, 3-12, and younger; 248-684-8632.

May the memory of your loved one...

...bring you peace.



Stop smoking with classes, online support, tips

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Need some encouragement to stop smoking in 2015? The American Lung Association offers five tips to quit tobacco use in the new year:

» It's never too late to quit. Although it's best to quit smoking as early as possible, stopping it at any age will enhance the length and quality of your life.

» Learn from past experiences. Most smokers have tried to quit before and sometimes people get discouraged thinking about previous attempts. Instead, treat those experiences as steps on the road to future success. Think about what helped you during those tries and what you'll do differently in your next attempt.

» You don't have to quit alone. Telling friends and family that you're trying to quit and enlisting their support will help ease the process.

» Consider medication. The seven FDA-approved medications, including nicotine patches and gum, help smokers quit.

» Every smoker can quit. Each person needs to find the right combination of techniques and above all, they need to keep trying.

If encouragement alone isn't enough to help you keep your New Year's resolution, consider taking a stop-smoking class.

Local class

Arthur Weaver, M.D., of Northville is the grandfather of stop-smoking classes in Metro Detroit. He began offering free annual sessions in 1966.

"At one time my program was the only one in town. Now there are a lot of different things, including the nicotine patches," he said. "And I think



stay off. It takes a lifestyle change if you really want to quit. We want them to fully understand what they are going through, how to handle problems as they arise and how to avoid danger spots." Situations that might tempt a former smoker to resume the habit include stress-related activities and alcohol consumption.

Quitting for good

Weaver said most smokers come to his program after quitting and then resuming tobacco use.

"We did a study one time on those people who were able to stay off a full year and we found that on average, they had quit 3.8 times. So, a lot of people do have to learn from past failures."

Weaver doesn't discourage participants from using tobacco cessation medications in conjunction with his program, although he said he believes most individuals can quit without them.

"I've been successful with patients who smoked as much as four packs a day. Now is the time to quit," Weaver said he's not sure for how long he'll offer the annual sessions.

For more information about Weaver's program, call Livonia's Department of Community Resources at 734-466-2540.

The American Lung Association also offers a helpline at 800-LUNGUSA, an online Freedom From Smoking class at www.lung.org, and local courses that meet weekly.

A new class begins Jan. 13, 2015 at Henry Ford OptiEyes, Westland Super Vision Center, 35184 Central City Parkway, Westland. The class runs 5-7 p.m. and meets Tuesday through Feb. 24. Register at 888-427-7587 or visit henryford.com/tobaccofree.

a lot of other people have taken up the effort to try to help people quit. We're no longer the only program ... but we're the best."

Weaver, 91, takes an intensive approach, requiring participants to attend class five consecutive days. His upcoming series, Monday-Friday, Jan. 12-16, starts with an introduction at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile at Farmington Road. Classes also will meet at the library.

Participants are expected to stop smoking immediately, rather than gradually reduce dependence on nicotine.

"We know that when people try to quit smoking they are most likely to go back in the first week," Weaver said. "It's their most severe withdrawal days and we are there every night to support them. We get a lot of people coming each evening and if they are serious, they appreciate it."

"But it also takes some time to explain what they need to know to get off and

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

ACA learning session

Botsford Hospital presents a learning session on the Affordable Care Act, 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The ACA marketplace open enrollment period closes Feb. 15, 2015. The session, which is free, will help people learn about their options under the ACA; 248-442-1633

Blood drive

The American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Make an appointment by calling 248-473-1800 or register at www.redcrossblood.org.

Breastfeeding class

Botsford Hospital's breastfeeding clinic helps new moms who need assistance nursing their babies, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$35. Register by calling 248-888-2500 or visit botsford.org.

Hearing Loss

Mike Robinette, Au.D., CCC-A, talks about the latest hearing aid features, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297; afcrack@comcast.net.

Joint class

Oakwood Healthcare orthopedic specialists will talk about the sources of shoulder, hip and knee pain, along with treatment options, 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 13, at the Oakwood Physical Therapy & Wellness Center, 17101 Rotunda Drive in Dearborn. Register for the free class at Oakwood.org or call 800-543-9355.

Nutrition class

Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron and a Botsford Hospital dietician will demonstrate the differences in tastes and benefits of whole grains as well as

winter greens and vegetables, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Busch's Fresh Foods Market, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Cost: \$10 and includes a \$5 coupon, giveaways, recipes, samples, and more. Registration required. Class is limited to 30. Register at the Guest Services Counter at the store; 734-779-6100.

Open house

See the University of Michigan Livonia Health Center's newly renovated offices and meet its physicians and staff, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Jan. 10, on Farmington Road just south of Eight Mile. The practice offers primary care for the entire family, including prenatal and OB-GYN services, newborn, pediatric, adult and geriatric care, sports medicine and more. A drawing will be held for two tickets to the Michigan vs. Michigan State basketball game on Feb. 17, 2015, in Ann Arbor. For more information visit www.uofmhealth.org/livoniahealthcenter or call 248-473-4300.

Ongoing

Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes to ease arthritis. Classes are 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit www.ymcadetroit.org.



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Royal Oak

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks
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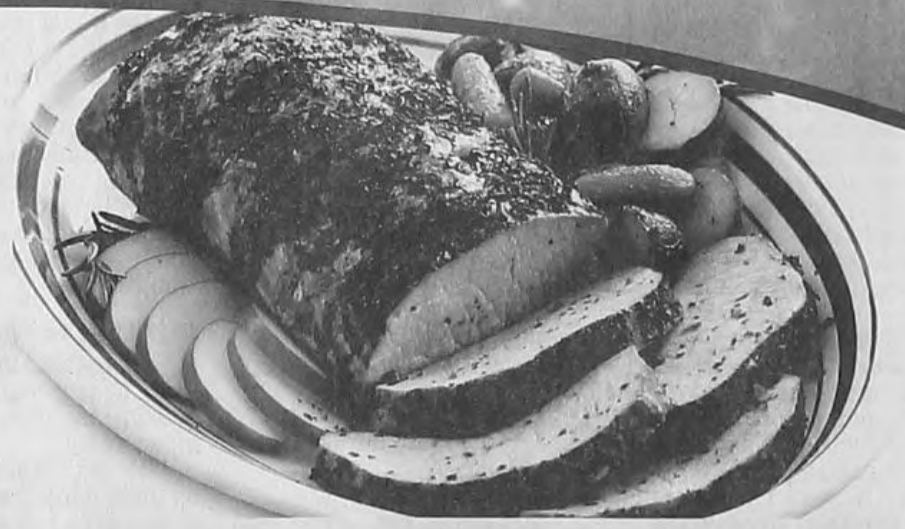
Happy New Year!



Wholesome@Home
Pizza
 Select Varieties,
 35-41 oz

5⁹⁹

With Card

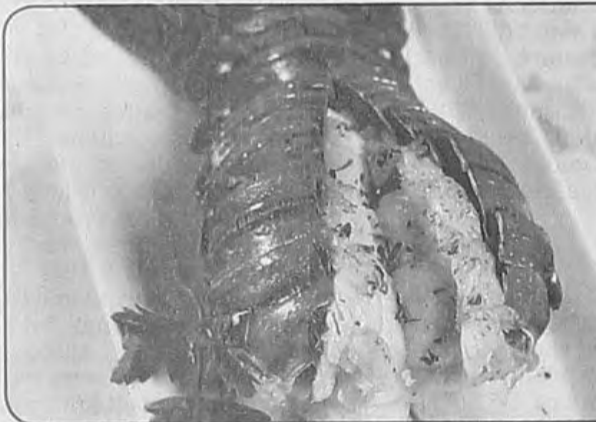


Boneless Pork
Half Loin
 Moist & Tender

1⁹⁹

lb

With Card



Cold Water
Lobster Tails
 Previously Frozen,
 4-5 oz

\$5

With Card



Kroger
Party Wings
 or Boneless Wyngz, Frozen,
 Select Varieties, 30-40 oz Bag

5⁹⁹

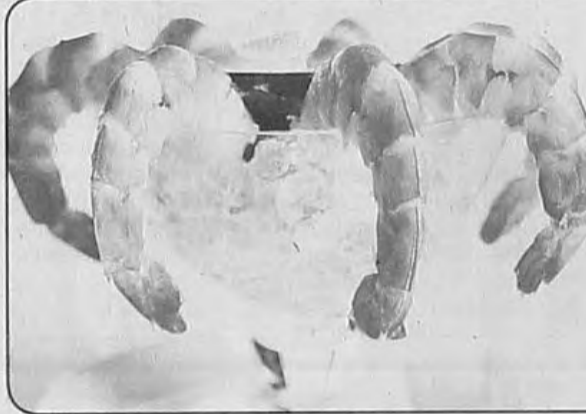
With Card



King's
Hawaiian Bread
 Select Varieties,
 16 oz

3⁴⁹

With Card

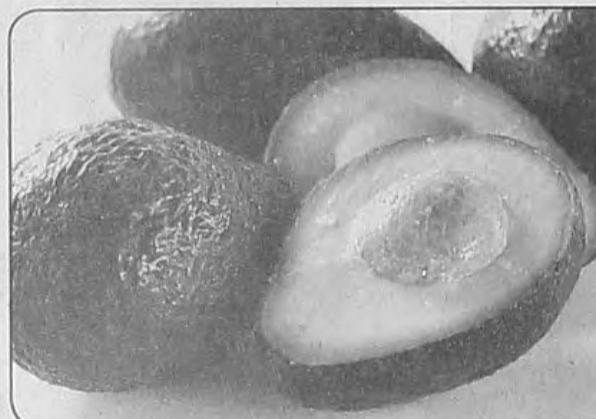


Extra Large
Cooked Shrimp
 Frozen,
 26-30 ct

9⁹⁹

lb

With Card

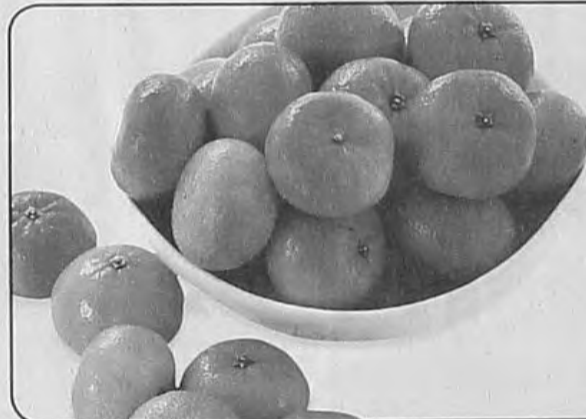


Avocado
 Medium

99¢

ea

With Card



Clementines
 3 lb Bag

3⁹⁹

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Coca-Cola
 or **Pepsi**
 Select Varieties,
 2 Liter

\$1

ea

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Tyson
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 or Any'tizers,
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5⁹⁹

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 With Card

-10%

8⁹⁹

ea
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Mumm Napa
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 750 ml

ea **15⁹⁹**
 With Card

-10%

14³⁹

ea
 WHEN YOU BUY ANY 4 WITH CARD



Woodbridge by
Robert Mondavi
 Select Varieties,
 1.5 Liter

ea **10⁹⁹**
 With Card

-10%

9⁸⁹

ea
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By Michael Kingston

Unless you've suddenly morphed into Henry Cavill's Superman and can confidently reply "only Kryptonite," "What are your weaknesses?" is the one interview question you can't avoid. While there is no one-size-fits-all response, the following tips will help you prepare for the inevitable question.

1. Be honest with yourself:

We all have weaknesses. We all make mistakes. You need to be as clear on your weaknesses as you are on your strengths. If you're unsure, take an online personality profile test or ask colleagues who you trust to give you a candid opinion of what they perceive your weaknesses to be (and strengths).

2. Put a positive spin on it:

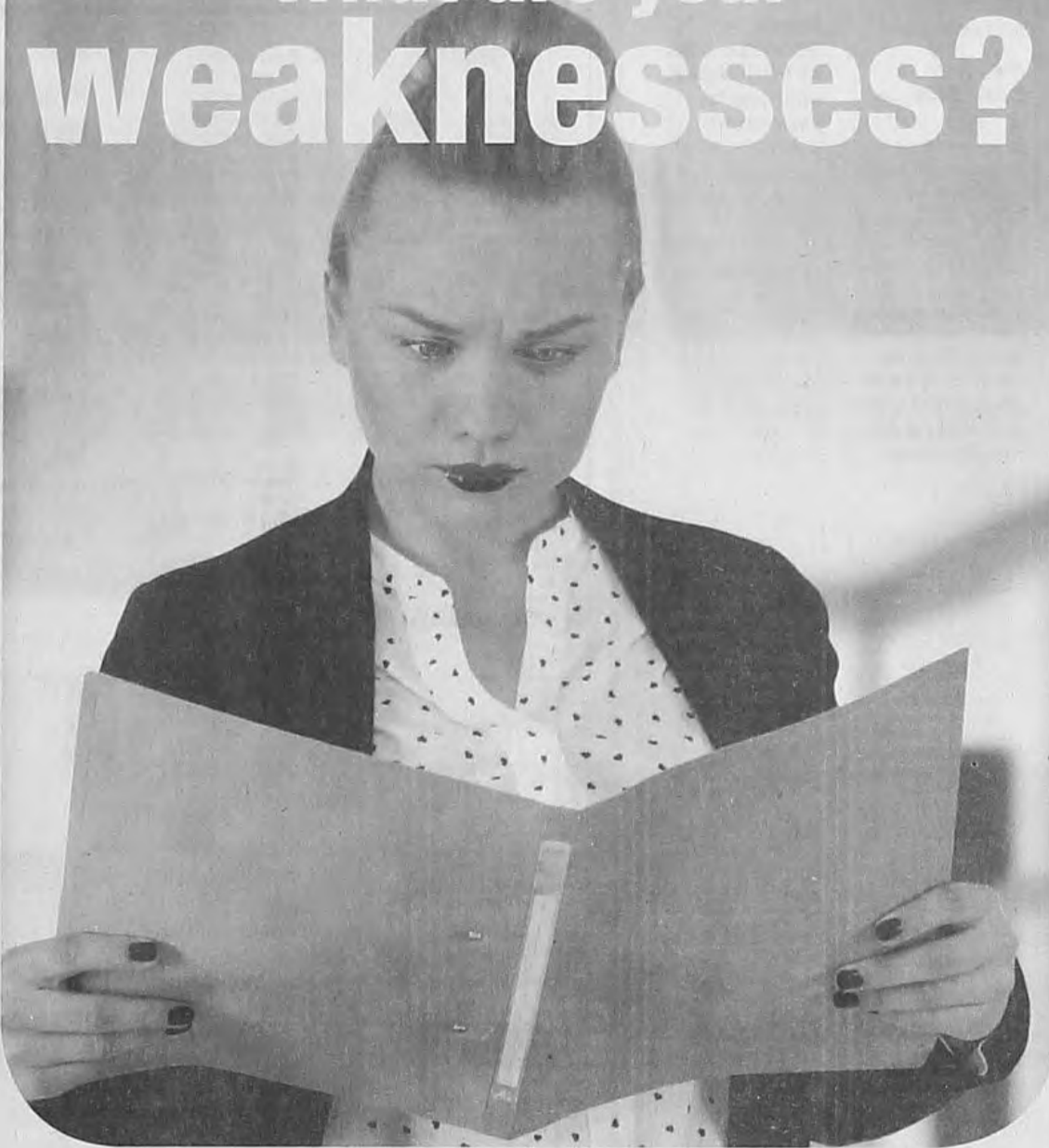
Always highlight examples of where you've turned your weakness into a strength, but don't mention a weakness you're still working on. Any you reveal to the hiring manager must be those you've resolved, especially if they are in any way related to the vacancy for which you've applied.

3. Watch your language:

Words such as "frustrated" and "impatient" will reflect negatively on you, for example, "I get frustrated when analyzing financial information." Respond with, "I don't always find financial analysis an easy part of this job, but I have attended additional training courses and spent time with our financial manager to gain a thorough understanding of what's needed. He was so pleased with my progress that last month he asked me to prepare a financial report for his department." This demonstrates a depth of self-awareness and an ability to respond to your personal weaknesses.



What are your weaknesses?



10 tips to deal with the INEVITABLE QUESTION

4. Don't rehearse the response:

It's impossible to role play an exact response to this question as it will be influenced by the way the interview is progressing. Mentally prepare a general answer but nothing more. Most hiring managers prefer a natural reply, not a clearly rehearsed one.

5. Some weaknesses won't be relevant:

If you struggle with admin but you've applied for a sales position, that won't generally be an issue. Good sales people are notoriously bad when it comes to admin. You are demonstrating that your job search is focused on roles that will play to your

strengths. Apply a positive approach, for example, "I'm quite weak when it comes to admin so I have developed my own checklist in every job that I've been in and monitored it throughout the project's life cycle." In that way, you demonstrate your awareness of your weakness and how you manage it.

6. Stick with work-related weaknesses:

Your inability to resist munching your way through copious amounts of popcorn every time you go to the movies isn't really relevant.

7. Don't use clichéd responses:

"I work too hard" or "I'm a perfectionist" are typical responses to this question uttered by many candidates. They don't ring true and sound rehearsed. Don't be tempted to use them.

8. Make it specific:

By citing "lack of organizational skills" as a weakness, your response is too vague. Give specific examples, such as those mentioned above. Why are your organizational skills poor? How have you taken steps to resolve those issues?

9. Avoid jobs that work on your weaknesses:

Continually being called to work in an area of weakness is demoralizing for employees and one of the top reasons that people change jobs. If you know you lack the confidence or ability to make a formal presentation to a room full of potential clients, don't apply for jobs that rely on those skills.

10. Above all, be authentic:

Having a weakness doesn't make you inadequate, it makes you human. Even Superman had a weakness, remember?

Michael Kingston is a top industry hiring manager with over 18 years' experience and author of the internationally best-selling Pass The Job Interview guide.



OE-2460366

SEEKING: Multi-Media Sales Representative michigan.com

The Observer & Eccentric, part of michigan.com, a Gannett Company, is seeking a Multi-Media Sales Representative for our Milford/Highland/White Lake territory, and Westland-Wayne/Garden City territory who will be responsible for developing relationships and consulting with clients while providing an opportunity to contribute to the long-term success of a high growth and progressive company. Our ideal candidate will be an innovative, result driven, high energy, creative sales representative with the ability to think strategically and to assist clients by developing strategic, multi-media advertising campaigns.

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FIREFIGHTER/MEDIC

Canton Township is now accepting applications for the Firefighter/Medic position. Application Deadline: Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Job description with complete qualifications and hiring process is available on the Canton Township website: <http://canton.applicantpro.com/jobs/>. EOE

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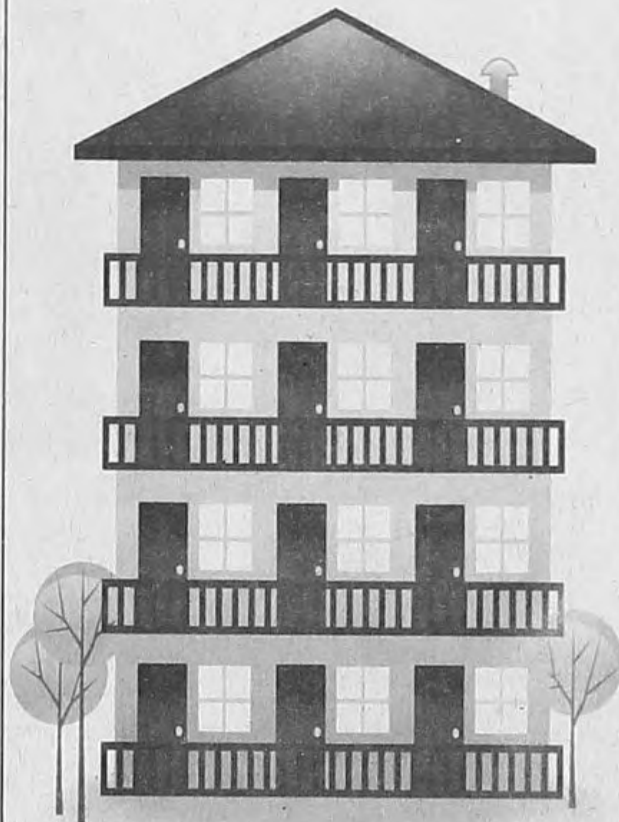
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2015 Lincoln MKZ is 'attracting next generation of luxury car buyers'

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.

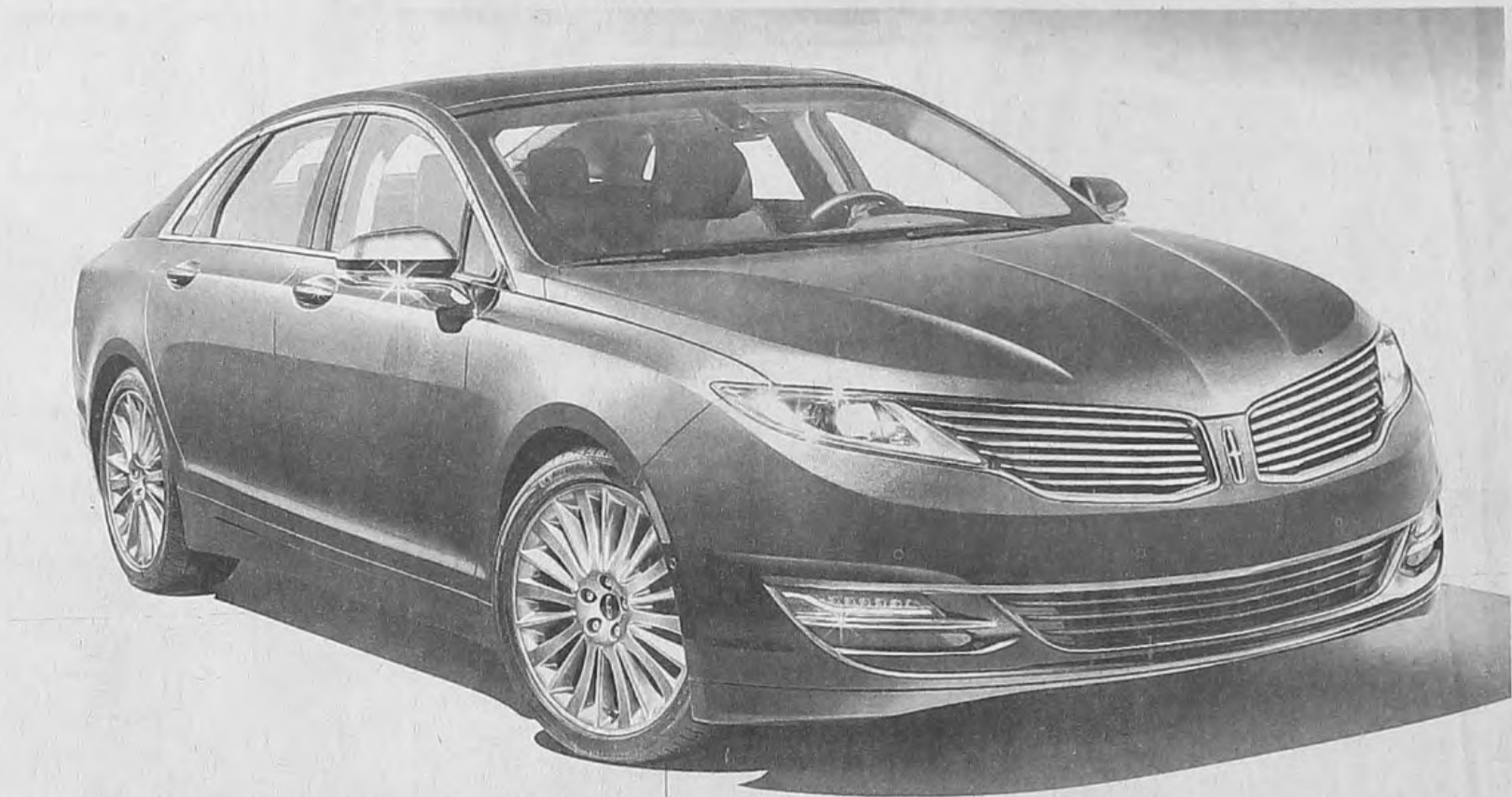
"There are many standard features on the MKZ that aren't offered on many of the competitive models," Hunsinger said.

"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.



The 2015 MKZ incorporates the new Lincoln design language of "elegant simplicity."

FORD MOTOR CO.

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 instru-

ment 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 appliques.
Illuminated scuff plates.

Premium leather seating surfaces (select and reserve equipment groups).

"The luxury and elegant 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.

Jack Demmer Lincoln is ready to serve all customers.

"With the integrity and knowledge of our professional sales staff, today has never been a better time to buy from Jack Demmer Lincoln," Hunsinger said. "From the moment a client enters Jack Demmer Lincoln, it becomes very clear what sets Jack Demmer Lincoln apart

SAFETY FEATURES

Safety and security features abound in the MKZ. Among them are: AdvanceTrac electronic stability control. Driver and front-passenger knee airbags. Dual-stage driver and front-passenger airbags. Front-seat side airbags. Side-curtain airbags with roll-fold technology. Emergency trunk release. Inflatable rear safety belts (available as a free-standing option with select or reserve equipment groups). LATCH (Lower Anchors

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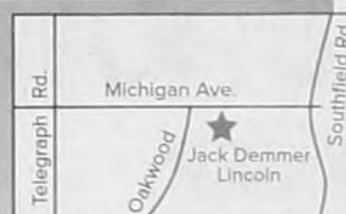
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BILL BROWN



Holiday Hours		
Wed	Dec 24th	9 AM - 1 PM
Thurs	Dec 25th	CLOSED
Fri	Dec 26th	9 AM - 6 PM
Sat	Dec 27th	9 AM - 3 PM
Wed	Dec 31st	9 AM - 6 PM
Thurs	Jan 1st	CLOSED
Fri	Jan 2nd	9 AM - 6 PM
Sat	Jan 3rd	CLOSED

Showroom Hours

Mon. & Thurs.
9 AM to 9 PM
Tues., Wed. & Fri.
9 AM to 6 PM



32222 PLYMOUTH RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48150

www.billbrownford.com (734) 452-1028

* All payments and prices are for qualifying AIZ Planners. For qualifying non (not new) AIZ Planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 down would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 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 at publication and are subject to change. Extra \$1,000 for your trade offer ONLY valid on 2008 model year or newer vehicles—vehicle must be in driveable condition. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 01/05/15.
** All payments and prices are for qualifying AIZ Planners. Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Red Carpet Lease. Residency restrictions apply. First month's payment is included in monthly lease price. Payment includes all applicable Ford Incentives including \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash on Fusion and \$1,000 Renewal Bonus Cash on Escape for RCL/RCO leases who currently lease a Ford product and lease again through Ford Credit. Valid only on 24 month lease. Customer must terminate their current Red Carpet Lease to be eligible. Must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by January 02, 2015.