

CANTON OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015 • hometownlife.com

New homes, retail center gain approval

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Amid an uptick in new development, Canton's elected leaders Tuesday approved separate measures to usher in 132 homes, mostly on the west side, and to demolish a Ford-Haggerty gas station and replace it with a retail center. Developers plan to tear

down the longtime Shell station on the northwest corner of the bustling Ford-Haggerty intersection and build a 5,600-square-foot retail center housing a Qdoba Mexican Grill and a T-Mobile shop.

The project won site plan approval in a sweeping decision by the seven-member Canton Township Board of Trustees.

The latest changes to one of Canton's busiest intersections come as IKEA home furnishings giant has started a major expansion and after the Roman Forum restaurant closed New Year's Eve amid plans by a steakhouse, Black Rock, to use the building.

In other development news Tuesday, the board approved a site plan for the first 100 of

274 high-end homes planned by builder Toll Brothers on Canton's west side, south of Ford between Ridge and Napier.

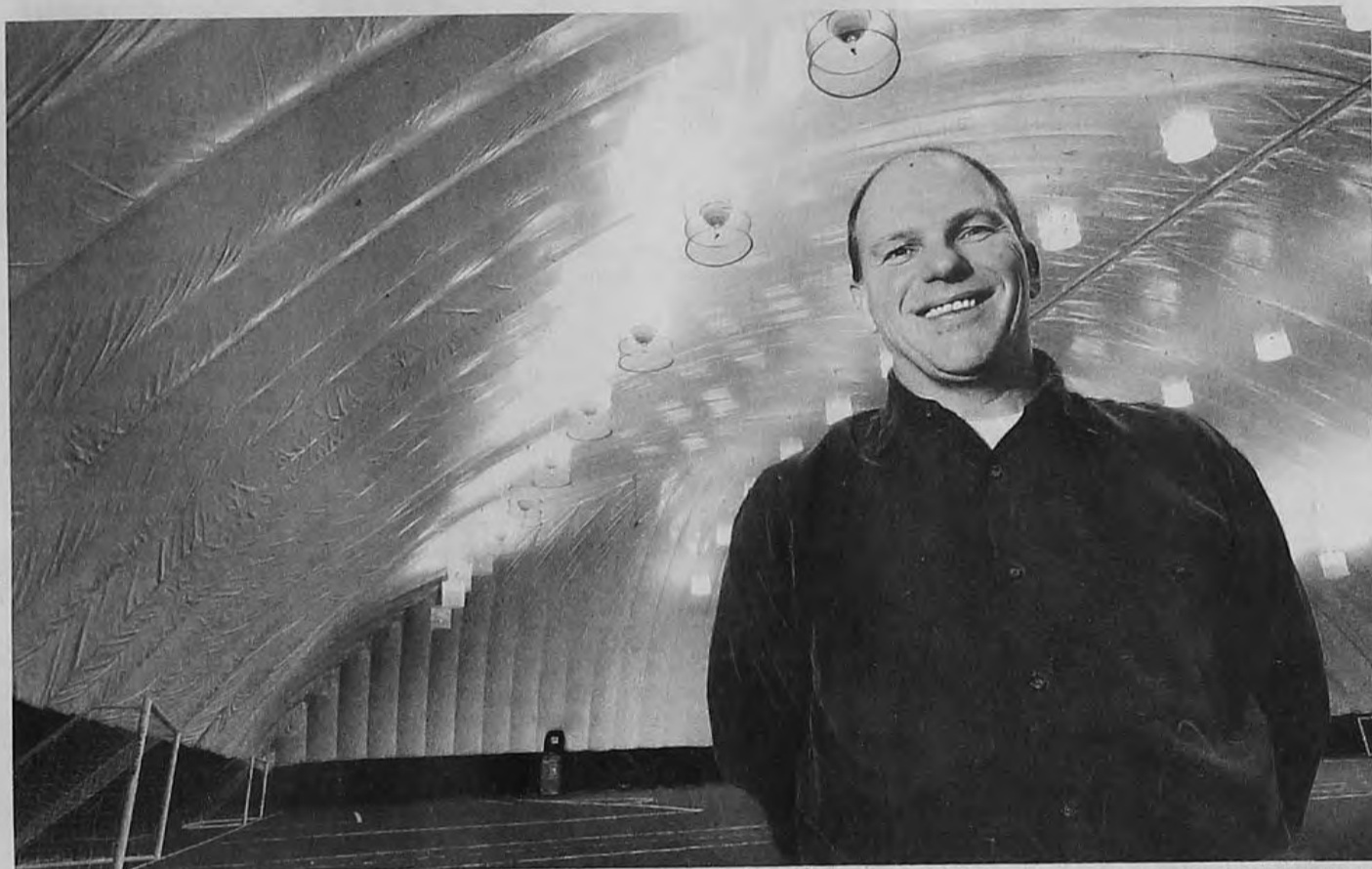
The board also supported a site plan for 32 single-family site condominiums east of Morton Taylor, between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

Canton Municipal Services Tim Faas has said the Toll

Brothers project, once it is gradually completed with 274 homes, marks the biggest new housing development planned in Canton in more than a decade.

Mike Noles, Toll Brothers senior vice president of land development, said prices for homes in the Westridge Es-

See HOMES, Page A2



Thrilled about the new dome is Drew Crawford, general manager of High Velocity Sports. He is a former professional soccer player.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Bagger Dave's is expected to open in February in Canton

Bagger Dave's to open in Canton

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Bagger Dave's Burger Tavern chose Canton for its newest Michigan location because Canton has a thriving retail corridor and places a strong emphasis on community, a marketing official said.

Bagger Dave's, a growing restaurant chain in Michigan and Indiana, plans to open for business at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, on Canton Center south of Ford, promising the first 50 customers a free Great American Cheeseburger every week for one year.

Someone tell burger lover Wimpy of Popeye cartoon fame.

The newest Bagger Dave's restaurant, expected to have 80 employees and seat 200 people, has been taking shape next to Antonio's Cucina Italiana, as yet another restaurant joins Canton's dining landscape. The chain's closest sites are in Ann Arbor and Novi.

Why Canton?
"Canton is a thriving com-

See BAGGER, Page A2

UNDER THE DOME

Canton's High Velocity Sports raising the roof with indoor soccer venue

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The sky's the limit for soccer players and teams at High Velocity Sports in Canton and an inflatable dome has a lot to do with that.

And so it was fitting that folks congregated Friday afternoon to toast the official unveiling of the the \$2.5 million sports dome — a puffed-up venue adjacent to

the existing High Velocity facility on Michigan Avenue.

"It's to give back to the people that made it possible," High Velocity general manager Drew Crawford said, beaming brightly about the soccer community's new baby. "We've had good relationships with a lot of clubs in the area. We wanted to say thank you, because without them this wouldn't be possible."

Self-funded by nine High

Velocity co-owners, the 102-by-64-foot FieldTurf surface is getting plenty of use already. The Canton Soccer Club has booked it for 20 hours weekly; signed up for several hours a week is the Saline Area Soccer Association.

"It's a state-of-the-art facility that I know the teams have been extremely happy with," said Crawford, himself a Canton Soccer Club coach and a former professional player. "We're just hoping that continues and we continue our great relationships with the clubs."

Among dignitaries on

INSIDE

Area soccer players happy with new facility, B1

hand for Friday's ribbon cutting was Phil LaJoy, Canton Township supervisor and the founder of the Canton Soccer Club.

"I think it's great," LaJoy said. "We've had a tremendous partnership with High Velocity, providing indoor soccer for 'Soccertown, Michigan' which Canton is. "So for them to expand and grow, it's a sign of vi-

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School board fills leadership positions

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

In a twist of an old adage, it was "in with the old and in with the new" Tuesday for the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

Board members, in their first meeting of the new year, reached into the recent past for three officers while electing one of the newest members to a leadership position.

John Barrett, who served as president his first two years on

the board, was returned to that post to replace the departed Judy Mardigian.

Kimberly Crouch, elected for the first time in November after serving out an unexpired term, was chosen vice president, while Sheila Paton, half-way through her first term, was chosen treasurer. It's Paton's second term as treasurer.

Newcomer Kate Borninski, attending her first meeting after being elected in November, was chosen as board secretary.

All four positions were approved in 6-0 votes; Trustee Mike Maloney, himself a former board president, was absent for the organizational meeting.

Barrett said he's "excited" to return to a leadership position at a time when "lots of great things" are happening in the district. For instance, he said, the district just signed a partnership with the University of Michigan to provide

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BRAD KADRICH
New Board of Education President John Barrett (right) and Superintendent Michael Meissen at Tuesday's meeting.



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BRAD KADRICH
The board's newest members, Kate Borninski and Michael Siegrist, consider motions at Tuesday's meeting.



BOARD

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\$4,000 scholarships to staffers who want to study being administrators.

The district will also start looking at an International Baccalaureate component to its elementary school curriculum and will open a new middle school this year. In addition, a Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel, composed of community stakeholders, has been formed to help market the district.

"I think we've come through a difficult couple of years, with the

boundary study and budget issues," Barrett said. "We have some exciting things going on. The commitment of the people in this community to helping sell this district got me excited again."

Borninski, elected in November to a four-year term along with fellow first-termer Michael Siegrist, said she's looking forward to helping lead the board through challenging times.

"I'm happy to accept this challenge," Borninski said. "It's going to be an exciting year."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

Ice festival glides past temps to bring out crowds

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

An extraordinary cold start didn't stop the action from heating up during last weekend's Plymouth Ice Festival.

Opening day Friday, cursed by a bitter wind and near-zero temperatures, saw sparse crowds, but the relative thaw Saturday – and especially Sunday – brought more visitors and made for a successful festival, participants say.

"Sunday it was crazy-busy in there," said festival producer James Gietzen of JAG Entertainment. "It was crazy-cold Friday and that really did

hurt attendance."

"Sunday was really great," said Jeffrey Lao, an ice carving instructor at Henry Ford Community College. "You had the right temperature and just a really large crowd."

The 33rd annual festival, in Kellogg Park and downtown Plymouth streets, featured about 100 sculptures, plus vendors, interactive features like a hockey-shooting event and a cross country skiing trail, plus collegiate ice carving competitions.

Lao won the Dueling Chainsaws speed-carving contest for the second year in a row, carving the

INSIDE

More photos from Plymouth Ice Festival, A6

figure of a turtle in 15 minutes in the timed event. Not surprisingly, it's Lao's favorite festival event.

"That competition's really interesting, because you get a lot of crowd interaction, you get a lot more animated," Lao said. Part of that, he added, is keeping visitors' minds off the fact that they are standing out in the cold.

Lao, however, didn't mind the cold. "Nothing was melting. All the pieces were standing," he

said. His Henry Ford students did well in the collegiate ice carving contests, with Steve McCormick, Robert Speeks and Mark Tampakes taking first, second and third place, respectively, in the individual competition Saturday. Speeks and McCormick also took second place in Sunday's team competition, after Oakland Community College's Walter Ross and Lauren Klapek. Joseph Masterson and Matt Larson, also of OCC, took third.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

DOME

Continued from Page A1

brancy." High Velocity Sports managing partner Bryan Finnerty cut the ribbon, flanked by LaJoy and other partners in the venture.

They would not miss Friday's official launch of the already popular soccer dome for any-

Breaking it in

Since activities began last month, programs such as flag football, adult softball (with a restricted flight ball) and the Lil' Kickers instructional program have helped break in the new turf.

"It's something we've wanted to do for a long time," Crawford said. "Probably at least five or six years, we've been talking about this."

"Owners realized it was something that was needed in the area, by Canton Soccer Club and Saline saying that they needed indoor space to train on that didn't have boards."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
High Velocity managing partner Bryan Finnerty snips the ribbon to officially open the dome.

With its central location, just a couple of miles west of I-275, local soccer teams and families won't need to continue traveling to established domes such as Total Sports in Wixom or Eastern Michigan University.

"I think we've proven over the last 12 or 13 years that High Velocity is in a good area," Crawford said. "There's a lot of soccer in the area and we can pull from a lot of different clubs."

"And I think this is just going to pull more teams. There are a lot of teams that were used to driving past High Velocity to go to Wixom because they wanted this type of field and now they're not going to have to do that."

Keeping it real

Crawford played indoor soccer with the Detroit Ignition at Compuware Arena on the boarded hockey rink.

Nothing against that version of the sport, but he noted that soccer coaches and players would rather have the chance to compete and

train on a field that resembled what they would use in the open air.

"The demand ... is really high," Crawford said, "because the higher-level teams want to train without boards, play without boards. They want it to be as much like outdoors, what they see during the regular season, as possible."

So far, reception to the dome has been overwhelmingly positive.

"So far, everybody's loved it," Crawford said. "The only one drawback is parents don't think there's enough sideline seating; they're too close to the action."

"But when they go to outdoor games, they sit this close anyway. They just don't realize it, because they can walk away if they need to."

Kicking it all year

The billowing white roof will remain inflated 365 days a year.

"It will be open year-round," Crawford said. "No air conditioning, but the type of dome that we bought is one of the higher ends. ... In the summer, it will be like play-

ing in the shade. "Because the sun is not going to be the greenhouse effect, where you go into some places and it feels like a sauna. It's not going to be like that in here."

Everybody wants to get in on the action during the winter months, too.

"We have our Lil' Kickers program that we're running in here on Saturday mornings," Crawford said. "That's 10 classes at a time, so you're looking at 140 kids out here at a time for a few hours."

"We've got 40 different teams that are playing here in their leagues. From U10 through high school right now and we're hoping to expand as the word gets out."

Crawford said Plymouth High School's girls soccer program already rented the facility for March tryouts.

Even if Crawford had no connection with High Velocity, the soccer coach in him would fall in love with the dome.

"I love it," Crawford said. "Everybody always wants to play the non-boarded stuff and making that drive at 6 a.m. on a Sunday morning out to Wixom in the winter is not a lot of fun."

"So for me, it's great. It's right in our backyard, it's a good facility, the turf's really good. So far, we've had good competition with our leagues. That's all you really want as a coach."

High Velocity Sports is located at 46245 Michigan Ave. in Canton. For more information, go to www.hvssports.com or call 734. HV-SPORT.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

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Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
hometownlife.com

Editor: Brad Kadrich
734-624-3379
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Sports: Tim Smith
734-469-4128
Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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BAGGER

Continued from Page A1

munity with a strong retail corridor," said Lindsay Thayer, marketing director for Diversified Restaurant Holdings, Inc., creator of Bagger Dave's and one of the largest franchisees of Buffalo Wild Wings.

Thayer cited Canton's population of more than 93,000 residents, its built-in customer base and the "fantastic visibility" of the Canton Center site, which offers easy access and ample parking.

Bagger Dave's, a Southfield-based restaurant-and-bar chain, plans to open its 4,755-square-foot Canton tavern to the public after an invitation-only grand opening party Feb. 6 and a Friends and Family Day Feb. 7.

Michael Ansley, president and CEO of Bagger Dave's, said in a statement he is pleased the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Bagger Dave's Burger Tavern is going up fast on Canton Center south of Ford.

chain's newest location "is opening in our home region."

The move into Canton comes as Diversified Restaurant Holdings issued numbers Tuesday indicating the company's preliminary revenue grew 17.9 percent in 2014, up to \$128.4 million from \$108.9 million.

Founded in 2008, Bagger Dave's already has 24 restaurants as it continues to carve out a niche in the competitive, hand-crafted burger business, though its me-

nu offers other selections and features items such as craft beer.

Like some other restaurants, its interior art work is intended to reflect the history of the communities it serves, but it also includes an electric train that runs above the bar and dining room.

For more on the company, go to www.baggerdaves.com.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

HOMES

Continued from Page A1

tates site are expected to range from the \$400,000s to the \$600,000s.

"We think they will be running right around half a million dollars," he said Tuesday.

Some officials worry about traffic congestion. Noles said developers plan to extend the left-turn lane from north-

bound Ridge onto Ford Road.

However, Trustee Tom Yack and Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said Canton also may need to push the Michigan Department of Transportation to install left-turn arrows on a traffic light to help motorists turning from Ford onto Ridge.

"That intersection is really bad during rush hour," McLaughlin said. Across town, developers plan to build 32

single-family, detached condominiums that are expected to sell for \$250,000 to \$300,000 on a 25-acre site east of Morton Taylor, between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

Known as Morton Taylor Estates, the new homes are expected to be similar to condos in the nearby Hamptons development.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

Library event spotlights Mettetal movie

Bill Downs, longtime area businessman and a Huey captain in the Vietnam conflict, will emcee the preview of the short film *Mettetal Airport: The Jewel of Canton and Plymouth*, with a free screening at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main.

The *Mettetal Airport: The Jewel of Canton and Plymouth* film project was a collaborative effort with students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park television and film production class.

Longtime educator and film historian Janet Sutherland narrated the project.

STEM Academy coordinator Danielle Ramos of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will be making a short presentation regarding aviation and aerospace opportunities.

Ramos is an educator and ambassador advocating for students to look toward opportunities in the direction of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The presentation will

conclude with some Michigan film-making news from Birmingham author J. Paul Sanderson. Sanderson recently optioned his screenplay, *A Spoonful of Sugar*, to Wonderland Entertainment International and is planning a cinema-related announcement. The project will be of special interest to the Detroit-area film production community.

Well-known and international cinematographer Lars Hjelmroth, along with film director Randy Holloway, will be on hand to answer questions.



The Plymouth District Library hosts a showing of a movie detailing Mettetal Airport at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22.

Johnson Controls touts new battery for Ford F-150

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Johnson Controls is looking toward start-stop technology as a way to increase gasoline mileage and efficiency. The company is hoping powering the Ford F-150, the North American Truck/Utility of the Year, is enough to begin to boost attention to its technology.

The Milwaukee-based company, which has a technical center in Plymouth, unveiled its Absorbent Glass Mat battery technology during a press event Monday morning at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit. The technology comes standard in the 2015 Ford F-150 2.7-liter model and is an option on other models of the truck. It is the first vehicle with this type of battery made by Johnson Controls.

Using the technology could lead to a fuel savings as high as 5 percent and can help automakers meet emissions regulations by 2025, company officials said.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Johnson Controls demonstrates some of its innovative seating systems at an early-morning press conference Monday at the 2015 North American International Auto Show.

"Not only do they need to power more stuff, batteries are also being used to help automakers meet increasing fuel economy and emission reduction regulations," said Joe Walicki, who was

recently appointed vice president and president of the company's Power Solutions business. "Start-stop vehicles are here and they have room to grow." It's a technology that's

seeing growth in other parts of the world: Walicki said 60 percent of all cars in Europe are utilizing the technology. AGM batteries are expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 14.8 million

tons and reduce fuel usage by 1.6 billion gallons, according to the company.

"It's an affordable way for our customers to get incremental fuel savings without having to make significant changes to their vehicles," he said.

"A car that can save a little bit of energy at a stoplight can save a lot of energy in the long run."

The company produced 140 million batteries in 2014, more than any other supplier in the world, Walicki said. The company also supplies batteries to other vehicles, including the hybrid Range Rover.

Other components were also unveiled by Johnson Controls, including a new interior seating model, as well as new designs for door and instrument panels.

Craig Rigby, the advanced market and technology strategist for Johnson Controls out of Milwaukee, Wis., said the decision to work with Ford in adding an AGM battery to the F-150, which is manufactured in Dearborn, is a great one for both companies.

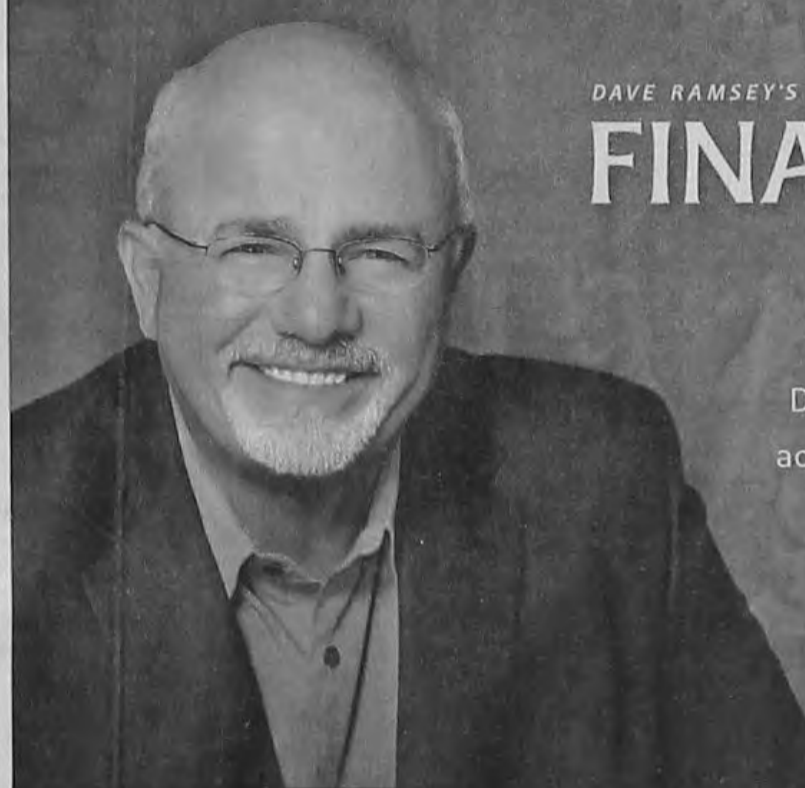
"The really great thing about that vehicle and bringing start-stop technology to the F-150 is that it is the largest-selling vehicle in the U.S.," he said. "The leverage they get by putting that fuel savings technology in that vehicle is really tremendous."

While the AGM battery is produced in Toledo and St. Joseph, Mo., Rigby said brainstorming and the development process happened across the company's worldwide locations, including the facility off Halyard Drive in Plymouth.

"We're a global company. We have engineering activities here in Michigan, we have engineering activities at our headquarters in Milwaukee, we have a very strong team in Europe," he said. "Certainly, as it relates to working with automakers that are based here in the U.S., the team in Plymouth is invaluable and really amazing."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

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Canton child rescued in fire, smoke detectors credited

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton fire officials say smoke detectors helped save a 2-year-old child's life by alerting a homeowner when a space heater apparently caused a fire in a second-floor bedroom that filled with smoke as the toddler slept.

The child was taken to a hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation after the fire erupted about 1 p.m. Friday in the 42000 block of Metaline, northwest of Cherry Hill and Haggerty.

"There is no doubt the smoke detectors in this house

saved the young child's life," Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein said. "This tragic event can serve as a reminder to the importance of having working smoke detectors on every floor, in every bedroom."

The fire was one of two Canton firefighters battled Friday. Earlier, one firefighter suffered a dislocated shoulder after slipping on ice while working to douse a blaze that occurred about 10 a.m. in the 47000 block of Waddington,



Stoecklein

near Beck and Warren. That fire started in an attached garage.

The firefighter was treated for the injury and has been placed on light duty, Stoecklein said Monday.

During the fire on Metaline, firefighters received a 9-1-1 call and saw flames coming from the home as they arrived on the scene. They entered the house and doused the fire, containing it to a bedroom and a hallway.

Paramedics took the injured child to a local hospital for smoke inhalation. No other injuries were reported.

Fire officials say the fire not only should serve as a remind-

er to have working smoke detectors, but also to use extreme caution when using space heaters in homes.

During the fire on Waddington, meanwhile, firefighters arrived and saw smoke coming from a garage attached to the single-family residence. No one was at home when the fire started.

Firefighters quickly extinguished the flames while also battling cold temperatures. The homeowners arrived on the scene and spoke with firefighters.

Damage was limited to the garage. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Stoecklein said the firefighter was recovering after falling on ice and dislocating his shoulder. The deputy chief said cold temperatures and icy conditions always pose difficulties when battling fires.

"It always hampers the firefighters because we've got all the ice and slippery conditions out there," he said.

Moreover, Stoecklein said, severely cold temperatures can cause fire equipment to not work as efficiently as it does during milder weather.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

Three charged in Canton home invasion

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Quick work by Canton police has led to criminal charges against three defendants accused of stealing cash during a home invasion on Stonetree, north of Ford between Lilley and Haggerty.

Ramon Michael Payne, 28, of Monroe was charged with second-degree home invasion along with two 18-year-old Livonia women, Derricka Anne Allen and Milan Monet Hayes.

The three defendants could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison if they are convicted of second-degree home invasion for an incident police say occurred around 11 p.m.



CANTON POLICE
Charged in a Canton home invasion are (from left) Milan Monet Hayes, Ramon Michael Payne and Derricka Anne Allen.

Wednesday, Jan. 7, in the 6100 block of Stonetree.

No residents were at home at the time.

Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said it is alleged the three defendants forced their way into a home and took an undisclosed amount of cash.

The incident "is not believed to be random," Traylor said.

Payne has been jailed with a \$50,000 cash bond, while Allen and Hayes have been released on personal bonds. All three are scheduled to appear in 35th District Court for a Jan. 30 preliminary examination to determine if they should stand trial on the charges in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Traylor credited the "quick deployment" of Canton police for leading to arrests following the home invasion.

"We were relentless in getting the people we thought were responsible," he said.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Death threats?

Canton police removed a handgun from a home - temporarily, for safety - after a 48-year-old man notified police to say his wife had threatened to kill him, a police report said.

Police received a call from the man Sunday evening, saying a dispute erupted because his wife was upset he was going on vacation with a friend. The man said his wife lashed out, saying she hated him and was going to kill him.

The man told police he didn't feel threatened enough to leave the home, but wanted to document the situation with police. The wife denied making death threats, telling police she would never harm her husband even though she believes he is cheating on her.

Police advised the man how to get his gun back when he is ready.

Chased by dog

Canton police issued a citation to a homeowner following allegations a dog, described as a collie-Jack Russell terrier mix, chased a 12-year-old girl on Foxcreek, near Warren and Lilley, a police report said.

Police received a call about the incident about 4 p.m. Jan. 7. A girl going home from a school bus stop told her father that she was chased by the dog as it barked and jumped up onto her knees. She said she was scared, but the dog didn't bite her.

The owner was calling for the dog, which reportedly has chased others in the neighborhood on other occasions. The dog's owner told police the dog fled out the door during the latest incident when she went outside to get a package delivered to her house.

Mailbox vandalism

A 65-year-old Canton man told police the mailbox of his home, in the 41500 block of Pheasant Creek, had been damaged by vandals.

The resident said the incident happened sometime Jan. 10. He said it appeared a vehicle had run over his mailbox at the edge of his driveway, knocking the mailbox off the pole and cracking the pole.

Police scoured the neighborhood, but didn't find any damaged vehicles.

- By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Job-site larcenies

Tools, copper pipe and a generator were reported stolen Jan. 5 from the construction site at Robert Bosch, on Haggerty near Five Mile. The automotive parts supplier's facility there is being expanded.

A Plymouth Township Police Department report said a

torch was used to break into large locked toolboxes at the site and that one of those toolboxes caught fire and the tools in it burned. The thefts occurred between 8 p.m. Jan. 4 and 6 a.m. the next day, the report said.

The complainant told police that tools belonging to seven different workers on the site

were stolen; some 30 feet of three-inch copper pipe and miscellaneous scrap copper were also reported stolen.

The thieves also tried to steal two welding machines, but damaged them in the process, the complainant said.

- By Matt Jachman

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Receive a MasterCard prepaid card by mail when you purchase select Maytag appliances. Up to \$600 on select kitchen appliances. Up to \$350 on select laundry appliances. Offer valid through 4-30-15.



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Whirlpool
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Whirlpool Suite Price
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Saving \$607

What's Cooking in the Bill & Rod's Live Kitchen

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

STONEFLIES SEARCH

Date/Time: Feb. 14, 9 a.m.
Location: U-M Dearborn
Details: Friends of the Rouge is looking for volunteers Saturday, Feb. 14, who want to help look for stoneflies in the Rouge River.

FOLK NIGHT

Date/Time: Saturday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
Location: J.W. Hulce Center for the Performing Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The January meeting of the BaseLine Folk Society will be an "all open mic" night, with 14 open mic spots.

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.

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.

THEATER CLASSES

Date: Starting Saturday, Jan. 17
Location: Forever After Productions studio, 50429 Independence, Canton

Details: Forever After Productions announces the beginning of winter session of theater classes. Classes are open to students ages 4-14.
Contact: For more information, go to www.ihateforeverafternow.com or call 734-547-5156.

ST. MICHAEL OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Monday, Jan. 26, 6-8 p.m.
Location: St. Michael Lutheran School, 3003 Hannan Road, Wayne
Details: St. Michael Lutheran School (preschool through eighth grade) is hosting an open house to current and prospective students.

PFLAG MEETING

Date/Time: First Sunday of each month, 3-5 p.m.
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Plymouth-Canton PFLAG meets for discussion, education and sharing. Made up of families, friends and



ST. THOMAS A'BECKET

Be A Buddy

St. Thomas a'Becket's annual coat drive runs Jan. 17-25, during which time church members will collect new or gently used coats, gloves and mittens for infants to adults to share with the needy this winter.

straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its

threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.
Contact: Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

Canton brings back One Acts Festival

TLC Productions will host the Canton One Acts Festival 2015 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill Jan. 16-18, when eight original one-act plays selected from authors from around the United States, as well as Australia, will be performed.

Paul Lewis; Press Pray by Seth Freeman; Serenity Island by Kay Poiro; and Such a Small Word by Mo Paraventi.
Tickets to the festival are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.CantonVillageTheater.org or by calling 734-394-5300.

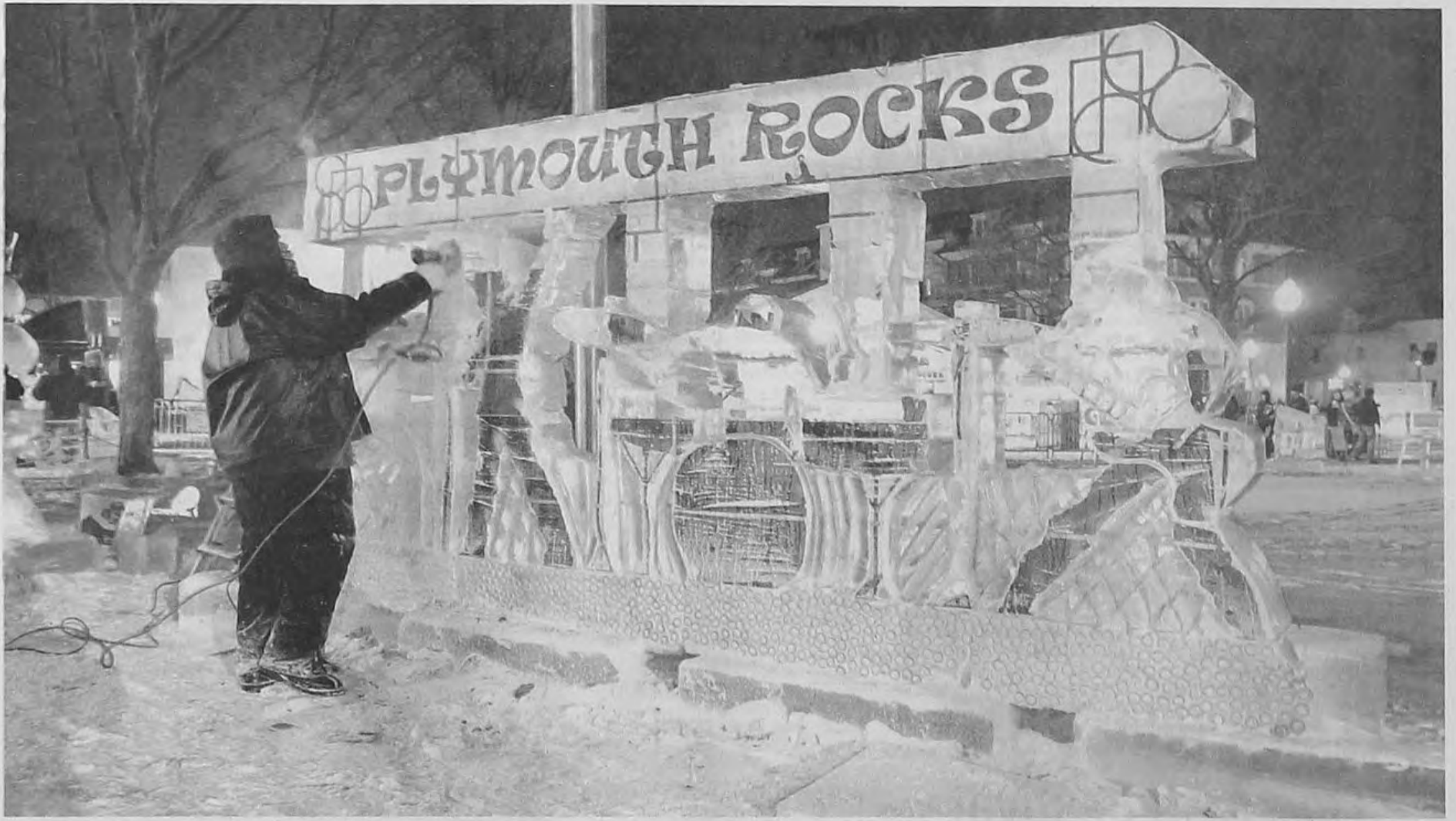
Buy or lease? Facts to help you decide

The North American International Auto Show is back in town and it's always exciting. Whether you are in the market for a new car or not, it's always fun to look at the new models.
The question I get this time of year is whether it's better to buy or lease a car. There's no right answer. It depends upon a few different issues.

Rick Bloom MONEY MATTERS
know what car you are looking at, you can find the residual value of the car and that should help you determine whether that car should be leased or purchased.
Another issue is how long you plan to own the car. Typically, if you plan to own a car for just a few years, leasing is an option to consider.

benefits of leasing tend to diminish.
Before going to the dealership, you ought to have a good idea how you plan to finance the purchase. You can't necessarily depend upon the dealer to help you select the right option.
One last note: Most people make the assumption that the best place to lease a car or to finance it is through the dealership. That's not necessarily the case.

Advertisement for Better Health Markets & Vitamin Stores. Features sections for 'LOSE WEIGHT!' (Coleus Forskolin, Garcinia Cambogia, Rebody Meratrim, Mega CLA), 'EAT HEALTHY!' (Apple Cider Vinegar, Alkaline Artisan Water), 'PRODUCE ON SALE' (Organic Gala Apples, Organic Grape Tomatoes, Conventional Blueberries, etc.), 'GET FIT!' (Fit to Feel Fantastic), 'WINES' (Leelanau Cellars, Newman's Own), 'MEATS' (Applegate Naturals), and 'PREPARED FOODS' (Gabby's). Includes a large 20% OFF coupon and store locations in Novi, Plymouth, and Livonia.



Plymouth on ice.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

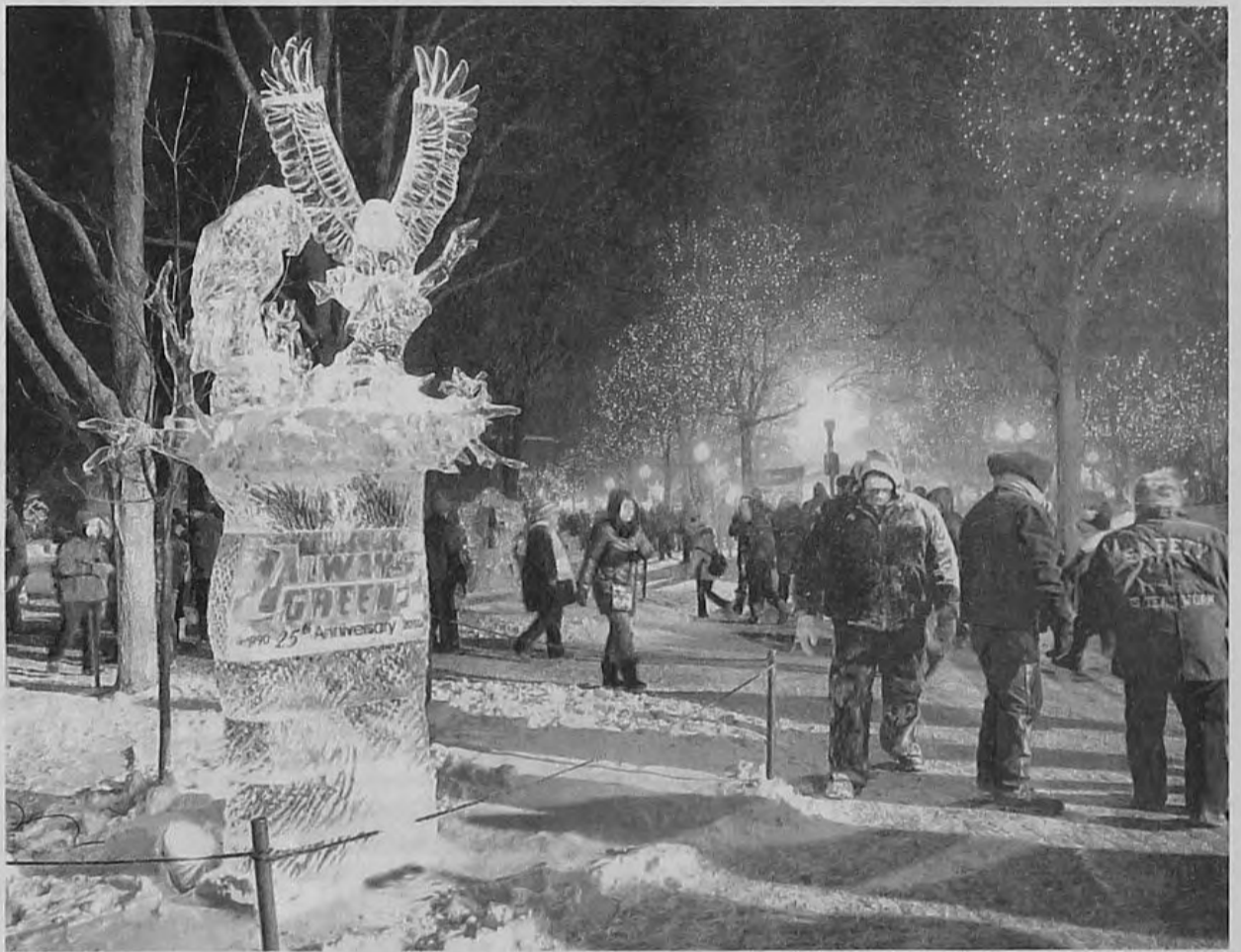
PLYMOUTH ON ICE

Despite frigid temperatures, annual festival still delights the crowds



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Glaser is on the Oakland Community College ice carving team. She lives in Bloomfield Hills.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Friday evening crowds braved the 10-degree temperature.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vicki Eracitano helps granddaughter Mackenzie Goble stay upright on the cross country ski trail. They are from Westland.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Making photographic memories of the Ice Festival.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Moving a Henry Ford Community College carving takes a forklift and great care.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fire and ice on a cold Friday evening.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Julie Vingren and daughter Lalee Vingren, 4, take a selfie in front of an ice sculpture of Olaf, from the movie "Frozen." They are from Northville.

Gallery fundraiser begins NAIAS festivities



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

Think of it as the Pre-Charity Preview. The eighth annual Gallery of the North American International Auto Show was held Saturday night at the MGM Grand Detroit. The exclusive event — at \$1,000 per ticket — was a fundraiser for Henry Ford Hospital.

Guests dined first at the MGM Ignite Lounge, on a sumptuous feast prepared by celebrity Chef Wolfgang Puck. Next, the donors went upstairs to view and dream of test-driving more than \$6 million of exotic cars, including the Aston Martin, Bentley, Chevrolet Corvette Z06, Falcon F7, Ferrari, Jaguar, Lamborghini, Land Rover, Lingenfelter Corvette Stingray, Local Motors Rally Fighter, Maserati, Porsche, Rolls

Royce and SRT Dodge Viper GTS. Neiman Marcus pulled out all the stops with a colorful, trend-setting fashion show.

Following a week of press and industry previews, the North American International Auto Show will open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, Jan. 16, during the event of the year — Charity Preview. While guests sip champagne and stroll among the cars and trucks 6-9 p.m., the Space Cowboy himself, Steve Miller, will be prepping with his band for a special concert beginning directly after the close of Charity Preview at 9 p.m. at Cobo Center.

Beneficiaries of NAIAS Charity Preview include Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan; Boys Hope Girls Hope Detroit; Children's Center; Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation; The Detroit Institute for Children; Judson Center; March of Dimes Metro Detroit;

Detroit PAL; and DADA Charitable Foundation Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Tickets to the black-tie Charity Preview are \$400 per person and include the post-event Steve Miller Band concert; go to www.charitypreview.com.

Have you driven a Ford lately?

Arrive early, stay late. This year's 2015 AutoGlow, to benefit The Children's Center of Detroit, will once again be presented by Ford Motor Co. and held at Ford Field. Your gracious hosts are Lisa and Bill Ford and Jane and Mark Fields. The futuristic theme includes appetizers, dinner, dessert, dancing and private transportation to and from AutoGlow, the Charity Preview at Cobo Center and the Westin Book Cadillac for overnight guests. It's Friday, Jan. 16, beginning with a pre-event reception 4:30-7 p.m. and the main

party from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$325 per person and may be purchased by going online to the AutoGlow Desk at autoglow@thechildrenscenter.com or by calling 313-262-7123.

In addition, for the first time, The Children's Center has released a limited number of AutoGlow Late Night Party tickets, from 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The AutoGlow Late Night experience includes a late-night breakfast snack, open bar service and dancing and the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win one of two pairs of round-trip Business Elite tickets from the U.S. to Europe donated by Delta Air Lines. AutoGlow Late Night tickets include valet parking at Ford Field. They are limited and are available through Jan. 15 for \$150 each at www.thechildrenscenter.com/autoglow/latenight, by phoning 313-262-7123 and at autoglow@thechildrenscenter.com.



JULIE YOLLES

This year's NAIAS chairman and owner of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth, Scott LaRiche, and his wife Dawn kicked off the week of NAIAS industry and press previews at the Gallery party Saturday night.

Local company creates web program designed to simplify online car sales

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Purchasing a car should be like purchasing anything else, according to Yuval Moed, who says the Internet should be able to play a role.

That's why the CEO of Verishow, a company based in Farmington Hills with research firms in Israel, and his team came up with a web-based program to allow customers to interact more intimately with sales people.

"We basically allow them to engage with customers using video chat and comprising content sharing," he said. "They want to engage



DAVID VESELENAK

Yuval Moed, CEO of Farmington Hills-based Verishow, at his booth at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit.

with them. They want to try and sell online."

While the service is similar to other services such as Skype, this technology has a simple in-

terface, is easy to use and does not require installation of programs on a hard drive. A demonstration is available at Verishow's booth at the

North American International Auto Show, running through Jan. 25 at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

Moed, who lives in Israel but has several ties to southeast Michigan, said the program will allow other features besides video chat, including the ability to share documents, photos and videos to display vehicles for sale. Customers do not need to install any software and could use computers, mobile phones and tablets that meet system requirements.

The company began in Israel, but moved to Farmington Hills later. Moed, who graduated

from the University of Michigan with an MBA, brought his company to Michigan after working with several associates. His wife also comes from Huntington Woods.

The move to the web is important, Moed said, especially for young buyers who do online research before heading to a brick-and-mortar dealership.

"When you shop for a car, you first go online and do all your research," he said. "You don't walk into a dealership before you know all this stuff."

The system could take a customer all the way through the purchase of a vehicle, to collecting

information from the consumer if they've made a selection, Moed said.

It was tested in several area dealerships and received a strong response, Moed said. Since opening his booth at the auto show, he said there have been several dealerships expressing interest in using the software. He hopes to have the system be more widespread later this year.

"Some of the largest auto dealerships have stopped by already today to talk to us," he said.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

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Mo Virk adds the finishing touches to a Philly cheese steak sandwich. SUE MASON



Owner Mo Virk cooks onions and red and green peppers for a Philly cheese steak sandwich at Halal Chicken Licken in Westland. SUE MASON

Halal Chicken Licken mixes gourmet with fast food

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

When Mo Virk got involved in a Halal Food Festival in Canton last year, he had no idea it would be a life-changing experience.

A former IT man who shifted gears and opened EPIC Translations, a language translations service based in Plymouth, he came away from the successful festival with yet another career — owner of Halal Chicken Licken at 39021 Cherry Hill, west of Hix, in Westland.

"In my wildest imagination, I never thought I'd be the owner of a restaurant," Virk said. "We had the first Halal Festival in Michigan at

Heritage Park in Canton and it was a huge hit. We expected 1,800 people and had 4,500. We ran out of food and had to get more. At the end of it, my friend asked if I had an interest in partnering with him in a restaurant."

Virk had developed an interest in food about 1½ years ago, so the opportunity was one he couldn't ignore. His friend is a silent partner in the endeavor. He has 17-18 years experience in the food industry and is the main chef, creating the menu items. All of the recipes are his.

The two men spent some six months getting ready to open and "every day people would stop by and ask if we were open yet," Virk said. When

DETAILS

Name: Halal Chicken Licken
Address: 39021 Cherry Hill, Westland
Owner: Mo Virk
Hometown: Canton
Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday
Employees: 7
Specialty: Salads, chicken, subs, smoked beef ribs, party platters and catering
Contact: 734-858-7180 or order@chickenlicken.com; website mychickenlicken.com

they did open, "It was a full house, a happy place."

The restaurant focuses on quality gourmet recipes blended with the convenience of a fast food environment. It offers salads, chicken (fried and grilled), subs and wraps, including steak subs and specialty subs like veggie, tuna and grilled cheese. There's also smoked beef

ribs and side dishes like fries, onion rings and jalapeno poppers party platters. Catering also is available.

All of the sauces used are prepared on site, including a sweet and spicy double glaze and the extremely spicy Xtreme fire alarm used on wings. According to Virk, they have customers who order Xtreme that start with a milder

L1 version as opposed to the L10, the hottest version. "Most who start with L1 don't want to go to L10," he said.

A waiver must be signed to order the Xtreme wings and those who order them can get their wings free and win a T-shirt, if they eat all 10 in seven minutes.

The goal is to provide customers with a good product. Virk remembers going out to eat and leaving still hungry. He doesn't want that to happen at Chicken Licken.

"The idea is to have consistency in the food so we have repeat customers and get new customers," he said. "Everything has to be just right. We constantly have to be on our toes."

Popular menu items included the double glazed wings, Texas chicken sub, Philly cheese steak sub and

mushroom, steak and cheese sub. Southeast Asian tikka and kabobs also are "huge hits," Virk said.

The store opened Oct. 28. New customers can get two large subs for \$10 each Tuesday.

Both men are putting in at least 60 hours a week at the restaurant and, while the hours are long, Virk said he is "having a blast."

"It's a lot of work," he said. "If you're heart's not in it, it's not fun. Our hearts are in it and we are having fun."

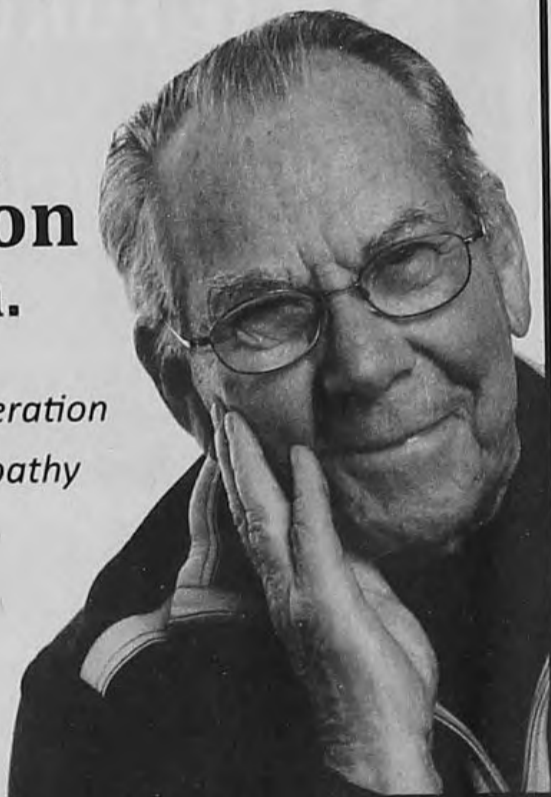
Halal Chicken Licken has a smart phone friendly website at mychickenlicken.com and orders can be placed by calling 734-858-7180 or at orders@mychickenlicken.com.

smason@hometownlife.com
734-674-2332
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kidney foundation board

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan has elected Patrick A. Rugiero as a new member of the Board of Directors.

Rugiero has been very involved with the NKFM over the past year. He joined the 2014 Kidney Ball Executive Committee and was co-chair of the Auction Committee, which brought in more than \$120,000 to the event. He co-hosted the Kidney Ball VIP Launch Party and participated in the NKFM's first Kidney 10K run last October. He has also been named as the chair of the 2015 Kidney Ball.

After Rugiero's father died from complications related to diabetes, he and his family created The Rugiero Promise Foundation — a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that raises money through various fundraising efforts for research, treatment, care and a cure for diabetes.

Rugiero and his three brothers operate the Roman Village family of restaurants that their parents founded 50 years ago. Rugiero's mother, also a diabetic, is still very active in the family business.

"As my parents instilled in us, if you're fortunate enough to have been blessed with good health and an able body and mind, it is your obligation and your responsibility to help those less fortunate and to leave this place better than we found it," Rugiero said. "We pass through this world only once."

Biggest pay day

DFCU Financial, the largest credit union in



CANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Grand event

A ribbon cutting was held Tuesday, Jan. 6, by Kona Running Co., Inc., to announce the grand opening of its new store. Kona Running Co., Inc., is located at 42743 Ford Road in Canton. Customers, Canton Chamber of Commerce members and residents were all among the attendees.

Michigan, announced more than 100,000 members are receiving a piece of its \$24 million payday — the largest payout by any financial institution in the state.

"At DFCU Financial, returning cash back to our members is our way of saying 'thank you' for their loyalty," said Mark Shobe, president and CEO, DFCU Financial. "We believe it's our responsibility to share our success with the members who help us achieve it, whether they are borrowers or savers."

DFCU Financial's streamlined structure and management approach have allowed it to pay a collective \$181 million to its members since 2006, a sum larger than any financial institution in the United States. This year's reward surpasses last year's record-breaking \$23 million payout by DFCU Financial.

PSI return

Professional Service Industries, Inc., officials announced the recent rehire of Debra Hagerty, P.E., as project manager out of its Plymouth office.

Hagerty has more than 15 years of experience in portfolio project management, along with more than 10 years of experience in completing site investigations. She earned her bachelor of science in civil engineering from Michigan Tech-

nology University. She was previously a member of the PSI team from May 2009 to July 2010.



Hagerty

Bailey's benefit

Bailey's in Canton is teaming up with Homeward Bound Rescue League to provide homes for rescued dogs and cats. Bailey's, 1777 N. Canton Center Road, is celebrating a brand new look, feel and flavor Thursday, Jan. 29, with a benefit for Homeward Bound Rescue League.

The party begins at 6 p.m., when guests are invited to enjoy a buffet of new and signature menu items and two drinks until 9 p.m. for a \$10 ticket price. Guests at the celebration will munch on Bailey's Greek Hummus with Pita Bread and Veggies, Drunken Chicken Tenders, Tavern Wings, BBQ Chicken Flatbread, Fish and Chips and Black Forest Sliders.

Tickets can be purchased at the door. All proceeds from the tickets will be donated to Homeward Bound Rescue League. For more information, reservations or to book a private event, call Bailey's at 734-844-1137 or go to www.BaileysSportsGrille.com, Facebook and Twitter.

F-150, VW Golf take home top truck, car honors at NAIAS

By Jay Grossman and Nathan Mueller
Staff Writers

The eyes of the industry are fixed on Detroit's world stage as more than 50 vehicles will be unveiled this week at the North American International Auto Show.

"I spent the last year traveling the world in preparation of this event," NAIAS Chairman Scott LaRiche said in his opening remarks at the show. "And I know full well the North American International Auto Show stands in great company with our counterparts and colleagues who are here with us today from Geneva, Frankfurt, Paris, Beijing, Shanghai and Tokyo - we are honored by your presence."

LaRiche went on to describe this year's show as "city within a city," a reference to the \$300 million renovation Cobo Center underwent over the past year.

"It's a world-class facility for our world-class show," LaRiche said.

He also estimated the impact of this year's auto show is expected to exceed \$400 million.

"This is the first time this has happened since 2008," LaRiche said.

The show kicked off with the North American Truck/Utility of the Year and North American Car of the Year awards, with the winners coming from domestic staple Ford and German-based Volkswagen.

Turning aluminum into gold

The Ford F-150, with its much-publicized aluminum body, was named the North American Truck/Utility of the Year.

Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of the Americas, said he is most proud of the truck be-



Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of the Americas, toasts the company's good fortune after it won the 2015 North American Truck/Utility of the Year Award at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

cause it serves the company's customers better than ever.

"It recognizes the progress we have made in this truck," Hinrichs said while posing for photos in front of a red F-150. "It's the best truck we have ever made and whether it's capability or driving dynamics or fuel economy or styling, it is certainly the best truck we have ever made and we are so proud of it."

The Ford F-150 beat out the Chevrolet Colorado and the Lincoln MKC to earn top honors.

Matt Garchow, new car sales manager at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia, said the honor is "exciting" for the dealers and they cannot wait to get more trucks in stock.

Garchow said the

dealership recently had an event where people could come and test drive one of four F-150s. About 20 people were expected, but more than 100 showed up.

"I think the aluminum body and talk of better gas mileage has a lot of people interested," he said.

The trucks range in price from \$30,000 at the low-end to upward of \$60,000 for a fully-loaded model.

"I really think once we get some volume in where we can display and advertise them, it is going to (help sales)," Garchow said. "And the fact it won truck of the year is something that sets it apart from the competition."

Hinrichs noted sales

of the F-150 represent about 20 percent of the company's volume in North America and as a result is "a big part of our success here." The aluminum body also has quite a bit to do with the truck's popularity.

"Clearly, the materials have a lot to do with the story of this truck," Hinrichs said.

VW Golf hits hole-in-one

Joining the Ford F-150 on the main stage was the Volkswagen Golf, which was honored as the North American Car of the Year.

Ford had a chance to sweep the awards, with the Mustang as one of the nominees, but the Golf and its value and performance proved to be too

much. The Hyundai Genesis also was in the running for the award.

"This is the icing on the cake," said Michael Horn, president and CEO of Volkswagen of America. "The Golf is important in many different ways - it represents the DNA of Volkswagens around the world."

The winners were selected by 57 journalists from around the world; the awards are separate from the show itself.

American automakers have won car of the year 12 times. Japanese automakers have won it three times, European automakers five times and Korean automakers twice.

The Golf has grabbed 10 awards in the past year, including *Motor Trend* Car of the Year. Horn said the car is a marriage of technology, design and value. The car has a starting price point at around \$19,000.

Dave Hartmann, sales manager of Suburban VW of Farmington Hills, wasn't surprised when he learned the Golf won car of the year at the auto show.

"It's been racking up awards the entire year," he said. "The first VW I drove was a 1998 Golf and this year's car is just phenomenal. When the entire auto industry is appreciative of the car, that tells you a lot about the product."

But for all the awards the car has won, Hartmann believes this is the first time the Golf was named car of the year at the NAIAS.

"It's a huge event," he said. "And I have to believe that kind of press will deliver some customers to our showroom."

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PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NANCY CONZELMAN
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

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OUR VIEW

'Je suis Charlie'

French attacks a reminder of importance of free speech, press

In shock and mourning, the human spirit often finds its strength. No worldwide message has been spoken with such distinct certainty and solidarity than that expressed in the aftermath of the French terrorist strikes — that democracy will continue and its foundation must remain embedded in the right of free expression.

Last week's terrorist attacks may have occurred in Paris, but the message sent by hundreds thousands as they rallied following the deaths of 12 journalists at the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine, a police officer and four Jewish hostages, applies to all leaders and citizens in democratic nations, including right here at home.

Without the right of free expression and a free press, democracy is weakened, if not a failure. The right of citizens and the press to express thoughts and opinions, regard-

less if fashioned in a humorous or sarcastic form, plus though offensive to some or bluntly honest, is a fundamental pillar of a free — and engaged — society.

Without this stanchion of freedom, those in power at any given time or those who attempt to gain power, influence or retaliation, by murder, force, intimidation or deafening silence, may seat themselves with control over the masses.

The United States was born in the desire for freedom. Yet the country's history is, nonetheless, dotted with attempts by political parties, special interest groups and individuals who attempt to erode democracy by limiting not only freedom of expression and a free press, but the citizenry's inherent right to know and to be a part of deliberations and decision making.

As in France, the United States and other democratic nations, the press — in whatever form it takes — has consistently stood firmly in the belief that a society cannot be truly free without the inherent right of expression.

The 12 journalists who were slaughtered by terrorists in Paris were doing their jobs and expressing their political, religious and social opinions and perspectives, as supported and allowed by a democratic society and government.

Already in the days following the terrorist attacks, talking heads representing many special interest groups questioned the oppositional nature of some of *Charlie Hebdo's* cartoons. Freedom doesn't guarantee that all expressions will soothe the heart and sensibilities or be met with applause.

Yet the millions who have

rallied around the world in support of *Charlie Hebdo's* work and right of expression is a clear sign that the citizenry not only is rising up against terrorism, but in support of a free press.

It is incumbent upon the citizens of a democracy to ensure that the channels in which they receive information about the world they live in, including government in all of its forms, remains vibrant.

Closer to home, journalists go to work every day with the heartfelt task of informing the public of the deliberations and decisions made by their local government officials and to provide insight into the activities in their hometowns.

The importance of this work cannot be dismissed. Government really does start at the local level and it is the level at which average people can have the greatest influ-

ence. Yet too often, residents — voters — remain distant from and disinterested in their local government. That allows elected officials and bureaucrats to operate and make decisions that affect citizens' lives without oversight.

Let the worldwide rallies of the past week be a lesson to all Americans. Freedom of expression and a free press must remain strong as an integral pillar of our democracy. Shortly after the Parisian murders, supporters of freedom of speech, expression and the press shared on worldwide social media a quote attributed to 19th century philosopher Voltaire:

"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Let's collectively remember that to keep our democracy strong.

OUR VIEW

King's enduring legacy: Focus on service

Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This will be the 29th time the day, traditionally the third Monday of January, was observed.

The national holiday has seen its share of controversy. U.S. Rep. John Conyers was among the first to introduce legislation to make King's birthday a holiday, back in 1979, but the measure failed. As public support grew, it finally passed and was signed into law in 1983. It was first observed in 1986.

But not all states agreed to observe it as intended. Arizona, for example, lost the right to host the 1993 Super Bowl because it didn't recognize the King holiday. Voters in that state approved a referendum in 1992 to recognize the holiday. South Carolina was the last state to recognize the day



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

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

as a paid holiday for state employees, doing so in 2000. Prior to that, employees could choose between that and three

Confederate holidays to celebrate.

The day itself is an anomaly, because King is among the

few people in U.S. history to have a day named after him without ever holding public office. King, a civil rights leader, was a proponent of peaceful protest of racial discrimination at the state and national level.

Opposition to the holiday remains, although it tends to be less vocal and organized, left to dinner table or bar room discussions, instead of legislative efforts to take the day off the books.

King became famous for his involvement in civil rights. He preached the need for community service, having everyone take the time to make the community a better place to live. More and more, we see individuals and groups focused on that aspect of his legacy. In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed federal legislation into

law that challenges Americans to honor King's legacy by taking the holiday and turning it into a day of volunteer service.

The Plymouth District Library hosts a Youth & Family event honoring Dr. King on Monday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m. Canton Township will once again honor King's memory and legacy 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.

We hope everyone embraces the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, if not the holiday itself. Pledging a day of community service is one that teaches young and old the importance of community, selflessness and taking an active role in making the world a better place.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The other side

After reading Mr. Stewart's scathing response to the article regarding the car donation from Jack Demmer Ford to Army veteran Amy O'Neil, I felt it necessary to tell the other side of the story.

It bothers me that someone would write a personal attack on Jim Demmer's character without knowing him. I work for a nonprofit in Canton that Jim and his entire family have supported for 25 years. Jim is one of the most humble men I have ever met. My experience is that he never does anything for the publicity. He gives to programs and people that he

believes in and he gives with a full and gracious heart.

If you read the original story, it states that the program run by Progressive Insurance is called "Recycled Rides." It's right there in the name: They recycle. Progressive approached Jack Demmer Ford to see if it wanted to be a part of the project. And being the extremely giving gentleman that Jim Demmer is, he said yes.

The dealership was simply fulfilling the request of the program. The other part to consider is that insurance on a 2015 vehicle is clearly higher than that of an older model. That may have been more than

this young woman could afford. Because we don't know all of the facts regarding Ms. O'Neil's situation, we certainly should not pass judgment on anyone's character.

Jim, I thank you for all the good that you, personally, and Jack Demmer Ford do for our community and the people in it.

Beth Meade
marketing manager
Canton Community Foundation

Teach real history

Regarding the article on Open Door, I think it's a great idea what it is doing to raise awareness of homelessness and it's fantastic that the kids

are involved in such a great learning experience.

I do, though, take exception to Ben Ogden's take on the history of Detroit. He states that, "Anyone that could afford to leave left. White people had money first."

Many people who could have afforded to leave the city do, in fact, still live there. Not all "white people" had money first. My grandmother came from Spain as an indentured servant; some refer to this as a slave. Our family has never made a victimization out of the word. She had four children and no husband. They did not have much of anything, but the desire and necessity to better

themselves through hard work. It was a true tale of poverty, not having enough to eat all the time, not graduating from school, discrimination and hardship.

My grandma did some illegal things like running whiskey during prohibition, to make money. Rumor has it that the police looked the other way because they knew she was raising four children on her own.

So please, keep getting these kids involved in great causes — just teach them real history, not racist history. We have enough of that already.

Sandra Suarez
Plymouth

GUEST COLUMN

Guest column failed to disclose author's bias

After reading the recent guest column "Look past rhetoric to the big picture" by Harry Jachym (*Observer*, Jan. 8) regarding the Recall 4 movement in Plymouth Township, I have to clarify a few points. When your paper allows a guest column to be written by someone who has a bias, via employment, even on a part-time or appointed basis without revealing that, it is disingenuous and further proves to me why your readership has declined.

Mr. Jachym serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals for Plymouth Township and, as



Sandra Groth

GUEST COLUMNIST

such, has a known bias when writing to denigrate the citizens who are in favor of the recall of four township board members, especially since they vote on his appointment.

Any time I have written anything in your paper, I have always said that I am the former deputy clerk for Plymouth Township and my husband is retired from Plymouth Town-

ship after serving there for 35 years, 24 of which were in the position of fire chief. My bias is that my husband and I are both public servants with our hearts in our community. I am one of the lead organizers in the Recall 4 movement because I believe that we deserve better leadership than what we have for many reasons.

Mr. Jachym spoke about the PARC project and admitted his initial interest and subsequent reticence when realizing that the township taxpayers would pay more than other entities and have no more decision power. This is absolutely not true. When PARC was presented to the township and the board was asked to appoint someone to work on a feasibility study, it was suggested that Plymouth Township would have more representation on the authority because of the larger number of payers.

It was the decision of our Plymouth Township board not to enter into the feasibility study and not to allow the citi-

zens of Plymouth Township a voice in this matter. To characterize this project as anything different is an inaccurate portrayal of the facts.

To suggest that our officials are deserving of their "big salaries" (in excess of \$100,000) is one thing. However, to put this into context, you have to tell people the requirements of the job. They are that you must be a U.S. citizen, a Plymouth Township resident and a registered voter. Nothing else. And there are no attendance requirements for these positions. They work as little or as much as they want.

Just think, unlimited sick time, vacation time, campaign time with no change in salary or benefits. And I am not saying they do not earn their money. Public service is a privilege and it should be treated that way. The people you represent should be treated with respect and dignity, whether you agree with them or not because you are paid to represent them. If they are less than respectful,

that does not give a public official the right to do the same or to ignore the will of the people.

If the officials don't want to do the job they were elected to do — and if they don't want to serve at the will of the citizens — they don't belong there. If they don't like being disrespected, they should start showing some respect instead of trying to propose rules that censor citizen comments.

And, yes, Plymouth Township is a pretty darn good place to live. Most of us would like to keep it that way. Some of us disagree on how that will be accomplished, but we are one community and we should be mindful of that and recognize that differences of opinion are what makes us strong. We build on those differences, find solutions and move forward.

Sandra Groth is a Plymouth Township resident, the former deputy clerk for Plymouth Township and was a candidate for Plymouth Township trustee in 2012.

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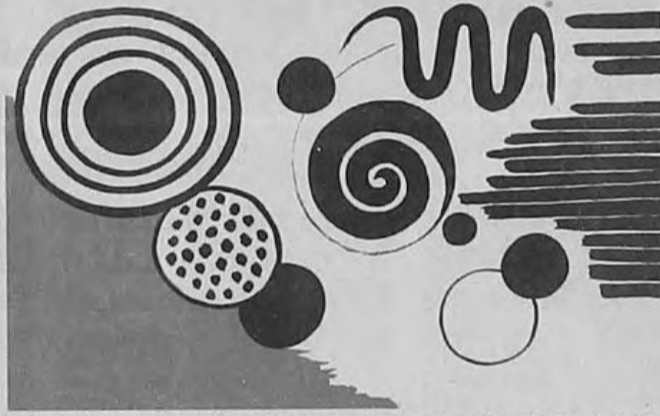
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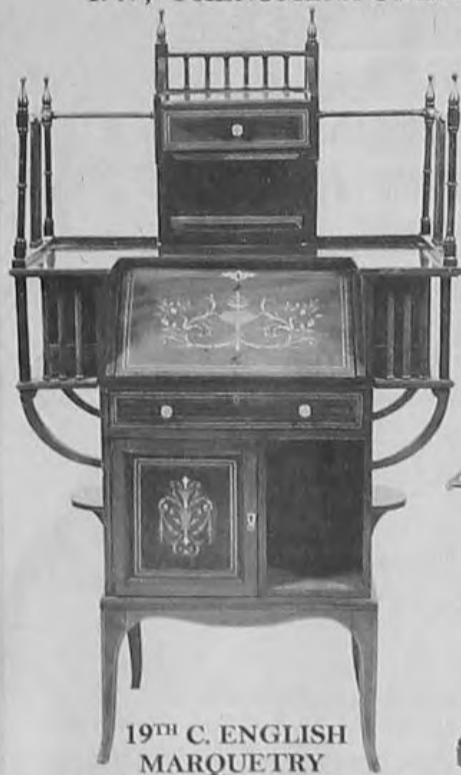
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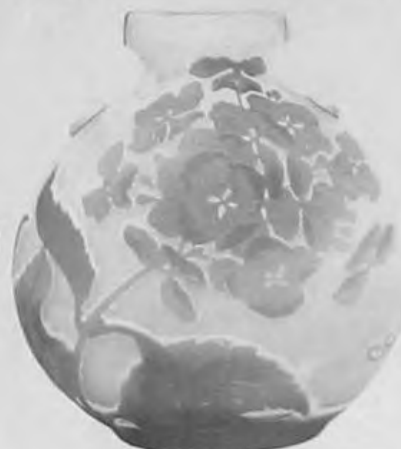
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Plymouth loses Whalers to Flint

Karmanos announces long-rumored sale of OHL hockey team, arena

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For nearly a year, fans of the Plymouth Whalers have wondered whether their favorite team would continue to play at Compuware Arena beyond the 2014-15 season.

Wednesday morning, they were to get the answer they've

been dreading: Longtime Whalers and Compuware Arena owner Peter Karmanos was scheduled to announce the sale of the team to the new owners of Perani Arena in Flint (IMS USA Inc.).

Sources familiar with the situation Tuesday confirmed that Karmanos would be announcing the departure of the



Whalers after 25 seasons in metro Detroit — and since 1997-98 at Compuware, the facility located on Beck Road

in Plymouth Township. Plymouth's middling attendance in recent years (it is ranked near the bottom of the Ontario Hockey League this season, with about 2,300 fans in a facility with a 3,800 capacity) is considered a main reason for Karmanos pulling the plug on the metro Detroit market.

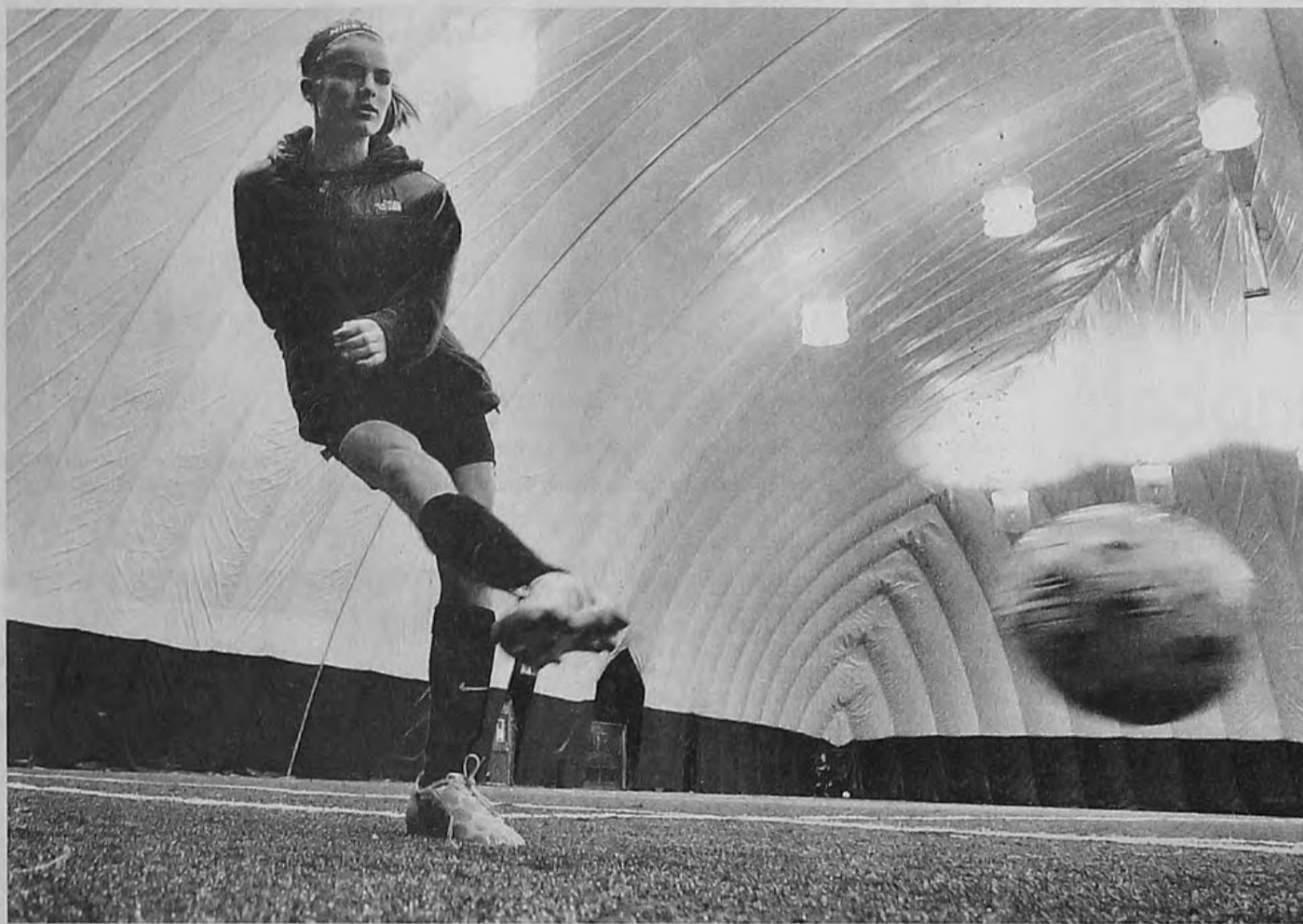
In addition, it has long been known that he never was thrilled about fighting a no-win situation with the media (only the *Observer* has provided local game print coverage in

recent years) in Red Wings-dominated "Hockeytown." Sources also said it would be announced that Karmanos is selling Compuware Arena, with USA Hockey expected to purchase the venue and then move the prestigious U.S. National Team Development Program there from the 1,000-seat Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

In late November, it was reported that an agreement with USA Hockey was in place

See WHALERS, Page B2

RAVES FOR SOCCER DOME



Suzanne Chuparkoff, 13, of Saline practices Friday inside High Velocity's new domed soccer facility.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INSIDE PITCH

Cutting-edge dome at High Velocity Sports in Canton wows soccer community

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The ribbon had been cut. The handshakes and back slaps were given and received by major players in Canton's soccer community.

All that was left Friday afternoon was for the sights and sounds of the global sport to fill the illuminated High Velocity Sports Dome, as they now will just about 365 days a year.

Soon, a U13 girls team from the Saline Area Soccer Association Swarm would be doing just that. Actually, the team has practiced there since last month, when the dome opened its doors for the first time.

"It's a gorgeous facility, absolutely gorgeous," said Knox Cameron, director or coaching for SASA. "We were fortunate enough to be the first club to use the facility, that's one of our claims."

"The kids are very, very excited. One of the unique things for the club is that we're able to have a whole bunch of our kids here on the fields at the very same time."

Cameron glanced to his right, to where U13 Swarm players Evelynne Crumm and Suzanne Chuparkoff were sharpening passing skills at the beginning of a practice session.

Invaluable tool

"We've been practicing in here for a few weeks, but it's been a lot of fun practicing," said the 12-year-old Crumm of Ann Arbor. "I think it's really good that we don't have to practice on the smaller fields, that we get our full field length to practice on."

Crumm was referring to the boarded indoor soccer fields elsewhere at High



Booting the ball under the new dome at High Velocity in Canton is 12-year-old Evelynne Crumm of Ann Arbor.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Velocity, on which the Swarm previously practiced. High Velocity maintains those hockey rink-type facilities in the building adjacent to the dome.

Chuparkoff 13, of Saline added that "the boarding was kind of helpful, but this is better because you get used to playing on it."

Players such as Crumm and Chuparkoff are quickly finding out that it is invaluable to hone their skills inside a facility that approximates outdoor pitches.

"The game of soccer, the majority of time it's played outdoors and there aren't any boards," Cameron said. "And so we don't want the kids to rely on that extra bumper.

"We want them to truly feel that if they misplay a pass, it's going to be going out of bounds and then there's a penalty for those types of things. So you work harder and you work better at your technical skills."

Saline certainly is an area where soccer is growing by leaps and bounds.

But the High Velocity dome enhances Canton's burgeoning reputation as a Midwest hotbed of the sport.

The township already is host to the prestigious Canton Cup, a Memorial Day weekend tournament that attracts hundreds of teams from Michigan, surrounding states and Ontario, Canada.

"The kids are very, very excited. One of the unique things for the club is that we're able to have a whole bunch of our kids here on the fields at the very same time."

KNOX CAMERON
SASA coaching director

See DOME, Page B4

PREP BOWLING

Chiefs on target at tourney

Canton boys keglers win another tournament

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Things are hitting the pocket just right so far this season for Canton's varsity boys bowling team.

On Saturday at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton, the Chiefs won the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Tournament with 2,656 pins — nipping University of Detroit-Jesuit (2,653) and Wayne Memorial (2,644).

But further evidence of how the season is going came when Canton head coach Karl Brubaker found out one of his varsity players could not participate due to a personal matter. No worries

"I took an up-and-coming freshman (D.J. Jablonski) with us for the day and I had to use him for the second game of the tournament," Brubaker wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "All he did was bowl 225 that game. ... He makes the coach look real good in that situation."

Brubaker was joking about that, but the way Jablonski stepped up in an emergency must have the coach feeling pretty enthusiastic about what the team can accomplish this year. The PCS tourney win was Canton's third already.

Among other area squads, Westland John Glenn came in fifth with a tally of 2,529 pins, followed by Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (sixth, 2,520), Salem (seventh, 2,466) and Plymouth (ninth, 2,398).

Team tallies included individual totals, along with scores from four Baker games.

Leading the individual standings was Catholic Central's Joey Kryzwonos, with a 256-220-476 series. Brandon June of the Zebras placed second (213-243-456), while John Glenn's Jared Stevens took third (192-234-426).

Among Plymouth-Canton Educational Park bowlers, Plymouth's Nick Ray placed seventh (226-192-418) and Salem's Shane Rusinek took ninth (221-187-408).

Other Canton high series performers included Jacob Peltz (13th, 191-208-399), Joshua Criscenti (15th, 207-186-393), Aaron Madsen (30th, 175-191-366) and Tyler Pozan (51st, 150-177-327).

In 19th was Salem's Tony Przytulski (159-229-388). In 24th was Plymouth's Jordan Orzech (191-190-381).

Also cracking the top 50 were Salem's Mitchell Rusinek (35th, 198-154-352) and Plymouth's Kevin Shimko (37th, 183-168-351).

Varsity girls results

On the girls side, Westland John Glenn and Farmington Hills Mercy went first and second (2,642-2,374).

The lone Park team in the top 10 was Salem, sixth with 2,156 pins.

Canton came in 11th, although Meghan Macunovich's series of 172-198-370 earned her sixth overall. Finishing first was John Glenn's Emily Dietz, with a 225-237-462 total.

Placing 13th in team standings was Plymouth (1,878), with Lauren Vincent's 192-167-359 series good for 11th

See BOWLING, Page B4

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers can't complete home sweep

Plymouth drops tough loss to Soo, but newcomer Moore makes good first showing

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It would be perfectly understandable if Plymouth Whalers head coach Don Elland gave his players name tags for practices the next few days.

Since the start of the season, Plymouth has been hit by a rash of injuries and suspensions — compounded by several top players leaving for the recent World Juniors.

As a result, the team Elland thought he would be coaching really has not had the chance to get out on the ice and jell as a unit.

"Like I explained to the guys after the game, we're back and we're healthy, but we haven't played together in 2½ months," Elland said following Plymouth's 3-0 loss Saturday to Sault Ste. Marie. "It's almost like a training camp. So we got to use this next week to get used to playing together."

The Whalers (13-23-2-1) had a solid weekend at Compuware Arena, all things considered, defeating North Bay 6-3 Friday and giving the OHL Western Conference leading Greyhounds all they could handle the next day.

And with 29 games remaining, Plymouth only needs to get in sync and make up the nine points they need to catch Saginaw (now holding the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference with 38 points).

Still time

Elland was emphatic when asked if there was time for his team to pull that comeback off.

"One hundred percent," he said. "No reason we can't get that last



Plymouth Whalers newcomer Ryan Moore (right), a Troy native, skates the puck up the ice during Saturday's game against Sault Ste. Marie at Compuware Arena.

RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

spot."

Helping fuel his optimism is how the Whalers played over the weekend, augmented by much-needed reinforcements to the roster.

Plymouth welcomed back forward Danny Vanderwiel as he returned after missing 18 games with a hip injury.

World Juniors participants also were back on the ice, namely goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, forward

ward Sonny Milano and defenseman Yannick Rathgeb.

Meanwhile, new to the lineup was speedy forward and Troy native Ryan Moore, who showed the approximately 2,100 fans Saturday how much of a spark plug he can be.

"I loved his game," Elland said. "He had energy, he moved the puck, he was quick, he got behind their 'D' a couple times. I thought

he was really good."

The 5-7 Moore moved Friday to Plymouth after being part of a three-team trade involving Windsor and Oshawa.

Plymouth's top goal scorer, Matt Mistele (24 goals), was dealt to the Generals in the deal, which was consummated right before the noon trade deadline.

Back to his roots

"It's a big change for me, coming over from Windsor," Moore said. "But I'm back to my roots here and it feels good."

Moore, who played his formative years with Detroit Belle Tire, said he was happy with his first game as a Whaler — the loss to the Soo notwithstanding.

"Tonight was a tough game all-around. We held on, but I think I did play well," Moore said. "I used my speed. I bring speed and offense to this team and that's something we need going forward."

He came within inches of really having a memorable first home game.

Early in the second period, Moore nearly put the Whalers ahead 1-0, which could have set the wheels in motion for good things to happen against the Greyhounds (30-9-0-2).

But Moore, who took a feed from linemate Mathew Campagna, hit the crossbar with his rising one-timer. Greyhounds goaltender Brandon Halverson (26 saves for his second shutout of the season) was cleanly beat on the shot.

"I thought we played



Back from the World Juniors, Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic denies this Sault Ste. Marie shot Saturday night. Helping out on defense for Plymouth are Gianluca Curcuruto (No. 32) and Rochester native Mitch Jones (No. 6).

RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

hard and if we could have scored early, it might have given us a little bit more energy, which we needed," Elland said.

The Greyhounds, given that reprieve, went up by a goal on the power play with 11:30 remaining in the middle period.

After Nedeljkovic (strong with 32 saves) fought off a point blast off the stick of defenseman Anthony DeAngelo, the rebound made its way into the right circle. Making no mistake with a one-timer was forward Jared McCann, for his 15th goal of the season.

Unable to capitalize

Elland blamed a bad line change for the Greyhounds' second goal, just 2:12 into the third.

Defenseman Darnell Nurse snapped a low wrist shot from the right circle that beat Nedeljkovic inside the far post.

Plymouth did have an opportunity to climb back into the contest, enjoying a five-on-three advantage for 1:07 midway through the third. But the Whalers could not muster even a single shot on goal during that span, much to Elland's chagrin.

"You can't get out-worked on a five-on-three. You got to have energy and we didn't," Elland said. "When you play a team as good as them, you have to capitalize on those chances and we didn't."

Wrapping up the scoring for the Greyhounds was McCann, with an empty-netter in the final minute.

The Whalers next visit Sarnia on Friday and then host Sudbury at 7 p.m. Saturday.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

— "subject to due diligence" — with the transaction to be completed during the first half of 2015.

Last May, Karmanos strongly hinted at a press conference that attendance would have to improve in 2014-15 for the team to have any chance of remaining in Plymouth. He also lamented the fact his team, which has made the OHL playoffs 23 years straight and won the league's 2007 championship, has not been able to gain traction among area hockey fans.

"Well, to be frank about it, it's tough running an OHL team in a

major league city," Karmanos said last spring. "Our attendance has been good, but it's not great. I look down (Highway) 401, you see the London Knights selling out every game."

"You know if you had to sell the team, you might want to move into one of those cities, rather than keep it playing here. Like I said, it's become an expensive business, it's a big business. If we could get attendance where we think it should be here, I think the future is great."

Last weekend, the Whalers drew about 2,100 for each of two games.

In Flint, the team will fill a void left when the Flint Generals of the International Hockey League folded five years ago.

A team from a lower junior circuit has been drawing about 1,000 per game in recent seasons.

The sale of the team to IMS USA Inc. also would set up a natural rivalry with the OHL's Saginaw Spirit.

Chatham had been considered the front-runner for the Whalers, especially after Karmanos tweeted his thoughts to USA Today in early December. But the lack of a suitable arena in the Chatham-Kent area doomed any possibility of that happening.

For full coverage of Wednesday's press conference, go to hometownlife.com and come back to Sunday's Observer.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

Benefit goes to the dogs

Plymouth-Canton Friday hoops to help unite military veterans, medical service canines

Yes, Friday night is a basketball doubleheader featuring Canton and Plymouth. But more than hoops, it's a chance to help.

Plymouth High School's athletic department is hosting a fundraiser to benefit Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs. The Canton-Plymouth girls basketball game tips off at 6 p.m.; the boys game follows at 7:30 p.m.

The games are dubbed Military Appreciation Night as a thank you to the men and women who are serving and have served in the armed forces. Veterans and active-duty military personnel and their families are admitted free.

Guardian Angels Medical



PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS
Pictured here is a U.S. veteran, Jacob, and his dog, Faith. Friday's basketball twinbill at Plymouth High School will help raise funds to benefit Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs.

Service Dogs is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to rescuing, raising and train-

ing highly skilled service dogs for people with mental and/or physical disabilities.

All donations collected on Military Appreciation Night will go toward providing service dogs for U.S. military veterans who are living with physical limitations or the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

At the basketball games, patrons will have the opportunity to donate at the door or during some of the breaks during the game. Please bring a few extra dollars, or even spare change, to support this effort. A veteran and his dog that was provided by GAMS will be present at the games.

Those unable to attend Friday's doubleheader can drop off donations in the Plymouth High School athletic office, go to www.MedicalServiceDogs.com or call 248-904-0579.

Also, the organization Help for Our Disabled Troops will match contributions collected for the event, up to \$5,000. Go to <http://helpforourdisabled-troops.org/> for more information.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Rocks bounce back from slow start

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem chipped away from an early deficit Tuesday night and earned a 62-53 varsity boys basketball victory at South Lyon East.

"They (Cougars) jumped out the first quarter, playing all scrappy and with a lot of intensity," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "But we scrapped back in the second."

The Rocks (6-2, 2-0 in the KLAAs Central Division) trailed 18-8 after the opening quarter, but roared back with a 16-5 edge in the second to go up 24-23 at halftime.

Salem coasted from there, helped out by outrebounding the Cougars 43-26.

"We didn't shoot the ball particularly well," Brodie said. "But we played great defense."

All 10 Salem players got into

the game and scored at least a point, with senior forward Jakob Lenders leading the way with 24 points along with 12 boards.

"He had a nice ballgame," Brodie said.

Chipping in with 10 points was Cameron Grace, while Allante Wheeler led Salem with five assists.

For South Lyon East (2-5, 0-2), Trent Willenborg registered 12 points.

Wildcats roll

Plymouth got off to a fast start Tuesday and went on to rout host Livonia Franklin, 70-42, in a KLAAs South Division varsity boys basketball match-up.

Leading the way for the Wildcats (6-1, 1-1) were Khalil Newell and Brent Davis, who each tallied 17 points.

Also in double figures was

Josh Reynolds (10 points), while Pete Carravallah and Randall Aikins each scored six.

Plymouth now will host Canton at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the second half of a girls-boys doubleheader on Military Appreciation Night. The girls game tips off at 6 p.m.

"Hopefully we'll have the gym packed for what's going to be exciting varsity girls and boys basketball games against Park rivals," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said.

Canton wins again

The Canton Chiefs improved to 7-1 overall and 2-0 in the KLAAs South with Tuesday's 64-29 victory over host Wayne Memorial.

The Zebras dropped to 2-4, 1-1 with the loss.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Clean sweep for Park girls cagers

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Tuesday night was as good as it gets for Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's three varsity girls basketball teams.

All three garnered impressive home victories as division play begins to heat up.

Plymouth cruised to a 72-38 victory over Livonia Franklin, sparked by Courtney LaVallee's career-high 22 points — including 13 in the third quarter.

"Tonight really was the coming out party for Courtney LaVallee," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "She's a player who means so much to our team. She's a player who has dedicated herself to her game as much as any other player I've ever known."

The Wildcats (6-2, 2-0 in the KLAAs South Division) broke out to a 25-10 lead after one quarter and took a 44-21 halftime edge.

Contributing 12 and 11 points, respectively, were Kendall Rose and Leah Kliczinski.

Hannah Badger tallied a career-best eight points, providing a spark off the bench. Patti Begoske scored six points and pulled down seven rebounds.

LaVallee and Rose combined for five treys, as Plymouth got much-needed offense from beyond the 3-point arc.

Franklin dropped to 2-6 and 1-1 in the division.

Meanwhile, Canton easily got past Wayne Memorial, 84-9, behind a 22-point effort from Madison Archibald.

Bre Donehue (18 points), Brianna Finn (16 points) and Erin Hult (12 points) also helped the Chiefs click on offense to improve to 2-0 in the KLAAs South.

"The girls played really well," Chiefs head coach Kevin Palmer said. "I was really happy with the way we played offensively and defensively."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Salem's Jamyra Wilson, shown from earlier this season, sparked the Rocks Tuesday night with 14 points.

We shot the ball really well tonight."

Canton will visit Plymouth at 6 p.m. Friday.

Salem defeated South Lyon East, 41-29. Leading the Rocks with 14 points was Jamyra Wilson.

Also strong for Salem in the KLAAs Central Division tilt were Lasha Petree (nine points, five rebounds), Shara Long (seven points, nine rebounds) and Maranda Armstead (six points, six boards).

Salem and East played to a 16-16 halftime tie, but the Rocks "came out with intensity and fire" in the third quarter, head coach Lindsay Klemmer said.

That led to a game-changing 8-0 run.

LIGGETT 63, PCA 32: Plymouth Christian Academy committed 23 first-half turnovers Friday and Grassie Pointe Woods University-Liggett made the Eagles pay.

Liggett broke out to a 35-10 halftime lead and never looked back. Lydia Chappel scored 12 points for PCA, while Danielle Witkowski tallied eight rebounds to lead the squad.



MADONNA ATHLETICS
Madonna senior guard Rachel Melcher poured in 28 points in an 81-66 victory Saturday over UM-Dearborn.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Madonna women's guard combo too much for Wolves

Rachel Melcher and Michele Hayes combined for 52 points Saturday as Madonna University improved to 9-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference with an 81-66 win over host University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Melcher, a 5-foot-9 senior guard from Birmingham Marian, poured in a game-high 28 points. Hayes, a junior transfer from Oakland University, chipped in 24 points and four assists.

Melcher also earned WHAC Player of the Week honors for the second time this year after averaging 23.5 points, seven rebounds and three assists. She shot 52 percent from the field and 81 percent from the foul line in the Crusaders' two wins.

Second-place MU (10-6) got 75 points from its starting lineup. Freshman Lindsey Hernden added 12 points to go with four assists, while sophomore Justice Dean added 10 points and a team-best seven rebounds.

The Crusaders shot 29-of-62 from the floor (47 percent), including 6-of-12 from beyond the arc. MU also went 17-of-20 (85 percent) from the foul line.

UM-Dearborn (3-15, 1-9) got 25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists from Jalissa Williams. Andrea Collins added 14 points as the Wolves couldn't overcome a

37-29 halftime deficit.

Men's basketball

Jamie Strickland and Jason Penn each poured in 19 points Saturday to lift host University of Michigan-Dearborn (6-11, 3-7) to a 71-63 triumph over Madonna University (7-11, 3-7) in WHAC men's basketball.

The Wolves, who shot 48 percent from the floor (26-of-54) and outrebounded the Crusaders (39-30), also got 13 points off the bench from Darryl Mobley Jr.

MU, which couldn't overcome a 43-29 halftime deficit, got a game-high 22 points to go with six assists from sophomore point guard Khalil Malone.

Senior guard Shaun Duncan added 12 points. Senior Donald Owens and freshman Chris Dierker added eight and seven, respectively. Freshman Grant Smith grabbed a team-best seven rebounds.

MU shot only 5-of-22 from 3-point range (23 percent) and 23-of-59 from the field (39 percent).

SCHOOLCRAFT (MEN) 75 WAYNE COUNTY CC 67: On Saturday, the visiting Ocelots defeated Wayne County Community College to improve to 13-3 overall and 2-1 in the conference.

Javon Thomas led Schoolcraft with 16 points, while Anthony Wartley-Fritz (14 points), James Pruitt (13 points) and Tyler Johnson (12 points) also helped spark the attack.

Westland John Glenn alum Dre Black added eight points and nine rebounds.

PREP HOCKEY

Spartans ice Plymouth, 3-1

Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team suffered its first conference loss Saturday against Livonia Stevenson, 3-1, at the Arctic Edge Arena.

Forward Stephen Olschanski's goal 11:18 into the second period broke a 1-1 tie. Forward Joe Alcantara added an insurance goal with 1:01 left in regulation to secure the win for the Spartans.

Stevenson opened the scoring 5:43 into the game, when forward Vince Glenn fired in a wrist shot off a face-off win in the Plymouth zone.

Plymouth responded later in the first period with sustained power-play pressure that culminated with forward Simon Nesich tipping in a shot from defenseman Jake Zaborowski. Defenseman Ben Chafin also assisted on Nesich's third tally of the season.

The Wildcats had two power-play chances in the third period and generated several good scoring

chances. Nesich had a chance to tie the game with 2:30 left in regulation when was alone with the puck at the top of the crease, but he was stoned by Stevenson goalie Cullen Barber.

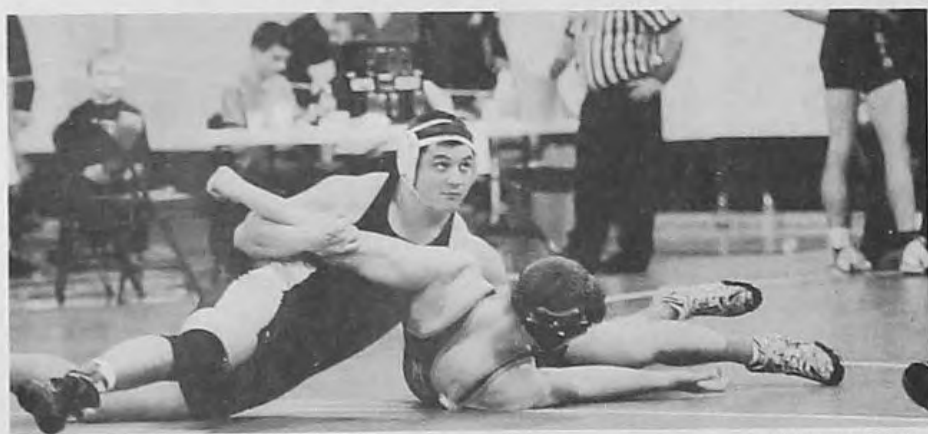
Barber stopped 20 of 21 shots. Plymouth goalie Erik VandenBosch stopped 30 of 33 Stevenson shots.

"For some reason, we didn't have enough energy and jump the entire game," Plymouth coach Gerry Vento said. "We had it for parts of the game, but not long enough."

Plymouth killed off three Stevenson power-play chances, including a five-minute penalty in the second period.

"We won the special teams battle, but for the majority of the game, they were the better team five-on-five," Vento said.

Plymouth's record is 8-3 overall, 7-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. The Wildcats play Canton at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Arctic Edge Arena.



PLYMOUTH WRESTLING
Plymouth senior Hussein Youssef (left) pins an opponent at the Warren Lincoln Duals.

WARREN LINCOLN DUALS

Plymouth wrestlers earning their points

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Victories are good and so are bonus points.

Plymouth varsity boys wrestling coach Quinn Guernsey is making it a daily reminder at practices and the message is sinking in, based on recent results.

The Wildcats went 4-1 at Saturday's Warren Lincoln Duals, winning the tournament due to taking the tiebreaker criteria.

The tiebreaker criteria used was most points scored in the three duals between New Boston Huron, Warren Lincoln and Plymouth.

Plymouth won the tournament with 78 points, Huron took second with 74 and Lincoln finished in third with 68.

"We wrestled much better as a team than in the last weeks," Guernsey said. "The guys have been drilling very hard in practice and working to secure bonus points and pins for the team."

"With the matches we have coming up, continuing to secure pins will be vital for our team's success."



PLYMOUTH WRESTLING
Plymouth 135-pounder Dylan Dwyer (right) went undefeated at Saturday's tournament.

The Wildcats defeated Orchard Lake St. Mary's (63-10), Cesar Chavez Academy (80-0) and Avondale (60-18) before going up against Lincoln and Huron in the championship pool.

Plymouth earned a 48-34 victory over Lincoln, with Dylan Dwyer (ranked No. 6 in Division 1 at 135) squaring off against Robert Pope (No. 5 in D2).

After a scoreless first period where there was a lot of action, Dwyer got things going with an escape and take-down before securing the fall in 2:56.

Dwyer was one of

four Plymouth wrestlers to go undefeated for the day. The others were senior Hussein Youssef, junior Michael Jordan and Tyler Campbell.

In the Plymouth-Huron dual, there were a number of exciting match-ups, such as Spencer Schifitar's 6-5 win over Steven Poet.

Dwyer capped off his 5-0 day with a 10-5 trouncing of Nick Phelps.

Adding falls for Plymouth were Sterling Schifitar, Youssef and Campbell.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

PREP WRESTLING

Shamrocks grapplers impressive in Super Duals

Only loss comes against Ohio power St. Edward's

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

If anything, Novi Detroit Catholic Central will certainly have its feet held to the fire over the course of the 2014-15 wrestling season.

The Shamrocks, three-time defending MHSAA Division 1 champions, took on two nationally-ranked and two more state-ranked teams Saturday in their own CC Super Duals tournament, finishing with a 3-1 record.

The day was highlighted by a 37-31 win in the third round over Brecksville, ranked 38th nationally and third in Ohio (behind only Lakewood St. Edward's and Massillon Perry).

Scoring big wins for the Shamrocks in the win over Brecksville were Aaron Rehfeldt, Trevor Zdesbki, Tommy Herrmann, Nick Joseph, Myles Amine, Nick Giese and Nick Jenkins.

"Overall, I'm very pleased with the fight and grit our guys showed," said CC coach Mitch Hancock, whose team is 8-2 overall. "These guys battled hard, were aggressive and got after the pin. To come in here and go 3-1 on alumni day is awfully impressive, considering the competition."

In the tourney opener, CC edged Dundee, the No. 1-ranked team in Division 3 and No. 4 in the Power 15 by Michigan Grappler, 39-34, as Stone Moscovic, Rehfeldt, Joseph and Jenkins all scored pins in the win.

In its second match, CC ran into a buzz-saw against No. 22-ranked St. Edward's, falling 54-10 as Amine and Giese were the lone victors for the Shamrocks, while Zdesbki fell to L.J. Bentley in a highly competitive match decided late by an officials' call.

In their fourth dual of

the day, the Shamrocks edged Hudson, ranked No. 2 in Division 4, 36-34, as Jenkins, the sophomore heavyweight, scored a pin in the final match to sew up the victory.

Also earning impressive victories were Moscovic, Rehfeldt, Zdesbki, Herrmann, Amine, Connor Cox and Giese. Herrmann was able to avenge a semifinal loss the previous week in the CC Invitational to Hudson's Tyler Roberts, who finished fourth in last year's Division 4 tournament.

"This team is going to be hard to beat come late February and it's fun to watch them progress with each competition," Hancock said.

"Iron sharpens iron and these guys will have been battle-tested and better for having endured such tough competition."

bemons@hometownlife.com



CANTON BOWLING
Canton's varsity boys bowling team won Saturday's tournament at Super Bowl Lanes. In the back row (from left) are assistant coach Dave Madsen, Jacob Peltz, Josh Criscenti, D.J. Jablonski and head coach Karl Brubaker. Kneeling (from left) are Tyler Pozan and Aaron Madsen.

BOWLING

Continued from Page B1

overall. Leading the Rocks in the individual results was Brynna Samuels, who placed 12th with a 183-359 series.

Other local finishers were: Salem's Rachel Lopez (32nd, 122-173-295), Leah Boucha (34th, 167-126-293); Plymouth's Nicole Marshall (38th, 160-117-277), Elizabeth Nicholson (48th, 136-121-257), Ashley Bressler (51st, 137-110-247) and Canton's Megan Peldo (46th, 134-125-259), Shivani Patel

(49th, 119-137-256) and Maranda McMaster (55th, 95-141-236).

JV Rocks roll

Meanwhile, in the boys junior varsity tournament, Salem's 'A' team prevailed with 2,604 pins, well ahead of Canton's 'A' team (second, 2,304) and University of Detroit-Jesuit (third, 2,278).

The Rocks also had the top three performers, Brendan Kwapis (435), Alex Mattson (389) and Jake Kurth (372).

In sixth for the Rocks was Nathan Turi, who threw a 200 game en route to a 347 series.

Plymouth's top bowlers were Michael Koski (ninth, 342), Justin O'Shaughnessy (13th, 325) and Nathan Stoeckle (19th, 308).

Canton was led by Teddy Lang (10th, 334) and Andrew Nosay (12th, 329).

Tecumseh won the JV girls tourney with 1,859, with Canton placing fourth (1,568).

Making the top 10 among Canton JV girls were Sabby Srivastava (seventh, 252), Danielle Drechnowicz (ninth, 244) and Kayla Pearson (10th, 238).

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



HIGH VELOCITY
Jamie Scott (right), a coach for Canton Soccer Club, works with youngsters inside the new High Velocity facility.

DOMES

Continued from Page B1

"Obviously with Independence Park (where most of the Canton Cup is played) and now this, we have two of the premier soccer facilities in the state, if not the region," said John O'Meara, president of the Canton Soccer Club. "Between hosting one of the largest tournaments and then having this to be able to offer as well not only helps the club, but I think helps the whole southeast Michigan community."

O'Meara applauded Friday's official unveiling of the dome and

he has plenty of company among Canton's soccer community in doing just that.

Wonderful day

"It's a wonderful day; it's finally come true," O'Meara said. "A lot of activities have gone on over the last few years to try to make it happen."

"From the club's perspective, it's something that's allowed us to expand our programs immensely and give our membership not only use during the winter, but during the rainy seasons of the spring and the fall as well."

"We're really excited, our membership's excited. It's here in Canton, another partnership

with the club and the Canton community."

O'Meara echoes SA-SA's Cameron about the domed field providing a place where players can get better without worrying about rain, snow or hockey boards.

"I think it gives them the ability to continue to practice," O'Meara said. "With anything, the more you practice something, the better you become at it."

"If you're taking six months off, you've got that start-up curve again."

Now, soccer never has to stop.

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NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Northville home's renovation includes 'lot of neat little features'

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

When you buy a home, you may envision something different from what it starts out as.

"It was a small ranch," said Carrie Bake, an associate broker/owner at Bake Real Estate of Plymouth, referencing the near downtown Northville home at 540 Orchard Drive. "They went up and built two more stories. It still has some of the original elements, but it's modern from a functional standpoint. It's got a great location as well. A lot of neat little features."

The home is listed with Bake Real Estate at \$695,000 and is in the Northville Public Schools district. "It's actually in the city of Northville," said Bob Bake, Carrie's dad and also an associate broker/owner at the firm. "That's a very important component. Everybody wants that walkability."

The home had its garage torn down and a new one built to accommodate play space for the homeowners' two children. "It was built by Amish craftspeople that came from Ohio," Carrie Bake said of the renovation, undertaken by the owners in 2011 on the home originally built in 1954.

"They wanted something one of a kind," she said of the owners. "They decided to buy this ranch and make it their own."

The home has an open kitchen onto the family room, she added, as well as hardwood floors in the kitchen.

The Bakes work with her



The Orchard Drive home was extensively renovated from its small ranch origins.

PATRICK WONG

husband, Patrick Wong, also an associate broker, and all three are Realtors. Wong and his wife live in Northville Township while Bob Bake, who grew up in Northville, now calls Plymouth home.

The homeowners built the home for their two children, she said. The wife is now a nurse and has a background in design, evidenced by the home's interior flourishes.

"There's just a lot of character built into the house," she said. Patrick Wong noted the resurgence of interest in architecture, including in Detroit. "I think there's a lot of that excitement catching on," Wong said.

The flier for 540 Orchard Drive says "Present Day Living with Vintage Charm." The home has 3,472 square feet of living space, Shaker-style cabinetry, covered front and rear porches, custom woodwork, reclaimed pillars, and a two and a half car garage with

DETAILS

The home is at 540 Orchard Drive within walking distance to downtown Northville. It's listed at \$695,000 with Carrie Bake of Bake Real Estate, 908 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170. The telephone is 734-453-8080, fax 734-468-0222. Information is online at www.bobbake.com or www.carriebake.com. Carrie Bake is at 734-788-2398, carrie@bobbake.com. The home's architect has a website, www.clemensarchitecture.com. Bake Real Estate is on Facebook and Carrie and husband/colleague Patrick Wong have a blog, patrickandcarrie.com, that features both real estate and lifestyle information focused on Plymouth/Northville.

ing with Vintage Charm." The home has 3,472 square feet of living space, Shaker-style cabinetry, covered front and rear porches, custom woodwork, reclaimed pillars, and a two and a half car garage with

a walk-up bonus room.

The first floor has an in-law suite. The home features four bedrooms, as well as three full and two half bathrooms.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Trespass could be issue on property

Q: Our neighbor's house encroaches by a significant number of square feet on our lot and I am wondering if that is what the law calls "a trespass on a continuing basis"?

A: More than likely it is based on some case law that states that this is a continuing trespass for which an injunction could be issued and that the court has discretion to "weigh the equities in exceptional circumstances." The cases indicate that injunctive relief is not proper when it operates oppressively and inequitably against the encroaching party and the rights of the landowner can be adequately protected otherwise. However, in the type of case that you may have, there may not be exceptional circumstances and, depending on the amount of the square foot intrusion, it may not be deemed a minimus encroachment, and in the case that I am referring to, the developer's innocence in relying on the engineers site development plan did not outweigh the injustice of requiring compensation for the plaintiff and/or the transfer of title.

Q: An attorney friend told me that some of these developers who sell new condos have previously entered into confidentiality agreements in other developments where they got sued and settled. Can you elaborate on what he meant by that?

A: I presume what he meant by that is that developers have been sued by condo associations for construction defects and deficiencies and financial irregularities. When a settlement is reached, the parent developer as well as the single entity LLC that probably developed the condominium project want a release from the association of any and all claims and want the terms of the settlement kept confidential, even from the co-owners of the project. I think that is improper because purchasers of condos from these developers, working through single entity LLC's, will never know about the quality of construction that has occurred, particularly, when the same type units are constructed in a new project. You are best to consult with an attorney who has knowledge of the litigation history of the developer in the Metro Detroit area.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

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

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

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 18-22, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

18831 Hillcrest St \$348,000
31745 Sheridan Dr \$307,000
31813 Sheridan Dr \$283,000
19100 Warwick St \$460,000

BINGHAM FARMS

29900 Bristol Ln \$584,000
30705 Timberbrook Ln \$388,000
30825 Timberbrook Ln \$325,000

BIRMINGHAM

1508 Cole St \$220,000
1875 Haynes St \$244,000
1435 Hazel St \$285,000
1699 Waverland Blvd \$769,000
1889 Pine St \$555,000
1935 Raynale St \$545,000
556 Ridgedale Ave \$918,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave \$325,000

BIRMINGHAM

1791 Villa Rd \$223,000
682 W Frank St \$330,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

1941 Pine Ridge Ct \$287,000
2097 Eagle Pointe \$213,000
2554 Essex Ln \$292,000
4700 Heather Ln \$380,000
2235 Hunt Club Dr \$386,000
1975 Klingsmith Rd \$81,000
Unit 28
33 Lone Pine Rd \$1,825,000
3140 Woodcreek Way \$695,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

1457 Club Dr \$850,000
858 Dowling Rd \$412,000
2104 Eagle Pointe \$215,000
3034 High Pointe Ct \$275,000
1433 Lochridge Rd \$1,325,000
5750 Monterey Ct \$275,000

4115 Orchard Way \$325,000
1575 Oxford Rd \$640,000
6633 Spruce Dr \$365,000
6350 Telegraph Rd # 5 \$72,000
495 Tilbury Rd \$1,025,000
4043 W Maple Rd # D101 \$103,000
5311 Woodview Dr \$410,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

2943 Barbwood Ct \$590,000
8639 Buffalo Dr \$186,000
1736 Huron Springs Ln \$285,000
1966 Jason Ct \$273,000
5062 Juniper Dr \$269,000
5644 Strawberry Cir \$474,000
1529 Trace Hollow Dr \$320,000
4904 Triwood Dr \$250,000
6095 Venice Dr \$255,000
5080 Wavewood Dr \$400,000

FARMINGTON

22528 Floral St \$132,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

21429 Archwood Cir \$165,000
31902 Bella Vista Dr \$195,000
36528 Bingham Ct \$120,000
35112 Bunker Hill Dr \$238,000
38840 Country Cir \$131,000
28839 Creek Bend Dr \$278,000
28132 Gettysburg St \$256,000
31181 Harmony Ln \$70,000
35115 Hillside Dr \$180,000
27409 Hystone Dr \$160,000
35204 Knollwood Ln \$175,000
37685 Lancaster Dr \$290,000
25522 Livingston Cir \$297,000
32019 N Marklawn St \$136,000
30975 Pointe Of Woods Dr # 187 \$101,000
25543 Ranchwood Dr \$341,000
27812 Shiawassee Rd \$134,000
29451 Stockton Ave \$200,000
38365 Windsor \$149,000

FRANKLIN

30325 Woodside Dr \$452,000

HIGHLAND

2060 Addaleen Dr \$270,000

4570 Chevron Dr \$420,000
2881 Cloverdale \$136,000
3541 Harvey Lake Rd \$150,000
1339 Kingsway Dr \$210,000
1710 La Salle Blvd \$130,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

19252 Rainbow Dr \$258,000
18463 San Jose Blvd \$210,000

MILFORD

1034 Bird Song Ln \$192,000
1541 Murray Ct \$328,000
272 River Oaks Dr \$315,000
480 River Oaks Dr \$261,000
189 Shelley Dr \$157,000
835 Squire Ln \$163,000
228 W Lafayette St \$156,000
160 Water St \$330,000
1314 Yellowstone Valley Dr \$297,000

NORTHVILLE

21542 Beauford Ct \$275,000
21442 Beauford Ln \$342,000
21114 Boulder Cir \$170,000
21920 Cumberland Dr \$305,000
21349 E Glen Haven Cir \$97,000
22232 Lujon Dr \$92,000
21025 W Glen Haven Cir \$102,000

NOVI

25471 Abbey Dr \$415,000
43461 Algonquin Dr \$234,000
45578 Bristol Cir \$413,000
30861 Centennial Dr \$195,000
22359 Chelsea Ln \$190,000
25841 Cheyenne Dr \$540,000
42977 Clay Ct \$270,000
24606 Enchanted Dr \$230,000
27487 Harrington Way \$346,000
40546 Heatherbrook \$230,000
41750 Independence Dr \$153,000
51348 Knightsbridge Blvd \$365,000
51133 Mayfair Ter \$369,000
22438 Moorgate St \$422,000
25811 Mulberry Ln \$407,000
23627 N Rockledge \$108,000
41303 Scarborough Ln \$475,000

39434 Squire Rd \$315,000
46700 W Nine Mile Rd \$550,000
42589 Wambleton Way \$315,000

SOUTH LYON

22109 Brookfield Ct \$260,000
1092 Colt Dr \$275,000
1153 Gentry Dr \$451,000
23974 Meadowcreek Cir E \$431,000

WESTLAND

1127 Paddock Dr \$224,000
24674 Padstone Dr \$77,000
59078 Peters Barn Dr \$340,000
25186 Stanley Ln \$415,000
440 W McHattie St # 450 \$130,000

SOUTHFIELD

20023 Boardwalk Blvd \$119,000
29475 Briarbank Ct \$188,000
21771 Frazer Ave \$53,000
22250 Greenwood Rd \$160,000
19239 Greenwald Dr \$172,000
19975 Magnolia Pkwy \$74,000
19975 Magnolia Pkwy \$110,000
30075 Northgate Dr \$166,000
25200 Parsons Dr \$167,000
28031 Red Leaf Ln \$96,000
29401 Sharon Ln \$180,000
22820 Twyckingham Way \$185,000
21245 Virginia St \$183,000
19729 W Nine Mile Rd \$104,000
20515 Westhampton Ave \$65,000

WHITE LAKE

1200 Applewood Dr \$170,000
9339 Brackton Blvd \$139,000
9003 Cooley Lake Rd \$369,000
8205 Eastway Dr \$305,000
9605 Elizabeth Lake Rd \$115,000
9001 Haymarket St \$270,000
255 Horizon Rd \$160,000
9345 Mandon Rd \$245,000
465 Rosario Ln \$274,000
9235 Steephollow Ct \$260,000
9687 Steephollow Dr \$513,000
8013 Trenton Dr \$368,000
8745 Williamsport Dr \$255,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 8-12, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

43471 Abbey Cir \$273,000
778 Burlington Rd \$150,000
7091 Copper Creek Cir \$183,000
379 Country Club Ln \$374,000
1720 Delancy Cir \$485,000
47625 Fox Ct \$341,000
50090 Hancock St \$167,000
1053 Holbrook Dr \$405,000
45739 Holmes Dr \$210,000
43704 Laurelwood Dr \$145,000
42825 Lilley Pointe Dr \$87,000
1243 N Cavalier Rd \$215,000
43807 Oakbrook Rd \$234,000
51146 Upland View St \$50,000
47901 Vistas Circle Dr S \$300,000
1781 Wentworth Dr \$245,000

GARDEN CITY

1013 Arcola St \$30,000
33150 Brown St \$31,000
29659 Cambridge St \$117,000
28991 Leona St \$120,000
29735 Sheridan St \$75,000

LIVONIA

14207 Alexander St \$139,000
14394 Alexander St \$123,000
11311 Arden St \$146,000
18543 Bainbridge Ave \$320,000
14430 Barbara St \$163,000
14048 Blackburn St \$224,000
33084 Broadmoor Ct \$251,000
11315 E Clements Cir \$104,000
9241 Gillman St \$128,000
9241 Gillman St \$128,000
18614 Hillcrest St \$128,000
9123 Idaho St \$160,000
36556 Kingsbury St \$165,000
9043 Laurel St \$127,000
29856 Linda St \$213,000
15614 Liverpool St \$229,000
9908 Mayfield St \$99,000
33553 Nancy St \$135,000
34705 Navin Ave \$276,000
37600 Northland St \$345,000
19695 Norwich Rd \$200,000
9871 Oporto St \$82,000
20102 Pollyanna Dr \$315,000
16617 Riverside St \$208,000
29146 Roycroft St \$197,000
15969 Stamford St \$165,000
36678 Whitcomb St \$260,000
14417 Yale St \$163,000

NORTHVILLE

17526 Briar Ridge Ln \$759,000
50745 Briar Ridge Ln \$733,000
15725 Johnson Creek Dr \$536,000

16784 Lyonhurst Cir \$417,000
39481 Springwater Dr \$202,000
43100 Steepleview St \$334,000
39485 Village Run Dr \$325,000
16419 Westminster Dr \$422,000

PLYMOUTH

50473 Beechwood Ct \$193,000
10656 Chestnut Ct \$197,000
49707 Cooke Ave \$350,000
11952 Deer Creek Cir \$425,000
11221 Maple Ridge Dr \$680,000
47188 Marisa Ct \$605,000
9901 N Canton Center Dr \$307,000
9245 Northampton Dr \$545,000
14980 Robinwood Dr \$242,000
1472 W Ann Arbor Trl \$380,000

REDFORD

14054 Brook Dr \$172,000
14158 Brook Dr \$190,000
14234 Brook Dr \$152,000
14242 Brook Dr \$189,000
14256 Brook Dr \$150,000
25954 Cathedral \$95,000
17373 Denby \$94,000
18812 Glenmore \$70,000
19171 Indian \$18,000
26931 Lyndon \$256,000
14290 Marshall Dr \$175,000
14011 Minock Dr \$100,000
13201 Sioux \$62,000
26305 W Seven Mile Rd \$21,000
15848 Wakenden \$31,000

17706 Wakenden \$56,000

WAYNE

35404 Elm St \$78,000
34030 Glover St \$45,000
37156 Thinbark St \$100,000

WESTLAND

31628 Ann Arbor Trl \$75,000
397 Brookfield Dr \$207,000
413 Brookfield Dr \$197,000
8594 Cardwell St \$130,000
744 Darwin St \$101,000
7447 Deering St \$53,000
2120 Emerson St \$30,000
31606 Fairchild St \$92,000
526 Filbert St \$97,000
2206 Freeman St \$95,000
35336 Glen St \$113,000
31225 Hively St \$100,000
38312 Hixford Pl \$78,000
39213 Huron Pkwy \$193,000
39230 Huron Pkwy \$202,000
244 N Byfield St \$106,000
6831 N Wildwood St \$127,000
1642 S Berry St \$107,000
5180 S Middlebelt Rd \$47,000
737 Summerfield Dr \$205,000

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR						
	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1SP Mortgage	138501	(313) 215-1766	3.625	0	2.875	0
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.625	0	2.875	0
AFI Financial	2431	(610) 588-4424	3.625	0	2.875	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.625	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.25	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0	3.125	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	0	2.875	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.5	0.875	2.75	0.75
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.875	0	3.375	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.75	0.25	3.125	0

Above information available as of 1/9/15 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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Move in for as low as \$699 PLUS FREE RENT until March 2015!

Rentals starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath CHILDS LAKE ESTATES homes.

All appliances including washer & dryer.

4377 Old Plank Road Milford

248-778-4009

www.childslake.com

Move in for as low as \$699 PLUS FREE RENT until March 2015!

Rentals starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath CHILDS LAKE ESTATES homes.

All appliances including washer & dryer.

4377 Old Plank Road Milford

248-313-6245

www.childslake.com

HOMES

apartments.com HomeFinder.com

Homes

Canton Sale or build-to-suit land behind Hertz & Victory Lane on busy Michigan Ave in Canton. Approx 2.5 acres. Possible auto use or warehouse/storage. \$300,000. Bela Sipos 734-669-5813, 734-669-4100. #3212813 Reinhart Commercial.

ROMULUS JUST LISTED

3 bdrm, brick ranch, 1034 sq ft. Update kitchen open to family room, bsmt, & CA \$50,000

PRICE REDUCED

3 bdrm, approx 1000 sq ft. Kitchen w/dishwasher, bsmt, CA & 2 car GA \$50,160

CENTURY 21 CASTELLI 734-525-7900

SALEM TOWNSHIP

2+ acres, 2000+ sq/ft home, 4 bedroom, 3 full baths, \$320,000. Serious only. 248-446-2904

WAYNE

New Year New Home 3 bdrm, Bungalow 1053 sq ft. Update bath, bsmt, & CA \$37,000

CENTURY 21 CASTELLI 734-525-7900

WESTLAND LIVONIA SCHOOLS

3 bdrm, all brick ranch, 1013 sq ft. Kitchen w/dishwasher & fridge, bsmt w/washer & dryer & CA, GA \$85,000

OLD WORLD CHARM

2 bdrm ranch, updated kitchen & BA, bsmt, CA, large fenced lot \$30,400

CENTURY 21 CASTELLI 734-525-7900

RENTALS

apartments.com HomeFinder.com

RENTALS

DETROIT: 7 Mile & Telegraph area. 1 bdrm Cozy Upper. \$375/mo. + Sec. Dep & Ref. Super clean. (313) 657-8125

Apartment For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS ANGLIE APTS.

FREE HEAT! 1 bdrms from \$525, 9 Mile/Middlebelt 248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS MAPLE RIDGE APTS.

Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms, 2 baths, c/a, \$570-\$660. w/ special. 50% off 1st 3 mos. with approved credit 248.473.5180

WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts. NEWLY UPDATED

1 Bdrm-\$575
2 Bdrms-\$675

- Pool
- Fitness Center

Heat & Water Included

(734) 729-6520

*Short term leases available. AT2363288

LIVONIA 1Bdrm, no pets, Immed. occup. \$400 mo+sec. dep.+util. 734-425-0000

WAYNE: 3 bdrm ranch, Fenced yard, near Michigan & Howe. \$675. 734.945.6714

Homes For Rent

CANTON: Newly remodeled 4 br/2.5 ba, all appliances, \$1600/mo. + sec. dep. includes water. 734-455-0391

FARMINGTON: Super clean 2 bdrm, 1 bath, home with attached garage & lg fenced-in yard. All appliances. \$900/mo. plus all utilities. \$1000 sec. deposit. (248) 613-7201

SERVICES

hometownlife.com

Drywall

COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV. Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

Paint Decorating Paper

PAINTING BY ROBERT

- Wallpaper Removal • Int
- Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair
- Staining, 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-454-8147

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

CORT Furniture Rental has immediate openings for the following FT positions in Warren:

- Drivers
- Warehouse Assoc: 1st & 2nd shift
- Warehouse Supervisor: 2nd shift
- Rental & Retail Sales Reps
- Higher Ed. Acct. Rep.

Find additional details on go.cort.com/jobsearch

Job Fair will be held at **CORT** 28241 Mound Rd Warren 48092 from 10am - 2 pm, 1/20. Please bring your resume EEO/AAEP

DIRECT CARE: *New wage* \$8.50/hr. trained; must be 18 & have a valid MI driver's license. OLS/MORC trained preferred. Full time and part time; many shifts; support adults living in their own homes; make a difference! 734-728-4201

DIRECT CARE WORKER Full & part-time. \$9-\$10/hr. + mileage. Farmington Hills, Redford, Westland areas. 248-471-9168, 734-637-8143

Direct Care Workers

Needed for traumatic brain injury group home. Previous experience with traumatic brain injury, group home operations, and catheter care a plus. Must possess a valid driver's license, vehicle insurance, and reliable transportation. Various shifts are available for both full and part-time.

Please email resume to powens@digitalsinc.com or via fax to (248) 919-4026

Applicants may also apply in person, Digitals, Inc., 24505 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

Director, Business Development

Minacs, Farmington Hills, MI. Core job duties: Dvp strategies & tactics designed to leverage competitive advantage & profitability. Dvp functional area expertise w/in health industry vertical & build strategic n/works & bus. relationships w/in industry. Identify potential B2B partnerships to achieve new revenues w/ established profit margin targets. Dvp & present complex proposals incl cost justification, bus. case & tech portion of response for integrated solutions. Complete budgets & bus forecasts accurately/timely. Up to 30% travel. FT, Rqmts: Bach in Bus. Admin or related field. Foreign edu equiv acceptable. 7 yrs of exp as Sales Manager or related occup. Must have deep understanding of IT product services, knowl of Business Processing Outsourcing & sales mgmt exp in health industry vertical. Mail resume to: Minacs, c/o Laura Stawicki, 34115 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48331 (must ref "DBD-001" on resume).

Manufacturing

neapco

Van Buren Twp., MI currently has openings for:

- Industrial Engineer
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Product Dev. Engineer
- Supplier Quality Engineer
- Production Supervisor

Qualified applicants please submit resume to: pcaylor@neapco.com

Full position details & requirements on CareerBuilder.com or www.neapco.com/careers EEO

Help Wanted - General

Drivers

NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Northville School District

- Training Provided
- No experience necessary
- A competitive wage pkg
- Part-Time morning and afternoon shifts
- No nights & weekends

Apply online at: www.durhamschoolservices.com

Or in person: 504 W. Eight Mile Northville MI 48167 (248) 465-2070

DURHAM SCHOOL SERVICES EOE

GAGEMAKER

Experienced precision gage fixture builder. Journeyman level position with minimum 5 years precision assembly experience. Must be able to run a mill and surface grind to facilitate build. Must have proficient blue print reading skills for assembly and component detail build. Must be able to build electronic & functional gage fixture assemblies. Top rates & competitive benefits. Send resume sales@mayagage.com

MAYA GAGE

GENERAL LABOR/ ASSEMBLY

\$9.50/hr. to start. Medical, Paid Holidays & Vacation. Must pass drug screen. 20775 Chesley, Farmington. 248-478-7788 weatherking@weatherkingdoors.com

Maintenance

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Full-time to perform repair, cleaning and maintenance of multiple office buildings in Plymouth. Minor carpentry, electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs. Upkeep of grounds and cleaning office space, running errands and office support. Ability to lift up to 50 pounds and climb ladders. Must have valid driver's license, drug test required. Starting pay rate is based on experience and includes benefits.

Email resume to: lpetraska@techmansales.com or come & fill out application. 352 N. Main St. #8 Plymouth, MI 48170. Parking lot is located behind dentist office on the corner of Main and Amelia. **TECHMAN SALES INC.**

Part-Time/Seasonal Help

- LINE COOKS
- CASHIERS
- FEMALE JANITORIAL AFTERNOON SHIFT

Apply in person: **SHOWPLACE** 46100 Grand River Now MI Or email: dthomas@suburbanshowplace.com

WAREHOUSE

Entry Level - Canton, MI 40 hrs/wk guaranteed! Hi-Lo exp a plus but not req'd. Must pass drug screen and be able to lift 50 + lbs. Please forward resume along with salary requirements to: oeeresume@hometownlife.com Ref box 5001 on subject line

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

PAYROLL ASSISTANT Part-Time

Michigan Healthcare Professionals. Provide clerical assistance to the Payroll Manager as directed. Data entry & general math skills exp req. Exp working with ADP Software is preferred, not req. Farmington Hills area. Cover letter & resume: dhuram@mhpdactor.com Visit us at: mlpdactor.com

CASH IN with O&E Media's CLASSIFIEDS

800-579-SELL

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

SECRETARIAL

FULL-TIME. Good benefits. Must have office exp., manual bookkeeping, computer, accounting, filing. **MUST APPLY IN PERSON:** Brose Electrical 37400 W. 7 Mile, Livonia (734) 464-2211

SECURITY RECEPTIONIST

We are currently accepting applications for full-time employment in the Farmington Hills area.

REQUIREMENTS:

- High School Diploma/GED
- Drug Free
- No Criminal History
- Computer Proficient, especially in Excel and Lotus
- Previous Reception Experience Required
- Strong Customer Service Skills

BENEFITS:

- Free Individual Health Ins
- Tuition Assistance
- Free Uniforms

Please call to schedule an interview at **(248) 553-9900**

Help Wanted - Dental

Dental Receptionist

For Periodontal & Implant Practice. Must have dental receptionist & computer knowledge. Farmington Hills area. **Contact Karen at: 248-851-1034**

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST

Livonia, Full time with benefits. Dental exp needed. **Please call: 734-522-6770**

Help Wanted - Medical

LPN: Graduate of Accredited Program/School, MI State Licensed. Min. 1 yr Nursing Exp. Current CPR Cert. **CHHA:** Must have 75 hrs Home Care & Hospice Foundation or N.A.H.C. Cert. Home Health Exp Preferred - Reliable Transportation. Send Resume to: p.williams@thebaptistmanor.org

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

Full-Time for a busy family medicine office in Livonia. 2 yrs. exp. needed. Resume: Western Wayne Physicians 37650 Professional Ct. Dr. #1000, Livonia, MI 48154 or Fax: 734-462-5960

PERSONALS

hometownlife.com

Card of Thanks

PRAYER: Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted.-M

BUY & SELL

hometownlife.com

Estates Sales

ESTATE ANTIQUE Auction

Fri. January 16th, 5pm & 6pm. 11580 Ozga Rd, Romulus MI 60+ clocks, 200+ advertising items: furniture, folk art, quilts, juke box, military, guns. 5 pm Tool Auction. See photos and list at DougDaltonAuctioneer.com 800-801-6452

Highland - Estate Sale

Jan. 15-17, 10-4PM
1659 Apollo Dr.
Vintage furn., tables, misc. bdrm sets, dishes, crafts.

LIVONIA 31642 Grove Fri-Sun. 10am-4pm Mid-Century furniture: dining, living, kitchen, bedroom, antiques, books, toys, tools, Christmas (Dickens Village series), glass, crystal, linens, appliances & more.

Appliances

Whirlpool washer & dryer. Cabrio models, electric dryer and top load washer. Runs perfect, extra clean, tons of options, like new condition. Only 2 years old! \$750 or best offer. (517) 282-9630

Office Supplies

COMPANY OUT OF BUSINESS

HAVE MISC. TIME CARDS FOR SALE 248-719-4668

Musical Instruments

SPINET PIANO - Grinnell Brothers. Cherry finish, needs TLC and Key/ Hammer work. Great starter piano. \$700. 248-303-5321

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800-579-7355

BUY & SELL

Wanted to Buy
CASH PAID or CONSIGNMENT for Vintage, Antique and Other Valuable Items.

WANTED: New, used, old Fishing Tackle & related items.

WHEELS

Snowmobiles

Z L Arctic Cat Snowmobile 1999: 500 c.c., water cooled, \$1600.

Trucks for Sale

FORD ESCAPE 2011 4x4, Ford SYNC, heated seats, Bluetooth. \$19,988

FORD RANGER 2008 XLT, 4x2, Super Cab, ABS \$19,988

GMC SIERRA 2010 Crew Cab, short box, 4x4, SLE, ABS, traction control. \$23,000

Mini-Vans

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY 2011 Touring, FWD, ABS, Options galore! \$17,488

4 Wheel Drive

JEEP WRANGLER Spt 2010 4x4, 39k miles, a fun drive! \$24,652

MARINER 2010 4wd, 4 dr Premier leather, ABS, \$13,995

SIERRA 1500 2011 Ext. Cab, 4WD, SL 58k, 1 owner \$20,995

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2009 - 4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd Heated front seats \$21,000

Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM 2012 FWD, leather, heated seats, Nav. System, \$28,000

Sports Utility

CHEVY EQUINOX 2011 FWD, 4 dr, 2 LT, heated thr. seats, ABS, power sunroof, too much to list! \$17,000

FORD FLEX LIMITED 2013 Heated seats, Ford SYNC, navigation, back up camera. \$26,988

GMC ACADIA 2010 FWD SLT1, Lther, Bose stereo system, loaded! \$17,995

GMC TERRAIN 2010 FWD, 4 door, SLE-1, back up camera, privacy glass. \$13,000

GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, 42K 1 owner, extra clean! \$17,995

GMC YUKON 2011 4WD, 4 dr., 1500 SLT, Leather, Pwr. Sunroof, 3rd Row Seat. \$31,995

GMC YUKON 2012 4wd, 4 dr., 1500 SLT, leather, heated seats, nav. system, power sunroof. \$31,995

JEEP 11' GRAND CHEROKEE Laredo, 4x4, luxury SUV, 16.4 k mi., Great cond., transferable warr., Nav., leather heated seats & sunr., tow pkg. \$29,950

JEEP LIBERTY 2012 4x4, 4WD, 4dr Spt, 1 owner, 40,000 miles \$17,000

MERCURY MARINER 2010 MP3 compatible, steering wheel controls, power sunroof. \$13,488

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011 4WD, LTZ, leather, back-up camera, remote ignition. \$15,995

SCION TC 2009 2 dr., hatchback, power sunroof, 1 owner. \$15,000

LACROSSE 2010 CXL, 3.0, FWD, leather, heated seats, ABS. \$16,000

LACROSSE 2012 FWD, Premium 3, Leather, heated seats, power sunroof \$22,995

REGAL CXL 2011 CXL R1 Russelsheim, 48K, 3rd row seat, 1 owner. \$13,000

MALIBU 1LT 2011 36,000 Miles, Imperial Blue, Auto, Just In! \$12,995

CRUZE 2011 LTZ1 Leather, full power, Spotties! \$13,988

IMPALA LT 2011 30K, 1 owner, leather, heated seats, power sunroof. \$14,000

MALIBU 1LT 2011 36,000 Miles, Imperial Blue, Auto, Just In! \$12,995

MAZDA CX-7 2011 1 Spt FWD, ABS, Privacy glass. \$14,988

MAZDA CX-7 2011 1 Spt FWD, ABS, Privacy glass. \$14,988

MAZDA CX-7 2011 1 Spt FWD, ABS, Privacy glass. \$14,988

MAZDA CX-7 2011 1 Spt FWD, ABS, Privacy glass. \$14,988

MAZDA CX-7 2011 1 Spt FWD, ABS, Privacy glass. \$14,988

Chevrolet

MALIBU 2014 1LT, 22k miles, 1 owner, loaded. Just like new except the price! \$21,000

CAMARO SS 2013 RWD, Black, rear spoiler, 26K miles. \$28,988

CHRYSLER 200 LTD 2012 FWD, heated seats, remote start \$15,988

TOWN & COUNTRY 2010 4 dr, wagon Touring, 4 wheel ABS, Solar glass, 1 year FREE maintenance (limited time offer) \$13,000

FOCUS 2012 SEL FWD, Lot of options, 20,000 miles \$14,988

FOCUS SES 2010 FWD, ABS, 1 owner, Ford Certified. \$12,488

FORD 2011 FLEX-SEL FWD, fully loaded, thr, all pwr, new tires & brakes, manufacturer trailer package. \$14,900.

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LEXUS ES 350 2008 4 dr., Sedan, Leather, Heated Seats, Loaded! \$17,000

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LEXUS ES 350 2008 4 dr., Sedan, Leather, Heated Seats, Loaded! \$17,000

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS 1 Apiece 5 Where Mongolia is 9 Ballpoint pen 12 Ricelike pasta 13 Nessie's hideout 14 Summer in Cannes 15 Close 16 Friendly 18 Tinned fish 20 Lets fly 21 Subway relatives 22 - choy 23 Almost chilly 26 Mundane 30 Grog ingredient 31 "The," to Wolfgang 32 Computer language 33 Theoretically (2 wds.) 36 Baloney! 38 Pony up 39 Rev the engine 40 Keats' saint 43 Search for the unknown? 47 Massachusetts nickname (2 wds.) 49 Sir - Guinness 50 911 responder 51 Idyllic spot 52 Paper toy 53 Confederate general 54 Studies 55 Lost no time

- DOWN 1 Many, many years 2 Caller's code 3 Movie mogul 4 Vast multitudes 5 Bates and Greenspan 6 A few 7 Pierre's here 8 "Gesundheit!" evoker 9 Wyo. neighbor 10 "cost you" 11 Wax makers 17 Razor-billed birds 19 Genre 22 Teeth-chattering sound 23 Family mem. 24 Complete in a 10K 25 Mischievous child 26 Pricing word 27 Ooh companion 28 Ms. Lupino 29 Harsh cry 31 Tunis pasha 34 Powerful primates 35 Clobbered 36 Jowly canine 37 Goes furtively 39 Hollows 40 Labor leader I.W. - 41 Hunter's quarry 42 Wall St. landmark 43 Two fives for - 44 Brief upturn 45 Solar plexus 46 Zipped through 48 Fruit cooler

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Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
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ADELMAN, JEFFREY DANIEL

Age 48, died in Los Angeles on January 10th. Born June 24, 1966, he lived Ann Arbor, Birmingham, and Washington, DC, before making Santa Monica, CA his home. Jeffrey was General Counsel and Secretary of j2 Global, an LA communications company. Prior to joining j2 in 2000, Jeffrey practiced law with Miller Canfield in Detroit. Jeffrey attended the University of Michigan law school and was a member of the State Bars of California and Michigan. Jeffrey is survived by his wife, Juli, his sons, Samuel (8) and Benjamin (6), his parents, Judith and Joel, his siblings, Elizabeth, Laurel, and Michael (Deirdre), along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. In addition to Jeffrey's funeral in LA on January 13th, a memorial service will be held for Jeffrey on February 1st, at 1:00 pm at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield. Memorial contributions can be made to The Santa Monica Synagogue, 1448 18th St, Santa Monica, CA 90404 or to the charity of your choice.



BAUMKEL, KENT B. (nee Buesser)

Age 60, tragically passed away from a sudden heart attack on Sunday, January 4, 2015. Kent was raised in Detroit's Lafayette Park along with her younger twin brothers, Tony and Andy, by her parents Carolyn Pickle and Anthony C. Buesser. She attended Chrysler Elementary, Liggett and Cass Technical High Schools from which she graduated in 1973. Later in life she earned a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in Psychology from the University of Michigan. In 1978 she married Jan A. Baumkel and later moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan with him where they set up and ran an alternative family medicine practice together. Kent's pioneering work with the Ann Arbor mayors task force on increasing safety for women along with her undying commitment to crisis counseling and survivor advocacy helped change the lives of many. Selfless and affectionate, Kent put her energetic compassion into action and helped everyone with whom she shared these gifts. She is survived by her mother, Carolyn Pickle, stepfather Bill Bacon, father Tony Buesser Sr., stepmother Dolores Buesser and her remaining brother Andy Buesser, along with numerous other cousins and relatives. Cremation has taken place and because of her sudden farewell to us all and her deep love of gardening we will schedule a memorial celebration of her life for this coming spring or summer. Details will be posted on this website at a later date please check back in March. Charitable contributions in her memory may be made to a tribute fund for women's studies at the University of Michigan, which will be found online in the next few days at:
Leadersandbest@umich.edu
To share a memory, please visit:
vermeulenfuneralhome.com

FONTANESI, JOHN

January 2, 1926, John passed into joy and peace on January 11, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Maryann. He was loved by his four children, John Martin (Jennifer), JoAnne and Jore (Susan); to whom he taught many life lessons, most important to be kind to everyone. He was blessed with 17 grandchildren, in whom he took immense pride. He is also survived by his sister, Angelina Caratelli, and many nieces and nephews. He served in the Marine Corp 1944-46 and he was the founder of Fontanesi and Kahn. He is now with his father, Celso, mother, Irma, brother, Viafro, and sister, Calide. He was a devout Catholic who knew how important faith is at times like this. He will be missed by all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Radiation Therapy or Alzheimer's Disease Fund in care of the Beaumont Foundation.

MIHALIK, DONALD

Age 85, January 8, 2015. Beloved husband of the late Anna Mac. Dear father of Sharon (Mike) Wolverson, Anita, Kathy (Bob) Cuccaro and the late Diane Frost. Grandfather of Alex, Randy, Scott (Kristie), Steven, Rachel, David, Sara, Brian, Nicole, Ashly, Dylan and the late Ian. Great grandfather of Andrew, Natalie, Dean, Brienne and Owen. Memorial visitation Saturday 2pm followed by the 4pm Memorial Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to the Wounded Warrior Project.
www.santeiufuneralhome.com



READING, HELEN L.

Age 85, January 11, 2015. Beloved wife of the late James Reading. Loving mother of James Curtis (Mary) Reading and Deborah Louise (Michael) Ewald. Dear grandmother of Jason, Laurie, Douglas, Kyle, Tyler and Justin. Great grandmother of Andrew, Benjamin, Joshua and Isabel. Sister of Dorothy Stevenson. Funeral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Friday at 11 a.m. Visitation Thursday from 2 - 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association or the charity of your choice.
Please share a memory at www.rgrharris.com.



ZANDER, DONALD CHARLES

85, died on Monday, January 5 at home with his family. He was born July 11, 1929 in the Plymouth area to Clara and Carl Zander. He served in the U.S. Navy and returned in 1950 to marry Jean Kellems. He worked at Fishers Shoes in Plymouth and they raised three children, Deborah, Michael, and Donna. They lived in Plymouth until 1973, then moved to Albion as owners of Cartwright Shoes. He was an active leader in the Plymouth and Albion Elks Clubs for over 50 years and an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. Survivors include his loving wife of 65 years, Jean; daughter Deborah McLaughlin, Highland; son Michael (Kathy) Zander, White Pigeon; and daughter Donna (Valdemar) Gonzalez, Albion. His grandchildren include Melissa (Craig), Ramon, Matthew, Lisa, Martin, and Marc; and three great-grandchildren, Kailey, Brianna and Leo. He leaves two sisters, Mary (Mike) Parker and Carol (Joe) Turner; and many loving nieces and nephews. He joins his parents, sister Avis (Charlie) Truax, and brother Robert, along with all family and friends who have gone before. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 17 at the Albion Elks Lodge, S. Superior, Albion, MI, 49224. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Albion Elks Handicapped Childrens Fund.



Livonia church offers group wedding, commitment ceremonies

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer



Unity of Livonia will marry couples for free in a group ceremony on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 at the church.

"I think the timing had something to do with it," said the Rev. Eileen Patra, pointing out that Valentine's Day is on a Saturday this year. "And we wanted to reach out and do something where we were giving to the community."

The church will offer a complimentary wedding ceremony at 12:30 p.m. and commitment ceremony at 10 a.m.

Couples must pre-register, and those participating in the wedding ceremony must deliver their license to the church no later than Wednesday, Feb. 11.

It's the first time that Patra has offered the group ceremonies.

"I remember talking to another minister in the Chicago area and he

mentioned doing it and I thought, Oh, what a cool thing to do. There were a few other Unity churches have done it. Since it's on Valentine's Day, it's the perfect day," she said.

"I think the appeal is to people who are going to do something small anyway. The fact that it's

complimentary can be appealing. And I think there's also some appeal of being part of a group."

She expects to cap the maximum number of couples at 10 for each group ceremony, leaving room for witnesses and a few guests.

Patra has no other weddings set for Feb. 14,

although she reserved some church time in the evening, just in case she receives a request.

"We also get calls from people who want to get married on a Wednesday in the minister's office," she added.

Patra was married at Southgate City Hall, followed by a reception "around the campfire" in Brighton.

"I was a flower child," she said, adding that she wore a flowered dress and big, floppy hat to her wedding. A handful of family members witnessed the ceremony. The reception was larger, with attendees camping together.

Couples interested in the group wedding or commitment ceremony, may call Unity of Livonia from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, at 734-421-1760. Unity of Livonia is located at 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt.

RELIGION CALENDAR

JANUARY

BIBLE STUDY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22
Location: St. Michael the Archangel School, 11311 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Parishioner Gary Michuta will begin a study of "The Road to Revelation," with initial focus on the Book of Daniel and three other Old Testament prophets. The free classes will meet the second and fourth Thursday through May. Open to all, regardless of religious denomination and Bible knowledge
Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200; livoniastmichael.org

MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Time/Date: 6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, at Maplewood, Garden City
Details: New midweek service includes music, scripture, prayer, and a message based on Scripture
Contact: 734-421-8628

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 18
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10
Contact: 734-425-4421

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. doors open; 8 p.m. show starts, Friday, Jan. 16
Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia
Details: Blackthorn performs; \$100 for a table of eight, \$125 for a table of 10, or \$15 per ticket
Contact: 734-464-1222, 734-464-2020 or email Colleen at cmisiak@stedith.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17
Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia
Details: Mitch and Jesse Manns perform with Dean Rutledge. Mitch Manns has performed with bluegrass, oldie and country bands and Jesse Manns developed his personal guitar style after listening to Chet Atkins, Hank Garland and Jeff Back. Rutledge, a 40-year veteran of the Detroit folk scene, has worked as a soloist and as a member of the New Christy Minstrels. Tickets are \$10 per person
Contact: 734-427-2290

HYMN SINGING

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24
Location: Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, 3600 Telegraph, north of Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills
Details: An hour of singing traditional hymns, with Nancee Shelton and Elizabeth Wolfe, pianists, Al Yungton, music

FEBRUARY

AUCTION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15
Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland
Details: Concordia Lutheran School's annual auction, Disney Dreams, will include appetizer, dinner, dessert, and beverages. Tickets are \$30 per table or \$270 per table of 10. Buy them at either campus, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, 248-474-2488; or 9600 Laverne, Redford, 313-937-2233. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Feb. 9
Contact: Raeann Kusch at 734-432-7777

GRIEFSHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-June 7
Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: This nondenominational program features Christ-centered Bible-based teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved. Includes videos that feature grief experts and real-life stories of grieving individuals; support group discussion; and work-based personal study and reflection. Registration fee is \$15, which includes the workbook and other materials
Contact: the Rev. Roger Wright at 313-682-7491; griefshare.org

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26
Location: St. Michael Lutheran School, 3003 Hannan, between Palmer and Michigan Ave., Wayne
Details: Take a guided tour of the school and meet with teachers. St. Michael is accredited by Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools and National Lutheran School Accreditation. The preschool-eighth grade parochial school is celebrating its 32nd school year. It offers morning and afternoon licensed latchkey and bus service for residents in the Wayne-Westland School district
Contact: 734-728-3315; stmiichael.lutheran.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18
Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth Township
Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men and women to celebrate Mass. Refreshments and a meeting will follow
Contact: Geri at 734-259-5024 or Pat at 734-895-6246

WORLD SABBATH

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Jan. 25
Location: Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills
Details: Celebrate peace and religious diversity through this interfaith experience of music, dance and prayer. Afterglow follows the service
Contact: 248-647-3851

Time/Date: 10 a.m. commitment ceremony; 12:30 p.m. wedding, Feb. 14
Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: The church offers a complimentary group wedding and group commitment ceremony on Valentine's Day. Couples must pre-register, and those participating in the wedding ceremony must deliver their license to the church no later than Wednesday, Feb. 11
Contact: 734-421-1760

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Contact: 248-647-3851

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton
Details: No documentation needed
Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

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Dogs to test rat-hunting skills in new event at Michigan Winter Dog Classic

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Eric Madsen and his dog, Shirley, love rats. Shirley loves to find them, and Madsen loves to cheer her on — even help guide her search.

The Canton man and his four-pawed companion, an Australian shepherd, are top competitors in barn hunt, a relatively new canine sport in which dogs uncover live rats encased in protective tubes from stacked hay bales.

"I remember the first day we gathered around and they brought the cage," said Madsen, recounting Shirley's initial training session. "When Shirley saw the rat inside, it was love at first sight. She is passionate about rats. Absolutely passionate."

Since achieving her first title in March last year, Shirley has soared in the sport and is the top titled dog in the country. She and Eric became the first barn hunt team to earn champion RatchX-2 and X-3 level titles last year. They are the only competitors to reach the RatchX-4 level. They'll work toward their next champion title at the Michigan Winter Dog Classic, Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 15-18, at Suburban Collection Showplace, 461000 Grand River Ave., Novi.

The annual dog show, presented by the Oakland County Kennel Club and Livonia Kennel Club, brings together more than 7,000 dogs and their owners for conformation, agility, rally, obedience and weight-pull competitions. The event also includes breed seminars, educational demonstrations, duck herding shows, vendors and rescue groups. New competitions this year are diving and barn hunt.

Follow your nose

Betsy Bernock, who owns Great American Dogs, a dog training center in Garden City, holds barn hunt classes and events throughout the year, in addition to teaching agility, conformation, rally, obedience and nose work. She is coordinating the barn hunt trials at the Michigan Winter Dog Classic, where more than 700 dogs will participate in the four-day competition.

Any breed or size dog may compete in barn hunt. Bernock owns Labrador retrievers who enjoy the hunt.

"If they are interested in the scent of a rat, that's all it takes," she said. "When the dog gets into the ring, the basic requirement is three-fold. They have to go through a tunnel made out of straw bales. They have to jump on and off of straw bales. The pyramids of straw bales are designed by judges to allow for (rat) hiding locations."

Tunnels and straw bale pyramids become more complex as competitors advance through titles. When the dog finds a rat, he signals his owner, who in turn alerts the judges. If the tube is empty or contains only rat bedding, rather than a live rat, the run ends. If the dog finds a live rat, he can continue to look for more.

Pet rats

"It's fun to watch. Some dogs will dig in the spot. Some bark at it. Some sit and say,



Shirley leaps over a straw bale in search of a rat.



Eric Madsen and his Australian shepherd, Shirley, are the top titled barn hunt team in the U.S.



Eric Madsen and his dog, Shirley, work together as a team during a barn hunt trial.

MICHIGAN WINTER DOG CLASSIC

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Jan. 16-18

Where: The Suburban Collection Showplace, 461000 Grand River Ave., Novi

Details: Sponsored by the Livonia Kennel Club and Oakland County Kennel Club, the event will bring more than 7,000 dogs together for conformation, agility, rally, obedience, diving, barn hunt and other competitions. The show also will include vendors, educational demonstrations, breed seminars, duck herding, and rescue organizations. Visitors may bring their dogs to the show for the "My Dog Can Do That!" program, 1-5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. A professional trainer will introduce them to the agility course. Dogs must be at least 6 months old and have proof of rabies shots. Guests also can test their dogs' manners at the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. **Admission:** \$10 for adults; \$8 for children, 7-12; and free for children, 6 and under. Family admission for two adults and two children is \$35. **Contact:** themichiganwinterdogclassic.com

"there is is." The rats are hidden in pvc tubes (with litter) for comfort and management," she said. "No harm is intended for the rats and there are strict rat management rules."

"You would have never convinced me that someday I would have pet rats. But I have pet rats at home."

Bernock rescued four female rats that were offered on Internet postings as snake food, and named them Thelma, Louise, Cupcake and Snowflake.

"They have a great life and home," said Bernock, who keeps her dogs away from the rats' housing. "During the trials we give them plenty of litter and treats. They are conditioned to it."

Madsen, who owns his own consulting firm, doesn't keep rats because he and Shirley are on the road a lot. They practice at Zodiac Ranch in Milford, which offers barn hunt training, practice and trials.

"She ping pongs around the course. I try to remember



Shirley searches for rats.

where she hasn't been and then work as a team and send her to those places," he explained his role in the game.

He's having more fun with barn hunt, than he had as a handler in other canine sports. He and Shirley tried herding, but Shirley was "too powerful" and he was slow to signal her. They tried teibbal, another herding sport that uses balls rather than sheep. He also trained Shirley as a therapy dog and the pair worked in hospitals together.

He was at a treibball training class in Wisconsin when he

first heard about barn hunt. "Barn hunt is the only sport I know of where the training is more fun than the games," Madsen said. When the pair visits Zodiac Ranch, Shirley hunts rats "for 20 minutes straight." The competitive trials are timed and dogs must complete their hunt in under 4 1/2 minutes.

"Once we got to the championship level, there is no formal training. We're just out there to have fun. If it weren't for my ego, we'd just practice. She doesn't care if she gets ribbons or not. She just wants rats."

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking.

Wild Winter Weekend: Arts and crafts, live performances, ice carving, with enrichment and zookeeper talks about the zoo's arctic animals, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 17-18. Free with zoo admission.

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday,

through Jan. 31

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Between Landscape and Place" is a solo show by painter John Dempsey

Contact: 248-344-0497

AUDITIONS

FARMINGTON HILLS YOUTH THEATRE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 and 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Open auditions for Disney's *Mary Poppins - The Broadway Musical*, for grades one-12 and adults. Participants should bring a recent photo to auditions. All other materials will be supplied. The play will be performed in April and May.

Contact: 248-473-1856; fhgov.com/YouthTheatre

FARMINGTON PLAYERS

Time/Date: Registration at 11 a.m.,

auditions at noon, Sunday, Jan. 18

Location: The Farmington Players Barn, 32332 We. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Auditions for *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which will be staged in late April and early May. All who audition for leads will sing solos that can be found at farmingtonplayers.org. A pianist will be used.

Contact: farmingtonplayers.org

COMEDY

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Sean Kent. Tickets are \$12 for show only or \$25 for show and a dinner on Thursday; \$20 for show or \$32 for show and dinner, Friday-Sunday

Open mic: Each comedian gets five minutes of stage time. Open mic begins at 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Call the box

office Tuesday through Thursday, to get on the performer list

Contact: 734-261-0555; catchthefunny.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 15-16; and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17

Location: Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: Norm Stulz; tickets \$10 Thursday, \$18 Friday-Saturday

Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

DANCE

MICHIGAN CLASSIC BALLET

Time/Date: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31

Location: Smith Theatre at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696, in Farmington Hills

Details: "A Winter Fairy Tale," features excerpts from *Sleeping Beauty*. The

program will also include the debut performance of *Etiole sur Paris*, choreographed by Renee Rodriguez Mueller, especially for the Michigan Classic Ballet dancers. Order advance tickets, \$20 each, by phone, online at michiganclassicballet.org, by mail at 5526 Drake, West Bloomfield, MI 48322. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$25.

Contact: 248-682-2284

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 and 22; 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18

Location: 750 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *St. Vincent*; admission \$3

Coming up: *The Theory of Everything*, 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 23, 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

MAKE YOUR WINTER PARTY

POPP



If you're trying to shed a few pounds this winter, but love to entertain, make sure to keep treats on hand that are gentle on the waist and wallet. Sweet, spicy, salty or with an Asian twist — any way you pop it — popcorn is a satisfying snack suitable for every chilly weather occasion.

Whether you're hosting a game-day party or simply enjoying a family movie night, popcorn's wholesome taste can take on a variety of flavors to please every guest. Plus, popcorn snacks are healthy and whole grain, which means they're a more nutritious alternative to traditional party nibbles and noshes.

Cuddle up to these recipes and more by visiting www.popcorn.org.

Courtesy of Family Features

COCONUT-GINGER POPCORN TRUFFLES

Yield: 3 dozen truffles

5 cups air-popped popcorn
2 cups miniature marshmallows
1 tablespoon coconut oil or butter
½ cup shredded coconut
3 tablespoons candied ginger, minced
Cooking spray
4 ounces semi-sweet chocolate
1 teaspoon coconut oil or butter

Place popcorn in large bowl. Place marshmallows and 1 tablespoon coconut oil or butter

in medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Stir until melted; remove from heat.

Stir in shredded coconut and candied ginger. Mix well. Spray hands with cooking spray, then scoop up 1 tablespoon of popcorn mixture. Roll mixture with hands to form ball. Place ball on baking sheet lined with parchment paper or foil. Repeat to make 36 balls.

Place chocolate in small, microwave safe bowl. Heat in

microwave on high for one minute, until melted. If not completely melted, microwave for another 15 seconds and stir again.

Stir 1 teaspoon coconut oil into melted chocolate. Place chocolate in zipper-style plastic bag and seal. Snip off tiny corner of bag. Pipe chocolate on popcorn balls in decorative pattern. Garnish with extra shredded coconut and extra minced candied ginger, if desired.



SWEET AND SALTY POPCORN PARTY MIX

Yield: 14 cups

10 cups popped popcorn
2 cups miniature pretzel twists (or another small pretzel shape)
1 cup pecans
1 cup peanuts
2 cups rice, wheat or corn cereal squares
½ cup butter (1 stick)
½ cup packed brown sugar
¼ cup corn syrup
½ teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 300°F. Place popcorn, pretzels, pecans, peanuts and cereal in very large bowl; set aside.

Heat butter, brown sugar and corn syrup in medium saucepan. Stir mixture over medium heat until it begins to boil. Boil 3 minutes without stirring. Remove from heat and stir in baking soda (mixture will foam).

Pour syrup over popcorn mixture in bowl and stir until evenly coated. Pour mixture onto large, rimmed baking sheet or roasting pan. Bake 30 minutes, stirring twice during baking time. Stir mixture a few times as it cools on baking sheet. Store in airtight container.



ASIAN POPCORN MEDLEY

Yield: 8 cups

6 cups popped popcorn
2 cups Oriental rice cracker mix
3 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 tablespoon soy sauce
½–1 teaspoon ground ginger (may vary to taste)
¼–½ teaspoon sesame oil (may vary to taste)

Preheat oven to 300°F. Mix popcorn and rice cracker mix together in large bowl.

In small microwave-safe bowl, microwave butter on high until melted, about 20 seconds. Stir in soy sauce, ginger and oil. Drizzle over popcorn mixture; toss. Spread mixture on baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes, stirring once.

Allow to cool, serve or store in airtight container.



CINNAMON CHOCOLATE POPCORN

Yield: 3 quarts

3 quarts popped popcorn
Butter-flavored cooking spray
9 tablespoons powdered cocoa mix (cocoa sweetened with sugar or sugar substitute)
3 teaspoons cinnamon

Put popcorn in large bowl and lightly spray with cooking spray. Sprinkle cocoa mix and cinnamon on popcorn. Toss to coat evenly.

Spray and toss again until mixture is well coated. Serve immediately.



BLAZING BUFFALO RANCH POPCORN

Yield: 6 quarts, plus leftover seasoning mix

1 tablespoon ranch dressing or dip mix (from 1-ounce package)
1 tablespoon seafood spice mix (or celery salt)
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon powdered sugar (or sugar)
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
¼ teaspoon vegetable oil
6 quarts popped popcorn
Cooking spray, optional

In small bowl, blend ranch dressing mix, spice mix, garlic powder, powdered sugar and cayenne pepper. Sprinkle with vegetable oil and blend until well incorporated. Place popcorn in serving bowl and spray lightly with cooking spray. Sprinkle seasoning mix over popcorn to taste and toss. Store leftover seasoning mix in airtight container for future use.