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#### **Auto Show** ticket contest

**Enter our Facebook** contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. We are giving away a pair of tickets every day until Jan 18. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest. A winner will be randomly selected every day until the contest

ends. To enter, go to hometownlife.com and see "Auto Show Ticket Contest" under the "Don't Miss" section on our home page. Good



The American Red Cross sponsors upcoming blood drives at a variety of locations in the Plymouth-Canton

• Sunday, Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St. Kenneth Church, on Haggerty between Schoolcraft and Five Mile in Plymouth Town-

• Thursday, Jan. 19, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 1:30-7:15 p.m., 7000 N. Sheldon in Canton.

• Thursday, Jan. 19, 2-7:45 p.m., Gallimore Elementary School, 8375 Sheldon in Can-

 Monday, Jan. 23, 1:30-7:15 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road west of Plym-

Donors interested can call Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or email her at riskod@usa. redcross.org.

#### Socks and undies

A clothing drive to benefit the Plymouth-**Canton Community** Schools Clothing Bank, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, is looking for new men's, women's and children's socks and underwear, along with other new or gently used cloth-

The event takes place at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, in Plymouth.

For more information, e-mail mbartek09@ comcast.net.

**INDEX** 

Homes



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Andrew Slackta and PCAC volunteer Denise Cassidy hang 'Utah Sun.'

# No slacker

# Musician, carpenter branches into painting with first exhibit

**By Matt Jachman** Observer Staff Writer

One can safely say that painter Andrew Slackta's first solo exhibition doesn't live up to its billing.

"Slacker Art" - the name is a play on Slackta's longtime nickname - opened Tuesday at the Plymouth Community Arts Council and continues through Thursday, Jan. 26. The 35 oil paintings on display show Slackta's talent in landscape, portraits, still life and surrealism, his favorite

"Slacker," who lives in Grand Blanc, is anything but. He's a professional carpenter and a singer-songwriter with a long interest in visual arts. He began working with oil paints just two years ago and says he reads every painting book he can get his hands on.

"It's a source of happiness for me." Slackta said Monday about his motivation for painting. "I think it's important to have something that you're passionate about."

**Style choices** 

Slackta works in a variety of styles. He lists surrealist Salvador Dali as a major influence, and that can be



Andrew Slackta talks about his work.

seen in paintings like The Edge of the World, Indecision and The Temptation of a Yellow Cosmos. In the latter painting, a flower — the Yellow Cosmos — rooted in an island floating in darkness bends toward the light from a window in the upper left quadrant.

"To me, that's what it's all about, creating that light within the painting," Slack-

Slackta's work also shows the influence of impressionism, as in 4th of July 1982, and the cubism of an artist like

Pablo Picasso, as in Melancholy in Red, a small painting depicting a sad-looking figure. A study of a whale skull, River Whale (based on a photograph published in National Geographic magazine), brings to mind the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, who painted the animal skulls she found in the

Southwest. Slackta often works off of photographs of his subjects, desiring to capture them at a single moment from an unchanging perspective. One

Please see SLACKER, A6

# Neighbors fearful of rezoning

By Matt Jachman **Observer Staff Writer** 

A shopping center developer's bid to rezone an aging warehouse site on Sheldon Road in Plymouth has some nearby residents on edge.

Grand/Sakwa Properties, which owns retail centers in Northville and Canton townships and other nearby communities, has an option to buy the property on Sheldon Road, south of M-14, that's now occupied by FedEx and two landscaping companies. Grand/Sakwa is seeking a change in zoning from industrial to a general business class that would allow for retail, medical, office and a variety of other uses.

"This site could be a tremendous economic engine for the whole city,' Grand/Sakwa attorney Bryan Amann told the Plymouth Planning Commission Wednesday evening. But the company has no prospective tenants, Amann said, and whether the property would be used for retail, medical facilities or offices, or have a mixed use, isn't known.

The Planning Commission, which Wednesday postponed a decision on the rezoning, setting aside a motion to recommend against it, heard from more than a dozen people, most of them nearby residents, concerned about Grand/ Sakwa's plans.

'A very bad idea'

They raised concerns that a more intensive use of the site would create traffic problems, increase crime and result in noise and light pollution. Students attending West Middle School

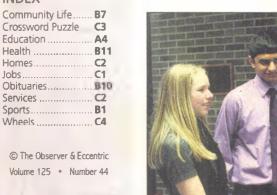
Please see REZONING, A6



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Residents are a little nervous about a shopping center developer's plan to rezone this warehouse site on Sheldon Road, which is now occupied by FedEx and two landscaping companies.

# Levin talks politics with students



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin greets juniors Cassie Misiolek and Jineet Gandhi as he arrives at Canton High School for his speaking engagement before some 200 government students Friday.

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin got several letters from Plymouth-Canton juniors inviting him to speak to them, so he did what the kids were hoping he'd do.

He accepted their invitation.

That's why Levin, the long-serving Democrat, was on stage Friday morning at the Canton DuBois Little Theater, talking about the political climate and answering questions for more than 200 social studies students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"I got invitations from several students, and they were very persuasive," Levin said of his speaking engagement. "I like to get a flavor of (students') interests, what they view as the challenges and their goals."

Social studies teacher Ricky Styes said one of the assignments students get in government class is to correspond with politicians. Some chose Levin, others chose Sen. Debbie Stabenow and still others wrote to state legislators such as Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth (Heise is scheduled to speak to students next week).

Styes said having the politicians actually come to the school is good for the stu-

"It makes it real for them," Styes said. "I tell them I've never met a U.S. senator, so this isn't an opportunity that comes along every day. This is significant, especially with a guy like (Levin), who's been in Congress for so long and is pretty wellrespected."

Please see LEVIN, A3



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#### AROUND PLYMOUTH

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Date/Time: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1:30-3 p.m. **Location:** Plymouth District Library

Details: The PCCA Writing Club will host guest speaker Jeff Jahn, owner of Keepsake Family Tree Video, who will present a documentary that he produced and other mixed media. He describes his business as "Telling the Stories of the Not So Rich and Not So Famous on Modern Media." He will demonstrate what can be done with old photos, 8mm film and videotapes to build a family history to put on DVD for preservation, restoration and narration of memorable events that families want to

Contact: RSVP by calling 453-1234 x236

#### **ART EXHIBITS**

share.

Date/Time: Began Jan. 10; reception for the artist 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20 Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth

Details: The PCAC begins its new year of monthly art exhibits with "slacker art,"

a collection of oil paintings by Andrew Slackta, his first solo exhibit. The self-taught artist's landscapes run the gamut from realistic photo recreation to expressionistic, his still-life pieces combine formal composition with a distinctive mix of pop art and his unconventional portraits display elements of surrealism and emotional sophistication. Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact: Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information, or visit www.plymoutharts.

#### **GRIEF SUPPORT**

Date/Time: Saturday, Jan. 21, 10 a.m. to

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley Road in Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support seminar, "When a Parent Dies: Understanding changes in family roles, traditions and practices." A light breakfast will be provided. The program is free of charge and is open to any adult grieving the loss of a parent.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at 888-983-9050, or e-mail achristensen@cchnet.net.

# Plymouth man charged in downtown assault

**By Matt Jachman** Observer Staff Writer

A 28-year-old Plymouth man, accused of a drunken attack on a woman on a downtown street last weekend, faces a misdemeanor assault charge.

Joshua Sims later told police he had blacked out before being arrested early Jan. 7 on Penniman east of Main Street, according to Plymouth Police detective Lt. Jamie Grabowski. A breath test showed Sims' blood-alcohol level at three times what would have been the legal limit had he been driving, Grabowski said.

A crowd of people tackled Sims after the attack, Grabowski said, and the manager of the Rock Bar and Grill held him until police arrived.

Witnesses told police a man had thrown or "body slammed" a woman to the sidewalk after interfering with her and a group of friends who were taking a photograph shortly before 2 a.m. The victim, 24, of Ann Arbor, was treated for a shoulder injury at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor and released later on Jan. 7.

According to Grabowski, the friends were taking a photo in front of Muriel's Doll House when a man unknown to them interfered. At least one of the women was pushed or knocked down, but police aren't sure that was intentional, he said. That woman

was not seriously injured. When one of the group confronted the interloper, Grabowski said, he threw her to the sidewalk and was then tackled by a group of witnesses, ending up in the street. The

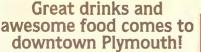
Rock's manager ran out of the bar, sat on the suspect and told the bar's bouncer to call police, he

"I don't think he wanted like a mob thing happening," Grabowski said of the manager. Sims suffered minor facial scrapes, he said.

Suspect Sims was arraigned in 35th District Court on Monday, charged with one count of assault and battery. Judge Ronald Lowe scheduled a pretrial hearing for Monday, Feb. 6, and released Sims on a \$500 personal bond.

Grabowski said police learned Sims had been drinking at several places in the area, and had been escorted out of the Rock minutes before the incident.

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#### CORRECTION

 A quote that ran next to a story in the Jan. 12 Plymouth Observer about Dr. Syed Taj opening a campaign office incorrectly attributed a quote to Taj and identified him as a Republican candidate for the U.S. House. The quote should have been attributed to incumbent Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, a Livonia Republican. Taj is a Democrat from Canton who is challenging McCotter.

 The H&R Block office at 2771 South Wayne Road in Westland is open, contrary to a Dec. 29 Observer story, "On deadly blast's anniversary, store's future uncertain."

The story was about William C. Franks

Furniture, which was destroyed in a December 2010 explosion that killed two employees, and it mentioned several neighboring businesses.

The furniture store, in the city of Wayne, was a block south of H&R Block, which is a seasonal office that opened Jan. 3 and remains open through Tues-

• A story in Thursday's Plymouth Observer about state Rep. Kurt Heise's re-election bid, "Heise files for re-election," misstated Heise's estimate of an anticipated state budget surplus. Heise estimates the surplus will total about \$400 million.



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# Heise shares variety of views

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

State Rep. Kurt Heise voted against Gov. Rick Snyder's K-12 school budget last spring. Heise, whose children attend Plymouth-Canton schools. was concerned about the hits local districts would take.

The Republican lawmaker, whose district includes Plymouth and Canton, was also concerned about unfunded mandates like all-day kindergarten.

"We are the last two destination school districts in Wayne County," Heise said of Northville and Plymouth-Canton at a Jan. 9 session with constituents at the Northville District Library.

Heise explained his concerns about community colleges and universities getting money under Proposal A through the state sales tax. He feels universities in particular need to control costs.

"I don't think anybody wants to give K-12 a blank check either," he

Heise was asked at the session about the bridge plan between Detroit and Windsor. The plan died last year in the state Senate, he said.

"The governor may try now, depending on your point of view, to go around the Legislature," he said of the bridge, which he said would require minimal state money. "It's peanuts so I'm not really going to lose sleep over that."

He noted concerns about the privately-owned Ambassador Bridge, some 90 years old. Owner Matty Moroun was criticized by those at the library session, although Heise was more diplomatic.

"He's had a checkered record in court, which is



obvious," the lawmaker said. He described the volume of truck traffic that

needs to be accommodated and land acquired by the Canadian government to build a freeway from their 401 to east of Wind-

Heise was asked about no-fault insurance, recently debated in Michigan. "We've got a lot of questions and concerns about it. It's nowhere near being voted on by the full House," he said.

According to Heise, a lack of data is a problem on the insurance question. "We're still fumbling over whether or not there is a problem," he said.

State funds allocated but not spent account for a current \$400-\$500 million surplus, which he anticipates will be spent mostly on long-term debt with some going to K-12 schools.

Heise said the bill to authorize sale of the Scott prison property on Five Mile hasn't been passed out of the Senate. "It's going to happen," he said. "There's no opposition to selling it. It's a critical part of the Five Mile corridor."

He'd like to see use by a firm such as a high-tech automotive supplier.

Heise said a Detroit bankruptcy would hurt the region's credit. He said media reports on an emergency manager for the city have been exaggerated, with the emergency financial manager process being followed. "It's still on the table,"

icbrown@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6755

he said

LOCAL NEWS

Continued from page A1

Junior Ashleigh Morton, a 16-year-old from Canton, originally wrote Levin to ask him if she could shadow him for a day at some point. Morton, who has an intense interest in politics, said she was looking forward to seeing Levin she actually got to spend a few minutes with him before his speech — to get a view on what political life is like.

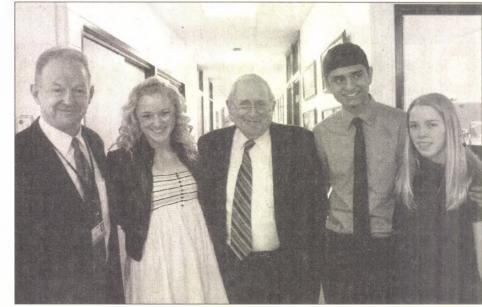
"I really want to share my views with the rest of the world," Morton said. "I really want to make a difference."

Salem High School junior Jineet Gandhi, a 16-year-old from Canton, said he hoped to hear Levin talk about recent bills that have made their way (or are about to) to the Senate, about what he'd still like to accomplish and about what Washington is like.

"After I took civics, I got more interested in politics," Gandhi said. "I want to learn more about

it." Levin talked to the kids a little about himself and how he got into politics, and how he views the current political climate in Washington.

"It's much more divisive than it's ever been," Levin said. "I think the economy has something to do with it; it's harder in tough times. And the 24/7 news cycle demands people say something in a



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin (center) poses with Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Principal Bill Zolkowski (left) and the three juniors who invited him to speak: Ashleigh Morton, Jineet Gandhi and Cassie Misiolek.



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin speaks to some 200 government students.

sharper, more simplistic way. That forces people into more extreme positions in order to get into the news cycle."

Salem junior Cassie Misiolek wrote to Levin about the lack of jobs, particularly in Michigan, and was excited to hear what the senator had to say on the subject.

"I didn't think anyone would come to talk to high school kids, so I thought it was cool he came," Misiolek said. "I'm excited he came."

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#### PREDNISONE - THERAPY OR THREAT

At times, patients come to doctors requesting cortisone. The patient will tell the doctor about a past episode or several experiences with intense pain for which another practitioner gave a steroid dose and each time the pain disappeared.

When the patient learns that the doctor he is seeing that day will not give a dose pack, the patient becomes both alarmed and angered. The patient has reason for that reaction, as facing pain and being denied a medicine that gave such relief is sufficient

However, the doctor is on even better grounds; his stand makes more medical sense. First, giving a medicine without a diagnosis is not good medicine. Giving steroids with no diagnosis is particularly dangerous as steroid has a euphoric affect and on that ground alone can make a patient feel better. At the same time the underlying process causing the pain continues unabated. When the steroid dose drops, the pain will return forcing the practitioner to give more steroid, or face the task of finding the cause of the pain; a task that should have begun before giving steroid dose pack.

Secondly, steroids in doses over 7-10 milligrams cause a myriad of side effects including glaucoma, cataracts, increased susceptibility to infection, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis and thinning/bruising of the skin. Also steroids taken over weeks to months cause a bloating of the face and body and thinning of the hair, making the person appear fat and ungainly

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# District replaces finance team

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials dipped into the private sector this week to fill two of their more important public-sector jobs.

Brodie Killian, a former University of Michigan football player who for the last five years was a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, was hired to be the district's executive director of business services. He replaces former assistant superintendent for business services James Larson-Shidler.

Victoria Amore, the manager of the Government Accounting Professionals team at Plante & Moran, was hired to be the district's director of finance. She replaces Dave Kaumeyer.

Larson-Shidler and Kaumeyer left the district for positions in the Wayne-Westland district last month.

At Morgan Stanley, Killian — who holds a masters in public policy and a bachelor of business administration from U-M — has worked with high networth clients, helping with investments, including public pensions. He also serves as the vice chair of the Dearborn Pension Board of Trustees.

Before that, he spent five years as an investment banker underwriting school bonds, experience he believes will help him in his new position.

'My knowledge of school finance, investments and overall operations comes from my time as an investment banker," said Killian, who lives in Dearborn with wife Ellen, nearly 3-year-old daughter Maureen and 8-month-old twin daughters Devin and Mallory. "What's really unique about our hires is we're coming from the private sector. They were filling these positions looking for complementary talents.'

Amore had been with Plante & Moran for 17 years, the last nine in the firm's GAP team after eight years as an auditor (though Plante & Moran is Plymouth-Canton's auditor, Amore said she never got involved in that process). Among



Brodie Killian is Plymouth-Canton's new executive director for business services, while Victoria Amore is the district's new director of finance.

her most recent duties was providing accounting and financial consulting to municipalities and school districts.

"The majority of my experience is with government bodies," said Amore, who lives in Canton with her husband, Mike, their 8-year-old son Dominick and 21/2 year-old daughter Mia. "I have a thorough knowledge of bonds and taxes, inside and out. And I have contacts in lots of school districts, so if there is a topic I'm not familiar with, I have plenty of resources."

Killian and Amore agree the district's finances were "left in good order," and don't seem to mind the challenge of taking on a district budget that surpasses \$150 million and expects a deficit of between \$8 million and \$10 million.

"I'm not intimidated by large budgets," said Amore, a certified public accountant with a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "The biggest challenge is the funding, which is out of our hands. We have to be cognizant of the changes at the state level, and we have to react to that."

Both are "excited" to be joining the administrative team.

"You can see a great team of administrators has been put together," Killian said. "We're both looking forward to working alongside them.'

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

#### **SCHOOL BRIEFS**

This year, three Canton High School graduates were awarded \$1000 each for their entries in one of nine categories in the annual "1000 Pitches" competition at the University of Michigan.

Catherine Huang, a 2011 graduate, entered a parking space locator application called ParkMe in the Mobile Apps category. Michael Gleba, a 2009 grad, won in the Health category for his Lancet Devive Diabetic App. Nicholas Turnbull, also a 2009 graduate, won the Consumer Products Category with Paul Schrems for Torsion, a smartphone case with retractable headphones to keep cords from getting tangled.

The competition, now in its third year, is hosted by MPowered Entrepreneurship, a student-run organization. More information about 1000 Pitches can be found at http://www.1000pitches.com/

#### **Article honored**

Plymouth High School junior Shannon Shaver's article on P-CEP's proactive approach to anti-bullying was featured in the National Edition of the My High School Journalism website. The story had originally run in the Dec. 16 edition of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Perspective, the student newspaper at P-CEP).

Kevin Epling, the father of the young man for whom "Matt's Safe School Law" is named, commented on the article and complimented Shannon on her work. The online article may be viewed at http://pcep.pccs.k12.mi.us/node/2527

#### Registration open

Registration for enrichment classes through Plymouth-Canton Community Education is now open. With hundreds of courses to pick from, there is something for all ages and interests. Online registration is a quick and easy way to get started, go to http://pcceregister.

#### Whalers fundraiser

The Plymouth Whalers and the Educational Excellence Foundation (P-CCS' foundation) have joined forces to raise money for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. EEF will receive \$4 from every ticket (tickets cost \$12) sold for the Monday, Jan. 16 Whalers game, which starts at 2 p.m.

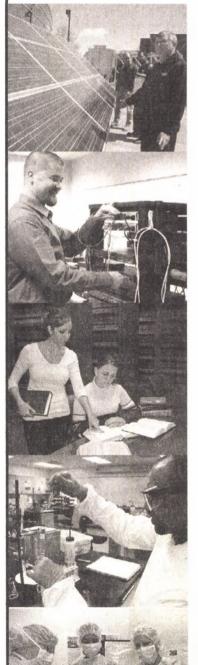
If the game sells out, EEF could earn as much as \$10,000 to support programs at P-CCS. Students have the day off for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The Whalers will face off against the Windsor Spitfires in this Ontario Hockey League regular season game.



Kiwanis Club president Mark Ott (from left), UAW Local 845 president Alison M. Hug and Patty Russo, Plymouth-Canton's assistant director of food & nutrition services, box up food boxes as the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools teamed up with members of UAW Local 845, Canton Kiwanis Club and local merchants to give families to have a happy holiday. The boxes were packed with donations from Kroger and CVS at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon in Plymouth, CVS at Canton Center and Hanford in Canton and Aldi of Canton on Ford Road.

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# 'Beloved' gets its day in court

LOCAL NEWS

**By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer** 

The decision about whether Toni Morrison's Beloved remains in Plymouth-Canton's advanced placement English curriculum could come as early as Tuesday after a lengthy hearing Wednesday night to determine its appropriateness for high school students.

The committee convened to determine the book's fate heard from parents complaining about its use and teachers who brought it into the curriculum, and had a chance to question both

The committee will meet again Tuesday to consider a decision.

Though Wednesday's meeting was public, Tuesday's will not be as the committee debates the issue.

"I think it went very well," said Erin Mac-Gregor, the district's director of secondary education who facilitated the committee. "It was an intellectual conversation. The committee members did their research and came with great questions."

The hearing was scheduled after a complaint was filed by Canton resident Matt Dame and his wife, Barb, alleging passages in the book were obscene and inappropriate for high school students. They made the same complaint about Graham Swift's Waterland, a complaint that prompted Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Plymouth-Canton superintendent, to pull the book from the curriculum.

Waterland will also be reviewed by a committee, though that review process has yet to be scheduled.

The committee members - English teacher Leola Gee, social studies teacher Casey Swanson, Salem High School media specialist Mary McCarthy, Canton Public Library director Eva Davis, parent/school council president Kimberlyn Benjamin, parent/school council member David Larson, University of Michigan professor Dr. Klotylda Phillippi, Assistant Principal

Jay Blaylock and English and science curriculum coordinator Kay Elastor — were required to read the book as part of the process.

In addition to questioning Dame, the panel also had questions for AP English teachers Gretchen Miller and Brian Read. It was Read who introduced Beloved into the curriculum 10 years ago.

Dame declined to comment on Wednesday's hearing.

"Both sides were heard," he said, declining to say more.

Read didn't return a phone call seeking com-

ment. MacGregor said under district guidelines, the meeting generally would not have been public. However, because the

issue has drawn such interest recently, district officials decided to open the meeting.

"We had a process in which the public has clearly shown an interest," MacGregor said. "We wanted this to be transparent, and I was happy to let the public see that."

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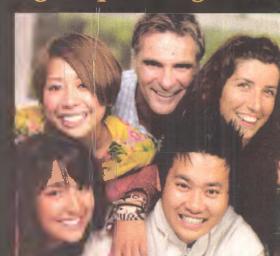
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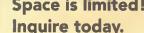
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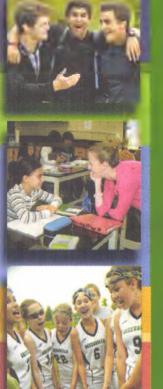
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#### **REZONING**

Continued from page A1

and Bird Elementary, both further south on Sheldon, would be endangered by a dramatic traffic increase, some said.

"I don't want Plymouth to become another Canton or another Livonia," said Matt Marwardt, who lives in Plymouth Township, adjacent to the property. "It's a bad idea. It's a very bad idea for the people of Plymouth."

"Without a plan, it's absolutely ridiculous," Sharon Driscoll said. "I certainly don't want a big Meijer sign flashing in my window."

Some also said they worried about what a big retail center would mean for downtown Plymouth. Teri Allen, a partner at downtown's Dearborn Jewelers, pointed to other shopping plazas in the area that have vacancies or are unfinished, such as one at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty in the township.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 15, 2012

"Why would we consider allowing another possible site when we have sites that need to be completed?" Allen said.

#### **Plans defended**

Amann said Grand/ Sakwa is committed to a quality project. He said a mixed-use or a retail complex of about 200,000 square feet would likely generate enough traffic to warrant a stoplight on Sheldon, most likely at Goldsmith, and that that could improve traffic flow on the road.

Amann said Grand/ Sakwa would not lease to a Walmart or a car dealership, that it would pay for a traffic light, build a 30-foot buffer zone of trees and shrubs between the property and residents to the south, plus set any buildings back an additional 60 feet or more beyond that.

"It's as important to us as it is to you that it functions well and does not become a problem," Amann said.

Amann said he wanted the planners' answer Wednesday — the decision would have been a recommendation, as the City Commission will have the final say — but Planning Commission members didn't appear comfortable with that.

"It's hard for me to believe that, with all the issues that have been raised tonight, that you expect an answer tonight," Commissioner Donald Fullenwider said.

Planners said they wanted a study of how the uses of the site under the requested zon-

ing would change traffic patterns, but Amann said such a study isn't required as part of a rezoning request and that one would be provided with a site plan, when potential occupants have been identified. Amann said a study of current traffic counts is being conducted.

The planners, urged by Don Wortman, the city's planning consultant, to get more information about the affect site redevelopment might have on traffic, said they would go to the city's traffic consultant.

#### No decision yet

Following three hours of discussion, the Planning Commission voted 8-1 to delay a recommendation until its Wednesday, Feb. 8, meeting. "On a project of this scale, we have never done this before," Commissioner Joe Philips said.

Commissioner Frank Brennan, who had withdrawn his motion to recommend against the rezoning, cast the lone no vote.

Wortman said the facility was built in the 1950s and first used by Western Electric. A variety of companies has occupied it since then, he said, including Highland Appliance, American Blind and Wallpaper and Office Depot.

Amann said the building is outdated and would need extensive remodeling in order to remain competitive as a warehouse. FedEx, he said, is expected to move out within the month.

With its current use, the site has visits from about 160 trucks a day, Amann said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

GEARFRANK!



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A painting on the back of an old twelve-string guitar is
inspired by a photograph of the author Kurt Vonnegut.

#### SLACKER

Continued from page A1

large painting, the landscape *Utah Sun*, even contains an element found in the photograph itself and not the scene: the lens flare, or the sun's glare off the camera lens.

Slackta plays guitar and writes songs in the folk and folk-rock genres, and is a big fan of the late novelist Kurt Vonnegut, an influence on all his art. If Vonnegut's writings were music, he said, "that would be my kind of music."

#### Vonnegut homage

Slackta pays tribute to Vonnegut in one piece, Kurt Vonnegut, in which the writer's portrait looks out from the back of a beat-up acoustic guitar. Two other portraits on "found objects" are also in the exhibit --of Osama Bin Laden and Barack Obama, painted on a charred cookie sheet and a charred pizza pan, respectively. The portraits are set together as one work, Osama and Obama; the painter said the men represent two sides of the same coin.

Inspiration for his paintings can come from anywhere, Słackta said, but ideas don't necessarily come easily. "Probably



'Julia Rayne Cloud' is a portrait of the artist's daughter.

as much time as I spend painting, I spend 10 times as much thinking about what to paint," he said.

Denise Cassidy of Plymouth, a painter in acrylics and a member of the PCACs exhibition committee, said she likes the variety and use of color and symbolism in Slackta's paintings. When he was presented to the committee for a possible show, she said, "the work spoke for itself."

Slackta said he's thrilled to have his own show, and that he's looking for objective feedback from visitors.

"As much as I enjoy painting in general, it's nice to show somebody the fruits of my work," he said.

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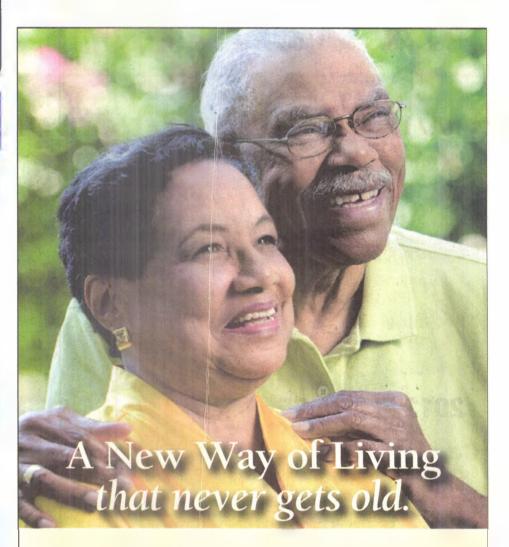
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# Move to Texas means some changes are needed

LOCAL NEWS

**Bv Rick Bloom Guest Columnist** 

Q: Dear Rick: I am retired and receive a pension and Social Security. Partly because of the changes to Michigan's tax law, I've decided to move to Texas. I sold my home and I plan on renting in Texas for at least a couple of years and then I may buy something. I have several questions regarding my move. Do I need to do anything with my estate plan? I have a will and a trust and powers of attorney. Secondly, currently for all my banking needs I use a credit union here in Michigan. Can I continue to use that when I go to Texas? And do I need to change the registration of my car to Texas?

A: I want to wish you good luck on your move to Texas. Texas' gain is Michigan's loss. First, with regards to your estate plan, you typically do not have to change your will and trust. More likely than not when your will and trust were drafted there was a pro-



**Money Matters** 

Rick Bloom

even though you're in Texas, Michigan law would still govern. Therefore, if you're happy with your estate plan and it is up to date. then you really do not have

vision includ-

ed stating that

if there were

any disputes

governed by

Therefore,

Michigan law.

they would be

when we talk about powers of attorney. When someone moves to a different state, I generally recommend that they draft new medical durable powers of attorney and general durable powers of attorney. I believe it is better to redo your powers of attorney based upon the laws of the state

where you will reside. In that

to change your will and trust.

However, it is a different story

regard, you may find that you don't necessarily have to see an attorney. There are many free fill-in-the-blank forms, particularly when it comes to medical durable powers of attorney. For example, in Michigan we have the Michigan Patient Advocate form, which is a free medical durable power of attorney available on my website (www.bloomassetmanagement.com). Other states, including Texas, also have forms that you can use that work just as well as any document an attorney can draft.

With regards to using your same credit union for such things as your direct deposit or Social Security and your pension, there are no problems. However, you will want to verify whether the credit union is geared to handle out-of-state customers. For example, when you need cash, will you be able to visit any ATM machine, and what about the fees involved? If you find that the credit union

is not geared for out-of-state clients, to avoid the hassle of resetting up your direct deposits, you may want to open an account at a local credit union in Texas and have it, on a regular basis, transfer money from your Michigan credit union. This would allow you to have something local and, at the same time, save you the hassle of changing your direct deposits and direct transfers.

With regards to your automobile, I definitely believe that once you move to Texas and become a Texas resident, your car should be retitled and you should obtain new automobile insurance. Auto insurance is not standard throughout the country and policies differ. What I want to prevent is if you are in an accident in Texas, your current insurance trying to renege on their obligations. You and I both know insurance companies conveniently look for ways not to pay claims, therefore, it makes sense, since you will be a Texas resident, to retitle your car and obtain new insurance in Texas.

One last note and that is to invest the money from the proceeds of your home wisely. If you are going to buy something in Texas over the next couple of years, CDs may be your best bet. On the other hand, if the money is for more long-term goals, don't forget that even in Texas you're going to need a rising income. You want to make sure that you have a portfolio that has some equities.

Good luck in Texas and never forget, if things don't work out, you can always come home. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife. com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetman-



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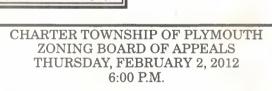
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ceed as she lived every day with polio. The scholarship is being funded by Critter Catchers, Inc., of Ortonville (www.Crittercatchersinc.Com), and Sandra Sagear's family: Tim and Donna Sagear, Jimmy and Vonnie Bench, Tiffany and James Lambert and Joshua and

Lisa Bench. Applications are available at school counselor's offices or by emailing Deb Madonna (Debra@miracleleagueplymouth.org). Application deadline is March 23; the award will be announced April 1.

Send applications to Debra Madonna, Rotary Club of plymouth A.M., 40200 Pinetree, Plymouth, MI 48170.



PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2012 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

o Application 1487: The applicant is in the ARC zoning district and is requesting one variance to add a bathroom addition of 189 square feet. The required rear yard setback is 20 feet, the requested rear yard setback would be 11 feet 8 inches, and the requested variance is 8 foot 4

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

Publish: January 15, 2012



www.livoniastmichael.org

# HGTV's Cucksey turns old into new at warehouse

**LOCAL NEWS** 

**By LeAnne Rogers** Observer Staff Writer

Whether it's furniture from the 1950s, an antique sewing machine or an old record player, there is probably something for everyone at the Re-**Purpose Estate Services** warehouse in Westland.

"Believe it or not, taxidermy is hot right now. There is a collector for everything," said Cari Cucksey, owner of RePurpose and host of HGTV's Cash and Cari program.

The company's location on Commerce Drive will be the site of a silent auction event 6-10:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, and warehouse sale 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28. The silent auction will include some art sculptures and high-end items along with some midrange items.

"We've been having monthly warehouse sales. It seems to be catching on. People come from all over - Tennessee and Ohio - which is great," said Cucksey, who also has a 1,700-square-foot store in downtown Northville.

#### Old to new

The warehouse space houses an office, storage and also creative space for Cucksey who, as the company's name indicates, repurposes old items into new uses.

An estate liquidator for about 12 years, Cucksey's business has been in the warehouse for four years. The store opened in conjunction with the television show, which started filming just over a year ago.

"We opened the store as a result of the television show. Northville is small town America. We live there, so it made sense." said Cucksey, whose business partner is her husband, Vince Iafano. "The show and the shop have been fantastic. It has definitely been a blessing for business, especially in this economy.'

Growing up in the 1908 Sears and Roebuck house, Cucksey said her family was always into antiques.

"I love a little bit of everything. I love mid century modern, Art Noveau," she said. "I have a little knowledge about a lot of things. That's good for a liquidator. You learn







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Cari Cucksey, host of HGTV's 'Cash and Cari' program, is based out of a Westland warehouse.



An antique sewing machine at the Re-Purpose Estate Services warehouse in Westland.

a lot on the job."

With about 20 employees, Cucksey's firm handles estate sales which have a minimum \$10,000 value and also will buy all or some of a home's contents when an estate sale isn't possible or wanted by the owners. It's not

always a sale after the owners have died.

"It's really a mixed bag. There are a lot of people who are downsizing. They get caught up with buy-



This is only some of the items that will be available during a warehouse sale coming up at Re-Purpose Estate Services



Toy trains are on display at Re-Purpose Estate Services.

ing too much or maybe they've been bequeathed an estate and don't know

what to do with it," said Cucksey. "We don't take a lot on consignment and

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Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday **Phone:** (248) 735-0500

we don't take a lot of collectibles, like Hummels (figurines)."

#### **Positive trend**

Estates are becoming more popular, which Cucksey sees as a positive trend.

"I hope that people are more conscious and not so quick to throw away things," she said. "If you buy more vintage and antiques, you'll be more green. But you're also sharing stories and traditions. I think I help facilitate that."

To that end, Cucksey has an affiliate business training people to start estate sale business.

As filming gets under way for a new series of Cash and Cari, Cucksey filmed at the Northville store on Thursday. She was joined by three other appraisers to give opinions on the value of items brought into the store by the public.

The warehouse is located at 5930 Commerce Drive in Westland. The store is located at 133 W. Main St., Northville.





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# Rachel graduates, as family and friends cheer

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 15, 2012

By Ken Abramczyk Observer Staff Writer

Everyone rose for the graduate.

Wearing Livonia Churchill's red graduation cap and gown, Rachel Collett stood up out of her wheelchair and walked to Steven Archibald, director of secondary programs and facilities for the Livonia Public Schools, who presented Rachel her diploma at a special graduation ceremony Friday afternoon to a chorus of cheers and a few hoots and hollers from the crowd.

Churchill Principal Joe Anderson said it was "with great honor" to present the diploma, then choked up with emo-tion as he said: "Please move your tassel from right to left as a symbol of your graduation from Churchill High School."

Rachel then removed her cap and tossed it into the air as the crowd of family, friends and fellow students cheered for her.

It was a triumphant moment for Rachel, who's been battling a rare form of osteosarcoma, a bone cancer, for six years and is currently under hospice care.

#### Courage, hard work

During the ceremony, Anderson spoke of Rachel's courage and perseverance in achieving one of her goals: graduating. "It's because of students like you that we appreciate what we're able to do at Churchill," Anderson said. "You've shown the phenomenal



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roy Collett pushes daughter Rachel Collett to the entrance of Churchill High School. Rachel holds the bag containing her cap and gown.

ability to rise time and time again, to face the challenges and receive your high school diplo-

Janet Haas, principal at the Livonia Career Technical Center, spoke about Rachel's hard work in her studies and personal character of honesty and honor in receiving a Livonia Rotary vocational service award for her vocational skills and awareness. Rachel had earned some college

credit through the medical assistance program at the Livonia Career Technical Center.

Mary Trotter, a medical assistance instructor, called Rachel a courageous young women and an exemplary student in her medical assistance studies. Rachel also practiced on the school's cheerleading team and still had time to coach seventh- and eighthgrade cheerleaders, Trotter said. Rachel also

assisted with a Rouge River cleanup and United Way projects.

"Her work ethic is amazing and she sets the standards for other students," Trotter said.

#### **Emotional ceremony**

Rachel stepped forward to accept her diploma and hugged Trotter. Seated next to her were her best friends at Churchill: seniors Angela Bannoura, Renee Johnstone, Amber Prong and Lindsay Willey, who also walked and assisted Rachel in her wheelchair as she entered and exited the auditorium stage.

Before the ceremony, Anderson said school officials were "thrilled to be able to grant one of her wishes.'

"She's been so courageous in coming to school when things have been difficult," Anderson said.

Anderson called the event "bittersweet" and one of the most emotional for him in the 21 years he has been an administrator.

"One of the biggest things about her is she never complained about things," he said. "She has managed to work her life around the treatment, and she would tell doctors, 'We can't do this right now, I have cheerleading,' or she would have some other activity.

"For her to have that mindset is phenomenal." Mary Lennox, a teacher consultant who taught Rachel while Rachel was homebound, repeated what other school offi-

cials said about her. "I have never met a kid as hardworking as her," Lennox said. "When she was so sick, she was still doing her math. She was worried about her algebra."

#### 'Thank you, everybody'

After the ceremony, Rachel was given flowers and graduation cards and greeted with applause. 'Thank you, everybody!" she said to the small crowd outside Anderson's office.

A reception took place in Anderson's office for family and friends.

Rachel's father Roy Collett held a giant bear and greeted visitors, while Audrey, Rachel's mother, sat next to Rachel as she accepted congratulations.

Roy said he didn't have words to describe the day's ceremony.
"It was great," Roy

said. "The staff of all the schools have been great, at Johnson, Frost and Churchill, the teachers and staff have all been a big deal. They have helped us a lot with everything."

Thursday, Jan. 26, Classroom 10

Wednesday, Feb. 22, Classroom 10

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1-



Steve King and the Dittilies, here performing a show in Las Vegas over the holidays, headline the Feb. 10 fundraiser for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

# King headlines arts fundraiser

**By Brad Kadrich** Observer Staff Writer

Fresh off a fall fundraiser that raised more than twice what it brought in last year, the Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities will try it again this spring.

And this time, the partnership is turning to a local favorite to raise both funds and exposure for the arts in Canton and surrounding communities.

Steve King and the Dittilies, playing their brand of rock favorites from the 1930s on, headlines "Rock-n-Roll Valentine's." a Feb. 10 concert at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. The event starts with a 7 p.m. reception, followed by the 8 p.m. concert.

"The wonderful thing about Steve King is they play rock-and-roll hits from the '30s on, spiced with comedy," said Jill Breen Engel, director of the Partnership. "He plays classic music that appeals to you if you're 20, or if you're 80. People can sing it, they can dance to it, they can relate to it."

The Partnership is flushed with the success of their October fundraiser, which featured Rod Stewart tribute act Danny Dee. That event raised \$6,350, more than double the \$2,999 raised at the 2010 fundraiser.

Engel said they tried to make the Danny Dee appearance "more of an event" that just a concert, including a reception and an afterglow at Hayden's in Canton.

"We've done a lot more marketing with the Partnership and the Village Theater," Engel said of the event's success. "Rod Stewart's music covers a larger age range, so it appealed to a wider age group."

The idea behind this new fundraiser — the first February fundraiser the Partnership has tried — is to bring even more exposure not only to the arts in general, but to the Village Theater, which draws its big-

#### **ARTS CENTER** STAGE

What: "Rock-n-roll Valentine's" concert Why: To benefit the Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities When: Friday, Feb. 10; reception at 7 p.m.; concert at 8

Who: Features local favorite Steve King and the Dittilies

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton Highlights: Reception features food from Station 885, PF Changs of Northville and The Chop House; Showroom of Elegance and Indigo Salon & Day Spa with Valentine's promotions

gest audiences from Plymouth. Canton, Livonia, Westland and surrounding communities.

"If I have an opportunity to gain more exposure for the Partnership and the theater, and to raise another \$10,000, why wouldn't I?" Engel said. "People want to see concerts like that at the Village Theater."

Engel and her husband, Frank, are among the sponsors of this event; other sponsors are Glenn and Patty Shaw and Don and Colleen Soenen.

Appetizers will be provided at the reception by PF Changs of Northville and Station 885 in Plymouth, while the dessert comes from The Chop House in Ann Arbor.

Showroom of Elegance and Indigo Salon and Day Spa will be conducting Valentine's Day promotions. Hayden's Grill & Bar is the site of the afterglow following the event.

"Our event is about having fun, and promoting the Village Theater," Engel said. "If we can bring in new theater patrons to an event like this, and then they get a look at the schedule for the rest of the year, they're going to be back."

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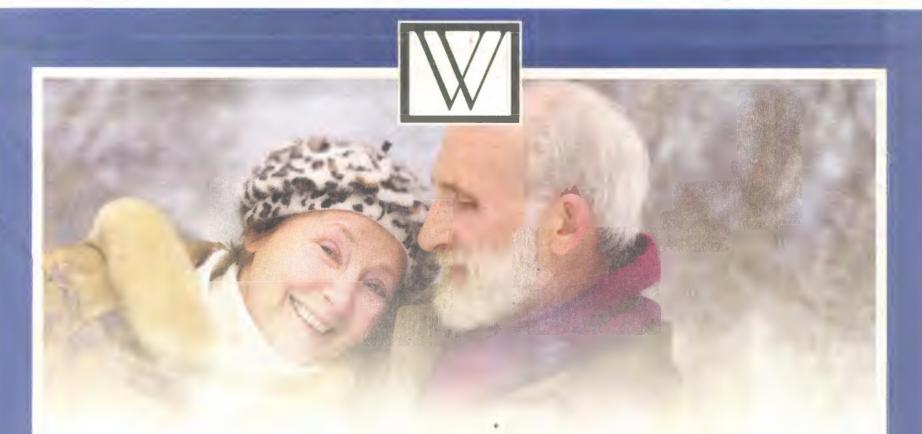
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# Regional Marketplace

# **Premier Athletics in** nearby Plymouth encourages youths to jump in for fun

By Dennis Zelazny **Contributing Writer** 

January is always an exciting time of the year and after talking with Lisa Hemmie, Director of Premier Athletics you can't help but to want to step it up! Hemmie makes sure that everyone that she talks to is aware that they are there to help educate and teach kids of all ages to be self confident and to do their best, while incorporating a huge fun factor. That's what the most important part of being involved is, having fun. Weather you are a beginner or an elite athlete, this is the place to experience cheerleading, hip-hop and the gymnastic industry.

Premier Athletics is the place where girls and boys of all ages can come and participate! There are no tryouts; all youths will be placed in groups that are age and level appropriate. They have room for everyone; there is even a Parent Cheerleader Team.

They are the home of Michigan Xtreme, which offers classes for full and limited travel Cheerleading and Hip Hop teams. If you are looking for an opportunity for unlimited fun and excitement this is the place. They also have opportunities for special needs participants.

They offer classes at various levels from the beginner to the elite athletes that include tumbling, cheerleading and hiphop. If you have a little one, you can start them off early in a pre-school program that they call "Little Explorers." Premier Athletics also offer open gym time as well.

All the classes are geared to help your child explore new opportunities and expand their horizons. This is a great opportunity to get the skills they might desire that will help them land

that spot on your schools athletic team. They work with many of the schools in the area and are aware of the requirements needed to be part those teams. If your not sure you want to be part of a team, that's okay they also offer tumbling, cheerleading and dance classes that do not require a team commitment as well.

"Premier Athletics is a place for everyone," says Hemmie, "Anyone can do this and have fun doing

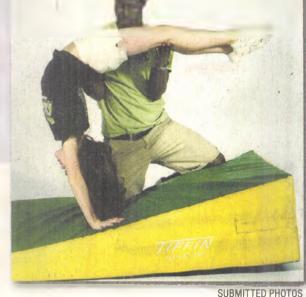
If you like the cheer team environment, with a cheerleading team that is performance based, similar to what you would see on "ESPN" for example. Hemmie says, "Bring it on!" And the best part is that they are friendly to everyone, this means everyone can join in on the fun and participate "There are no side benches or asking students to sit this one out.

You will find 100% enthusiasm and equal excitement on a whole new level in this gym. They even take that same enthusiasm to the streets when they are involved with community support groups such as **Breast Cancer Awareness** programs, The Children's Hospital and coat drives for local churches to name a few. They believe in sharing the fun that they experience and produce.

Michigan Xtreme had been in business for 5 years before they merged with Premier Athletics in 2006 and became a subsidiary of Varsity Brands (VBI Ventures) the largest cheerleading organization in the world. That makes this location a Varsity Exclusive, a title no one else in Michigan

The benefits of being part of Premier Athletics, is that it brings in the best trainers that have the "latest and greatest"

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While building skills, safety is a key feature in all of the programs offered at Premier Athletics.



place to learn Cheerleading and Hip Hop skills from the professionals.

techniques available anywhere. Trainers like Steve Butcher, a member of the USA gymnastics board of Directors/Executive committee and one of two USA men's judges worldwide for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China. All of the local instructors are nationally certified in technical and safety and in CPR/First aid. They are proud of their highly credentialed organization that scores way above average for training their athletes.

You will find many local celebrities have attended classes here. Miley Cyrus is a fan of the cheerleading industry and was a participant in at the Knoxville Premier Athletics sister gym. Recently Premier partnered with an Ann Arbor group in support of the Anti-Bulling program, it resulted with a spot appearance on the popular Ariel & Zoey and Eli, too Show.

Hemmie likes the idea of putting together a positive message and having fun, because it makes everything worth all the effort. Everyone can be a cheerleader or participate in Hip Hop because she feels anyone can be trained to be a participant. The atmosphere at the gym is similar to a theater at times, having spotlights, cameras and all the action for dancing, stunts and fun times. Best of all there is always something to learn. Students love being there and it gives them a chance to do their best and be with their friends while having lots of fun.

Hemmie has more energy than most and is always adding new programs that appeal to everyone. The driven ones, the ones that didn't make the team and those that would like to try and perhaps take it to the next level. Premier Athletics works with kids and their families, helping them understand what it's like to be in a team environment and that every individual contributes to the greater goal.

Premier Athletics Michigan Xtreme-Headquarters, is located at 9229 General Drive they are just south of Ann Arbor Rd. and north of Joy Rd., minutes off of 275, in Plymouth, Michigan. They can be reached at 734-737-0560 or visit their web site at: www.mixcheer.com. Their email contact is: mixcheer@premierathletics.com





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# Victor's victorious Output Description Output Description Descrip

JOHN KEMSI

After setting three Canton pool records Thursday, Victor Zhang of the Chiefs proudly poses in front of the leader board his name will be prominently displayed on.

#### Talented, tireless Zhang sets three Canton pool records

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Canton senior swimmer Victor Zhang had just set new records in three events Thursday night, yet there he was almost by himself getting in a

few extra laps.

That kind of desire to keep pushing himself — instead of savoring his big night and a team victory — is what Zhang said is key to the success he continues to have with the

Chiefs.

"I just finished the training over winter break where we do two practices a day," Zhang said. "Coming back from that to single practices, it really gets you ready for stuff like this. "And I'm also extremely pumped for this meet because it's the Park rivalry."

Told about Zhang's postmeet efforts Thursday, following the Chiefs 110-76 win over visiting Plymouth, Canton varsity boys swimming and diving coach Dave Le merely nodded his head.

"He has drive and determination," Le said. "He won the state meet last year in the 100 backstroke and he wants to repeat as champion again this year.

"He's focused on trying to do the best he can, both for himself and for Canton. He's also looking towards the future, his collegiate career. It's been very impressive to watch his self-motivation."

Zhang, who was both allstate and All-American in 2010-11, broke Canton's team record in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:40.19. That bested the previous mark of 4:44.01 set in 1993 by Michael Orris.

It also was the fastest time for that event in the Canton pool.

The Chiefs' co-captain added venue records in the 50 free (a personal best of 21.41, breaking Jeff Clark's 18-year mark of 22.26) and 100 free (47.84).

The latter actually came in the opening leg of the 400 free relay. Because Zhang opened the race, it is consid-

Please see ZHANG, B3

**BOYS BASKETBALL** 

# Canton D-feats Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

When Canton senior forward Paul Baumgart dunked the basketball in the closing seconds Friday night, he pumped his fist almost in relief.

The Chiefs — and Baumgart, especially early — struggled against campus rival Plymouth, but came out of the KLAA South Division boys basketball tilt with a 40-29 victory.

"We got the lead, we just had to pick it up and play good defense and we got the 'W," said Baumgart, who scored eight of his 10 points in the fourth, when the Chiefs finally pulled away. "I love these kind of games and my teammates do, too. It was a great environment."

Plymouth (4-4, 2-1) made just 28 percent of its shots from the floor, but still kept it close, trailing just 30-27 with 3:32 left following a layup by Brendan Swanson.

But the Wildcats missed a string of shots around the basket and the Chiefs (7-2, 2-1) made them pay with a 10-2 run to close out the proceedings.

Baumgart shared scoring honors for the Chiefs with Kyle Adams and he

Please see HOOP, B2



Paul Baumgart's closing slam Friday night put an exclamation point on Canton's win over Plymouth.

# **Cranes stop Penguins**

The Division 1
Cranbrook Kingswood
Cranes had too much
depth for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem
Penguins, winning
2-0 in Tuesday's girls
hockey matchup at
Arctic Edge Arena in
Canton.

Despite a 40-save effort from PCS goalie Kaitlyn Allard, the Penguins were not able to solve Cranes netminder and 2010-11 Miss Hockey Colleen Jacoby.

Both goals were scored in the second period by Sydney Sawka.

The Penguins dropped to 4-2 overall and 4-0 in Division 2 of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League. Cranbrook is 5-1 overall and 4-1 in D1 of the league.

"We had a hard time in the second period with getting stuck in our own end and not being able to make quick changes," PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson said. "Without the quick changes, we started to get tired. We only have two lines where Cranbrook was rolling three or four lines on us.

"Both goals against us were scored in the second period as our lines just couldn't seem to break the puck out of the zone."

PCS will host Grosse Pointe South at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, at Arctic Edge.

#### Call in results

Coaches are reminded to call or e-mail sports editor Tim Smith with results of games, matches and meets. He can be reached at (734) 469-4128 or via e-mail at tsmith@hometown-life.com.

# 1st pitch for MU baseball

Terry Foster of WXYT-FM (97.1) and The Detroit News will be the featured speaker as the Madonna University baseball team will stage its annual 1st Pitch banquet beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Italian American Club in Livonia.

Tickets, which are tax-deductible, are \$60 each or \$110 per pair. Youth tickets are \$30 (12 and under).

For more information, call Bill Hardin at (734) 560-0820 or e-mail bjhwolves@aol.com.

Table sponsorships are also available and reservations must be received by Jan. 20.

Raffle items are also

Raffle items are also needed as donations.

# Churchill slams Salem

**By Tim Smith** Observer Staff Writer

High-flying Livonia Churchill on Friday gave Salem an up-close look at why they're near the top of the Division 1 boys hockey rankings.

The No. 3 Chargers dominated their KLAA South Division opponent for most of the contest at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia, rolling to a 6-1 victory.

Leading the rout with two goals and two assists each were senior forwards Jake Otto and Devin Smythe, while senior forward Nick Proben and junior forward Thomas Carey each collected two helpers.

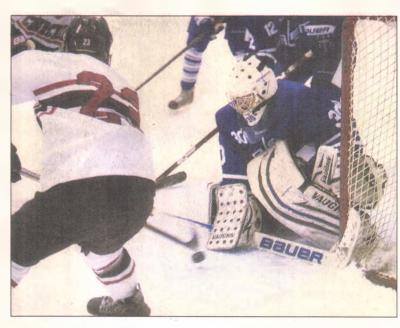
"If you were to ask them if they

gave their best effort tonight the answer would be no," said Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, whose team had battled tough Brighton to a 3-3 tie two nights earlier. "I think there's a lot more in the tank to give. But a lot of that has to do with the team we faced tonight.

"I don't think we've played a team as fast as they are yet, so decisions that are made in other games that worked, they don't work out here."

Scoring for the Rocks (5-6-1-1, 3-3-1-1) was sophomore forward Jack Driscoll, from sophomore forward Jake Sealy and senior defenseman Michael Manser.

Please see HOCKEY, B4



Salem goalie Parker Godfrey (No. 30) holds his ground Friday night, stopping an in-close scoring attempt by Brad Milks (No. 23) of Livonia Churchill.



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#### **BOYS WRESTLING RESULTS**

DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 36 **CANTON 24** 

Jan. 11 at John Glenn 103 pounds: Kyle Gillies (WJG) pinned Bobbi Kincaid, 1:14; 112: Ben Griffin (C) p. Rod Watts (WJG), 1:23; 119: Richard DeMarois (C) decisioned Austin Hartford, 7-2; 125: Austin Pillmar (C) dec. Quinn DuPraw, 10-8; 130: Keshav Patel (C) won by major dec. over Brett Quinn, 11-2; 135: Jesse O'Neal (WJG) dec. Mark Pryz, 3-1; 140: Alec Pantaleo (C) won by technical fall over DeAndre Moore, 18-2; **145**: Zach Marsh (C) dec. Keven Wacker, 12-8; 152: Anthony Long (WJG) p. Dylan DeClue, 0:26; 160: Travis Mann (WJG) p. Ryan Morelli, 0:48; **171:** Danny Croft (WJG) p. Pat Murphy, 0:44; 189: Chris McCowan (WJG) p. Alex Cole, 1:00; 215: Jordan Brandon (WJG) p. Scott O'Brecht, 0:31:

285: Dylan Morantes (WJG) dec.

K.J. Wooley, 6-3. STEVENSON 42 **SALEM 36** Jan. 11 at Novi

103 pounds: Marco Lytwyn (LS) pinned Joey Taylor, 1:30; 112: Alex Arble (Salem) p. Emmanuel Austin, 1:03; 119: Caleb McCabe (Salem) won by void; 125: Cody Korpus (Salem) won by void; 130: Darren Tran (LS) won by void; 135: Jacob Tennis (LS) won by void; 140: Corey Da vid (LS) p. Justin Cook, 1:10; 145: Kody Roy (LS) p. Riley Doxtader, 0:51; **152:** Samer Shebak (LS) p. Connor Thornburgh, 0:36; 160: Tyler Grosse (Salem) p. Joe Carroll, 3:56; 171: Alex Brown (Salem) p. Jacob Kelley, 2:35; 189: Joe Scott (LS) decisioned Mitch Gross, 7-5; 215: Jacob Range (LS) dec. Jake McCabe, 12-7; 285: Ali Alamo (Salem) p Ricky Roy, 5:13.

**WAYNE MEMORIAL 47 PLYMOUTH 28** 

Jan. 11 at Wayne Memorial 103 pounds: Jeffery Harris (P) pinned Jake Preiss, 0:46; 112: Tyler Mulligan (WM) p. Daniel Ahern, 4:11; **119:** Trey Berry (P) decisioned Tim Way, 6-4; **125**: Chase Kallil (P) dec. Tristan Jarosicwicz, 6-2; 130: Jon Conn (P) p. Michael Gossett, 2:54; 135: Devon Adams (WM) p. Hussian Youssef, 4:54; **140:** Said Youssef (P) won by major dec. over Michael Nicholson, 10-1; **145:** Allen Parker (WM) p. Samuel Campbell, 1:31; 152: Sharif Hegazi (WM) p. Terek Tamimi, 1:12; 160: Matt Walsh (P) p. Sam Ekanem, 2:45; 171: Lucas Hofbauer (WM) won by technical fall over Joseph Sharer, 17-1; 189: Devin Korzetki (WM) p. Matt Ayoub, 0:30; **215:** Aaaron Mauldin (WM) p. Faris Abraham, 1:23; **285:** Dimitrus Renfroe (WM) p. Adam Dulong, 0:37.



SYLVIES PHOTOGRAPHY

Detroit Moose captain Derek Fowler (No. 14) and Red Wings alum Darren McCarty (No. 25) take part in a ceremonial opening puck drop before Saturday's charity hockey game at Arctic Edge Arena. Also pictured is Joe Kocur of the Wings alums and the family of Joe Hradil, who died of complications from diabetes.

#### **HOOP**

Continued from page B1

led the team with nine rebounds. Scott Gring scored six.

Leading the Wildcats were Josh Priebe and Sid Acharya, with eight and seven points, respectively.

"The cross-campus rivalry, it's always going to be close games, highly contested," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "The atmosphere was great tonight. Plymouth's got some really skilled guys, they're well-coached and play hard.

"I just think in the fourth quarter we were outstanding defensively. We made a few more plays than them."

According to Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup, his team just couldn't bounce back from the middle quarters.

The Wildcats scored just two points in the second and three in the third. Canton outscored Plymouth 9-3 in that quarter to go up 25-17.

"When we have a bad third quarter like we did, just couldn't hit a bucket, it really stymies us," Soukup said. "We can't have a three-point quarter, not at the varsity level, and expect to get anything positive accomplished."

Although Soukup credited the Chiefs for playing solid 'D,' "I thought we got some open looks and we just weren't able to knock them in."

STEVENSON 67, SALEM 57: Host Livonia Stevenson became the first team to defeat Salem with this Friday night KLAA Central Division win.

Scoring 11 points each for the Rocks



Plymouth's Sid Acharya (No 22) eyes the basket over the outstretched arms of Canton's Terrell Sewell (No. 20) on Friday night.

(8-1, 2-1) were Tyler Stewart and Chris Dierker, while Josh Peterson added 10. Salem got behind the eight-ball early, trailing 25-9 after the first quarter.

LIGGETT 64, PCA 59: Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett defeated Plymouth Christian Academy (3-4) in this Friday night MIAC boys basketball game. Leading the host Eagles (3-4) with 35 points and 17 rebounds was Eric Jipping, while Mick Noel scored 19.

# Moose, Wings alums score big for diabetes research

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

It was a great time for a great cause Saturday as at Canton Arctic Edge

More than 1,800 people jammed the arena for the charity game between the Cantonbased Detroit Moose and Detroit Red Wings Alumni, and those folks were in a giving mood. About \$33,000 was raised for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The game was dedicated to the memory of Joe Hradil, who died of complications from diabetes. The Hradil family participated in the ceremonial opening face-off.

"It was wonderful," said Moose captain Derek Fowler, a Canton resident who heads up the philanthropic-minded adult hockey team. "We sold just over 1,800

tickets, the place was packed. It was overwhelming and it was wonderful. ... And the Red Wings Alumni were pretty great."

Players such as Igor Larionov, Petr Klima, John Ogrodnick, Joe Kocur, Shawn Burr and Darren McCarty all skated and showed their still-considerable hockey skills as the Wings routed the Moose by a 10-3 score. Tallying two goals for the Moose was Joe McDonald, with D.J. Looney also scoring.

"Larionov was just phenomenal, Klima was outstanding, everyone was," Fowler said. "They were just passing the puck like the Harlem Globetrotters out there.

"It was entertaining for the fans, which is most important," Fowler emphasized. "... It was just an honor to be out there with them for a great cause.'

Hockey was only part of the fun as there also was a well-attended postgame dinner (complete with door prizes) at Kickers, just across the parking lot from Arctic Edge.

Meanwhile, Fowler gave a shout out to local sponsors Cellular & More (Plymouth), Ameriprise Financial (Livonia) and Coldwell Banker (Plymouth).

He added that the event received another boost from the Detroit Red Wings organization, which sent out an e-mail to some 50,000 current and past season ticket holders to inform them about the event.

For more information about the game or future community events that the Moose will be involved in, Fowler invited people to go to www. detroitmoose.org.

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**GIRLS BASKETBALL** 

# Defense lifts Canton to victory

**By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer** 

Canton senior point guard Robyn Mack scored 17 points to lift the visiting Chiefs to a 40-31 win over Plymouth in a KLAA South Division girls basketball matchup.

In the first game of a Canton-Plymouth girlsboys basketball twinbill, the Chiefs (7-2, 2-1) held the Wildcats (6-3, 2-1) to one point in the second quarter to go up 21-11 at halftime.

Plymouth came back somewhat in the third, but the Chiefs held off any late comeback hopes.

"We thought the game was going to come down to defending and rebounding," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "I don't think we rebounded the ball great, but I do think we defended really well. To hold those guys to 31 points is a solid defensive effort."

Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear lamented several untimely defensive breakdowns and a disparity of foul shots. The Wildcats made just eight of 19 from the charity stripe; Canton sank 22 of 35 tries.

"Our kids played so hard, they played smart," de Bear said. "We had a couple breakdowns. Canton likes to get up the floor in a hurry and we didn't match up."

In addition to Mack, the Chiefs were sparked by Paige Aresco and Rachel Winters with six and five points, respectively. Taylor Hunley grabbed five rebounds.

"Robyn Mack is having an outstanding senior season, not just her play but her leadership," Samulski said. "We got all these young kids playing that don't have a lot of playing experience. So Robyn's been real good with them."

No individual stats for Plymouth were available as of press time.

**STEVENSON 42, SALEM** 22: Livonia Stevenson (6-2, 2-1) used a balanced scoring attack Friday to earn a KLAA Central Division victory against the host Rocks (1-7, 0-3). Sophomore center

Charlesann Roy finished with 11 points, while senior guards Molly Knoph and Jorden York added 10 and eight, respec-

Breanne Beaver led Salem with nine points and pulled down eight rebounds.





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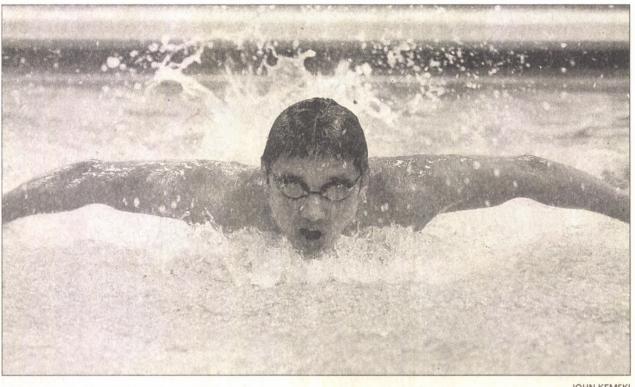
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Even on a night where he set three records, Canton senior Victor Zhang finds time between events to get in some prac-

#### **ZHANG**

Continued from page B1

ered acceptable to use that split as a new record in the 100 free.

#### Simply amazing

"Some of those records have been up there for almost 20 years," Le said. "The 500 (pool) record's been up there for 10.

"Being able to do the shortest race and the longest race, both in the same meet, and setting pool records in both of them and a team record in the 500, it's an impressive feat.'

Le added that what Zhang did Thursday isn't "something you're going to see every day. It's definitely been fun to watch him race."

The coach said Orris and Clark "were successful, all-state Canton swimmers. Their pictures are on the wall. Victor's will be up there with them soon."

Zhang said the most rewarding record of the night was the 50 free, "because it's a personal best for me by at least 6/10ths of a second."

Continuously topping himself is the thing about competitive swimming that Zhang relishes.

"Just whenever I get a personal best," Zhang said. "I'm not too worried about winning or losing, I always try to race myself.

"I can't do it every time, but I try to. You can't always be perfect."

#### Working to improve

That's OK with Le, because it means Zhang is driven to finish first in every event he races. That means more points for the team.

"He is a tremendous asset to the team," Le said. "Some of his teammates try to emulate him and his work ethic. They may not have the natural ability that he has, but they certainly have his drive and determination."

Swimming is a lifelong passion for Zhang, whose mom and dad are Meilan and Houshun Zhang of Canton.

He began in the sport at age 8 with the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers before moving on to the Ann Arbor-based Club Wol-

After high school, he intends to swim at the collegiate level. Yale University is a strong possibility, Le said.

But wherever he goes, he'll continue the work needed to build his strength and stamina with the payoff of zipping through pools at record clips.

"I've been able to go a lot faster than I did last season," Zhang said. "And I feel like I'm getting stronger. I should at least get the 100 back state championship again."

From the sounds of it, he might very well be setting a record in the selfconfidence department,

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#### **BOYS SWIMMING**

# Salem drops 1st dual meet

Thursday's dual meet continued the road to improvement that Salem varsity boys swim coach Chuck Olson expects his team to take.

The Rocks dropped a 112-74 decision to host South Lyon to fall to 0-1 in the KLAA Central Division.

"This was our first dual meet, and coming out of the Rock Kilgore Invitational (Jan. 7) it showed us some areas where we showed improvement and some places where we need to improve," Olson

Several members of the team already are well on their way. Olson cited Jason Zhang, Jerry Bai, Matt Pairitz, Jason Basanese and Turner Solterman as those who swam well for the Rocks Thurs-

Salem's next test is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Canton.

**DUAL MEET RESULTS SOUTH LYON 112** SALEM 74 Jan. 12 at South Lyon 200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Jeremy Wellman, Turner Solterman, Jerry Bai, Jason Basanese), 1:46.61; 2. South

Lyon, 1:46.91; 4. Salem (Brenden

Wellman, Sahil Rafai, Smaran Bhaktawara, William Long);

200 freestyle: 1. Jason Zhang (S), 1:50.59; 4. Matthew Pairitz (S), 1:58.33; 6. Brian Kuang (S),

2:05.39.

200 individual medley: 1. Travis Burgess (SL), 2:13.12 2. Bhaktawara (S), 2:13.93; 3. Solterman (S), 2:14.62.

50 freestyle: 1. Evan Faletti (SL), 22.60; 2. Bai (S), 23.58; 5. Basanese (S), 24.83. 1-meter diving: 1. Dan Gironza (SL), 262.00 points); 3. Nick Griwicki (S), 219.50; 5.

Charlie Dillon (S), 200.50. **100 butterfly:** 1. Burgess (SL), 56.78; 2. J. Wellman (S), 1:00.43; 3. Bhaktawara (\$), 1:01.12. 100 freestyle: 1. Faletti (\$L), 50.59; 2. Bai (S), 51.81; 5. Pairitz

(S), 54.26. **500 freestyle:** 1. Max Wilkinson (SL), 5:05.80; 2. J. Zhang (S), 5:06.52; 5. Brian Kuang (S), 5:40.69.

200 freestyle relay: 1. South Lyon (Joel Bischoff, Eric Weiss, Faletti, Spencer Ruggerio). 1:34.60; 2. Salem (Wellman, Pairitz, Solterman, J. Zhang), 1:36.98; 4. Salem (Alex Smith, Kuang, Basanese, Long), 1:42.13

100 backstroke: 1. J. Wellman (S), 1:01.79; 6. Gregory Payne (S), 1:10.99; 7. B. Wellman (S), 1:11.04.

100 breaststroke: 1. John Dunnuck (SL), 1:03.89; 2. Solter-man (S), 1:05.76; 6. Rafai (S),

400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Bai, Pairitz, Basanese, J. Zhang), 3:29.43; 2. South Lyon, 3:29.61; 4. Salem (Kenny McManimon, B. Kuang, Bhaktawara, Patrick Casev), 3:51.85.

#### **BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING RESULTS**

**ROCK KILGORE INVITATIONAL** Jan. 7 at Salem H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 298 points; 2. Northville, 241; 3. Zeeland, 222; 4. Livonia Stevenson, 178; 5.

Salem, 123; 6. Canton, 102.

200-yard medley relay (Heat 1): 1. Pioneer (Peter Doyle, Reizo Osawa, Dante Schmitter Sanchez, Brendan Vorobiev), 1:50.61; 5. Salem (Brenden Wellman, Brandin Yee, William Lu, Russell Sharpe), 2:08.42; 6. Canton (Josh Joy, Michael Fluegemann, Jay Akolkar, Noah Adams), 2:22.91; (Heat 2): 1. Pioneer (Matthew Erickson, Jiaming Shen, Kai Williams, Ruohao Li), 1:45.70; 5. Salem (Patrick Hułs, Calvin Kahler, William Long, Robert Basanese), 1:55.02; 6. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Alex Bourdreau, Jonathan Marceau, Chris Jenner), 1:57.63; (Heat 3): 1. Stevenson (John Ferrara, Jake McNamara, Bradley Bielicki, Brandon Bielicki), 1:42.31; 2. Salem (Jeremy Wellman, Turner Solterman, Jerry Bai, Jason Zhang), 1:43.28; 5. Canton (Jay Jin, Mike Carlson, Victor Zhang, Adrian Simion), 1:45.32.

200 freestyle (Heat 1): 1. Sergio Reyes (N), 1:58.85; 5. Patrick Casey (S), 2:09.22; 6. Bryan Tolinski (C), 2:25.23; (Heat 2): 1. Isaac Perez (Z), 1:54.14; 5. Brian Kuang (S), 2:08.29; 6. Nathan Benjamin (C), 2:24.00; (Heat 3): 1. Matthew DeJonge (Z), 1:51.65; 5. Matthew Pairitz (S), 2:01.09; 6. Michael Wilyard (C), 2:09.41; (Heat 4): 1. Seiji Osawa (P), 1:45.25; 5 Adrian Simion (C), 1:55.81; 6. Long (S), 2:11.30.

200 IM (Heat 1): 1. Jiaming Shen (P), 2:07.96; 5. Bourdreau (C), 2:33.72; 6. Sahil Rafai (S), 2:40.87; (Heat 2): 1. Daniel Wu (P), 2:08.55; 4. Smaran Bhaktawara (S), 2:17.76; 6. Bindas (C), 2:33.81; (Heat 3): 1. Jin (C), 2:04.68; 6. Solterman (S), 2:16.19; (Heat 4): 1. V. Zhang (C), 1:56.49; 4. J. Zhang (S), 2:05.29. 50 freestyle (Heat 1): 1. Doyle (P), 24.52; 5. Michael SanMillan (S), 27.15; 6. John Everitt (C), 28.91; (Heat 2): 1. Williams (P), 24.46; 4. Alex Smith (5), 26.16; 6. Jenner (C), 27.84; (Heat 3): 1. Sam Boyea (N), 23.07; 4. Basanese (S), 25.30; 5. Lee (LS), 26.15; (Heat 4): 1. Zach Zylstra (Z), 23.20; 3. Carlson (C),

23.55; 6. Bai (S), 24.13. 1-meter diving (Heat 1): 1. Chas Eisenhardt (LS), 189.80 points: (Heat 2): 1. Brian Atiyeh (LS), 235.55 points; 3. Jay Krebs (C), 210.90; 4. Patrick Casey (S), 156.00, (Heat 3): 1. Charlie Dillon (S), 347.00; (Heat 4): 1. Daniel Goldstein (P), 380.80; 2. Nick Griwicki (S), 372.10; 3. Ryan Kilgore (C), 334.20.

100 butterfly (Heat 1): 1. Frank Zhang (N), 1:00.61; 5. B. Wellman (S), 1:07.99; 6. Souvik Roy (C), 1:26.44; (Heat 2): 1. Williams (P), 57.60; 3. Huls (S), 1:03.15; 6. Akolkar (C), 1:21.43; **(Heat 3):** 1. Schmitter Sanchez (P), 57.55; 2. Bai (S), 58.34; 6. Nathan Albin (C), 1:11.93; (Heat 4): 1. Christian Otteman (Z), 57.33; 4. J. Wellman (S), 59.50; 6. Marceau (C),

100 freestyle (Heat 1): 1. Fillippo Miavaldi (N), 52.93; 4. Sharpe (S), 1:04.17; 5. Jack Chaney (C), 1:05.35; (Heat 2): 1. Chris Kim (N), 51.39; 4. Smith (S), 59.34; 6. Joy (C), 1:00.31; (Heat 3): 1. Wu (P), 51.33; 4. Basanese (S), 56.49; 6. Travis Alber (C), 1:02.64

100 freestyle (Heat 4): 1. S. Osawa (P), 48.15; 4. Carlson (C), 51.89; 6. Matthew Pairitz (S), 53.97.

500 freestyle (Heat 1): 1. Finn Magoon (P), 5:23.42; 2. Michael Chen (LS), 5:34.21; 5. Calvin Kahler (S), 6:05.02; 6. Tolinski (C), 6:33.08; (Heat 2): 1. Danny Teng (N), 5:12.71; 5. Kuang (S), 5:45.04; 6. Benjamin (C), 6:24.51; (Heat 3): 1. Schmitter Sanchez (P), 5:02.12; 5. Long (S), 6:06.53; (Heat 4): 1. DeJonge (Z), 4:55.10; 3. Jin (C), 5:05.45; 6. Bhaktawara (S),

200 free relay (Heat 1): 1. Pioneer (Magoon, John Antonetti, John McCormack, Nicholas Lopez), 1:40.51; 5. Salem (Kenny McManimon, SanMillan, Roger Xia, Greg Payne), 1:48.38; 6. Canton (Roy, Anthony Garbarino, Marcus Stojcevich, Travis Wiggins), 2:15.05.; (Heat 2): 1. Pioneer (Klein, Williams, Jiaming Shen, Li), 1:34.24; 5. Salem (Kuang, Bhaktawara, Stephen Pietron, Sharpe), 1:48.22; 6. Canton (Chaney, Everitt, Nick Valli, Adams), 1:56.48; (Heat 3): 1. Pioneer (Thad Stalmack, Wu, Davis Argersinger, S. Osawa), 1:32.00; 5. Canton (Ryan Sheeler, Jenner, Bourdreau, Alber), 1:49.42

100 backstroke (Heat 1): 1. Nick Hayes (N), 1:01.27; 5. B. Wellman (S), 1:11.77; 6. Joy (C), 1:18.85; (Heat 2): 1. Vorobiev (P), 1:02.03; 5. Huls (S), 1:02.99; 6. Bindas (C), 1:11.89; (Heat 3): 1. Otteman (Z), 56.43; 2. Simion (C), 59.52; 5. J. Wellman (S), 1:01.90.

100 backstroke (Heat 4): 1. V. Zhang (C), 53.80; 5. J. Zhang

100 breaststroke (Heat 1): 1. R. Osawa (P), 1:10.31; 5. Lu (5), 1:19.21; 6. Fluegemann (C), 1:30.08; (Heat 2): 1. Shen (P), 1:04.69; 5. Yee (S), 1:16.93; 6. Albin (C), 1:25.61.

100 breaststroke (Heat 3): 1. Stalmack (P), 1:05.97; 5. Bourdreau (C), 1:15.25; 6. Kahler (S), 1:15.43; (Heat 4): 1. Klein (P), 1:02.93; 3. Solterman (S), 1:05.84; 6. Wilyard (C), 1:16.01. 400 free relay (Heat 1): 1. Northville (Aaron Zalewski, Mike Miller, Danny Teng, Sergio Reyes), 3:40.52; 5. Salem (Pietron, SanMillan, Casey, B. Wellman), 4:06.34; 6. Canton (Woodard, Garbarino, Wiggins, Adams), 4:38.74; (Heat 2): 1. Northville (Adam Curry, Dawson Laabs, Scott Wang, Miavaldi), 3:34.23; 5. Salem (Kuang, Bhaktawara, J. Weliman, Huls), 3:44.95; 6. Canton (Alber, Benjamin, Wilyard, Tolinski), 4:20.88; (Heat 3): 1. Pioneer (Argersinger, Wu, Benson, S. Osawa), 3:21.81; 2. Canton (V. Zhang, Simion, Carlson, Jin), 3:22.01; 6. Salem (Bai, Pairitz, Solterman, J. Zhang), 3:31.14.

# Chiefs outswim Wildcats, 110-76

By Tim Smith

Observer Staff Writer

It might have been Victor Zhang's night. But campus rivals Canton and Plymouth still

got after it Thursday in a KLAA South Division varsity boys swimming and diving dual meet. The Chiefs, spearhead-

ed by Zhang's setting of three Canton High School pool records, earned a 110-76 victory over Plymouth in the division openers for both squads.

"We swam well, we were very focused and determined," said Canton head coach Dave Le. "Swimming Plymouth's always a tough task for us. Being cross-campus rivals, we always seem to bring out the best out in each other.

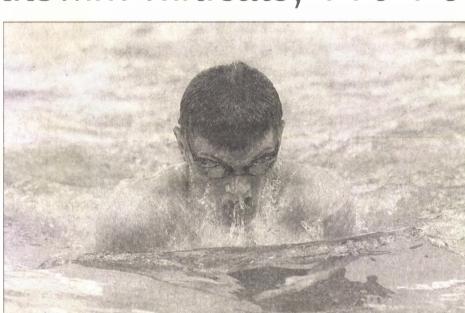
"They (Wildcats) had some great swims, we just swam a little better."

Plymouth head coach Doug Schade had high praise for Zhang, who set pool standards in the 50 free (21.41), 500 free (4:40.19, also a Canton team record) and 100 free (47.84, in the first leg of the 400 free relay).

"We're just young," Schade said. "Victor Zhang had a great swim in the 500, that's what this meet's all about.'

Schade did say the Wildcats had an encouraging meet, with 40 personal bests.

"We're just going to be getting better all the time and trying to be competitive," Schade added. "We're not yet, so it is



Plymouth's Nick Weber competes in the 100 butterfly Thursday. He won the event.

what it is."

Plymouth did capture the 200 freestyle relay, with the combo of Ryan Heinze, Alex Wilson, Adam Liakos and Cameron Earls finishing first with a time of 1:39.41.

And Nick Weber won the lone individual event for the Wildcats, with a mark of 1:05.62 in the 100 butterfly.

The Chiefs grabbed two relays with the lineup of Zhang, Adrian Simion, Jay Jin and Mike Carlson. That unit won the 200

medley relay and 400 free relays with times of 1:41.84 and 3:22.34, respectively.

Also victorious in two individual events for Canton was Jin (200 IM. 2:02.38; 100 backstroke, 56.25).

Single-event winners

were Simion (200 free, 1:56.95), Carlson (100 free, 51.64), Alex Bourdreau (100 breaststroke, 1:12.71) and Ryan Kilgore (1-meter diving, 214.85 points).

**DUAL MEET RESULTS CANTON 110 PLYMOUTH 76** 

Jan. 12 at Canton 200-yard medley relay: 1 Canton (Adrian Simion, Victor Zhang, Jay Jin, Mike Carlson), 1:41.84; 2. Plymouth (Ben Yang, Todd Maslyk, Alex Johnson, Ryan Heinze), 1:56.38; 3. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Alex Bourdreau, Nathan Albin, Chris Jenner),

200 freestyle: 1. Simion (C), 1:56.95; 2. Cameron Earls (P) 1:59.11; 3. Michael Wilyard (C),

200 individual medley: 1. Jin (C), 2:02.08; 2. Yang (P), 2:21.22; 3. Maslyk (P), 2:31.13. 50 freestyle: 1. V. Zhang (C), 21.41\*; 2. Carlson (C), 22.76; Adam Liakos (P), 23.36. 1-meter diving: 1. Ryan Kilgore (C), 214.85 points; 2.

Connor McManus (P), 170.20; 3. Jay Krebs (C), 168.50. 100 butterfly: 1. Nick Weber (P), 1:05.62; 2. Johnson (P), 1:08.30; 3. Albin (C), 1:11.01. 100 freestyle: 1. Carlson (C), 51.64; 2. Liakos (P), 53.43; 3. Alex Wilson (P), 55.67. **500 freestyle:** 1. V. Zhang (C), 4:40.19\*\*; 2. Simion (C), 5:22.52;

3. Earls (P), 5:35.91 200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Heinze, Wilson, Liakos, Earls), 1:39.41; 2. Canton (Travis Alber, Josh Joy, Bourdreau, Jenner), 1:49.42; 3. Canton (John

Everitt, Jack Chaney, Matt Gran, Ryan Sheeler), 1:50.19. 100 backstroke: 1. Jin (C). 56.25; 2. Yang (P), 1:02.68; 3 Bindas (C), 1:12.30.

100 breaststroke: 1. Bourdreau (C), 1:12.71; 2. Maslyk (P), 1:13.71; 3. Weber (P), 1:14.49. 400 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (V. Zhang, Simion, Carlson, Jin), V. Zhang, Simion, Carison, Jin 3:22.34; 2. Plymouth (Yang, Liakos, Earls, Weber), 3:46.73; 3. Canton (Joy, Alber, Bindas, Gran), 4:04.88.

Dual meet records: Canton, 2-0 overall, 1-0 KLAA South Division; Plymouth, 0-1 overall, 0-1 KLAA South.

(\* Canton pool record; \*\*Canton pool and varsity record.)

#### **Dragons** win 2nd tourney

The St. John Neumann Catholic School eighth grade varsity boys basketball team made it two tournament titles so far this season, winning the recent Catholic Youth Organization Mt. Carmel Christmas Tournament. In the clincher, the Canton-based team won 36-24 over previously unbeaten Cabrini, improving to 9-0 overall and 3-0 in league play. Pictured in the front row (from left) are Jace Kochan, Jacob Donnelly, Trevor Nowaske, Pete Carravallah, Aaron Kosmyna and Evan Voyles. In the back row (from left) are head coach Mike Marek, Trevor Molenda, Kenny Topolovec and assistant coach Jim Nowaske. Not pictured are Cody Zidzik and Matt

# Road trip unites Rocks

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 15, 2012

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Take a boys hockey team struggling to hold leads or score goals, take them on a road trip to Traverse City and voila.

It's been tough to stop the Salem Rocks ever since they returned from their late December trip to and from a holiday tournament some 240 miles from Plymouth Cultural Center.

That was the case in their first two games of 2012. The Rocks followed a 6-2 win over Livonia Franklin on Jan. 6 with an 8-2 rout of visiting Big Rapids the next night.

Besides having time to work on their game and get in some games, going to Traverse City helped the Rocks enhance team camaraderie.

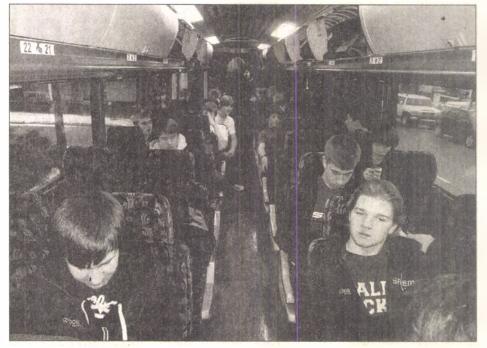
"It's important, it helps build team morale," said senior forward and team captain Mark McGee about the trip. "It gets the guys closer together. It also helps some of the guys get better looks from scouts and teams up there.

"And it also helps the team become more sound. I feel since we came back we've been playing better hockey, scoring a lot more goals."

#### Fun and friendship

There was plenty to like about the trek besides hockey.

The Rocks took the Plymouth Whalers' team bus on four-hour trips to and from northern Michigan, enjoying wifi as well as the chance



Salem's varsity boys hockey team enjoyed traveling in style, riding the Plymouth Whalers' team bus to and from Traverse City in late December. There were plush seats and wireless Internet, not to mention TVs.

to watch a Detroit Red Wings game on TV.

"It was fun, it was a really nice bus, a really nice tournament," said senior forward and assistant captain Austin Sartorius, with a grin. "They got TVs and everything.'

But more importantly, players were able to move around and talk to teammates they might not gravitate to other-

"When you do things like go to Traverse City you spend a lot of time on the bus together," said Ossenmacher at the start of this season. "You run out of things to say in every day conversations, when you sit next to each other for four or five hours that's when you really get to



Forget school buses. When the Rocks went to Traverse City for a holiday hockey tournament, they enjoyed the comfort of the Plymouth Whalers' team bus.

know your teammates and hang out with them, trust them and respect them.'

In addition, McGee said players had no say

in who they roomed with at the hotel.

"Room assignments are random," McGee noted. "So you get to be with different guys that you nor-



Here's proof the trip north was fun for Salem's boys hockey



Besides playing three hockey games in Traverse City, there was plenty of time for the Rocks to hang out with each other and cruise the city streets for fun. They also bowled, went to an arcade and saw the movie "Sherlock Holmes" during the team-bonding trip.

mally wouldn't talk to in the locker room."

Of course, hockey was the focal point of the trek, mostly paid for in players' season fees (augmented by fundraisers). Meanwhile, Canton's and Plymouth's boys hockey teams are taking similar road trips this weekend to Sault Ste. Marie.

On the ice, the Rocks went 1-2 during the Scott Miller Memorial Hockey Tournament at Centre Ice Arena.

#### **Diversions**

When the team left the arena, there was time to go the mall, watch the movie "Sherlock Holmes" at a multiplex, go bowling and do what McGee said was the best part — visit an arcade.

"We went to an arcade place up there," McGee added. "We all combined all of our tickets and we bought a snow cone machine and a cotton candy machine for our locker room. So we got that in there now."

Sartorius said the Rocks "did a lot of team bonding, hung out in the hotel. Our coach wanted us to hang out a lot. So we just kept busy with like being out with each other and stuff. It was fun.'

So is carrying that team unity into the January games.

"We've won every game since then, so we're doing a lot better," Sartorius

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# Chiefs hit road on high note

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Early offense sparked Canton's varsity boys hockey team to a 4-1 win over Allen Park on Wednesday night at Arctic Edge Arena.

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak and sent the Chiefs off to the Upper Peninsula in a jovial mood. Once they get to Sault Ste. Marie, it will be a weekend of games in the second annual "North-vs-South Hockey Classic.'

"Plymouth also is going up and playing both the UP teams (Escanaba and Sault Ste. Marie) and so are we," said Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak following the non-conference victory over the Jaguars. "Hopefully us and Plymouth can represent the south pretty well.'

The two campus rivals are taking separate buses on six-hour trips to the tourna-

"We're leaving Thursday (Jan. 12) so they're only going to miss a day of school," Majszak said. "It's a good experience for them, a lot of these guys want to play hockey at the next level so it's kind of like that."

Although the trip north probably was on the minds of the Canton players, they stormed out of the gate to take care of the first order of business — defeating Allen Park and getting back on the winning side of the ledger.

Just 1:59 into the opening frame, senior defenseman Zach Cox took a pass from junior forward Ian Fagan and blasted a shot high over the trapper of Allen Park starting goalie Jake Stod-

Just over a minute later. however, the Jags made it 1-1 on what Maiszak said was an own goal knocked past Canton sophomore netminder Robbie Beydoun. It was credited to Aaron Porter.

But the Chiefs (6-4-0) quickly answered in turn, when the line of senior forwards Duggan Tear, Taylor Baker and Brandon Gril-

**経済なる人では後のアンタンを「後」」 2000年の日本人とアービスの日本** 

lo teamed up for a goal to make it 2-1 with 11:17 left in the stanza. Tear scored it, with assists to Baker and

"They're definitely our goto guys," Majszak said.

Canton added a goal with 4:50 left in the period, with Grillo jamming the puck past Stoddard. Assisting on the tally was Baker.

**Stepping up** 

"We had a three-game losing streak, we only played three games (recently) because of the break," Majszak noted. "So we went out hard this game and said we were going to go for it right from the face-off. ... Everybody stepped up and played well."

At 2:53 of the second period, the Chiefs took 4-1 edge on Tear's second of the game (and sixth of the season). Baker centered the puck in front to Tear who snapped a shot inside the left post. Also collecting a helper was junior defenseman Taylor Greenshields.

That goal marked the end of the night for Stoddard, as senior goalie Blake Martin took over. Martin was stellar, not allowing a goal the rest of the game. Canton had plenty of pressure, too, totalling 44 shots on goal for the contest.

At the other end of the rink, Beydoun (17 saves) settled down following the early goal and played a strong game. He was particularly excellent in the second. His best stop was kicking out a pad to stone Porter's bid from point-blank

"In the second and third periods he really stepped up and did well," said Majszak, about Beydoun. "He definitely showed the team that he can play."

Canton will return from the trip to the Soo with a game set for 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 18 against Livonia Franklin at Eddie Edgar Arena.

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#### HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

But by that time, the Chargers (9-1, 5-1) had a commanding 4-0 lead and wide edge in territorial play.

**Pretty special** 

And Churchill needed just 80 seconds for Smythe to answer the Driscoll goal with a shorthanded marker, opening up a 5-1 edge and chasing Salem sophomore netminder Parker Godfrey.

Churchill also scored on the power play, in the first period on a goal by senior forward Kevin Louwers. Chargers head coach Pete Mazzoni said special teams has been a main focal point early this season.

"We've worked really hard on our penalty kill and our power play," Mazzoni said. "Last year, it's what cost us the game in the quarters. We made a deal with ourselves that we weren't going to lose a game to special teams this year. Knock on wood, we've been pretty good so far."

Mazzoni said he made sure his squad came out prepared to face a Salem team that had been playing strong hockey since January began.

"They were playing really well as of late, Mazzoni said. "The tie



Salem senior forward Mark McGee (No. 9) carries the puck away from Livonia Churchill's Luke Otto (No. 14) during Friday night action at Eddie Edgar Arena.

against Brighton was probably huge for them. We tried to use our speed, I think we moved the puck pretty good.

"And we're able to wear teams down a lot with our depth. We got a couple early, and sometimes when things start rolling the other way it's tough to stop it. But they (Rocks) competed, I'm sure they will bounce back from it."

**Fast start** 

Churchill needed just 2:12 to get on the scoreboard.

On an early power play, Proben took a slap shot from the right point that Godfrey stopped with a pad. But Louwers knocked in the rebound.

Salem senior forward Mark McGee was tripped up on a subsequent rush into Churchill territory, drawing a penalty.

But the Chargers had

all the dangerous chances, particularly on a chance by senior forward Mike Gambino in the low

Churchill broke it open with two more goals late in the stanza.

Smythe followed his own rebound at the Salem crease to beat Godfrey with 3:43 to go. Assisting were Otto and Proben.

Then with just 1:13 remaining, junior forward Matt Sinclair took a centering pass from Carev and slipped a low shot inside the right post.

It could have been an ever wider gap if not for Godfrey's goaltending. He faced wave after ·wave of Churchill pressure, with 22 shots directed his way in the opening 15 minutes alone.

Churchill made it 4-0 at 1:01 of the second period, when a shot by Otto hit a

Salem player and trickled over the line.

The Rocks responded with extended pressure on Churchill goalie Alex Estes and cut the lead to 4-1 with 11:28 left.

A slapshot from inside the blue line by junior forward Jack Driscoll caromed in off a Churchill player past Estes, who stopped 22 of 23 Salem shots for the night.

Any spike in momentum was shortlived as Churchill chased Godfrey just over a minute later. Smythe converted a pass from Otto to open up

a 5-1 lead. With Anthony Veresan taking over in goal for Salem, Otto's wrister from the left circle found the back of the cage for a 6-1 edge entering the second intermission.

The teams played a scoreless third, with Churchill outshooting the Rocks by a 9-6 margin (and by 46-23 for the game).

"Jake (Otto), he brings energy every night," Mazzoni said. "He's been with us four years, and so he's obviously one of our leaders. It's good to see him rewarded for all his hard work."

On Wednesday, the Rocks tied KLAA Central Division leading Brighton. Scoring twice was McGee, with junior forward Alek Zultowski netting the other goal.

#### PREP BOWLING RESULTS Farm.), 262; 2. David Nikkila (Salem),

257; 3. Juwayn Teamer (FH), 243; 4. Brandon Zurawsk (Flate Rock) and Ste-

ven Cadwell (Salem), 227 each; 6. Nick

High series: 1. Radner (N. Farm.),

Krause (Kettering), 226.

LIVONIA LADYWOOD **HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT BOWLING RESULTS** 

Jan. 7 at Super Bowi **BOYS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Flat** Rock, 2,739 (3 games)-708 (4 Bakers)-3,447 (total); 2. South Lyon East, 2,678-754-3,432; 3. Salem, 2,790-630-3,420; 4. Canton, 2,654-736-3,3390; 5. Westland John Glenn, 2,582-789-3,371; 6. South Lyon, 2,599-717-3,316; 7. St. Clair Shores Lakeview, 2,718-592-3,310; 8. Farmington Harrison, 2,602-684-3,286; 9. Ferndale, 2,568-660-3,228; 10. North Farmington, 2,536-674-3,210; 11. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 2,580-625-3,205; 12. Plymouth, 2,457-669-3,126; 13. Warren DeLaSalle, 2,395-680-3,075; 13. 14. Waterford Kettering, 2,439-630-3,069; 15. Livonia Clarenceville, 2.337-669-3.006; 16. Berkley, 2,386-613-2,999; 17. Dearborn Divine Child, 2,412-565-2,977; 18. Birmingham Brother Rice, 2,206-656-2,862; 19. Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 2,210-

High games: 1. Aaron Radner (N.

628; 2. Nikkula (Salem), 618; 3. Andrew Stanney (S.L. East), 610; 4. Daniel Wrobel (Flat Rock), 589; 5. Donovan Williams (Ferndale), 587); Alex Franz (S.L. East), 583.

John Glenn scorers: Jordan Hornes, 171-184-199-554; Tommy Ruark, 170-216-386; Daniel Ammons, 189-160-349; Steven White, 174-151-325; Steven Wrone, 203; Mitch Dean, 173.

**GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Flat** Rock, 2,335 (3 games)-698(4 Bakers)-3,053 (total); 2. Plymouth, 2,312-599 2,911; 3. South Lyon, 2,274-594-2,868; Waterford Kettering, 2,261-585-2,846; 5. North Farmington, 2,184-656-2,840; 6. Westland John Glenn, 2,291-535-2,826; 7. Warren Regina, 2,208-600-2,808; 8. Salem, 2,209- 588-2,797; 9. St. Clair Shores Lakeview, 2,177-597-2,734; 10. South Lyon East,

2,149-603-2,752; 11. Livonia Ladywood (Blue), 2,200-541-2,741; 12. Farmington Hills Mercy, 2,105-634-2,739; 13 Canton, 2,104-577-2,681; 14. Farmington Harrison, 2,063-559-2,622; 15. Ferndale, 2,083-489-2,572; 16. Dearborn Divine Child, 2,066-477-2,543; 17. Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 1,964-541-2,505; 18. Livonia Ladywood (White), 1,822-599-2,421; 19. Berkley, ,911-465-2,376. High games: 1. Ella Kearney (Har-

rison), 243; 2. Brittney Antonelli (Kettering), 225; 3. Bridget Maul (Salem), 222; 4. Carissa Gadson (Ferndale), 210; Lindsay Risden (Flat Rock), 206; 6. Briana Blaska (S. Lyon), 202. High series: 1. Antonelli (Kettering), 607; 2. Maul (Salem), 583; 3. Jessica Pate (John Glenn), 558; 4. Gadson (Ferndale), 550; 5. Risden (Flat Rock), 548; 6. Toni Cadena (S. Lyon), 537. John Glenn scorers: Jessica Pate. 166-192-200-558; Olivia Cabildo, 166-174-191-531; Yvette Ayers, 138-173-138-449; Caity Lenard, 127-156-283;

Sara Aulidge, 138.

#### **2012 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Dodge Challenger gets the once-over from industry people.

# Auto dealers gearing up for tremendous year

By Jay M. Grossman **O&E Staff Writer** 

"The sky's the limit." That's how Jim Bechtell, owner of the Somerset Buick/GMC dealership, sums up his outlook for the upcoming year. With the 2012 North American International Auto Show in full swing this week, Bechtell and other auto dealers around southeast Michigan are eager to capitalize on the success the industry enjoyed in 2011.

"General Motors for Buick and GMC, they've got a nice little niche with the premium vehicle market," Bechtell said. "They're not luxury cars like Cadillac, but they're not Chevys either. The price point is right in the sweet spot for these world-class

cars.' He then pointed to the all-new Verano and the launch of the Encore as examples of how General Motors is gearing up for

the year. "It's all about the product," Bechtell said. "We can now offer vehicles that get 32 mpg or 36 mpg and you don't have to feel like you're crammed inside. They've got capacity and they offer great perfor-

Dick Scott, owner of Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth, shares the enthusiasm.

"We've got great products to start with," he said Friday. "We've got the 2013 Dart coming in June — it's just a phenomenal car. The banks are really concentrating on auto loans, there are strides in the economy and it's an election year, which is always good for

He estimates a 15- to 20-percent increase in sales across the board.

"We had a great 2011," he said. "We finished December with a flurry and everything is pointed in the right direction, which is good for the entire economy."

Mike Schrieber, general manager of Bill Brown Ford in Livonia, said the newly-designed 2013 Escape and Fusion are sure to capture the public's attention.

"Bill Brown Ford is in a unique position," he said. "We sell more Escapes and Fusions than any dealer in the United States. We'll be the ones who get the inventory, especially in the beginning, when they're hard



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teri Arbenowske, Economic Development Director for Farmington Hills, admires a Ford Focus.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Dart resurrects a famous old Dodge model nameplate, and replaces the Caliber.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 2013 Ford Escape.

At the same time, Schrieber said leasing deals on 2012 Fusions and Escapes have been sweetened to move the inventory.

"It really is all about the customer," he said.

Roy Williams, sales manager at Avis Ford in Southfield, adds the stylishly revamped 2013 Taurus to his list of hot-selling products for the coming year.

"We've got quite a bit of momentum going right now, and to add to that momentum we've got the new Fusion, the new Escape and the new Taurus," Williams said. "Anyone heading down to the auto show

will get a chance to see just how great these cars look." Williams added that

Ford plans to continue with its aggressive incentive programs to keep people heading into the showrooms.

"Ford is committed to staying aggressive," he said. "We are always striving to being the

Scott LaRiche, vice president of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township, expects the public to be pleasantly surprised by the number of new vehicles being introduced at this year's car show, not to mention the quality.

"I think the number one thing in 2012 is every manufacturer across the globe has excellent products that people can see at the auto show," he said. "I spoke to some of the manufacturers at the show and they're anticipating 14.2 million to 15 million in car sales across the globe this year. That's a nice uptick from last year's number, which I think was around 13.5 million."

Along with better cars, LaRiche said many of the GM dealerships are getting face-lifts to offer nicer showrooms and customer lounges. He also touted the 2013 Malibu that's expected to arrive in his showroom in the next sever-

"They took it to a whole new level," LaRiche said. "They're taking cues from the Camaro and Corvette in terms of styling — and it gets up to 38 mpg on the highway. For a mid-sized vehicle, that's incredible."

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#### At the auto show

#### **Hot Wheels**

A favorite toy of young boys everywhere was brought to life by Chevrolet, with the making of a Hot Wheels Camaro Concept. The car features 20inch wheels and tires and a black aluminum hood insert with milled extractors.

"Guys of all ages have played with Hot Wheels Custom Camaros since 1968, imagining what it would be like to drive those cars for real. We are thrilled to bring that dream to life with such a stunning concept, the very embodiment of Hot Wheels," said Felix Holst, vice president Hot Wheels design

#### **Dancing with hamsters**

Kia Motors has a display where people can dance with the Korean car company's famous hamster, digitally speaking.

Fans walk onto a sprawling white dance floor with a gigantic TV screen above. The interactive system can read a person's location and movements and then insert a funky hamster into the display as if were out on the dance floor, too. Ford has a similar display, minus the hamster.

A number of race cars are on display at the auto show, including the No. 18 Mars/Interstate Toyota Camry that Kyle Busch drives in the Sprint Cup Series. For a more historic perspective, check out the 1952 Mercedes Benz 300 SL race car that roared around the track at a top speed of 142 mph.



STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Ford interactive video screen display.

#### Into the clouds

Ford has a massive mechanical interactive display that reaches for the clouds. Called the Ford Living Connected Experience, the display takes 12 people roughly 20 feet into the air, where they can check out a 360-degree film that highlights Ford's upcoming in-car technology. It's a show-stopper by all accounts, one that is sure to attract large crowds.

#### Star watch

Former Detroit Red Wings defenseman Chris Chelios was seen at the auto show industry day Thursday, hanging out as the special guest in the Comcast area on the main show floor. Chelios, who owns a bar in Detroit and is a spokesman for Comcast, also took some time to pose for pictures and sign autographs.

NASCAR Nationwide driver Kenny Wallace will be at the Toyota display at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. today (Jan. 15) posing for pictures and greeting

#### **Mobility center debuts**

Not all the action at the NAIAS is on the main

For the first time, the auto show features a mobility center, highlighting adaptive vehicles and products for people with disabilities. The exhibitors and display vehicles are located in the Michigan Hall. which is in the basement.

The Michigan Hall also is where the Michigan Economic Development Corp. will host the Pure Michigan Ride and Drive Track — a quarter-mile, indoor ride-and-drive test track surrounded by landscaped and forested terrain, where visitors can ride along in electric and hybrid vehicles provided by more than 30 auto manufacturers.

#### **Building blocks**

Ford has its own safety table, complete with interactive screens for adults and a production table where kids can make wooden model cars out of automoblox. Ford will display them throughout the

"This whole table is about driving safely," said spokeswoman Michelle Jackson, who lives in Metamora.

– By Jay Grossman and Nathan Mueller



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Kia invites attendees to dance with giant hamsters.

#### **2012 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW**



This is a 360 degree panoramic view of the Auto Show, made from seven photos, stitched together in Adobe Photoshop.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Reporter Jay Grossman looks for his favorite cars at the auto show.

A red Audi looks pretty good.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Family man looks for perfect ride

By Jay Grossman O&E Staff Writer

f course, I wanted a Porsche. Or perhaps a Bentley.
Heck, I'd gladly settle for a really nice Cadillac.
But my mission at this year's auto show was to find a perfect ride for a family of four, plus a dog. The scenario just happens to mirror my life: A lovely soulmate, two boys that were genetically engineered to destroy all household appliances and a large dog that shade.

a large dog that sheds.
Sorry, but I am not
ready for a traditional
minivan. I know minivans
are perfect for my lifestyle. I know it's OK for
dad to drive a minivan.
I'm sure Brad Pitt owns

one. It's just not me.
I stopped at the Toyota display and chatted with Sam Butto, a communications specialist who lives in California and has his own family. He recommended a Venza cross-

over wagon.
"It's very refined," Butto said. "It has all the bells and whistles that parents can still enjoy if they want to go out on the town without the kids."

A night on the town? Is he talking about McDonald's and the video store? I started wondering if Butto exaggerated a bit when he claimed he was a parent.

He continued. The Venza is built on a Camry platform. It's roomy and efficient, has lots of trunk space and even carries a line of separate pet accessories made especially for this vehicle.

"We want to make sure your dog is comfortable," he said.

Here's the best part:
For the kids you can get a rear audio or video entertainment system. Butto said it's the perfect way to keep them preoccupied so they take a break from destroying things.

In other words, a bribe. Turns out Butto really is a parent.

Ford Motor Co. marketing manager Amy Marentic, who lives in Plymouth and is married with three kids, wanted to fit me into the all-new Escape, which I later learned is named the Ford Kuga in China and Europe.

Why anyone would want to go from Kuga to Escape baffles me. Kuga is a cool name for a vehicle. Say it a few times and you feel like a chieftain.

As a backup plan,
Marentic also mentioned
the Ford Edge. I like the
vehicle because it won
numerous awards from
pet associations. If it's
good enough for my mutt,
it's good enough for the
two boys.

I like the name, too, because it reminds me of the ultra-cool guitarist in U2, who happens to call himself The Edge. At the same time I'm wondering if he ever considered the

name Kuga.
Finally I met up with
Jon Brancheau, vice president of marketing for
Nissan North America.
He recommends the Nissan Quest because of its
great cargo capacity and
steady handling.

One feature in particular caught my attention: air scrubbers.

air scrubbers.

"If one of the kids should happen to lose a couple of French fries under the seat, the Quest has a filter system that will actually refresh the air inside the vehicle," Brancheau said. "An air scrubber if you ... the technical guys would prefer a better term, but I

call it the air scrubber."

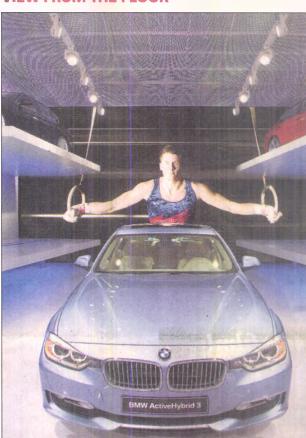
The perfect solution to what I call gas, something my two boys love to pass.

For now, I'll keep trying to squeeze everyone
into my Ford Fusion. It's
a great car and still has
a lot of miles under the
hood. Hopefully the boys
won't get too much bigger
before my next vehicle.
As for the smell of

As for the smell of French fries, I'll just ignore it.

**Jay Grossman** writes for the Birmingham Eccentric and loves to look at new cars.

#### **VIEW FROM THE FLOOR**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing checks out the Chrysler display



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurent

Haloy, of

Le Auto-

magazine,

takes pho-

tos at the

Hyundai

Jan. 11.

exhibit on

motive

The Nissan Juke, a small crossover SUV.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Flashy car can make average guy enticing

By Nathan Mueller Staff Writer

he average guy has to stand out somehow, and honestly his vehicle can do wonders for his luck with the

Sure, being good-looking and being able to carry on a conversation helps. But if you have a nice ride, women tend to overlook those minor details.

That was my daunting task at the North American International Auto Show last week — find practical cars that make the average guy intriguing.

For example, I have a close friend who drives a Chevy Cavalier that sounds like a dying sports car because the muffler fell off. It also has a driver's side door so dented in that if he slams it too hard he has to climb out the window like a NASCAR driver.

Needless to say, he hasn't had a date in a few years.

Put him in an Audi A8 and that drought will quickly come to an end.

Of course, the auto show featured plenty of options, but not all are realistic. Sure, Mr. Average would love a Bentley, Shelby Mustang, Porsche or Maserati, but remember, he's average, not a millionaire.

To get the best perspective, I figured I would do some research with the help of the many attractive models on the showroom floor. They are the ones getting in Mr. Average's car, right?

Tifarah Brumback, a product specialist for Chevrolet, tried selling me on the company's new cars the Sonic and the Spark. The are small, sporty and big into technology, which means a girl would want to drive her

own, not get into his.
Finally, she gave in by
offering up the Camaro.

"It's all-American muscle," she said. "And it's an attention grabber." Sounds like we have a Sure, being good-looking and being able to carry on a conversation helps. But if you have a nice ride, women tend to overlook those minor details.

Samantha, who was working at the Ford display, said her car would be the 2013 Ford Focus ST. I thought, "Ford Focus not Mustang, really?"

But with the help of Lisa Schoder, Ford Focus ST brand manager, I was sold. It was something Mr. Average could afford and look good in.

"It brings together a fun to drive car with dynamic performance," Schoder said. "It's a hot little car."

There's room for two!
After all my research,
I soon realized Mr. Average would have a tough
time getting a date
regardless of what he
drove.

So I went to my most reliable source — my own intuition. I can almost guarantee if a guy pulls up in a Dodge Challenger or Charger, he is going to get a second look.

Hey, a Cadillac wouldn't hurt either. "For single folks, there is nothing more fun than the V series," said Hampden Tener, a Bloomfield Township resident and U.S. product director for the company.

And speaking from experience, there is always the 2007 Ford Fusion.

You may laugh and think "yeah right, chief." But it's what I picked up my lovely girlfriend in nearly two years ago.

Then again, I guess I didn't need a sweet car to catch her attention because I'm not Mr. Average.

**Nathan Mueller** is not your average 28-year-old, but he does dream of driving a new car someday.



# COMMUNITY LIFE

# Former Livonia resident brings British trio to town

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

en and Michele Ciscon will welcome their son, Scott, home to Livonia next weekend, as the singer wraps up his first U.S. tour.

He and fellow Tenors Un Limited members, Jem Sharples and Paul Martin — all are based in London, England — will perform their Michigan debut concert on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church.

The couple is promoting the concert in Livonia and says about 400 tickets have been sold, with approximately 100 still available.

"I'm just pleased they are doing so well and that they are here," said Michele Ciscon. "I'm probably their number one fan. I'm not saying that as a mom. I really think they are really good."

The trio, which came together about nine years ago, performs in the classical crossover genre. They sing classical standards and opera, combined with elements of pop music, as well as their original compositions. They'll add a few religious songs into the mix for their performance in Livonia.

"We've done stadiums. We have done a dining room in

# Classical tenors



Scott Ciscon, (right) former Livonia resident, will return home with other members of his England-based trio, Tenors Un Limited, to perform Jan. 21 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia. Fellow singers are Paul Martin, (center) and Jem Sharples. The photo was taken at the Thames River.

a castle and everything in between," said Scott Ciscon, during a phone interview Thursday from Casper, Wy., the group's first concert stop. "For us, the size of the audience doesn't matter. Every time we get to perform ... that is what matters most."

Ciscon can't remember a time that he wasn't singing. Neither can his mom.

"Scott's been singing since he was 2. It's like breathing for him," she said. "He'd sing around the house. My neighbor next door would say 'I love when he sings the Star Spangled Banner.' I have those kinds of memories."

Ciscon, 38, sang in choir and school musicals while in high school in Illinois, where the family lived before moving to Livonia. He was accepted into an a cappella singing group as a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he planned to study engineering. He lived "off and on" in Livonia for about six years during and after college.

**Change in direction** 

"The engineering became part time and singing became full time, much to my parents' dismay," Ciscon said. "It was one of those things. I was enjoying (singing) so much.

When he graduated in 1996, he was determined to turn his musical talent into a profession. He worked on a cruise ship after college and then auditioned for roles in New York. He landed a lead

part in *Grease* that took him to Germany for three years. After that came roles in the West End, London's theater district.

"After 911, the tourism trade tapered off and some of the shows closed," Ciscon said.

It was time to try something new.

"I had the opportunity to meet up with the guys, (Martin and Sharples) and said let's try to put our own take on the whole three tenors type of genre. But let's do it our way, writing, recording, traveling and working as a group."

International success
Since then, they've opened
for Sting, sung with the Royal Philharmonic Orches-

#### AN EVENING WITH THE RAT PACK OF OPERA

What: Tenors Un Limited perform original compositions and favorites such as "O Sole Mio," "Nessun Dorma," "You Raise Me Up," "Volare," and more When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 Where: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and students, \$50 for a family of two adults and two students or children; Contact: Michele at (734) 464-8513 or e-mail to tenorstickets@yahoo.com

tra and performed alongside celebrities such as Lionel Ritchie and Beyonce. They've entertained celebrities, statesmen and royalty, sung for stadium crowds and intimate gatherings.

Their first major CD, Brand New Day, was released in 2007. The Rat Pack of Opera, their current album, will be distributed worldwide.

"The Rat Pack of Opera is our tag line. In terms of the group, it's who we are and what we are. We take the music seriously, but not ourselves. We like to have fun with the repertoire and with the audience."

They'll entertain audiences in England, Scotland, Wales and Australia after their U.S. tour wraps up in Livonia.

Michele and Ken Ciscon have seen their son perform in musicals, as well as with Tenors Un Limited. They try to visit England once a year to see Scott, their daughter-in-law, and the couple's two children.

"We've never done a gig in Livonia before," Ciscon said. "It will be a nice thing for my parents to have me home."

Visit the trio's Web site at www.tenorsunlimited.com.

#### Don't miss this Sci-Fi classic film!

# AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

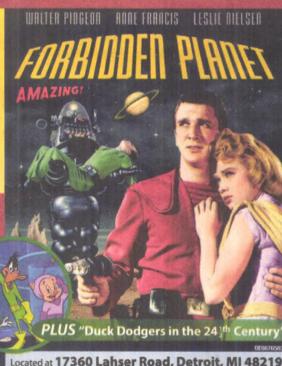
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# SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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# Thawing and preventing frozen pipes in your home

don't care if you have a cold heart, but if your pipes freeze there is a way to thaw them to reduce damage - that I do care about.

If one of your plumbing pipes freeze this winter, it's important to thaw it



Lon Grossman

But, it's possible that doing it. with let's say a

propane torch, could actually make matters worse

First, obviously if you're not careful you could burn your house down using a torch. On a lot lesser scale, if you are working on a section of frozen pipe not near a faucet that can be opened, thawing the pipe out too quickly can produce steam. The steam will, of course, expand, exploding the pipe. Wasn't that what you were trying to avoid? If you can open a faucet close to where you're thawing the pipe, you'll have a release for the steam and you only have to worry about not burning the house down.

#### Safety first

A few successful ways to thaw frozen pipes include using a hair dryer, heat lamp, or an electric space heater. But you should be concerned about using any electrical device around plumbing. Especially if it's frozen and split. What if water shoots out? You could get electrocuted. So if you use either of those, plug them into an outlet

READ

How about just wrapping the pipes with rags and pouring boiling water on them, being careful not to scald yourself. No steam is created and there's no chance for electrocuting yourself.

with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If you don't have one, buy a portable one, and it'll protect you from electrocution.

My least favorite recommendation is to wrap the pipes with heating tape and plug them in. You'll find heating tape at hardware stores. It is a solution, but heat tapes should be inspected annually to make sure they are not cracked or brittle. If not installed properly, they could cause a fire and finally, if they stop working, you won't know until the pipes freeze.

If you have a kerosene heater, put it in the room with the frozen pipes to slowly thaw them out. But, don't put it too close to the wall where it could start

#### **Water method**

How about just wrapping the pipes with rags and pouring boiling water on them, being careful not to scald yourself. No steam is created and there's no chance for electrocuting yourself.

Now don't go getting all hot under the collar, but if you don't provide heat to that area, it will just freeze again.

Often kitchen sinks are on an outside wall. The pipes run up and along that wall and in older houses the insulation is

either non-existent or at best, inadequate.

Regardless, if it is plumbing to a kitchen sink or a bathroom, having insulation blown into the wall cavity should correct the problem or at least reduce the possibility of the pipes freezing.

If you can, have a plumber relocate the pipes from within the wall to the interior of the cabinet.

Another solution is to cut an opening in the cabinet or vanity doors and install decorative louvers to allow warm air in to keep the pipes from freezing.

If you have a crawlspace and the plumbing runs in the crawl, make sure the area is properly insulated. I also would insulate all pipes that run in a crawlspace or attic, with pipewrap.

Finally, learn where the main water shut-off is and make sure all family members know how to turn off the water to reduce any damage.

Lon Grossman is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdiy@ comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his Web site www. technihouse.com. Follow Lon's Blog at http://drdiy.wordpress.



Fresh produce can be found at the Canton Winter Farmers.

# Buy local at winter market in Canton

Canton Farmers Market will hold its first of three winter markets, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Cady-Boyer Barn, 500 N. Ridge Road, at Preservation Park

Additional winter markets are set for March 18 and April 22.

Eighteen vendors will sell their goods, including these local businesses:

 Jam by Hand, with jams and jellies • Day Dream Cafe, Can-

ton, with pastries, pierogies, pasties, coffee, tea and more • Bobilin Honey, with

honey and bees wax

· Cellar Door Soap, with hand-crafted, veganfriendly soaps

 Boyer's Meat Processing, with farm eggs, sausage, seasonings and meat

 JKM Soy Candles, Westland, with soy candles and soy tarts

 Farmington Soap Works, Farmington Hills, with natural hand-cast, cold-process soaps

Other vendors include Zingerman's Creamery, Ann Arbor, with artisan cheese, bread, salami, pastries and gelato; Pro-



Bobilin honey will be among the locally-produced foods sold at three winter markets in Canton. The first is Feb. 12.

chaska Farms, Tecumseh, with sauerkraut, spinach, radishes, artisan cheese, winter squash, and hand crafted chocolate; Hand Sown Farm, Manchester, with spinach, swiss chard, carrots; Kapnick Orchards, Britton, with apples, cider, frozen blueberries, apple butter, pastries; Captain John's Smokehouse, Bad Axe, with hand-cut jerky, meat sticks and smoked fish; Joe Sansonetti's Kitchen, Holly, with pasta and barbecue sauces, mustards and marinades; Sunbears Just Bones, Gibraltar, with dog treats and dogfriendly soap; Nicky's Family Recipes, Royal Oak, with seasoning packets for pasta sauce, Sicilian salsa, salad dressings and flavored butters.

"We are thrilled this season to have hoop house produce at our winter markets," stated Tina Lloyd, market manager, in a press release. "Both Hand Sown Farm and Prochaska Farms are growing spinach in their hoop houses, which are a type of green house that uses solar energy to heat the ground during winter months. These farmers are able to bring a little bit of fresh produce to our winter markets which is a plus for market-goers.'

First Grade Daisy Troop 40726 will coordinate a pasta collection at each winter market to benefit the pantry at Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based non-profit organization. They'll also sell boxes of pasta for \$1 for those who want to donate on the spot.

Canton Farmers Market will reopen for its regular season May 13 at Preservation Park

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#### REUNIONS

Send reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@ hometownlife.com. Feel free to include a relevant photo as a jpg attachment.

**DETROIT MACKENZIE** 

CLASS OF 1962 Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

**FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL** 

CLASS OF 1967 Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send

your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S\_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

# **GREAT STAFF. GREAT CARE**

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(L to R) Four Seasons inical Dietary Manager Laura Cervi, MS, CDM with Lenie Manipula, Registered Dieticiar meals are so good

but it should



With input from Four Seasons residents, Laura Cervi, MS, CDM fashions nutricious and flavorful meals for diabetes, heart and renal disease, and hypertension diets. Cervi, who holds a masters degree in nutrition, knows the importance of healthy food. Residents on dialysis or with wounds need additional protein. Diabetics may require six small meals a day. "We use fresh fruits and vegetables, and try to stay away from canned and processed foods," said Cervi. "One of our cooks is from Schoolcraft College's culinary arts program. She is very creative and interactive with residents during meals."

Cervi observes meals as well. "Our goal is to provide for residents as if it's their home," said Cervi. "One of our residents is a vegan; we get meals for anyone who requests kosher or halal."

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# Rescues offer dog training, valentine show, networking

**Better obedience** 

Better Life Canine Center, the rescue organization that trains dogs before finding them new homes, is offering a series of dog obedience sessions for its volunteers, as well as members of other animal rescues.

The January session is full, but registration is open for the six-week series that starts Saturday, Feb. 25. Participants attend the first session without their dogs and learn how to build leadership skills and strengthen the canine-human bond. They will learn how dogs learn, why dogs misbehave and how they can improve their behavior. Other topics include new dog orientation in the home and managing a multiple dog household.

Sessions 2-6 include both humans and dogs and stress basic obedience using positive reinforcement. Each dog in class will receive a basic obedience certificate.

"It has really started to gain popularity, so we cannot currently offer it to the public — our classes fill up quick," e-mailed Amanda Balcazar, Center member. "This is a future goal though. Training is one of our top priorities. We offer it to other rescues as a low-cost option."

Jen Guthrie of Pro-K9 In-Home Training Professionals leads the sessions. Classes are held in Westland. E-mail Better Life Canine Center founder Brenda Woody for more



information at brenda@ betterlifecaninecenter. org. Sign up for the organization's e-mail list at www.BetterLifeCanine-Center.org. Visit Guthrie's Web site at www. ProK9Training.com.

**Valentine's Day** 

**Guardians for Animals** has lined up 11 comedians for its annual Comedy for the Love of Animals fundraiser on Feb. 14 at Joey's Comedy Club in the Kicker's Complex, 36072 Plymouth Road, in Livonia. Laugh the night away while benefitting the nonprofit organization's work with homeless animals.

The show will start at 8 p.m. and feature local favorites Connie Ettinger, Julie Lyons, Russ Brown, Bob Philips, Mike Bobbitt, Tim Zajkowski, Jeff Dwoskin, Steve Lind, Dave McDonald, Kate Brindle and Bill Bushart.

Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information or to buy tickets call Sandy at (734) 788-6857.

**Coming together** The Michigan Humane



Connie Ettinger is among 11 comedians who will perform Feb. 14 at a fundraiser for Guardian Angels Animal Rescue.

Society plans a meeting for animal rescue organizations to showcase their work, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen.

**During "PETCON-**NECT," animal welfare groups will make a fiveminute presentation showing their work in the community. DVDs may be included. Refreshments will be served.

Marie Skladd, director of community outreach for the Michigan Humane Society, said the meeting is intended to help groups establish relationships with each other, open lines of communication and create a basis for them to collaborate for the benefit of animals.

For more information about PETCONNECT or the Michigan Humane Society, www.michiganhumane.org, or call (866) MHUMANE.

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay

# Schoolcraft College marks Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Participate in a discussion about social justice or see an art exhibit about civil rights Monday, Jan. 16 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The Martin Luther King Jr., Day activities will be held in the VisTaTech Center on campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

The student art exhibit runs from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. One student will receive a \$100 Schoolcraft College gift card for use on tuition, books, food in Henry's Food Court, or items in the college's Bookstore.

At 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Rita Crooks and Thomas Costello from Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion will lead discussions based on

King's speech, "Where Do We.Go from Here?" delivered at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in August 1967. Crooks and Costello will focus on social justice and equity, its evolution since 1968, and the opportunities for and benefits of ongoing efforts

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. student volunteers, coordinated through the college's Americorp VISTA initiative, will read multi-culturally diverse books, participate in games, and make crafts with school-age children to increase their understanding and appreciation for King's work.

For more information visit www. schoolcraft.edu.

# Event helps plan graduation parties

Franklin High School's Senior All Night Party organizers will present an event Thursday, Feb. 2, to help parent and students plan graduation parties.

"Destination Graduation" from 5-8 p.m. in the cafe at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, will bring event planners and party vendors together under one

Parents and students

will get a chance to sample food from local caterers and bakers, arrange party rentals such as tents, tables, chairs, ice cream carts, popcorn machines and other items, arrange for a DJ, select decorations and meet with an event plan-

Advance tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults or \$7 for students and \$9 for adults at the

Buy or reserve tickets by calling Sharon Culbertson at (734) 261-3264, e-mail to celebrationstoremember@yahoo. com or return payment. name and phone number in an envelope marked 'Destination Graduation' to the Franklin High School main office or by mail to Culbertson at 27815 Oakley, Livonia, MI 48154. Checks should be made out to Franklin

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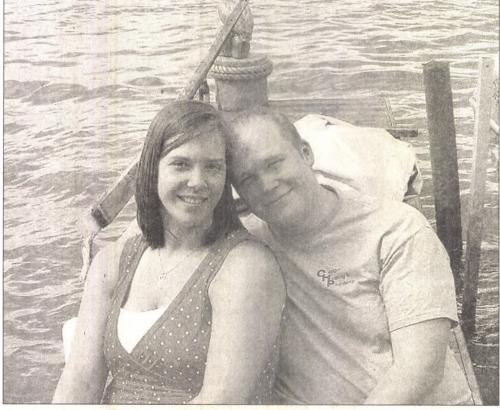
Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 15, 2012

Oliver Joseph Swelstad

Oliver Joseph Swelstad was born Nov. 16, 2011 in Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Walnut Creek, Calif.

He joins his parents, Michael and Kate (Kwapisz) Swelstad, and his brother, Roman Michael Swelstad, 2, at home in Martinez, Calif.

Grandparents are Ron and Billie Swelstad of Farmington Hills. Great-grandparents are Joe and Bogi Kwapisz of Farmington Hills.



Falk-Wrisley

Jessica Falk and Thomas Wrisley announce their engagement.

Falk-Wrisley

The bride-to-be, daughter of Larry and Mary Falk of Livonia, is a 2003 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central Michigan University. She is a kindergarten teacher in Lincoln Park.

Her fiance, son of Richard and Joyce Wrisley of Vestaburg, attends Schoolcraft College and is working toward a degree in criminal justice.

A November 2012 wedding is planned in Farmington Hills.

# Passages Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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#### BEASLEY, LINDA K.

Age 52, passed away on January 6, 2012. Beloved daughter of the late Arthur Beasley. Survived by mother Keiko Beasley, brother Doug Beasley, sister Peggy (Bill) Clink and nieces Rachel, Jessie, Kumara and nephew Brian. Also remembered by many other lov-ing friends. Please view and share memories at:

www.virtual-memorials.com



FUSCO, JUDE T.

Of Birmingham, and Colorado, passed away on December 18, 2011 at the age of 76. He succumbed to the rare progressive neurological disease of MSA, multiple system atrophy. Jude graduated from the University of Toronto in Architecture and founded the architecture firm Fusco, Shaffer, Pappas, in Southfield. He served on many boards including Guest House, Sobriety House, and Saint Jude's Home. Jude was also a friend of Bill W. for 31 years. Jude is survived by his wife of 50 years, Ann, and daughters, (Eugene) Nagle, Jana (Matt) Morgan, Kristin Fusco, and grandchildren, Jack and Grace Morgan. Memorial gifts for MSA research can to be sent to Mayo Clinic, Dept. of Development Research: Multiple System Atrophy, 200 First St. W., Rochester, MN. 55906. A celebration of Jude's life is planned for Saturday, June 23rd, 2012 in Petoskey.



JOHNSON, M.D. J. FREDERIC

Age 91 of Dearborn, formerly of Birmingham, died Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at Henry Ford Village, Dearborn. Born January 10, 1921, in Grand Rapids to Adrian and Anna Johnson, he grew up in Birmingham and Evanston, Illinois, and earned Bachelors and MD degrees from Northwestern University. Dr. Johnson-Fred to family, friends, and colleagues-wore many hats. He was a devoted family doctor, a gifted artist, a lover of British sports cars, Italian food, and the English language. He and his wife, Carolyn, were former mem-bers of the First Presbyterian Church, Royal Oak. He is survived by his children, Ann Louise Johnson Locniskar (Roger John) of Amesbury, MA, Ellen Marie Johnson of Ann Arbor, David Adrian Johnson (Sue) of Franklin, and Paul Frederic Johnson (Linda) of Midland; sister, Helen (Eugene) Martz of Evanston, IL, and grandchildren, Jessica and Amanda. His wife, Carolyn Louise, whom he married December 27, 1947 in Moline, IL, preceded him in death in 2004. Visitation will be held Sunday, January 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of David and Sue Johnson. A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 16, at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak, 48067, with visitation one hour prior and a luncheon immediately following. Memorial gifts suggested to Henry Ford Hospice, 655 W. 13 Mile Rd, First Floor, Madison Heights, MI, 48071, or to the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Instrument Fund.

www.kinsey-garrett.com



KENNY, JULIA L.

January 8, 2012, age 93, of Plymouth. Loving wife of the late Roland. Beloved mother of Guy (Susan). Proud grandmother of Ellen (David) Lukach, Julie (Bernie) Johnsen, Guy (Christa), Emily and Ellie. Beloved great-grandmother of Lenora and Daniel Lukach and Hannah Johnsen. Dear sister of the late Fay (Tom) Keys, the late Mary Freeman and the late Betty MacDonell. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral Service was held Friday at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon & Beck), Plymouth. Visitation was held Thursday. Interment Acacia Park Cemetery

Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

#### LANCASTER, WILLIAM W.

January 9, 2012, age 84. Beloved husband of 54 years to the late Doris. Beloved uncle of Bob (Jody) Bonocore, Joe (Phyllis) Bonocore and Josephine Bonocore. Great uncle Jennifer (John) Labb and Robert J. Bonocore. Brother-in-law of Al (Marge) Stuhlmann, Alice Vespar and Marie Bonocore. Cousin of Robert · Cameron. Visitation Friday 10am until time of memorial service at 11am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Plymouth. Share your special

thoughts and memorties at www.schrader-howell.com



PAQUETTE, BERNADINE T.

(nee Beil) Jan 7, 2012 Age 81. Beloved wife of Charles E. for 60 years. Loving mother of Charles K, Rosemarie (Edward) Vincent and Sandra Dolores (Joseph) Haffey. Dear grandmother of Jacob Joseph Haffey. Sister of J Walter Beil and the late Dolores Kern. Numerous nieces and nephews. She was an avid tap dancer and gardener. She was also the financial secretary for St. Priscilla's Bingo. There was a Visitation on Mon and Tues with a Rosary at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia Chapel. The Funeral Mass was 10:00am Wed at St. Priscilla Catholic 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152. Please go to www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com to leave a message of condolence or to share a treasured memory.

#### PETROSKA, GERTRUDE GISELA

Age 82, died January 5, 2012 Gertrude was preceded in death by her husband, Kasys. She remains in the hearts of her children, Sue (Larry) Riley, Rita McGladdery, Loretta Hannah, and Al (Tina) Petroska; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mother enjoyed her life and friends at Silver Village in Livonia. She will be deeply missed by her family here, loved ones in Germany and friends made along life's way. According to Gertrude and her family's wishes, cremation has taken place. No visitation or memorial service has been arranged. The family is very grateful to the staff at Angela Hospice for seeing to mother's comfort and the high level of care. Also, to Theresa Perez for her kindness and compassion. For those who wish, please consider a memorial contribution to Angela Hospice in memory of Gertrude.

Share a memory www.mannsfuneralhome.com

#### **RUCINSKI, DAVE**

10/7/1964-1/4/2012. David was a great guy and a great friend but most of all a husband to Eileen Rucinski for 26 years, dad to Rebecca and Raymond, son to Ray & Jan, brother to Linda and

#### WEBSTER, MURL H.

Age 77, of Warsaw, Indiana, died Jan. 8, 2012, at his residence. He was born Aug. 25 1934, in Ann Arbor, Mich. to Murl Ranney and Dorothy Eleanor (Rettenmier) Webster. He graduated from Birmingham (Mich.) High School in 1952. He graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1958 and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering in 1959. He was a member of Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Fraternity as well as a student member of the American Society of Civil Engineering. After graduation, he began his civil engineering career in Birmingham, Michigan. He worked in both civil engineering and construction throughout Michigan, New York, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for over 45 years. He is survived by his wife LaVerna (Spilak); a daughter, Rebecca (and spouse Nicholas) Hayes; two grandchildren, Alexander and Madison Hayes; brother, Lee N. (and spouse Sandra) Webster; nephew, Patrick Webster; niece, Amy Webster; stepdaughter, Kimberley Lord; step-grandchildren, Erin and Paul Curley, and Brandon Lord; stepson, Mark (and spouse Teri) Skibowski; step-grandchildren, Amanda and Brittany Skibowski; stepdaughter, Jennifer (and spouse Christopher) Voss; step-grandchildren. Katrina and Justin Jadzinski great-grandson, Gavin Bodrie cousin, Kathleen (and spouse James) Eubank; and father-in-law Fred Spilak. Private memorial service was held at Mchatton-Sadler Funeral Chapel in Warsaw, with Sister Nora Frost of Goshen Center for Cancer Care officiating, followed by cremation. Burial and memorial service will be held at a later date at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy, Mich. In memory of Murl Webster, contribution is to be made to Goshen Center for Cancer Care, 200 High Park, Goshen Indiana 46580. Attn: Jan VanCuren.

To sign the guestbook or to send condolences, electronically, go to mchattonsadler

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

#### **GARDEN & NATURE**

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@ hometownlife.com.

#### **Butterfly enthusiasts**

Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA), will present "The Pollinator Pyramid," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Learn how butterfly host and nectar plants are pollinated to assure an abundant crop that will attract lots of butterflies to your yard. Parking is on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com

#### Winter hike

Learn how to recognize winter trees and shrubs by bard and buds and explore other signs of nature during a naturalist-led hike, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 21, through Holliday Nature Preserve, Ellsworth Section, in Westland. Pre-register at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Participants will warm up first with cocoa and coffee and then hike. Trails can be muddy and slippery. Dress for the weather. Fee is \$4 for adult for Wayne County residents and \$5 per adults for non-residents. Questions? Call (734) 261-1850.

#### **Native trees**

Tom O'Dell, collections and natural areas specialist at the Nichols Arboretum in Ann Arbor, will talk about "Native Alternatives to Invasive Trees and Shrubs," from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Costick Center, 28600 West 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Th seminar also will feature a case history of native plant restoration at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills, presented by Ashlie Simons, nature center supervisor, and Randy Lovett, supervisor of parks, Farmington Hills. Attendees will receive a packet of information and suggestions for "next steps" in their home landscape projects. The seminar is free, but advance registration is requested. Call Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority at (248) 288-5150 or e-mail to LFDean@aol.com.

#### **Gardening seminars**

The Master Gardener Association of Western Wayne Country will present four seminars for the gardening public, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28, in the Wayne County Extension Office auditorium, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, Wayne. Cost is \$10 per session or \$30 for all if registered in advance. For more information visit mgwwc.org. To register, e-mail mgwwcorg@ gmail.com or call (313) 719-1181.

Master gardeners will teach each ses-

 All About Herbs kicks off the series on Feb. 7. Learn how to choose plant and harvest herbs for culinary and other uses culinary and other uses. Taught by Pat Mann herb specialist from the Greenfield Village Herb Associates.

Composting/Hoop Houses, on Feb.

14, will teach the basics of backyard composting. Bruce Forrest, Advanced Master Gardener and community garden expert, will explain what should and shouldn't be composted and will describe different types of compost containers. He'll also talk about building a hoop house to extend the growing • Urban Chicken Farming, on Feb.

21, will be taught by an urban chicken farmer. Local ordinances will be discussed as well as coop design and con-

 Square Foot/High Yield Gardening, on Feb. 28, will teach techniques, fertilization and space saving tips, including how to grow lots of vegetables in a small space and in a bale of straw. Taught by Paul Rodman, Advanced Master Gardener, and garden writer.

#### **English Gardens**

 Make a spring floral arrangement for \$24.99 at a workshop, at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21. The store will supply everything needed to design a fresh flower arrangement. Not available at the Ann Arbor

• Find out which plants will attract birds to your garden at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Satur-



Make a spring floral arrangement at a workshop on Jan. 21 at English Gardens.

day, Jan. 28. · Youngsters can make a project to feed the birds and learn how to attract more feathered friends to the garden at a "make it and take it" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28. They'll choose

between

making a pine cone feeder or orange cup feeder. Fee is \$5. Sign up online.

 Get a basic overview of the best varieties of orchids to grow and tips for year-round care at a free in-store presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4.

 Create an orchid garden at a "make it and take it" workshop, 2:20 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4. Cost is \$49.99. The store will supply everything needed for the project.

· Learn tricks to get orchids to rebloom in your home at a free presen-

tation, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11. · Learn how to re-pot orchids and make them thrive at a free presenta-

tion, 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11 Area stores are at 155 N. Maple. Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.

#### RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

Jan. 15-31

#### **BETHANY**

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 21 Location: Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, Garden

**Details:** Friends of Bethany Monthly Breakfast with Kathy and Pat

**Contact:** Kathy at (734) 956-0715

**BREAKFAST** 

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday,

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All you can eat pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; \$3 adults; \$1.50 children, 2-10. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club Contact: (734) 425-4421

#### **CATHOLICISM SERIES**

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. Sunday, beginning Jan.

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road,

Details: The 10-week series examines the new adult study series by theologian the Rev. Robert Barron, on which the PBS program, "Catholicism," is based. There is a \$40 charge for the study guide and workbook; registration is required. A children's ministry is available by prior arrangement

Contact: (734) 261-1455, ext. 207, e-mail swilliams@livoniastmichael.org, or see the Web site at www.livoniastmichael.org.

# Survey finds unhealthy stress levels in metro Detroit area

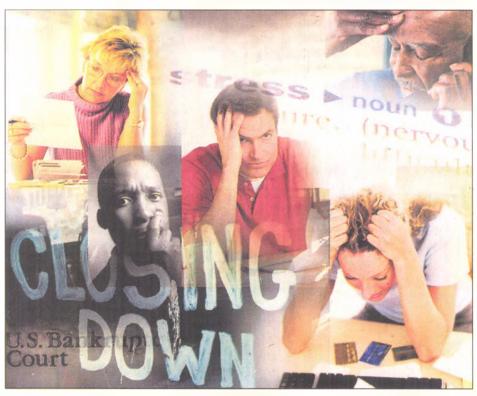
The economy and work are significant causes of stress for residents of metro Detroit, according to a survey released this week by the American Psychological Association. The survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive among 223 residents locally and 1,226 adults nationally over two months last year.

Although reported stress levels have dipped in the Detroit area since last year, residents still experience high stress levels. They reported an average stress level of 5.2 on a 10-point scale. A 3.6 on a 10-point scale is considered healthy.

Even with lowered reported stress levels, 75 percent of local residents surveyed said the economy is a significant cause of stress and 73 percent said work is a significant cause of stress. More than one-third - 38 percent — expressed dissatisfaction with their work. Nationally, 25 percent of those surveyed said they were dissatisfied with their jobs.

More than half of area residents — 59 percent - recognized the importance of managing stress, but less than half said they are doing a very good job managing it. Twenty-two percent said they have no strategies to manage their stress.

According to the survey, Detroit-area resident are more likely to report using yoga and meditation to help manage stress than others nationwide. Other frequently named ways to reduce stress include exercise or walking, listening to



music, spending time with family or friends, reading and praying.

Detroit residents reported more physical activity in 2011. Nearly 60 percent of adults surveyed said they exercise at least a few times a week, compared to 50 percent in 2010. And among those who tried, 41 percent of Detroitarea residents said they were successful at losing weight, compared to 30 percent nationally.

Yet stress is a enough of a problem for people in metro Detroit that it is a barrier to making positive lifestyle change. One in six adults who wanted to make a lifestyle change said they were too stressed to do so.

"While overall stress levels in Detroit are low-

who are stressed about the economy and work is alarming," said Josephine Johnson, a Detroitarea psychologist and a member of the Michigan Psychological Association. "And although stress levels are lower than in previous years, they are still higher than what is considered healthy. It's important people pay attention to this because stress can affect your physical and emotional health, especially if not

The national survey found that reported stress levels have stabilized from the highs of the economic crisis; however, they remain higher than what is considered healthy. Americans who serve as caregivers -

managed properly."

bers report higher levels of stress, poorer health and a greater tendency to engage in unhealthy behaviors to alleviate that stress than the population

To read the full report on Detroit and the United States, visit www.stressinamerica.org.

Stress in America is part of the American Psychological Association's Mind/Body Health public education campaign. For additional information on stress and lifestyle and behavior, visit www.apa. org/helpcenter and read the campaign blog www. yourmindyourbody.org.

#### **MEDICAL DATEBOOK**

#### January

**GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL** 

• Get Up and Move, an invigorating exercise program, aims to help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or get you started for the first time. It meets at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 and Thursday, Jan. 19, and 26. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information call (734) 458-3242.

· Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind through yoga, 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 18-19 and 25-26. Wednesday-Thursday classes are held at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Tuesday classes meet at the hospital in Garden City.

• Eating Disorders Support Group meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 and 25 at the hospital. Call (734) 458-4330 for more informa-

• Diabetes Self-Management series meets at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31. Learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Call (734) 458-4330 to register.

Garden City Hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

**NUTRITION CLASS** Gail Posner, a registered dietician, will lead a tour of the grocery aisles at

Hiller's Market, 7-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the

Commerce Township store at 14 Mile and Haggerty and 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in the West Bloomfield store at Orchard Lake Road and Maple. Gail will explain how to determine the nutritional value of thousands of products and ingredients, and teach participants how to interpret health claims. They'll learn which fish are healthiest, why it's important to buy organic milk, and why extra-virgin olive oil gives a better "bang for your nutritional buck" than regular olive oil. Participants will go home with recipes and handouts that help them solve the inevitable "what's for dinner?" dilemma. Cost is \$20 per person. A reservation and prepayment is required. Space is limited; www. GailPosner.com or (248) 855-4558

#### **SENSORY-FRIENDLY FILMS**

AMC Theatres and the Autism Society will host a screening of the film, "The Secret World of Arrietty,' at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at the AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia. During this sensory-friendly screening, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Audience members may get up and dance, walk, shout or sing. The theater's "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. For more information visit www.autism-

society.or/sensoryfilms.

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Join our cardiovascular experts for an interactive educational series designed to celebrate your heart.

#### NATIONAL GO RED DAY: WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH FORUM

Friday, February 3, 2012 • 10 am – 12 Noon

Garden City Hospital, Medical Office Building Classrooms 6245 Inkster Road • Garden City, MI 48135

National Wear Red Day. Cardiologist Dr. Karen Wiarda will be available to answer all your heart healthy questions. Afterwards, we'll get our hearts pumping in a Polynesian aerobics class - the latest exercise sensation. Bring or wear your red work out clothing and GO RED! Guests can also enjoy a fabulous prize drawing, giveaway items and lunch.

#### **HEALTHY HEARTS 101**

Thursday, February 16, 2012 • 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Village of Redford

25300 Six Mile Road • Redford, MI 48240

GCH Cardiologist Nizam Habhab, DO, FACC, FACOI will discuss heart health. An exercise physiologist will be on hand to teach simple exercise techniques that can easily be done at home or in the office. A heart healthy dinner will be served.

#### **GCH HEART WALK 2012**

Saturday, February 25, 2012 • 9 am – 12 Noon

Westland Mall

35000 Warren Road • Westland, MI 48185

Dress comfortable and bring all your heart related questions for our panel of experts. A GCH pharmacist will be on hand to answer medication questions, free health screening on site, and our Pulse EMS will be on hand for support.

All events are FREE. Heart risk assessments will be offered on site. Seating is limited. Call 734-458-3248 to reserve your space.



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23 city / 33 highway MPG<sup>3</sup>



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19 city / 27 highway MPG



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MSRP: \$29,2505



#### 18 city / 28 highway MPG<sup>3</sup>

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- Sync with Traffic, Directions and Information
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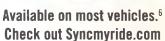


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(1) 4 vehicles feature Auto Show Cash: \$250 Auto Show Cash on Focus, \$500 Auto Show Cash on Fusion and Edge, and \$750 Auto Show Cash on Escape. All applicable Auto Show Cash is included in payments shown. (2) Not all lessees will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low mileage lease. Residency restrictions apply. Some payments higher, some lower. Special lease rates are for eligible A/Z Plan lessees and customers (Focus). Payments include \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash with exception of the 2012 Focus. You must currently lease a Ford product through Ford Credit and re-lease through Ford Credit. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Take retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/31/12. Fusion, Edge and Escape Payments include \$500 trade in assistance. Focus payment includes \$250 trade in assistance. (3) MPG estimate based on 2012 Focus SE SEDAN with SFE Package- EPA-estimated 29 city/40 hwy mpg, 2012 Fusion SEL 2.5L I-4 Engine with 6-speed automatic 23 city/33 hwy mpg, 2012 Escape 2.5L I-4 Engine 21city/28 hwy mpg, 2012 Taurus SEL 3.5L V6 engine 18 city/28 hwy mpg, 2012 Edge SE 3.5L V6 engine 19 city/27 hwy mpg, and 2012 Explorer XLT with 2.0L I4 optional EcoBoost engine 20 city/28 hwy mpg. (4) Horsepower and torque achieved with premium fuel. (5) MSRP, A Plan price is for qualified, eligible A Plan customers and excludes document fee, destination/delivery charge, taxes, title and registration. Optional equipment not included. Not all vehicles qualify for A Plan price. (6) Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for qualifications and complete details.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# **America's 20 Fastest-growing Salaries**

Justin Thompson, CareerBuilder Writer

Let's face it -- money talks. And for some jobs in 2011, there was a little more talking going on. We took a look at the top 20 jobs in 2011 that had the largest year-over-year salary growth. All of the positions had salary growth of at least 5 percent since last

Many factors influence compensation, including location, educational background, experience and skill level. And while a higher salary doesn't always mean happier people, it does affect workers who are looking to switch careers or re-evaluate their current skills to see if these positions are worth investigating.

Here's a glance at the top 20 jobs with the highest salary growth in 2011 versus 2010: 1. Network engineer: Provides analytical, technical and administrative support in the planning, design and installation of new and existing voice and data communication systems and

Annual salary: \$78,000 Increase: 7 percent 2. Staffing manager: Oversees and manages an organization's recruitment and staffing functions.

Annual salary: \$55,000 **Increase:** 7 percent 3. Customer account

representative: Manages orders primarily for large and repeat customers. Provides service and support to customers, providing information on products, orders in process and other information. Annual salary: \$25,000

Increase: 7 percent 4. Recruiting coordinator: Coordinates recruitment

methods to attract quality candidates appropriate to the position and the organization's needs.

Annual salary: \$38,000 Increase: 6 percent 5. Health-care recruiter: Performs resource and recruitment functions to fill health-care job openings, including candidate sourcing, checking and extending of job

Annual salary: \$53,000 Increase: 6 percent

6. Purchasing supervisor: Supervises buyers and purchasing staff involved in the procurement of raw materials, parts, equipment, supplies and services for an organization at minimal cost, consistent with

specifications. Annual salary: \$71,000

Increase: 6 percent 7. Customer service manager: Directs and coordinates customer

delivery requirements and quality

service staff. Annual salary: \$74,000 Increase: 6 percent

8. Mortgage loan processor: Processes mortgage loans by verifying, compiling and typing application information. Annual salary: \$36,000 Increase: 6 percent

9. Customer service adviser: Handles and resolves complex customer queries, complaints, special orders or in-store returns

screening, interviewing, reference via email, telephone and/or inperson contact. Annual salary: \$26,000

Increase: 6 percent 10. Operations manager:

Manages and coordinates organization, branch, plant or department operation strategies and activities.

Annual salary: \$88,000 Increase: 6 percent

11. Top information technology officer: Directs, develops, administers and coordinates all phases of an organization's computer department, including systems design, programming, installation and operation. Annual salary: \$160,000

Increase: 6 percent 12. Home health aide: Assists in providing simple or uncomplicated patient care in caring for elderly, convalescent or disabled people in a patient's

Annual salary: \$25,000 Increase: 5 percent

home.

13. Marketing associate: Assists in creating and managing longterm marketing plans, including advertising, public relations, promotions and collateral.

Annual salary: \$51,000 **Increase:** 5 percent 14. Banking credit analyst:

Assesses credit information to determine risk involved in lending money to customers, and prepares reports of findings. Annual salary: \$52,000

Increase: 5 percent 15. Tax preparer : Prepares income-tax return forms for individuals and small businesses. Reviews financial records to determine needed tax forms.

Annual salary: \$42,000 **Increase:** 5 percent 16. Occupational therapist: Facilitates development and

rehabilitation of mentally, physically or emotionally disabled. Annual salary: \$66,000

Increase: 5 percent 17. Physical therapy technician: Performs physical therapy

treatments on patients, working under the direction of, and as an assistant to, a physical therapist. Annual salary: \$45,000

> Increase: 5 percent 18. Electronics engineer: Researches, develops, designs, tests and analyzes electronic components, products and systems for commercial, industrial, medical, military and scientific applications, applying

principles and techniques of electronic engineering. Annual salary: \$79,000 **Increase:** 5 percent

19. Accounting clerk: Prepares and keeps financial and business transaction data up-to-date and prepares reports to ensure accurate accounting records.

Annual salary: \$33,000 **Increase:** 5 percent 20. Legal secretary: Assists attorneys by performing secretarial work such as typing and handling papers. Also includes legal correspondence, such as contracts, briefs, warrants, summonses, complaints, indictments,

motions, subpoenas and papers for filing and serving. Annual salary: \$48,000 **Increase:** 5 percent The list above is compiled

from data provided by CBSalary, powered by SalaryExpert.com. The percentage listed for each occupation is the amount the salary increased compared with last year's salary. The list is based on an analysis of data from the Occupational Employment Statistics provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and ongoing surveys conducted by Salary Expert.

Justin Thompson is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. He researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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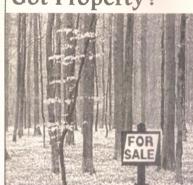
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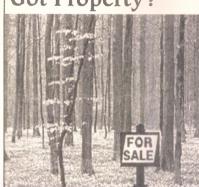


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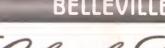
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52 Charged

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Rear-ends 5 Burbank's sci.
- 8 Most profs 12 Shut with force 13 Mauna -
- 14 Place to hiber-
- nate 15 Sotto -
- 16 Reproaches
- severely 18 Kitchen gad-
- gets 20 Lb. fraction
- 21 Attorney's deg. 22 Plunks
- 26 Yokels
- 29 Emergency
- signal 30 To date 31 Mellowed 32 German
- physicist
- 33 Dumas senior 34 Gator Rowl st
- 35 I, for Wolfgang 36 Carved pole 37 Iron-fisted rulei

#### 39 Intention 40 Before AD 41 Wrestle with 45 Terrier type **Answer to Previous Puzzle**

#### HALE EXEC RESOURCE CRAB LHASA OKYOSHEA CADSCC VEALINL NAILDOWNORAL ESAU POE RUNG

7-12 @ 2011, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

- 11 Former irs.
- 5 Book jacket ad 17 Angry
- 6 Klutz's cry 7 File label disputes 8 Turnpike stop
  - 19 Overhead trains
- Yes, in Kyoto 10 Accomplished 22 Jones of fic-18

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

- tion 23 Ivan's refusal
- 24 "Primal Fear' star 25 Stalk
- 26 White-water
- transport 27 Like gargoyles
- 28 Chicago
- gridder Pipe down!
- 32 Harvest Moon
- 33 Excavated
- city 35 Ruler marking
- Maria (coffee liqueur)
- 38 Helps go
- wrong 39 Panoply 41 Prefix for byte
- 42 Galumph
- 43 Bus route 44 Lessen the
- load 45 Humorist
- 46 Notre Dame sight 47 Crater edge 48 Murmur
- of content

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square off, so

your sudoku

savvy to the test!

Numbers



sharpen your pencil and put

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#### Word Search — Heart Health

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Angina Arrhythmia Artery

Attack Cardiac Chest

Cholesterol Coronary Diet

Doctor **Fitness** Health

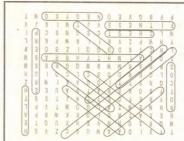
Heart Oxygen Pressure

#### **CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

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68178789

Word Search



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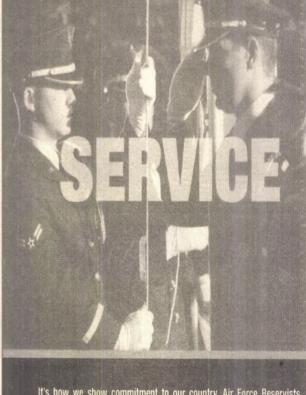
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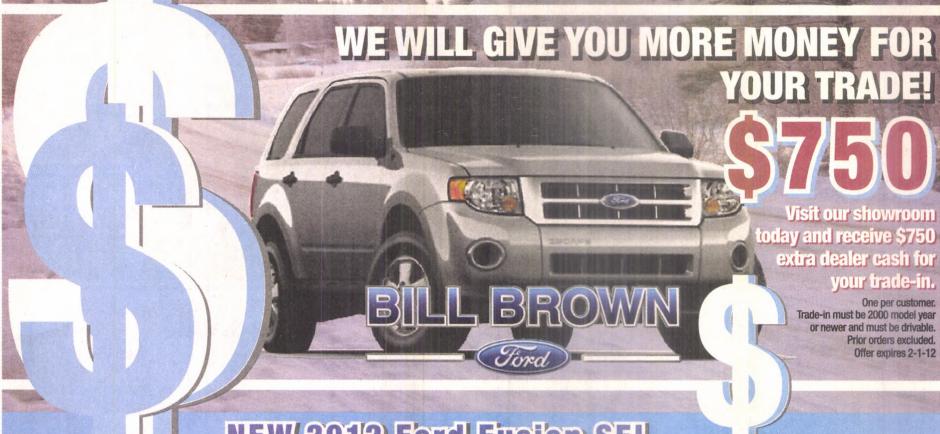


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EFA estimated 23 city / 83 hwy mpg

MSRP \$29,085

Featuring: Sync, Automatic, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Keyless Entry, Satellite Radio, BLIS, Rearview Camera, Reverse Sensing. 27 at this price - 258 available

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\$1000 DOWN

\$1947 due at signing

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\$0 due at signing

lease EPA estimated 21 city/28 hwy mpg Security deposit waived, plus tax and license,

includes acquisition fee.

\$1404 dreat siming

SIGN

Soding as a state of the state

MSRP \$29,940

Featuring: 302A Package, Chrome Wheels, Luxury Package, Moonroof, Premium Sound. 3 at this price - 416 available





EPA estimated 19 city/26 hwy mpg

MSRP \$28,835

Featuring: Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, Power Windows, Seats, Locks. 7 at this price - 127 available

24 month lease

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\$1000 DOWN

\$1403 dreat signing

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#### **24 month lease**

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\$1200 dreat signing

sign

SO dreat signing

MSRP \$22,375

FocusSE EPAcelimated 23 city / 33 hwy mpg

34 at this price - 234 available





MSRP \$32,995

Featuring: Sync, Reverse sensing, keyless entry, power windows, power locks 4 at this price – 75 available

**24 month lease** 

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license. includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN

\$1431 due at signing

SIGN & DRIVE SO durate iming

24 month lease EPA estimated 15 city/21 hwy mpg

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN

\$1525 draat signing

SIGN & DRIVE

Soding at signing

Featuring: Ecoboost 3.5 L V6 Engine,
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XLT Chrome Pkg., Limited Slip.
3 At This Price - 103 Available.



#### Ford Fiesta SE EFA estimated 29 city / 83 hwy mpg



MSRP \$18,040

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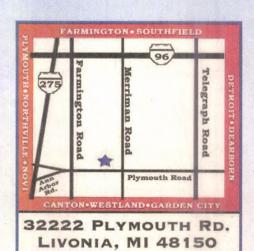
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