



USA WEEKEND



County address

ecutive Robert Ficano delivers his 10th State of the County address Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Guardian Building, 500 Griswold in Detroit. The speech will be carried live on WJR 760 AM and hosted by Lloyd Jackson.

This year's State of the County will feature a social media Q&A with Ficano from 7:20-7:30 p.m. Residents can begin submitting questions now on Facebook or Twitter. Afterward, Ficano will do a sit down interview with Lloyd Jackson, live on WJR.

The speech will be live streamed on www. wavnecounty.com.



Tax town hall

State Rep. Kurt Heise sponsors his second annual property tax town hall meeting to help interested residents better understand their property tax assessment and the Board of Review appeal process 10 a.m. Saturday, March 3, in the Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile, Northville

Heise will be joined by certified assessors Douglas Shaw and Holly Adams.

For further information, contact Heise's office toll free at (855) REPKURT or e-mail at kurtheise@house.

Food drive

The Plymouth Lions Club sponsoring a drive to collect nonperishable food items to help Plymouth-area families in need March 2-16 at both the Plymouth District Library and the Plymouth Historical Museum.

The museum is offering a \$1 ticket discount per person with food donations. All collected food will be distributed through a local food pantry March 17.

For more information, contact (734) 748-0909.

Heading out of town?

Take a copy of the Plymouth Observer along, and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions under the headline "Wish you were here."

Just be sure to include the newspaper in the photo.

Send photo in JPEG format to Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

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Township tax question, GOP race spark primary interest

By Matt Jachman **Observer Staff Writer**

With an unpopular tax question on the ballot and greater interest in a Republican presidential contest that wasn't expected to count for much until recently, Plymouth Township could see increased - but not overwhelming — voter participation in Tuesday's primary.

In the city of Plymouth, not so

Township Clerk Joe Bridg-

Ballot wording explained, A3.

man said Friday he expects 35 to 40 percent of township voters to cast ballots. In the last presidential primary, in January 2008, just under 35 percent of township voters participated.

Bridgman said absentee ballot returns for the election were running a little higher this year than the 2008 absentee total, with nearly 2,700 such ballots returned as of 2 p.m. Friday, compared to 2,638 total absentee ballots returned in 2008. His office has sent out more than

3,100 absentee ballots this year. 'We'll get a few more in. A lot of folks wait until the last day to bring some things in," he said. (Eligible voters can still obtain an absentee ballot at Bridgman's office Monday, but must cast it immediately and leave it with the clerk.)

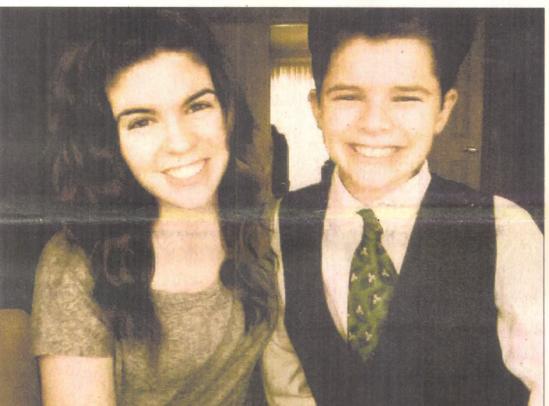
Romney home turf

The unanticipated importance of Michigan's primary in the

Republican presidential race could also bring more voters out, Bridgman said. Michigan is the native state of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who had long been perceived as the frontrunner, but former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum has been making a strong challenge and was ahead of Romney in some state polls last week. A loss in Michigan could prove devastating to the Romney campaign.

Please see PRIMARY, A3

Life as a 'Leaper'



Leap Day baby Emily Marcero, who is technically 4, with her "older" brother, Adam.

Leap Year babies get to eat cake

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

Elizabeth Donnelly Barker has six grandchildren, including twin granddaughters born eight years ago.

The Plymouth resident is also awaiting her first retirement check after a career in the Plymouth-Canton School District.

Not bad for someone still waiting for her 15th birthday.

Barker, the youngest of seven children, was born Feb. 29, a Leap Year baby born in 1952. She's one of the lucky few – there's only a 1-in-1,461 chance of being born on that date.

And, while she may be too mature for that now, Barker said she "milked it" when she

was younger. "My family always made a big celebration out of my unusual birthday," Barker said. "During my un-birthday years, I'd milk it and celebrate the day before, the day after and even the weekends surrounding.

Barker, whose mother was twice as old as she was when Barker celebrated her 10th birthday, very nearly wasn't the only Leap Day baby in her family. Eight years ago, Barker's daughter delivered twin girls on Feb. 28, beating the arrival of Leap Day by less than an hour.

'We celebrated together three out of every four years," said Barker, who points out



Elizabeth Donnelly Barker whoops it up at her "second" birthday party in 1960. Barker, a Leap Day baby, turns 15 this year.

LOVING THE 'LEAP'

A few fun facts about Leap Year babies, as found on various

• No year that is divisible by 100 can be a leap year unless it can be divided by 400. The year 2000 was a leap year the year 1900 was

• The very first calendar that provided for leap year was intro-

duced in 238 B.C. By King Ptolemy. Anthony, Texas, is the self proclaimed leap year capital of the world. Every year this little town that sits on the border of New Mexico holds a festival and leap year birthday celebrations complete with a carnival and hot air balloon rides.

 The chances of having a leap year birthday are 1 in 1,461 There are about 4 million people in the world who have been born Feb. 29.

her daughter was half her age but had had twice as many birthdays."

Barker, and other Leap Day babies, commonly referred to as "Leapers," share their special day with some famous folks. Rapper Ja Rule was born Feb. 29, 1976. Singer Dinah Shore (1916) and

bandleader Jimmy Dorsey (1904), were also born Feb. 29, as was model/actor Antonio Sabato, Jr. (1972).

Beating the odds

While Barker beat the astronomical odds of having a Feb. 29

Please see LEAP YEAR, A5

District eyes new options

Bv Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

So far, there hasn't been much new information at the public forums Plymouth-Canton Community School administrators have been posting dur ing its facility study process.

But parents who attend Monday forum (6:30 p.m. in Discovery Middle School) will hear information about an additional four options being considered as the Board of Education tries to determine how best to optimize its buildings.

The new options, being added to others offered as the result of a study conducted by Plante Moran CRESA,

• Option 1C — Maintains the buildings at 85 percent of capacity and leaves the district's elementary schools with a K-5 configuration, as they are now. This option lists Gallimore and Fiegel Elementary Schools as the potential buildings to be closed. Hulsing Elementary would be removed from consideration under this option.

• Option 2C — Reconfigures the district's elementary schools to a K-6 option and fills them to 90 percent

• Option 2D — Fills buildings at 90 percent capacity, closes two middle schools (East and Central) and keeps all 16 elementary schools open.

 Option 3B — Reconfigures the district's elementary schools to K-4 and 5-6 buildings and closes Central Middle School.

"We created these scenarios in response to questions from the administration, the board and from the public to determine the feasibility of each option," said Phil Freeman, the district's assistant superintendent for facilities. "It was important to us to give the information to the board so they can make the decision."

Option 1C is a more likely option than the other new ones after board members offered a consensus last week they'd like to see buildings at 85 percent capacity to maintain smaller class sizes.

Gallimore emerged as an option for closure for several reasons. It's older (opened in 1956) than Hulsing (1976), and

Please see OPTIONS, A2



Neighbors in the Windsor Park area put together a huge sign questioning the potential closing of Hulsing Elementary School.

OPTIONS

Continued from page A1

it's smaller (43,900 square feet compared to Hulsing's 55,700). As administrators look at having to redistrict schools, it's notable that Gallimore's one-mile radius (the distance from which most walkers travel) intersects those of three schools (Hulsing, Isbister and Smith). Freeman said transportation issues will likely play a determining factor.

Previous options, at least the ones centered around the 85-percent capacity board members would like to maintain, would have closed some combination of Fiegel, Hulsing, East Middle School and/or Central

Middle School. Most of the options would also relocate both the Tanger Center and Starkweather alternative high school.

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Display Advertising.....

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LOCAL NEWS

EUCHRE CHALLENGE

Date/Time: Saturday, March 10, 6

Location: Elks club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Details: The Metro Detroit Euchre Tournament is designed as a fun night out for people who like to play the game. Proceeds will support the Canton Chiefs Wrestling Team, a State of Michigan Top 10 Team. Cash awards will be given to the top four players. There will be free door prize drawings, a raffle for more great prizes and a

Contact: Pre-register by e-mailing MetroDetroitEuchre@yahoo.com or call Linda Obrec at (734) 945-6685.

JAZZ NIGHT

Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7-10

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Details: Jazz @ The Elks continues, featuring the Johnny Trudell Quartet with John Trudell on Brass, Bill Cairo on Drums, Ray Tini on Bass, and Chuck Shermatero on Keyboard. A \$10 donation includes a light snack.

Contact: Call (734) 453-1780 or go to PlymouthElks1780.com for more information.

CHICKS 4 CHARITY

Date/Time: Thursday, March 29, 5-

Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700

Details: Join Woman's Life Chapter 827-Chicks 4 Charity at their "Quar-

AROUND PLYMOUTH



On the floor

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck (right), R-Canton, welcomed Pastor Steve Yarrow (center) of Northridge Church in Plymouth to the Michigan Capitol on Wednesday. Yarrow delivered the invocation before Senate session.

termadness" fundraiser to benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support, a non-profit 501c3 bereavement outreach center in Northville. This event will include auctions and lots of fun. Bidders may buy up to three paddles to win great prizes and all donated items will be available to bid on with **Ouarters**

Contact: For more information on "Quartermadness," contact Tammy Brown, (734) 844-9180.

DIABETES SUPPORT

Date/Time: 2nd Thursday of the month (first meeting March 8), 2-3:30

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered

nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.

Contact: Call Fern Vining at (734) 454-0859.

BENTLEY SALE

Date/Time: Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Bentley Elementary School, 1100 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Bentley Elementary School hosts its PTO Mom-to-Mom sale, featuring some 50 tables and a big-item room. There's a \$1 entry fee; strollers are welcome after 11 a.m.

Contact: For information, e-mail rcwegrzyn@gmail.com.

CORRECTION

Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

A chart appearing with a story in the Feb. 23 Observer comparing the Plymouth Community Fire Department with surrounding communities should have said the. PCFD's budget for 2011 was \$4.3 million. The corrected chart appears

COMPARING LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS PLYMOUTH TWP. NORTHVILLE TWP. CANTON TWP.

POPULATION	27,524	28,497	90,173
COVERAGE AREA	16.6 sq. miles	16.45 sq. miles	36 sq. miles
UNIFORMED PERSONNEL	23 -	27	62
TOTALS RUNS, 2011	2,639	2,309	6,121
PRIVATE AMBULANCE SERVICE?	Yes	No	No
2011 BUDGET	\$4.3 mill.	\$3.96 mill.	\$11 mill.





734-394-9660

41081 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

PRIMARY

Continued from page A1

"It seems to be that Michigan will matter a little more than we did in 2008, so folks may come out to vote," Bridgman

Former Georgia Rep. Newt Gingrich and current Texas Rep. Ron Paul are also on the ballot, as are candidates who recently dropped out of the presidential race, such as Texas Gov. Rick

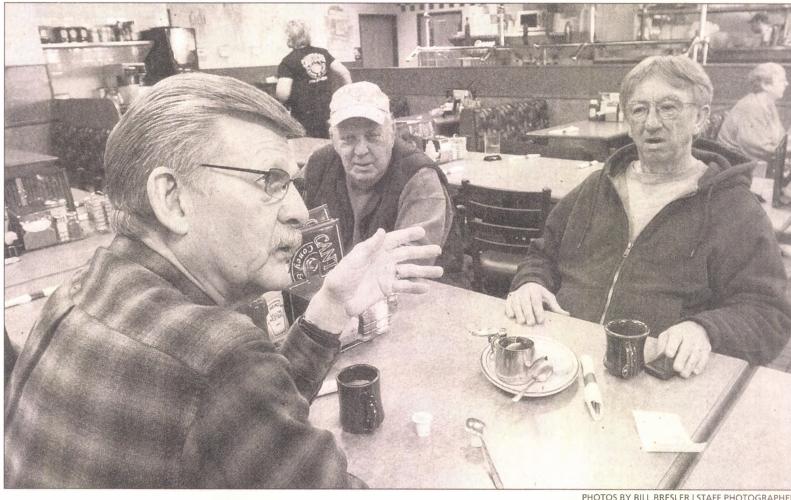
The tax proposal which would create a special assessment district out of all taxable property in the township and allow the Board of Trustees to annually levy an assessment to support the Plymouth Community Fire Department — also should bring out voters, Bridgman said.

The proposal drew many negative comments at a December public hearing, and a citizens group, the Friends of Plymouth Township, was organized to defeat it. Even the firefighters union and the group that got the special assessment question on the ballot through its petition drive, the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township, are against the plan, although CAG is taking the township to the Michigan Court of Appeals in an effort to get a more narrowly defined tax proposal on a future ballot.

Party declaration

The primary process this year, however, is likely to deter some voters,

Bridgman said. Voters must ask for either a Republican ballot, a Democratic ballot or a nonpartisan ballot (for those who only want to vote on the tax question), and the type of ballot chosen by each voter will become public record, Bridgman said.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Thimm (from left) of Plymouth Township talks politics while John Pieran and Jim Allor listen during a recent discussion at the Canton Coney Island.

"There are people that just refuse to do that, and therefore they will not vote," he said.

Voters choosing a Democratic ballot Tuesday will have only to pick between President Barack Obama and "uncommitted," but Michigan's Democrats will actually pick their nominee through a caucus process in March.

The township has just over 21,900 voters eligible to vote in the primary.

Plymouth turnout In Plymouth, Clerk

Linda Langmesser said absentee ballot returns were running about average for an election of this type. Her office had received 385 absentees as of shortly after 2 p.m. Friday, out of a total of 615 ballots that had been sent out, Langmesser said.



Sarah Baer is a supporter of President Barack Obama.

There are no local candidates or ballot questions facing voters in the city, and Langmesser predicts a turnout of around 15 to 18 percent.

Plymouth has about 7,100 registered voters.

The polling places in both communities open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Ballot wording explained

• What it says ... Voters in Plymouth Township will face the following ballot question on Tuesday:

"A proposal to create a special assessment district for fire services comprising all of the land of the Charter Township of Plymouth except tax exempt property under Public Act 33 of the Public Acts of 1931, MCL 41.801 et seq., thereby authorizing the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees, after public hearing, to annually assess and levy on the lands specially benefited an ad valorem special assessment based on the taxable value of the property in the special assessment district, in an amount not to exceed .10 percent of the taxable value of the property assessed (10 mills) for fire vehicles, equipment, apparatus and housing; and further authorizing the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees, after public hearing, to annually assess and levy on the lands specially benefited an ad valorem special assessment based on the taxable value of the property in the special assessment district, in the amount necessary for operation and maintenance of fire services.

Shall the proposed Special Assessment District be created and the assessment be authorized?"

• What it means ...

If the special assessment district is approved, it would allow the township Board of Trustees to levy a tax of up to 10 mills (\$10 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value) for fire department capital expenses (equipment and structures), along with another tax for fire department operations (wages, benefits, etc.).

There would be no ceiling on the operations levy and no expiration date on the special assessment district.

The SAD would permit the board to determine the total assessment on an annual basis after a review of budget needs and a public hearing. Any increase would not be subject to a vote of the people.

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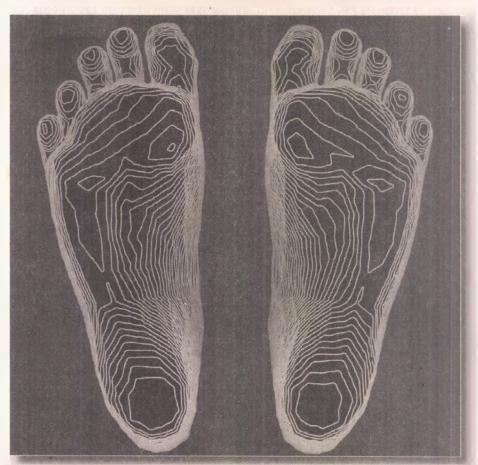
- Pins and needles feeling
- □ Numbness in the hands or feet ☐ Tingling or burning sensations
- Weakness in the Legs and Toes
- ☐ Sharp shooting or burning pains
- ☐ A feeling like a sock is rolled up under your toes? If so you may have a condition called peripheral neuropathy.

If you are like most people who suffer from peripheral neuropathy, you have probably tried everything. You have probably been to specialists, tried alternative health care and all of the latest and greatest miracle cures. Unfortunately, there is no gimmick, no quick fix and no pill that will ever make your neuropathy go away permanently. What we do in our office is the REAL THING! I am confident that our Neuropathy Recovery Program is something you haven't tried before and may be the answer you are looking for.

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If you are dealing with Peripheral Neuropathy, I sincerely want to help you get your life back. Are you frustrated after having tried everything and still dealing with neuropathy? Are you sick of hype and false hope? Have you given up on ridding yourself of neuropathy? If you are serious about getting help once and for all, then call to reserve your seat right now. This FREE one-hour seminar could be the beginning of a new life for you. Don't miss it! I have been researching, reading, attending classes and consulting with experts in the scientific community- all to create my Peripheral Neuropathy Treatment Program. The good news is that the principles behind my Neuropathy Recovery Program work with both diabetic and non-diabetic types of neuropathy. I can't wait to see if I can help you!



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Dr. Kramer

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ON CAMPUS

Perfect ACT

Jason Zhang, son of Jie and Kevin Zhang and a junior at Salem High School, earned a top composite score of 36 on a recent ACT test.

Nationally, while the actual number of students earning a composite score of 36 varies from year to year, roughly one-tenth of one percent receive a top score. Among test takers in the high school graduating class of 2011, only 704 of more than 1.6 million students earned a composite score of 36.

In a letter recognizing this exceptional achievement, ACT CEO Jon Whitmore said, "While test scores are just one of the many criteria that most colleges consider when making admission decisions, your exceptional ACT composite score should prove helpful as you pursue your education and career goals."

Central Michigan

Tanya Moutzalias of Plymouth is part of the award winning editorial team producing Central Michigan University's



Magazine. The student-run online publication recently

Moutzalias received a national EPPY award for "Best University Journalism Website" by Editor & Publisher Magazine, the trade journal covering

ism industry. In winning the top honor, Grand Central competed against finalists

the international journal-



Flight of fancy

As part of their animal classification lesson, Canton Charter Academy third-graders got a special visit from the Howell Nature Center's "Lords of the Sky, Birds of Prey." Students learned about the different types of birds of prey, their characteristics and their importance to the environment. The event included a visit from owls, hawks, falcons, vultures and an eagle from the center's Wild Wonders Wildlife Park.

from DePaul University, Temple University, Berry College and City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism.

Indiana University

Madeleine Vala, Salem High School class of 2011, has attained Dean's List status for her first semester at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Vala attends IU as a direct admission to the



cal Education, and Recreation at IU-Bloomington, and has

School of

Heath.

Physi-

received an academic scholarship for study at the University. She has

recently accepted an invitation into the Hutton Honors College.

Vala, who is studying Sport Management with minors in both marketing and business, is the daughter of John and Sandra Vala of Plymouth.

Olivet College

During the fall 2011 semester, 14 Olivet College insurance and risk management students passed exams earning the professional designations of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and Certified Risk Manager (CRM). Hastings Mutual Insurance Company, a longtime sponsor of the Risk Management and Insurance Center (RMIC) at Olivet, supported the students by reimbursing them for the cost of the exams.

The students included Anthony Pomerson, a senior from Canton.

After completing the tests, the CRM students continued their studies with Control of Risk and earned the designation of University Associate Certified Risk Manager (UACRM).

Northern Michigan

Northern Michigan University announced the Dean's List for the Fall 2011 semester.

Bryanne Bellovary of Canton was among students who qualified with a grade point average of

Among Canton students who qualified with a grade-point average of 3.25-3.99 were James Hodgson, Leanna Miller, Daniel Mundy and Marissa Sullivan.

Plymouth students included Katherine Bedenis, Nicholas Fisher, Bethany Grysko, Jacqueline McCormick, Kaitlyn Salo and Kathryn Shepherd.

EMT



passion for teaching as Eriksson Principal Kevin Learned and some of Mardeusz's fourth-grade students listen.

Teacher honored for going extra mile

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

Jennifer Hazelgrove had always been impressed with the teachers at Erikkson Elementary School in Canton.

But when Erikkson teacher Mike Mardeusz sent Hazelgrove's son, Alex, home chattering about school, she knew it was something beyond just a good teacher.

That's why Hazelgrove nominated Mardeusz, a seven-year veteran at Erikkson, for the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award, which Plymouth-Canton's Board of Education bestowed upon him this month.

"Erikkson has always had excellent teachers, but (Mardeusz) blows that standard away," Hazelgrove said. "He fostered an environment that pushed these fourthgraders to a higher level of learning, but they still had so much fun.

"Alex came home from school excited, dying to tell us about school," she added. "He got our whole family interested in

learning."

Erikkson principal Kevin Learned said the key to Mardeusz's success is his willingness to "extend learning beyond the classroom." Colleagues, Learned noted, refer to Mardeusz as a "24-hour teacher" for his willingness to work with students, parents and others during non-school hours.

And he's doing it all while working on his master's degree in educational technology. Learned said all the effort seems to have no effect on Mardeusz.

"He's always willing to lend a hand," Learned said. "Every time I think I'm going to the Mike Mardeusz well too often, there he is asking for more."

Mardeusz said it's as simple has his having found his niche.

"I am truly blessed to be someone who has found their passion," Mardeusz said. "It seems like this is what I was born to do."

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LEAP YEAR

Continued from page A1

birthday, Wendy Marcero wasn't even concerned about it. She was due Valentine's Day in 1996 and, on Feb. 28, doctors decided they were going to induce labor. By 7 p.m. the next day (which, if you're following the story, was Leap Day), the baby still hadn't made an appearance, and the doctors decided a Csection was necessary.

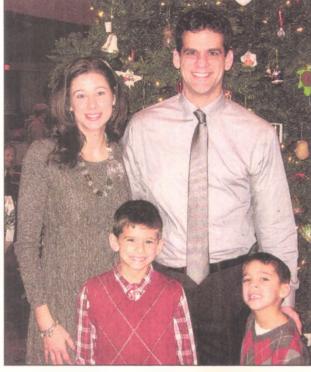
Mindful of the Leap Day factor, doctors offered Wendy the opportunity to wait five hours to give the baby a "normal" birthday. But Wendy was having none of it.

"At that point I didn't care when her birthday was," Wendy recalled thinking. "I just wanted to finally meet her."

She got that chance 76 minutes later when, at 8:16 p.m. on Leap Day 1996, Emily Jean Marcero - all 9 pounds 2 ounces of her - was introduced to the world - and to her mother.

"The nurse who was taking care of me that day was a Leap Day baby, too," said Wendy, a Canton resident. "That made it kind of special."

The family has had fun with the odd birthday. Emily, who generally celebrates either Feb.



"Leaper" Beth Hatsios of Plymouth, with her husband, Mike, and their sons Nicholas, 7, and Christopher, 5.

28 or March 1 - "Whenever it fits into the family schedule," Wendy said - would take treats to school on Feb. 28 and had fun telling her classmates she was only 2 and in the third or fourth grade.

And Emily has a greataunt who calls her Feb. 28 to wish her "Happy Birthday Eve," then calls again March 1 to apologize "for

missing your birthday." "I think it's cool to have a Leap Day birthday,"

said Emily, a sophomore at Salem High School who is surely the only 4-yearold on the varsity softball team. "In the years I don't have a birthday, I get to celebrate twice!'

Late to the party

Like Marcero, Nancy Chapman's due date (Feb. 24) didn't really put her in much danger of having a Leap Day baby. But like Marcero's daughter, Emily, Chapman's daugh-



Leap Day baby Melissa D., of Canton, cruises Ocean City, N.J. She was born in 1972 in Seoul, Korea.



LOCAL NEWS

Leap Day baby Elizabeth Donnelly Barker celebrates her 15th birthday Wednesday.

ter simply wasn't ready to come when that date rolled around. Chapman's coworkers teased her about the possibility of a Leap Day baby right up until she left for maternity leave.

But Chapman never really gave it a second thought ... right up until the time on Feb. 29 she and her husband finally headed to the hospital.

And this year, that baby - Beth Anne (Chapman) Hatsios - finally hits double digits, celebrating her 10th birthday on Wednesday.

"I love being a 'Leaper," said Hatsios, a Plymouth resident. "The best part is, everyone always remembers your birthday."

Like most Leapers, Hatsios faces the inevitable question - "When do you celebrate?" every time someone finds out she's a Leaper. The answer: She generally celebrates on Feb. 28, with her younger brother, born 10 years after her.

This year, there's an addition to the celebration: Hatsios plans to run the Leap Day 4 Miler in New Boston.

"I decided for my 10th birthday, I wanted to do something unique," Hatsios said. "I hope I'll see other Leapers there, too."

Mixed blessing

While Hatsios and others rejoice in their Leap Day birthdays, Melissa

D. (she didn't want to use her full name) thinks of it as more of a mixed blessing, Born Feb. 29, 1972 in Seoul, Korea, Melissa, a Canton resident, generally celebrates her birthday on March 1, often taking advantage of specials restaurants offer Leapers on non-Leap Years.

The Lansing native said having a birthday that doesn't even appear on the calendar is odd. "It almost feels like I don't exist when it's not Leap Year, because the date doesn't exist," Melissa said.

Still, she manages to have a lot of fun with it.

"The good thing about having a Leap Year birthday is having an inside joke with my older son," she said. "He announced to his class when he turned 10 that he was now older than his Mom since is Mom was only 9 and three-quarters.'

Nancy Chapman figures there's another benefit to only having a birthday every four years, and she points it out to her daughter.

Says Chapman: "I always tell Beth, you'll be forever young, and you'll never have to lie about your age."

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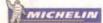


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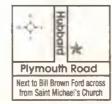
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Fire damages historic downtown building

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

No one was hurt and several downtown Plymouth businesses were slightly damaged Friday as the result of an early morning fire in a historic building on Main Street at Penniman, across from Kellogg Park.

The fire was reported just before 4 a.m. in the building that houses Kilwin's Chocolates and has smaller office-style businesses on the second floor. Kilwin's was closed on Friday while smoke damage was being cleaned up; a note on Kilwin's Facebook page said it was expected to reopen Saturday.

The fire was reported

by a snow-removal contractor who saw flames in the window of secondfloor business, said City Manager Paul Sincock.

The call brought Plymouth and Plymouth Township police officers to the scene, followed by firefighters from the Northville Fire Department, both from the new Plymouth station and the Northville station. Officers, arriving first, checked the building for occupants and found none, Sincock said.

Police arrived in three minutes and the on-call firefighters, on a pumper truck, in about 10, he said.

Firefighters climbed ladders to climb to the second floor and pump water on the fire.

"We were very impressed with the response," said Sincock. "Clearly, the fire department was able to save a very historic building in downtown.'

Fire, smoke and water damage was estimated initially at \$27,000, Sincock said. The fire had started in a suite occupied by the Skin Rejuvenation Center; the business phone number was not answered on Friday. Investigators determined the cause as a candle that had been left burning, Sincock said.

Two dozen firefighters from the Plymouth and Northville fire stations responded to the scene with four pieces of fire equipment. Also responding to the scene, city officials said, were two units from Huron Valley Ambulance as well as the police. Fire

Plymouth's partnership with the Northville Fire Department, which relies on on-call firefighters, began Jan. 1.

A cornerstone on the building notes it was built in 1898.

"It would've been devastating to downtown," if the blaze hadn't been put out quickly, said Tony Bruscato, the Downtown Development Authority's operations director. Businesses there "probably would've gone up in flames pretty quickly," he added.

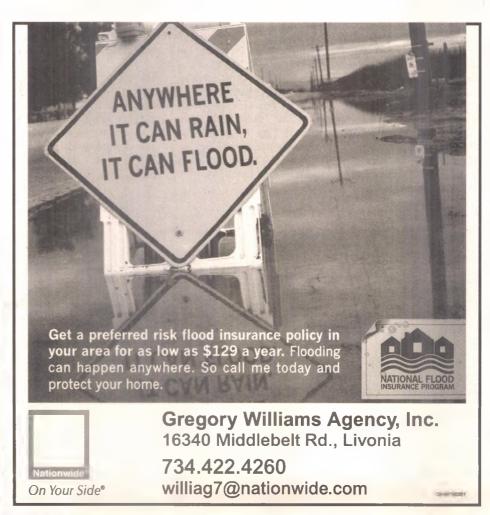
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cleanup from the early morning fire at Kilwin's. The fire was confined to the business upstairs, The Skin Rejuvena-







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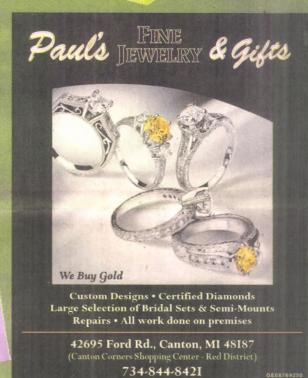
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New Hope offers suicide support

Staffers at Northville's New Hope Center for Grief Support have noticed an increasing number of calls in the last year from people who have lost a loved one to suicide.

That's why Cathy Clough decided to start an ongoing support group aimed at helping those folks get through the grief.

The twice monthly sessions will be facilitated by a professional therapist, a master's level counseling student and a woman whose husband died due to suicide. Both of the therapists have also experienced the

loss of friends and loved ones to suicide.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 26, 2012

Anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide is invited to attend.

The group meets on the second and fourth Monday night of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Life Church located at 7001 Haggerty in Canton. No registration is necessary for this

drop-in support group. For further information about this group or about the many other free, age and loss specific groups, please call New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 and visit us at www.newhopecenter.net.

Plymouth 'rookie' is a police veteran

By Matt Jachman **Observer Staff Writer**

Mark Farhat is the newest officer on the streets of Plymouth, but he's no stranger to police work.

Farhat, who was sworn in Feb. 14, has been in law enforcement for more than a decade and was a public safety officer in Jackson County's Leoni Township for seven years before being laid off in

"It's been a long road for me," said Farhat at the end of his shift one evening last week. "Very tough to get a job now."

Farhat found part-time work as an officer in Keego Harbor after being laid off, and also worked in security at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. His downsized former department in Leoni Township was later absorbed by the public safety department in a neighboring township.

"I'm thrilled to get hired by Plymouth. It's a great city," said Farhat, who grew up in Roy-

Farhat was a business major at Grand Valley State University in the late 1990s when he took Criminal Justice 101 as an elective, he said. He enjoyed the course.

"After taking a couple of these classes and talking to a couple of people," he changed his mind, and his major, he said.

He was also hooked by going on ride-alongs with patrol officers in Troy while still in college. "I just kind of developed a passion for it," he said.

Farhat graduated from



Mark Farhat, sworn in as Plymouth's newest police officer Feb. 14, was a public safety officer in Jackson County's Leoni Township for seven years.

GVSU with a criminal justice degree in 2001 and attended the police academy there before being hired in Leoni.

In Plymouth, he's in the police department's fourmonth field-training program, during which he is partnered with veteran patrol Officer Matt Stoops in order to learn the city's neighborhoods and the rules and procedures specific to the department. He'll gradually be given greater responsibility before being scheduled to patrol on his own following field training.

Farhat said he likes being able to work outside and the relative freedom that patrol work can

"It's great when you

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all winter," he said. (Farhat, though, added he can do without cold, snowy weather, despite his love of skiing.) Lower on his list of hobbies is sitting down to watch Hollywood's take on his profession. "I don't usually enjoy

Detroit."

cop movies and cop shows," he said. "I feel like I'm at work again."

can actually help peo-

ple," he said. "In a community like this, you can

actually do a little more

than you can in a city like

doors is seen in his favor-

ite pastimes: golf and ski-

ing. "Golf all summer, ski

of the 'helping people'

His love of the out-

Farhat and his wife, Sara, have a baby daughter, Avery.

His hiring brings the Plymouth Police Department back to its budgeted strength of 15 officers, including Chief Al Cox. City officials will be studying the possibility of funding one or two additional officers as the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year is discussed.

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Santorum to visit Monday

For the second time in 11 days, a Republican presidential candidate will talk directly to a joint gathering of the Livonia and Greater Farmington Area chambers of commerce.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum will speak Monday at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. The program will run from 8:30-10 a.m. The breakfast program will conclude with Santorum answering audience questions

Santorum's rival, former Gov. Mitt Romney, spoke to members from both chambers Feb. 16 in Farmington Hills.

"This is quite an honor for our chambers, and quite an opportunity for our members; to have both leading Republican presidential candidates visit our members ahead of Tuesday's primary election," said Livonia Chamber President Dan West. "Again, this is an informational chamber program and not a campaign event."

Together, the Livonia and Greater Farmington Area chambers serve nearly 1,400 members and represent Michigan's ninth and 10th largest cities. The Santorum event will be the fourth highprofile program presented in the chambers over the past year.

"We are driven to respond to our chamber members who want information from policy makers," said Mary Engelman, executive director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce. "Our chambers have a great partnership and that enables us to bring these types of programs to our members.'

West and Engelman added both chambers are nonpartisan organiza-

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tions that promote their business communities. They said they plan to send an invitation to the White House welcoming President Barack Obama to speak at a joint luncheon for the two chambers.

Tom Stroup, chair of the 11th Congressional District Republicans, was asked for his thoughts on Livonia taking center stage with the Romney appearance at the chamber last week, the Romney headquarters opening in Livonia and Santorum's appearance on Monday.

"I love it," Stroup said. "I love the attention. Livonia is one of the largest communities in the district, it has a vibrant business community and a vibrant Chamber of Commerce.'

Stroup called Livonia a Republican community, naming Mayor Jack Kirksey and state Rep. John Walsh as prominent elected officials. "The (presidential) candidates are realizing that Livonia has a central geographic location," Stroup said. The committee itself has not endorsed a candidate, Stroup said, but members are encouraged to endorse if they strongly support someone. Stroup has endorsed Romney.

Seats for the Santorum event will be \$25 for chamber members and \$40 for nonmembers. Corporate tables of 10 will cost \$250 for members and \$400 for nonmembers. Proceeds from the event benefit the chambers.

The Livonia Chamber can be reached by calling (734) 427-2122 or sending an e-mail to Laura Sweeney at Sweeney@livonia.org.

Arts group nabs King as headliner

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

Jill Engel spent a lot of time trying to figure out what sorts of acts would make the best draws for fundraisers she's planning for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

But seeing the reaction of a nearly full house for Steve King's Valentine's performance at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, where Steve King and the Dittilies were the headliner for the Partnership's Feb. 10 fundraiser, settled that question.

Engel and King quickly reached agreement for King to become the featured act for the Partnership's spring fundraiser on an annual basis

While the event raised nearly \$8,700 for the Partnership, Engel was far more impressed by the reaction of the 300-plus-person crowd. which came from all over metro Detroit to see King. Engel said they came from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and surrounding western Wayne County communities, but also from places such as New Boston and Royal Oak.

"It was amazing to me leaving the theater that



King, he of "Steve King and the Dittilies" fame.

night," said Engel, the Partnership's executive director. "We had a group of 25- to 80-somethings and every single one of them just raved about the show.

Once inside, the crowd enjoyed the rock music from the 1930s through the current era the Dittilies have become known for playing. The set list also included songs that show the depth of the band and "showy stuff" that brings horns front and center.

King said the combination of the venue and the chance to promote

the arts made the pairing a natural. 'The venue is phenom-

enal, it's incredible ... As a performer, having a nice place to perform is huge," King said. "Secondly, I've always been a proponent of the arts. It's so important, anything I can do to help is great."

At the Valentine's performance, people were dancing in their seats, dancing in the aisles -King even invited some of them onto the stage.

"When you have people travel 45 minutes to see him, that's amazing," Engel said. "He's

a big promoter of the

Engel also likes King's stage presence. In addition to singing "Happy Birthday" to Engel, who emceed the show, King made it a point to bring the Forever After Productions youngsters back out on stage, and he honored a veteran who was in the audience that night.

"He's not all about just 'Steve King and the Dittilies," Engel said. "He connects with the audience."

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Arts council hosts open exhibit

The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces a "Call For Artists" to submit work for its April exhibit,

"About Face."
The juried exhibit is open to artists 18 and older who have created two dimensional artwork that focuses on the human face.

The exhibit will run April 4-26.

Artwork may be submitted in all two dimensional media. There will be a \$15 fee for up to two accepted entries per artist. Artwork must be framed and ready for

hanging, and of a reasonable size not to exceed 60" in any dimension.

The artist's name, contact information, media, and price must be clearly marked on the back. A copy of the entry form must accompany each piece. Entry forms will be available at drop-off, or artists can download one from the PCAC website, www.plymoutharts.com.

The show will be juried, with final show selections made by the PCAC Exhibit Committee.

• Monday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop-off artwork at PCAC for exhibit consideration.

- Tuesday, April 3, "About Face" exhibit installation.
- Wednesday, April 4, exhibit opens to the public.
- Saturday, April 14, Artists Reception, 3-5 p.m., refreshments will be served. All are wel-

Artwork is to be picked up on April 30, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. For more information, call Jeff Burda, (734) 416-4278 or e-mail jeff@plymoutharts.com.



Barefoot Productions presents 'Rimers of Eldritch,' by Pulitzer-Prize-Winning playwright Lanford Wilson, to be staged March 2-3 and March 9-10 at 8 p.m., with additional performances March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

Barefoot stages award-winning play

Plymouth's Barefoot Productions will present the award winning play, Rimers of Eldritch, by Pulitzer-Prize-Winning playwright Lanford Wilson, to be staged March 2-3 and March 9-10 at 8 p.m., with additional performances March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

Set in the dried up mining town of Eldritch, somewhere in the midwest, Rimers is the story of a community torn apart by scandal when a reclusive hermit is murdered by a townswoman who believed she was preventing a crime.

Throughout the murder

trial, presided over by the town preacher, Wilson examines the potential for prejudice and cruelty among the members of a small community. The citizens' false moral-

ity becomes blatantly evident as the trial shines a light on the desperation and intolerance of a small town in Bible-Belt America

Rimers of Eldritch is codirected by Craig Hane, Nathan Corliss, and Ann Cahalan.

The cast includes; Betty Berryman (Canton), Lauren Berryman (Farmington Hills), Ethan McIntyre (Livonia), Kar-

en Curtsinger (Canton), Mike Van Dusen (Ann Arbor), Christine Doulette (Plymouth), Beth Duey (Northville), Collette Cullen (Dearborn), Sean Randolph (Canton), David Fedewa (Plymouth), Laena Bradley (Livonia), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), Matthew Williams (Canton), Eric Bloch (Ann Arbor), Jamie Arindaeng (Wolverine Lake), Denene Pollock (Ypsilanti) and Eric Corliss (Westland).

Barefoot Productions is located at 240 North Main Street in Plymouth. Call (734) 560-1493 for tickets.





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Village Theater hosts joint exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the artwork of Ann Loveland alongside the poems of Lianne Spidel in a special exhibition at the Gallery@VT from March 1-27.

These talented artists first met in an art class at Redford High School in Detroit, when they were then known as Ann Brashear and Lianne Valleau. Together these artists eventually attended the Wittenberg University in Ohio -Loveland as a Fine Arts major and Spidel as an English major. Both went on to teach and raise families, Loveland in Michigan and Spidel in Michigan and Ohio all while continuing to share a friendship and their artistic endeavors.



The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the artwork of Ann Loveland alongside the poems of Lianne Spidel in a special exhibition at the Gallery@VT from March 1-27.

In 2006 with the help of Ralph Pedersen, Loveland's husband, this talented duo self-published an Apple book, "Pairs," linking stilllife paintings and poems

mostly about people. In the years since, they have continued to look for connections in their finished works, as well as to create watercolors based on poems

and write poems about paintings, beginning with "Daughters of Eve," a popular water-color based on the poem of the same title.

This special exhibit, "Pairings" will match the watercolors of Loveland's one-artist exhibit with Spidel's poems. A chapbook of the same name is set to be published in March 2012 by Dos Madres Press of Ohio, including 14 matched paintings and poems from the larger gallery exhibit.

Ann Loveland has exhibited locally, statewide and nationally. She has worked professionally at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. the Visual Arts Associa-

tion of Livonia, and for both the Livonia Public Schools and Farmington Public Schools. Loveland's watercolor, "Theories," was the 2010 Best in Show Winner in the Canton Fine Arts Annual Exhibition. For more information about Ann Loveland's works, please visit www.annloveland.com.

Lianne Spidel's newly

published manuscript, "What to Tell Joseme," is a memoir in poems featuring three themes: "Old Snapshots," "Everyone Gets Displaced," and "Who's to Say You're Nowhere?" Showcased on the book's front cover is a watercolor entitled "The Breakfast Table" paint-

ed by Ann Loveland. In addition to Spidel's recent manuscript, she has published over two hundred poems and the chapbook "Chrome."

This exhibition will be on display Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as during public performances at the theater and also by appointment. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. For more information about this or other exhibitions at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, please visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call (734) 394-5300.

Chamber helping job seekers look their best

By Nathan Mueller Staff Writer

Novi Chamber of Commerce director Linda Daly said her members know the importance of first impressions during job interviews.

So for the 13th consecutive year, the chamber is hosting its Threads of **Power Charity Breakfast** at the Nordstrom Bistro. At the event on Feb. 29, the chamber will be collecting gently-used men's and women's business attire to give to people who are in the workforce or reentering who don't have appropriate clothing.

"It's extremely important," Daly said. "The more confident you feel about the way you look it will help you feel more confident in a job interview."

Chamber members were able to fill a truck from Two Men And A Truck last year, and Daly hopes they can do the same again this year. The clothing will be donated to Church of the Holy Family and the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan.

This will be the third year the event is being hosted at the Nordstrom Bistro, and the public also is invited to attend. There also will be a men's and women's fashion presentation by Nordstrom.

"As business owners, our members are excited and very willing to help other people in the business world," Daly said.

"The event is always well attended, and our members feel good about helping other people who are working.'

The event, which includes breakfast, starts at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 29, and the cost is \$15. People are asked to pre-register online at www.novichamber.com. The presenting sponsors of the event are Telcom Credit Union, Twelve Oaks, Two Men And A Truck, David M. Shepherd MD PC Ophthalmology and Jennifer J. Shaba OD Optometry.

> nmueller@gannett.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255



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Thursday, March 22, Classroom 10 Wednesday, April 25, Classroom 10

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www.Waltonwood.com

McCotter: Michigan vote is 'volatile'

By Ken Abramczyk Observer Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, believes the presidential race is still up for grabs in the primary election for the Republicans on Tuesday and the general election in November.

McCotter, who spoke before the Livonia Chamber of Commerce at a breakfast on Friday, said the voter support of the Republican candidates is "volatile."

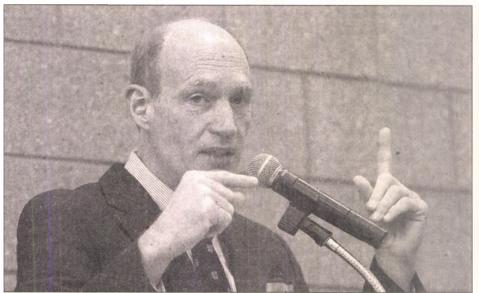
"It will be through the primary, and the general for both parties," he said.

McCotter, who endorsed former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney after McCotter withdrew from the race last year, said 35 percent of voters will decide on their choices in the primary 24 to 48 hours before casting their ballots, a statistic he cited from a recent Rasmussen poll.

"I take that as a healthy sign of our democracy," McCotter said. "We have to take the time to make the right choice, Voters are taking the time to make the right decision."

Supports Romney

He supports Romney because of his business background, but believes that the eventual nominee needs to win Michigan in November. "Whether it's Romney or Santorum, losing our state would be



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

McCotter talks about the Simpson-Bowles debt commission.

a great blow to whoever McCotter said. "You will have a fundamental disthat falls upon," he said. McCotter took quesconnect. How will you tions from the audigrow wealth and prosper-

there was a "fundamen-

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"How do you get a citi-

zen-driven government?"

Great Society programs

of the 1960s.

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the realities of a 21st Cen-

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 26, 2012

ence, telling them it is ity? You can't. part of his job to find out To try and pump up a welfare state, it won't the issues and concerns that are on constituents' work just as it didn't in Greece. As long as we He was asked about his continue, it won't work. thoughts on the Simp-It hasn't worked and it son-Bowles debt comwon't work." McCotmission. McCotter said ter spoke about restruc-

Syria a 'difficult situation'

turing government, but

doing it "responsibly."

McCotter called Syria a "difficult situation" for the United States, saying he is concerned with not only the American response to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's crackdown and killings of civilians and anti-government protesters, but with whoever may succeed him. The U.S. much be careful in dealing with Syria, McCotter said.

"It would be different if we supported the Green Revolution in Iran," McCotter said in reference to the protests and the disputed election nearly three years ago of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and that nation's citizenry's struggle for freedom and liberty.

He compared the situation to the U.S. support years ago of other opposition leaders, such as Poland's Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel, the first president of the Czech Republic, in ridding those countries of oppressive regimes. Syria and Iran have similar self-defense treaties with China and Russia, similar to what communist Russia and fascist Germany had in the 1930s. McCotter cited the opposition of China and Russia to economic sanctions with Iran supported by the U.S. and other nations.

"They believe the more Iran messes with the United States, the better off they are," he said of Russia and China. "The danger is that Iran can create an umbrella of terror that is not in their best interest, either."

Any decision by Iran to try to close the Straits of Hormuz would not be in their best interest, and McCotter believed that American allies "would make sure they are open."

Increased taxes a drain

On the domestic front, McCotter also reiterated his stance that increased taxes will be a drain on the American economy. "My approach is broadbased tax relief. Let the workers see the fruits of their labor and the growth of the economy,"

In the final analysis, unemployment still hovers at 8 to 9 percent, and any continued credit crunch for businesses and residents will lead to periods of stagnation and unemployment, McCotter said. "You're not seeing economic growth; you're seeing it sputter," he added.

McCotter voted against extending the payroll tax cut extension, calling it a "Band-Aid," adding that voters will be worse off because they are paying

interest on government programs, such as Social Security. "I'm not going to make you worse off,' McCotter said.

He reminded attendees that they should vote in 2012 to determine what direction they wanted the country to go. "The only thing I worry about is in Washington, a lot of uncertainty will not disappear in the long term."

The fate of the country "is in the best place; it's in your hands," McCotter said.

Reaction

Livonia Chamber member Charlie Mahoney, chair of the Board of Michigan Works, said afterward that McCotter "expressed some deep thinking we all need to

"We has an outlook that we need to believe and look at the outlook he has, He has expressed openly the questions he has on the issues," Mahoney said.

Peter Ventura, a commercial real estate broker with Principal Associates of Livonia, said McCotter focused on the economy, which obviously impacts Ventura's occupation in real estate.

"We're fortunate to have someone so thoughtful and well-informed in our government," Ventura said. "If we were to model our government on what he said, we would be a lot better off today."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2591

Notice of Public Sale of Liened Property

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on March 8th, 2012, 1:00 PM at 40671 Joy Road Canton, MI. 48187 County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on property stored at 40671 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit E20 Cosey, Household Goods: Unit J19, Nash Household Goods: Unit K20 Garrison, Household Goods: Unit A11 Healy, Household Goods: Unit J32 King, Household Goods: Units H30, I11, I28 Brant, Household Goods: Unit G05 Didario, Household Goods: Unit K09 Ray, Household

Publish: February 19 & 26, 2012



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z 12-02

792 S. Harvey Non-Use Variance Requested Garage Side Yard Setback Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Tim Krause

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

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

Publish: February 26, 2012

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Technology Department 1036 S. Haggerty Road Canton, MI 48188 Telephone: 734-416-2711

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

RFP-USF FORM 470/FY2012 - The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will accept bids for Internal Connections services for FY2012 of the Universal Services Fund (USF) E-rate Program. Specifications are available from the following web site: triple-r.us/erate/RFP2-PCCSFY12.pdf. You a copy of the RFP at the Building 1036 S Haggerty Rd, Canton, MI 48188. All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to James Casteel at 734-416.2708. RFP's will be received in the Technology Department until 2:00P.M. on March 1, 2012. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education reserves the right to reject or decline

Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Law

It is the policy of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, height, weight, disability, religion or marital status in any of its programs, activities or employment.

Address Inquiries To: James Casteel, Director of Technology Truesdell Building 1036 S. Haggerty Road Canton, MI 48188 734-416-2708 Website: Http://tech.pccs.k12 mi us

Interpreter services available upon request to Technology Dept, 734-416-2708

Publish: February 19, 23 & 26, 2012

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Technology Department 1036 S. Haggerty Road Canton, MI 48188 Telephone: 734-416-2711

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

RFP-USF FORM 470/FY2012 - The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will accept bids for telecommunication and Internet Access services for FY2012 of the Universal Services Fund (USF) E-rate Program. Specifications are available from the following web site: triple-r.us/erate/ RFP-PCCSFY12.pdf. You may also obtain a copy of the RFP at the Truesdell Building 1036 S Haggerty Rd, Canton, MI 48188. All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to James Casteel at 734-416.2708. RFP's will be received in the Technology Department until 2:00P.M. on February 28, 2012. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education reserves the right to reject or decline all bids.

Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Law

It is the policy of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, height, weight, disability, religion or marital status in any of its programs, activities or employment.

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Interpreter services available upon request to Technology Dept, 734-416-2708

Publish: February 19, 23 & 26, 2012

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 PM, in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall to consider the

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CONDITIONAL

909 N. Sheldon Road Current Zoning: I-1, Light Industrial Proposed Zoning: B-3, General Business with conditions Applicant: Grand Sakwa

A complete copy of the re-zoning application and proposed conditions is available for review at the City Building Department and also at the City's website: www.ci.plymouth.mi.us under document center, agenda

Written comments will be received at the Building Department at any time during normal business hours.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

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

Publish: February 26, 2012

OE08789272 ~ 2x5.5

ORDINANCE ADDRESSING FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS OF THE STATE OF CONSTRUCTION CODE

Community Name: City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

Ordinance #2012-03

An ordinance amendment to affirm an enforcing agency to discharge the responsibility of the City of Plymouth located in Wayne County, and to designate regulated flood hazard areas under the provisions of the State Construction Code Act, Act No. 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended.

The City of Plymouth ordains:

Section 1. AGENCY DESIGNATED. Pursuant to the provisions of the state construction code, in accordance with Section 8b(6) of Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, the Building Official of the City of Plymouth is hereby designated as the enforcing agency to discharge the responsibility of the City of Plymouth under Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, State of Michigan. The City of Plymouth assumes responsibility for the administration and enforcement of said Act through out the corporate limits of the community adopting this ordinance.

Section 2. CODE APPENDIX ENFORCED. Pursuant to the provisions of the state construction code, in accordance with Section 8b(6) of Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, Appendix G of the Michigan Building Code shall be enforced by the enforcing agency within the City of Plymouth.

Section 3. DESIGNATION OF REGULATED FLOOD PRONE HAZARD AREAS. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Entitled \(\)Wayne County, Michigan (All Jurisdictions)\(\)1 and dated February 2, 2012 and the Flood Insurance Rate Map(s) (FIRMS) panel number(s) of 26163C; 0038E, 0039E, 0201E and 0202E dated February 2, 2012 are adopted by reference for the purposes of administration of the Michigan Construction Code, and declared to be a part of Section 1612.3 of the Michigan Building Code, and to provide the content of the iFlood Hazardsi section of Table R301.2(1) of the Michigan Residential Code.

Section 4. REPEALS. All ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed. Section 5. PUBLICATION. This ordinance shall be effective after legal publication and in accordance with the provisions of the Act governing same.

Adopted this Twentieth day of February, 2012. This ordinance duly adopted on February 20, 2012 at a regular meeting of the City of Plymouth, Michigan and will become effective February 26, 2012. Signed on February 20, 2012 by

Linda J. Langmesser, Clerk of the City of Plymouth, Michigan Attested on February 20, 2012 by

Daniel Dwyer Mayor of the City of Plymouth, Michigan

Publish: February 26, 2012

Reverse mortgage can help with cash flow

By Rick Bloom **Guest Columnist**

Q: Dear Rick: I am a General Motors retiree. I've been retired for about 12 years. Between my pension and Social Security, it covers all my living expenses. In addition, when I pass away, my wife will continue to receive my pension. Friends told me that General Motors made an announcement that they will be ending pensions. Is that true? If it is and they do stop my pension, I will be short of income. I do not have much money in savings or investments, but my house is paid off and is worth \$200,000-\$300,000. If they take my pension away, probably my best alternative is to use my home equity loan to cover my expenses. I have a home equity line of credit, but I have never used it. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

A: You are correct, General Motors is moving to terminate its pensions. This is something that is happening across the country. Pensions have become very expensive for corporations, so they have gone more with 401(k) plans as a substitute. However, for someone like you who is already collecting a pension, there will be no change. Both you and your wife are protected.

Even though you are protected, I do want to discuss a different strategy if it turns out you need additional income in the future. You mentioned that you have a home equity line of credit.

If your need for additional income is minor, then a home equity loan may be something to consider. However, keep in

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> > Sat. 10 am to 3 pm



Money Matters

est rate on home equity loans is generally adjustable, which

mind that

the inter-

means Rick Bloom that when interest rates rise, which they will in a couple of years, then

your cost to borrow will be substantially higher. Generally, if someone needs income on an ongoing basis, a home equity line of credit is not something I recommend. In

those situations, one thing

to consider would be a

Access equity

reverse mortgage.

A reverse mortgage allows you to access the equity in your home. When you obtain a reverse mortgage, unlike a home equity loan or a traditional mortgage, there are no monthly payments. The loan is not due until either the house is sold or you pass away. That is the beauty of a reverse mortgage. You do not have to make payments during your life-

When you do a reverse mortgage, you either get a lump sum payment or a line of credit. Either way, you can access that monev and use it on an asneeded basis; at the same time, you do not have to make any payments.

The loan is not due until the house is sold or upon death. At that point in time, the proceeds from the sale are used to pay off the home equity loan. If for some reason the proceeds from the sale do not pay off the mortgage, it is the mortgage company's loss. The risk that the proceeds would not cover the mortgage is solely borne by the mortgage company.

Not for everyone

While a reverse mortgage is a great tool that seniors can use, they are not for everyone, nor should they be used to make risky investments. A reverse mortgage is a great tool to cover additional living expenses or even to pay off an existing mortgage. In the past, I've also recommended reverse mortgages so grandparents can help their grandchildren with a college education.

Even though reverse mortgages are heavily regulated, whenever you're dealing with something regarding your house, it is important to deal with reputable companies. One company that I recommend is 1st Financial Reverse Mortgages (Michael Gruley), 1-800-720-7003; www.firstloans.net.

Don't rush into a reverse mortgage, do your homework. However, for seniors who are in need of extra income or who want to pay off an existing outstanding mortgage, it can be a great tool to increase the quality of life and, after all, isn't that what it's all about? 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.bloomassetmanagement.com.



CITY OF PLYMOUTH

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND THE RIGHT OF REFERENDUM RELATING THERETO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Plymouth. County of Wayne, State of Michigan (the iCityî), intends to issue and sell its refunding bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000). The bonds are being issued for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost of refunding certain outstanding Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bonds of the City which were previously issued to pay the cost of acquiring and constructing water supply and sewage disposal system improvements. The bonds will be issued to refund the revenue bonds only if the City is able to realize debt service savings.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS

The principal of and interest on said bonds shall be payable from and secured by the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations. However, it is the intent of the City to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds from revenues derived from the operation of the City's water supply and sewage disposal system.

BOND DETAILS

SAID BONDS will be issued in one or more series, payable in annual installments not to exceed fifteen (15) in number, and will bear interest at the rate or rates to be determined at public or private sale but in no event to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517, Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan 2001, as amended.

* A/Z Plan Pricing. 10,500 miles per year. Includes Factory and Renew Rebate. Requires \$2000 due at signing plus taxes and plates. Wit Approved Credit. ** A/Z Plan Pricing. All rebates to dealer. May require Ford Credit Financing. Plus taxes and fees.

Linda Langmesser City Clerk City of Plymouth

Publish: February 26, 2012



watchinson.net

March 18 white the standard will be dealer that will refer to the



Vote 'NO' on February 28



The referendum on Tuesday's ballot for a millage increase to help maintain Plymouth's fire and emergency medical service is not the one proposed by the firefighters and the Citizen Action Group that supports our commitment to protecting our neighbors.

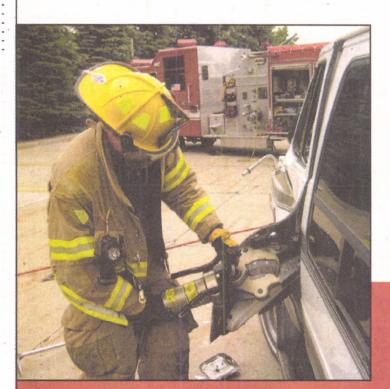
We called for a 1 mill increase for five years, a far superior approach than the Trustees' proposal to hire a private ambulance firm for \$1.6 million to "provide" emergency services and hire paid, on-call firefighters who are not required to hold a state paramedic license and whose 15-minute response times would be nearly four times the standard our firefighters/EMS paramedics currently achieve.



Worse yet, the current tax proposal on Tuesday's ballot is open-ended, instead of being limited to five years, as the Citizen's Referendum proposed.

Let's Have a Vote in November on the REAL Referendum

Plymouth Township politicians went to court to stop the Citizen's Referendum from getting on last November's ballot. Instead, they let the current proposal for an openended 2.44 mil tax increase get placed on the primary ballot this week.



In short, politicians killed a responsible Citizens
Referendum and replaced it with a "poison pill" – a proposal radically different than the one the Citizen's Action Group and Firefighters wanted.

Plymouth Township's Trustees are even running a smear campaign against the proposal they maneuvered onto the ballot. It's the worst kind of political double dealing to prevent the public's will from being expressed.

Give the Trustees What They Deserve

Vote 'NO' on the February 28 referendum.

We don't need an unlimited tax, we need a focused effort to maintain public safety.

Paid for by Plymouth Township Firefighters Local 1496
PO Box 700054 • Plymouth, MI 48170
Paid for with regulated funds.



tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

KLAA BOYS HOOP CONFERENCE FINAL

Banner night for Salem

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It couldn't happen in backto-back games, could it?

When Northville's Brett
MacDonald launched a trey
attempt with time running
out Friday night, Salem head
boys basketball coach Bob
Brodie thought about how
MacDonald buried a triple at
the buzzer Thursday to upset
Westland John Glenn.

This time, the shot from the left corner bounced high off the rim. When the ball came back down, Salem had a 42-39 victory and the KLAA Kensington Conference championship. The last time the Rocks won a conference title was 2002, when they played in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"It was in the back of my mind," Brodie said. "In fact, I told the guys at the end. We got that timeout when Grant (Bettner) was at the line. I said, 'Listen, if we don't make this shot we must foul him. (MacDonald) is going to line up for a three, we don't want him to get a three. You got to make sure you get that foul early.'

"And I'll be darned, we didn't do it."

But with a smile, Brodie added, "I guess it's destiny that he wasn't going to make it this time."

Northville head coach Todd Sander, whose team nearly came all the way back from a 46-36 deficit early in the fourth, said another clutch trey by the senior "would have been nice. This one only would have tied it, but we would have taken it. I'm proud of how we fought back."

According to Salem senior center Josh Peterson, the host Rocks were up to the challenge of playing harder and tougher against Northville than the previous time, when the Mustangs walked into Salem and came away with a 47-37 victory.

"We knew we had to come in here and show them that,

'You're not going to hoist that trophy in our gym," Peterson said. "We came ready to play and out-physicaled them all game. That was really the key to the game."

Let Dierk do it

Peterson had six rebounds for Salem, but the player who put the Rocks on his back was junior forward Chris Dierker. He was dominant on the boards at both ends of the floor, registering 16 rebounds. He also scored 19 points — with 14 of those coming in the second half.

Dierker really stepped up in the final minutes, with Northville (12-7) threatening to spoil Salem's championship party.

With the Mustangs down 36-35 with 3:20 remaining, Salem senior guard Tyler Stewart (16 points) dished the ball to Dierker in the paint. The 6-7 Dierker then lofted and made a rainbow jumper over a Northville defender from about eight feet to give the Rocks some breathing room.

Dierker and senior Markus Olind tacked on some free throws, and Salem was able to hold off the Mustangs.

"He had a great game, he was bound and determined," Brodie said about Dierker. "He's a fierce competitor. When you get him mad, and get him playing and he knows the game's on the line, he likes to take control.

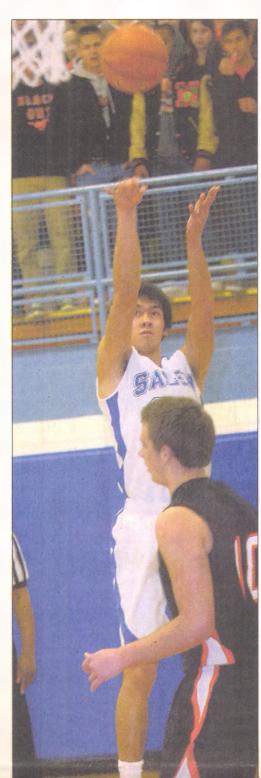
"He did a good job for us, but we needed him, quite frankly. The other guys were looking to him and they recognized that fact, too. So give the other guys credit because they recognized the fact that, 'Hey, give the ball to Dierk, he can do it."

Early offense

Stewart was red hot to start the game, scoring Salem's first 10 points (including six on two treys) as the Rocks led 12-8 after one quarter.

When Peterson muscled in under the bucket for a put-

Please see HOOPS, B2



Salem's Chris Dierker (No. 23) sets his sights on another bucket during Friday night's conference title game against Northville.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton's top scoring line as the playoffs begin includes
senior Duggan Tear (No. 8), shown from a game earlier

PCEP icers set for postseason

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Doubleheaders are becoming old hat for the Canton and Plymouth boys hockey teams.

After playing twinbill Wednesday night at Arctic Edge Arena, the teams will play in part of another two-fer at Monday's Division 1 preregionals.

The Chiefs (13-9-1) will face Salem at 6 p.m. at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia; Plymouth (14-9-0) entering the regular season finale Friday) follows with an 8 p.m. matchup against Livonia Churchill.

"We know who we're playing and what to expect," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said. "But we're not looking beyond that, we're focusing on Monday night against Salem (9-

13-1-1).

"Even though we had two wins against them, they were both very close games."

Plymouth's first-year head coach Gerry Vento, likes how solid defensively the Wildcats are playing down the stretch.

"I feel really good," Vento said. "The way we're playing defensively is what we're going to need to succeed in the playoffs.

"We're doing a great job of shutting teams down and limiting their chances."

Plymouth defeated Churchill 4-3 in overtime earlier this season.

As for the Wednesday games, Canton and Lake Orion played to a 2-2 tie and Plymouth followed in the nightcap with a 3-2 OT victory over Northville.

Senior forwards and linemates Andrew Gorski and Brandon Grillo were Canton's goal scorers (each also assisting on the other's). The third player on the line, senior Duggan Tear collected two assists while senior goalie Spencer Craig made 24 stops.

After Majszak put Gorski on the line, "he's taking that opportunity and running with it" with excellent production.

Please see HOCKEY, B2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

PCA gets ready for districts

Plymouth Christian Academy finished the regular season on Feb. 17 with a 39-33 victory over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, but Eagles girls basketball coach Carol Gerulis sees room for improvement before the Class D districts begin this week.

An 8-for-21 performance from the free throw line is something the coach pointed to as a

Please see DISTRICTS, B3



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton senior point guard Robyn Mack wears a smile and ear buds as she listens to music during her pre-game ritual.

Chiefs' Mack winds down superb career

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Robyn Mack isn't used to being the go-to player for Canton's varsity girls basketball team.

But top billing on the 2011-12 Chiefs goes to the senior point guard, a tag bringing extra attention and responsibility.

After all, during her first three seasons the likeable point guard often deferred to older teammates such as the Schmitt twins, Kayla Bridges, Melanie Pickert and CarolAnn Sexauer whenever points needed to be scored.

Mack was a valuable player, too, as Canton reached the Class A semifinals at the Breslin Center in 2010 and 2011. "It was surreal, it was awesome

Please see MACK, B2

ALL ABOUT ROBYN

Who: Robyn Mack, Canton High School senior.

Preps: The 17-year-old is in her fourth season as starting point guard for Canton's varsity girls basketball team. She also plays varsity girls soccer.

Youth: She played basketball for the Western Wayne Wolfpack and then the MGBR Elite AAU team.

Misc: Her parents are Andrea and Robyn Mack. She carries a 3.58 grade-point average and is a member of the high school's Link Crew.

Future: Robyn would like to play college basketball. But her plans are to study psychology or pre-law and ultimately become a criminal defense lawyer.



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PLYMOUTH

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

But the Chiefs also boast a second unit with potential to light the lamp in seniors Taylor Baker, Derek Voight and junior Ian Fagen.

The Wildcats trailed 2-0 at one point against the Mustangs but rallied to send the game to overtime when junior forward Mitch Claggett scored with nine seconds to go.

Sophomore winger Mike Schultz then netted the winner with 1:30 remaining in overtime. Senior forwards Sean Smiatacz (three assists) and Zach Gambrell assisted.

"We were hard on the forecheck," Vento said. "Sean got a shot on net and Mike Schultz came in and buried the rebound."

Claggett, who also scored Plymouth's first goal, backhanded the puck over the Northville goalie's shoulder for the equal-

Smiatacz drew the helper on that goal and he also set up Claggett's first tally, along with Dean Gunther.

Senior netminder Rich Guglielmi only faced 11 shots, and was pulled for the extra attacker when Claggett fired home the tying tally.

"We were in their zone with about 50 seconds left," Vento said. "We pulled our goalie and the puck just stayed down there the whole time. We were just hard on the

According to Vento, "when you only give up 11 shots in a game you know the team's doing something right."

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Gielarowski runs down UDM scholarship

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

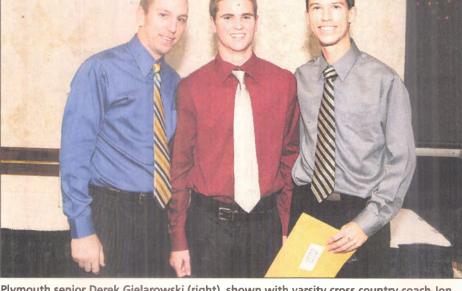
Hard work got Plymouth senior Derek Gialarowski a scholarship to run cross country at the University of Detroit Mercy. He intends to bust it all over again to be successful at the collegiate

The 17-year-old Gielarowski, a top-notch runner on the Wildcats' cross country and track and field teams, recently signed his letter of intent to go to the Division I college.

"My parents (Alice and Greg Gielarowski) and coach have told me that I had to put in hard work to achieve what I wanted," Gielarowski said. "And even though I knew that I did, I still can't believe I got this chance."

Gielarowski decided that Detroit Mercy was a good fit for him both athletically and academically, the latter a major consideration. He intends to earn a degree in engineering.

"I was happy to hear that UDM wanted me to run there, being a Division I school," he said. "But then I wanted to go visit the college to see how it was with engineering. It went above and beyond my standards when I visited and just kept giving me more



Plymouth senior Derek Gielarowski (right), shown with varsity cross country coach Jon Mikosz (left) and assistant coach Matt Neumann, recently signed after earning a scholarship to University of Detroit Mercy. Gielarowski will join the Titans cross country team in 2012-13 and study engineering.

and more opportunities to succeed.'

With the Titans, Gielarowski will need to take his talents to a new level, literally. He will run 6K or 8K races instead of 5K, the customary length of high school races.

Next step awaits

Although he said he has never run the longer distances, he is looking forward to working with **UDM coach Guy Murray** to prepare for the challenges around the bend. The work ethic and determination he displayed with the Wildcats will

keep him in good stead. "From what I learned at the high school level, you have to learn with adversity, being able to do what needs to be done even if you're not ready for it,"

UDM in many ways for the seasons to come." According to his cross country and track coach at Plymouth, Jon Mikosz, it is no surprise that Gielarowski will be a college

Gielarowski said. "I feel

that my strength in giv-

time in whatever I need

ing 110 percent all the

to do will help benefit

runner. "Derek has been an

amazing runner from the first day I met him," Mikosz said. "He has been a varsity runner from the start of his career at Plymouth to the end of it.

"I look forward to watching Derek excel at the collegiate level the same way he has at the high school level.'

Of course, there is more immediate business to attend to as Gielarowski is preparing for his final season in high school track

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HOOPS

Continued from page B1

back midway through the second, it was a 19-14 advantage.

But back-to-back buckets by Northville's Jeffrey Gertley (16 points) and Jeffrey Hewlett (eight points) closed the gap to 19-18 at halftime.

Northville finally inched ahead 24-23 when MacDonald (10 points) buried a 3-ball with 4:40 left in the third.

But back came Dierker. He scored a pair of layups and added a free throw to get the lead right back (28-24).

It was 32-26 after three, following a clutch basket at the end of the quarter by Salem's Ryan Jankowski — who blindly flipped the ball over his head for a layup.

Salem managed to hang on to the win, but it had trouble hanging on to the ball with 18 turnovers. The Rocks also made just 15-of-43 field-goal tries for 34 percent, as Northville's zone defense stifled them.

But Brodie said his team also played solid defense, contributing to Northville shooting at a 32 percent clip (16-of-49).

"Champions have to win close ones," Brodie said. "If you don't, you're not going to be a champion. They showed they're champions tonight. I'm proud of the way they played."

Salem will host the KLAA association title game at 7 p.m. Tuesday against Walled Lake Central or Pinckney.

CANTON 51, STEVEN-SON 48: The visiting Chiefs overcame a 20point game by Livonia Stevenson's Carey Cobb to earn a KLAA consolation bracket victory Friday.

Cobb scored a gamehigh 20 points Friday, but it wasn't enough as Livonia Stevenson (11-7) fell to the visiting Chiefs (14-5) in a KLAA consolation round matchup.

Canton led 26-18 at halftime and 39-30 after three quarters and had enough of a lead to withstand Ste-

venson's late push.

Jordan Nobles, connecting on three 3-pointers, sparked Canton (14-5) with 12 points. Senior center Paul Baumgart, the team's leading scorer, was limited to 10 before fouling out late in the game.

"It was a good win especially on the road and with Paul Baumgart playing limited minutes because of foul trouble and eventually fouling out," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "Jordan Nobles gave us a big spark off the bench tonight. And Scott Gring (five points, seven rebounds) was big tonight."

Stevenson (11-7) also received 10 points from Josh Campbell.

The Chiefs will host Grand Blanc at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the regularseason finale.

MOTT 39, PLYMOUTH 35: Offensive struggles continued Friday night for host Plymouth, falling in this KLAA crossover game to drop to 6-13 on the season.

The Wildcats hit just 9of-17 shots from the foul line and were unable to get the clutch field goals they needed in the final minute to overtake Waterford Mott (14-5).

Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup credited his team for battling to the end despite missing several players due to injuries: "Everybody who played gave it their

Senior Donte Fox led the Wildcats with eight points. Junior Matt Carravallah tallied six points and six rebounds. Adding five points was junior Brian Schmid. Senior Marcus Oden had five rebounds.

Soukup cited junior Michael Kennedy (four points, seven boards) for playing "a great game off the bench" and gave props to junior Shane Clark (four points, six boards).

Plymouth ends the regular season with a 7 p.m. home game against Howell.

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MACK

Continued from page B1

playing on the (Breslin) court once," Mack said with her usual smile. "But then getting there a second time was exciting. It's unfortunate that we lost, but it was just a great moment knowing that the team you played for - not once, but twice went to the final four. And this year, it's different, it's changed, but it's good.

Making the grade Indeed, this year has

been a different situation for the 17-yearold senior as well as a rewarding one.

Mack's adapted to her added responsibilities and the Chiefs remain a strong team, taking a 15-5 record into Wednesday's district game at Novi (against Salem or Novi).

By the way, her scoring average has spiked from 5.2 last year to about 13 points this season. Yet she's not forgetting the rest of her game. In other main categories (rebounds, steals, assists) Mack has matched or surpassed last year's output.

Her scoring increase is something Canton head coach Brian Samulski needed Mack to do given the 2011 graduation of the "fab five."

That, for example, means taking an open jumper instead of threading a bounce pass through the paint. In her first three years, Mack often looked for post players such as Bridges, Kari or Schmitt to send the ball

Understandably, it's all been a learning curve of sorts for the fourth-year starter.

During a recent game, Mack had the basketball at the top of the key, surveyed the floor for an open teammate.

Then with little time or space, and no available option, she reluctantly launched an arcing shot that fell perfectly through the cylinder.

There have been moments of disappointment, too.



JOHN KEMSKI

Dribbling around an opponent during a recent game is Canton's Robyn Mack. She is one of the all-time leaders for the Chiefs in assists and steals.

In the Feb. 16 KLAA Kensington Conference semifinal against Novi, Mack dribbled through the lane to put up a shot in the final seconds in a bid to win the contest. The shot missed the mark, the Wildcats scored at the buzzer and Mack dejectedly walked off the floor.

"It's been hard at times and rough, and sometimes it can get very frustrating,' Mack said. "I don't think Brian realizes that I'm just getting used to this too. ... The thing is (last season) you're relying on the five seniors to score and then Brian asks me to score.

"It's getting easier, though. I'm finding myself looking for the ball more, looking for screens to get open. So that's good.'

All about team In victory or defeat,

Samulski knows he's getting the maximum out of Mack.

"Robyn is a great team player," Samulski said. "Being a teamfirst kid, she's not worried about what she gets done on the floor. She's more worried about how the team

does, and if the team wins or loses. She's a win-first kid.'

Samulski said it's no accident that the Chiefs have been so successful during Mack's career. Entering the Class A districts, the Chiefs have gone 84-16 during her tenure. And while she

wouldn't make much out of it, she also ranks in Canton's all-time top five in assists, steals and treys.

"Canton's had a lot of great point guards and I think Robyn rates up there with all the kids up on the wall (of fame) in here," Samulski said. "She's got great vision, she see everything. One of the things that she's able to do is she makes everyone around her better."

That's something Mack takes great pride

"I love to see the team getting better and better," she said. "We're a force to be reckoned with. I think people underestimate us.'

Mack pointed to the improvement of centers Kiara Schneider and Taylor Hunley. She noted increasing roles and production

from Rachel Winters and Paige Aresco, who largely were reserves last season.

Whether or not the Chiefs have another long postseason run, Mack is confident that the players who return in 2012-13 will keep the victories coming.

"It's not going to change. It doesn't matter who Brian has on the court," she said. "Brian's going to expect good defense, that you work hard, and that's what we have to get every game and every day at practice."

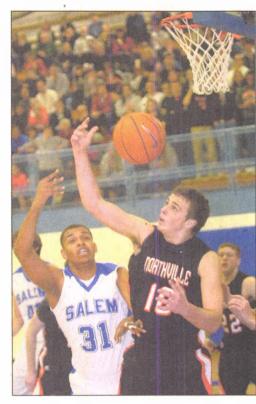
That part of Canton basketball won't change. But Samulski knows an incredible era closes when Mack leaves.

"Robyn is an outstanding person, but she is an even better person," Samulski said. "It has been a great pleasure to coach Robyn the past four years, she is one of the smartest players I've coached in 12 years.

"It has been a true honor for me to be her coach at Canton High School."

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Battling for a rebound Friday night are Salem's **Ahmad** Khalid (No. 31) and Northville's **Brett** MacDonald (No. 10).





ANDY RUBENSTEIN

In a footrace during a recent game are Plymouth Christian's Jenny Malcolm (No. 25) and Lenawee Christian's Nicole Robideau. Malcolm and her teammates begin the Class D districts Monday.

DISTRICTS

Continued from page B1

sore spot that needs to be fixed.

"We played an OK game and still came out with a win," Gerulis said. "As a team we took really good shots they just didn't fall for us. We however did not shoot well from the free throw line and that's just not gonna get it done.

"I was happy with our effort as a team but we just didn't have the execution

that I expected." Leading PCA with 11 points was Karen Windle, who also chipped in with seven rebounds and three steals. Emily Gerulis (eight points, nine rebounds, four steals, four assists), Jenny Malcolm (eight points, seven rebounds) and Jenna Abraham (six points) also helped the cause for the Eagles, 14-5 overall and 10-2 (second place) in the MIAC Blue Division.

"We head into the state playoffs and everyone starts at 0-0," Gerulis noted. "So we need to work hard and tighten up some loose ends and get ready to compete. I am very proud of my girls they have accomplished a lot so far, they are

a great group to coach." PCA opens district play 6 p.m. Wednesday at host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran.

Jipping's milestone

Plymouth Christian's boys basketball team dropped a 61-53 decision Thursday to Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, despite 24 points from Mick Noel and 14 from Alex

PCA hosts Detroit City 7 p.m. Tuesday before preparing for the districts,

which begin next week. Eagles head coach Dominique Washington, meanwhile, said injured senior center Eric Jipping reached the coveted 1,000-point plateau for his career after all.

Burton accolade icing on the cake

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Known for his deft scoring touch, Joe Burton's long and distinguished career in the Central Hockey League is now safely secured.

The Garden City native, assistant manager the past six years at Westland's Modano Arena, was enshrined recently in the CHL's inaugural Hall of Fame class during All-Star weekend in Phoenix, Ariz.

"Obviously, it's a great honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, but it was never what I was striving to do," Burton said. "I just wanted to keep playing. It was kind of hard when I went back because I hadn't been around it in a long time. I saw a couple of the coaches, guys I played against. You just get that feeling you want to go out and play again when I was down there.'

Burton spent 11 seasons in the CHL (1992-2003), all with the Oklahoma City Blazers. He is the league's all-time leading scorer with 985 points and 565 goals.

He was an All-Star six straight seasons (1998-2003) and the league's annual scoring championship trophy bears his name with the Joe Burton Award.

In 2001, Burton helped guide the Blazers to the 2001 Ray Miron Cup with 110 points (51 goals and 59 assists) during the regular season. He scored 11 more points during 13 postseason

Burton was also twice recognized as the CHL's Most Valuable Player (1998 and 2001).

'Coming out of college, I just wanted to basically keep playing hockey," said Burton, a 1985 Garden City High grad who is now 44. "I guess over the years the stats just kind of add up. You don't really think about it and I guess when I was done, it turned out I had a pretty good career

He played junior hockey locally for the Redford Royals and went on to play collegiately at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for coach Tom Anastos, the former CCHA commissioner who recently became the head coach at Michigan State.

Burton played one season overseas in Denmark, but quickly became a fixture in Oklahoma City after getting an opportunity with the Blazers.

"It was neat playing in Denmark," he said. "It was a different culture, but I liked it better over here. Over there it was more of a finesse game, but things over here happen a lot quicker."

During his stint with



DAVID BIRDSONG

Garden City's Joe Burton is pictured during a 2004-05 game with the Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey

the Blazers, which also included three professional roller hockey seasons with the Oklahoma City Coyotes, Burton was undersized at 5-feet-9, 170 pounds.

But he always loomed large on the scoresheet.

"I played 11 years in the same organization," Burton said. "I just miss the competitiveness and playing. I loved to play and compete. I was a goal scorer, so that was my job. I enjoyed scoring goals. We always had good teams.

"It just turned out that I played in Oklahoma City where we averaging 10,000 fans most of my career ... it was just great place to play."

Back home

At age 37, Burton came back home and played his final pro season (2004-

05) during the NHL lockout with the Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey League.

Burton played alongside NHL players Chris Chelios, Derian Hatcher, Bryan Smolinski and Sean Avery. One of his rivals in the CHL, former Detroit Red Wing Gary Unger, became his coach with the Mechanics.

And in 76 games, Burton displayed his scoring prowess once again with 36 goals and 28 assists.

That was as close as Burton would come to the NHL.

"For me, I got one week of training camp in the NHL with the (Phoenix) Coyotes," Burton said. "So that was kind of where I was going to be my entire career, at that level."

Burton remains rooted in the game, while still

DETROIT

lacing up his skates from time to time.

"I play in the over-18 league at Modano Arena," Burton said. "And now I'm playing in front of 10 people instead of 10,000. It's a big difference."

Burton and his wife of 17 years, Julie — whom he met at UM-Dearborn when she was a student and basketball player have two young sons, Luke and Joey.

"I coach the pee wee team in Westland," Burton said. "My kids are both playing. I got a squirt and a pee wee, so I kind of rotate and coach every other year one of them."

Burton didn't plan on a long pro career. It just happened.

"When I was in Oklahoma City, I told her (Julie) I was going to play two more years in the minors, then ended up playing 12 or 13," Burton said. "She's still pretty much at the rink now every night between two kids."

During the CHL's All-Star weekend, Burton was asked to drop the ceremonial puck and was an honorary coach.

The entire experience humbled him.

'When I heard about this honor, I was honestly speechless," Burton said. "As a youngster, I only dreamed about becoming a hockey player. And then as a teenager, you hope that you get the opportunity to keep playing at a higher level.

"But as a person with the chance to play professional hockey, the last thing on your 'to-do' list is to a make a hall of fame. The CHL and Oklahoma City became my second family, and I am truly grateful to be honored in this way.'

Salem girls win district tune-up

Salem enters the girls basketball districts on a high note, thanks to Wednesday's 47-39 victory over Milford in a KLAA tournament consolation game

The Rocks (6-14) square off against district-host Novi on Monday.

"It was a hard-fought game," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "We were able to figure out how to win it."

Salem built leads of 11-8 after one quarter and 22-14 at halftime.

Spearheading the victory were Breanne Beaver (17 points, nine rebounds) and Bri Berberet (12 points, seven boards).

Also helping the cause were Katelynn Krause (five points), Kelly Whalen (five points) and Katie Heitmeyer (four points).

On Monday, the Rocks lost 37-32 to Walled Lake Northern, despite 14 points from Berberet and seven from Beaver **BRIGHTON 43, CANTON 39:**

Wednesday night in the final

regular season game for Canton, the Chiefs fell short in this hard-fought KLAA tournament consolation bracket game.

Robyn Mack led Canton (15-5) with 18 points and five steals while Paige Aresco chipped in with 11 points and six rebounds. "Overall, when you look at the regular season, going 15-5

is a solid season," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "The girls should be really proud of what they have accomplished so far. There wasn't a lot of people out there that thought this team would win 15 games after losing those five seniors

last year.' **GRAND BLANC 39, PLYM-OUTH 38:** Without four starters in the lineup, Plymouth got off to a slow start Wednesday against Grand Blanc and could not recover. The Wildcats were down

13-5 after one quarter and 20-14 at the break. After a brief rally in the third, to cut the lead to 28-24, Grand Blanc wrapped up the victory with an 11-4 final frame. Jada Woody scored 10 points for Plymouth, with Chyna Williams and Alyssa

Burris contributing six each. "We did get it down to four points to begin the fourth but could not get quality looks down the stretch, Wildcats head coach Bob de Bear said.





THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Tuesday, Feb. 28 KLAA crossovers, TBD. Ply. Christian at Garden City,

7 p.m.
MHSAA GIRLS BASKETBALL **DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS CLASS A** at NOVI

Monday, Feb. 27: (A) South Lyon vs. (B) Plymouth, 5 p.m.; (C) Novi vs. (D) Salem, 7 p.m.. Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. Northville, 5 p.m.; C-D winner vs. Canton, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 2: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Farmington vs. Milford district champion.)

at LIVONIA LADYWOOD Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Garden City vs. (B) Redford Thurston. 4:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia Franklin vs. (D) Livonia Stevenson, 6 p.m.; (E) Livonia Churchill vs. (F) Livonia Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m.; Redford Union vs. E-F winner,

Friday, March 2: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Warren Cousino vs. Detroit Pershing district champion.) CLASS D

at WESTLAND **HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN** Wednesday, Feb. 29: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Plymouth Christian Academy, 6 p.m.

Friday, March 2: Lutheran High Westland vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p. Tuesday, March 6 at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes vs. District 6 champion.)

BOYS HOCKEY MHSAA PRE-REGIONALS DIVISION 1

at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Salem vs. (B) Canton, 8 p.m.; (C) Livonia Churchill vs. (D) Plymouth, 8

ner vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Plymouth's Compuware Arena vs. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central pre-regional winner.) at ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Birmingham Groves vs. (B) Orchard Lake

St. Mary, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia

Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B win-

Stevenson vs. North Farmington-Harrison, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 8 p.m. (Win-ner advances to the regional final, 6 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Livonia's Edgar Árena vs. Troy Sports Center pre-regional winner).

DIVISION 2 at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA Tuesday, Feb. 28: (A) Livonia Franklin vs. (B) Temperance

Bedford, 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, March 1:** Grosse Pointe South vs. A-B winner, 6:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Wyandotte's Yack Arena vs. Trenton Kennedy Ice Arena pre-regional winner.)

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS at PALACE of AUBURN HILLS Thursday, March 1 Round 1, 2:15 p.m. Friday, March 2

Round 2, 3, 4, 8:30 a.m. Semifinals, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 3 Round 6, 7, 8:30 a.m. Consolation final, 11:30 a.m. Championships, 4:45 p.m. PREP BOWLING

Friday, March 2 (MHSAA Team Finals) Division 1 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, 8:25 a.m. Div. 2 at Century Lanes in Waterford, 8:25 a.m. Div. 3 at Airport Lanes in Jackson, 8:25 a.m. Saturday, March 3

(MHSAA Singles Finals) Division 1 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, 8:25 a.m. Div. 2 at Century Lanes in Waterford, 8:25 a.m. Div. 3 at Airport Lanes in Jackson, 8:25 a.m. **GIRLS GYMNASTICS** Saturday, March 3 MHSAA Regional

at Plymouth, 10 a.m. **MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS** Wednesday, March 29 S'craft at Flint Mott, 7:30 p.m **WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS** Wednesday, March 29 S'craft at Flint Mott, 5:30 p.m. **ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE** Tuesday, February 28

Plymouth Whalers at Saginaw, 10:45 a.m. Friday, March 2 Brampton vs. Plymouth Whalers

at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 28 Windsor vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

'Cats girls lax meeting

LOCAL SPORTS

Anyone interested in playing Plymouth High School girls lacrosse in the spring should circle Thursday, March 1, on their calendars. At 7 p.m., there will be a mandatory parent and player meeting in room 401 at Plymouth High School.

Rockettes pom clinic

The Salem Rockettes Kids Clinic is just around the corner, slated from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 10.

Participants will learn various routines, receive a T-shirt and pon poms and be invited to perform at the annual Rockette Show.

To download the clinic flyer, go to www.pompon.salemrocks.com and click on documents.

Play GCYBSA ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs.

The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also is home to a

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Competitive League and travel programs (Boys Cardinals, Girls Pride Fast Pitch).

For more information, go to www. gcybsa.com or contact Coralee Ott at (734), 394-5358, via e-mail at cott@ canton-mi.org.

YMCA spring leagues

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for spring coed soccer and girls volleyball leagues.

Both leagues run from April 16 through June 9. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$84 for program members or \$115 for community members. The registration deadline is

If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

YMCA starts registration

The Plymouth Family YMCA is registering for its instructional clinics. The focus of these programs will

be on fun, exercise and social interaction through sports instruction. Clinics include Tiny Tikes Sports Sampler (ages 3-5), Preschool Basketball (ages

4-5) and Y Pucks (ages 6-8).

The programs run the weeks of March 6 through April 17. All classes are held in local schools during the

For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www. ymcadetroit.org.

Baseball clinics

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receive age-appropriate instruction from 2012 Plymouth varsity baseball coaches and players. Stations will include hitting, pitching, infield, outfield, catching and radar gun read-

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The pre-registration cost, which includes snack, is \$20. The fee is \$25 the day of the clinic. Pre-registration is urged, as the camp is limited to 100. Go to www.baseball.plymouthwildcats.com for more information.



Conference

after capturing the KLAA conference meet on Saturday, Feb. 18 at Euro Stars Gymnastics in Plymouth. It that the Chiefs won the KLAA tourney.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Purebred rescues to exhibit at annual dog show

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Chloe will get plenty of face time with the public during the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows next weekend in Detroit.

The miniature schnauzer won't put a paw into the judging ring, but will help promote purebred dog rescue — and might even catch the eye of a potential adopter.

"I want to get the word out to people that if you want a purebred dog, you can get one from a rescue. You can find just about any purebred you want through petfinder.com," said Mary McIver, a Livonia woman who heads the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue. The group will be among a handful of rescue organizations with educational booths and adoptable dogs at the Kennel Club shows March 3 and 4 at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

Kirsten Borgstrom, a spokeswoman for the show, said the inaugural exhibit will feature purebred rescue organizations with these breeds: boxer, bullmastif, Dogue de Bordeaux, English Bulldog, miniature schnauzer, pug, schipperke, and Soft Coated Wheaten terrier.

It will be McIver's first time exhibiting at the annual event.

"The other reason I wanted to do this was I want people to stay out of pet stores and away from disreputable breeders. Pet store puppies come from puppy mills. If you want a puppy, look for a reputable breeder."

Larry Nathan, a Farmington resident and founder of Michigan Pug Rescue, says he feels fortunate to be among the purebred



Kathy and Larry Nathan of Farmington show Scuito, one of their pugs.

rescues included in the Detroit Kennel Club shows this year.

"If it does nothing more than get our name out there, that's important. What we try to do is interact with the people there, give them our business cards or brochures," he said. "We take one or two dogs and it gives people the opportunity to interact with the dogs, learn what rescue is about and how they can go about adopting."

Michigan Pug Rescue participated in the annual dog shows two years ago as a part of Purina's Rally to the Rescue exhibit. But his group and other rescues shared the same space, along with Rally demonstrations and shows.

"This time each group will have an 8-by-10 booth and we can set up a table and chairs and have infor-

DETROIT KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOWS

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 4

Where: Cobo Center, One Washington Blvd., in downtown Detroit

What: The 108th and 109th shows are "benched," meaning that dogs must stay in their assigned display areas when they aren't in the ring being judged, giving visitors a close-up view of the dogs and access to breeders, owners and handlers. The event includes vendors, animal rescue groups and dog breed clubs and many special attractions including pet first aid and CPR demonstrations, terrier racing and lure chasing, Dog Scouts of America, Therapy Dogs Incorporated, field training demonstrations, herding demonstrations, coursing and training techniques and puppy competition

Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$8 for seniors, 65 and older, and children, 3-12; \$40 family pass for two adults, two children. Tickets available at the door; cash only. Discount tickets — \$12.50 for individuals and \$35 family pass — available at Kroger stores

Contact: www.detroitkennelclub.com

mation. It will be more beneficial to the rescues, 1 Nathan said.

New hobby
Michigan Pug Rescue
has fostered and found
homes for 450 dogs since



Chloe, a miniature schnauzer, will help promote purebred dog rescue next weekend at the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows.



Spencer, 5, is among the dogs available for adoption through the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue in Livonia. The petite, feisty pooch was rescued from a puppy mill.

2000 when Nathan and his wife, Kathy, founded the volunteer-based nonprofit organization.

"She (Kathy) told me you've got to find a hobby," Nathan recalled.
"In the summer I like to work outside. In the winter, I didn't have a hobby. We owned a pug at the

time. So, she came home one day with a copy of Dog Fancy and there was an article about dog rescue. I contacted them and they gave me the name of a rescue here. But they were more of a breed club and I was more interested in rescue. So we broke off in April 2000 and set up our own rescue."

The group takes on dogs that have been surrendered by their owners because of divorce and financial or health difficulties; rescues puppy mill breeder dogs and pugs in shelters.

"A lot of people don't want a puppy because they don't want the house training issues. If you get a dog from a reputable rescue, they know what is going on with the dog, the health issues and if its potty-trained."

The couple has adopted some of the special needs dogs the group has rescued. Scuito lost a leg as a result of abuse when she was a puppy. Buddy is blind and Hannah was

Please see SHOW, B7







isit www.canton-mi.org or caft 734/394-520

Reporter pens book on Maltese in Detroit

Diane Gale Andreassi, a Livonia resident and reporter for the South Lyon Herald, recently published Maltese in Detroit, a book documenting the emigration of residents from Malta, a small island country off the coast of Italy, to the Motor City.

Detroit has one of the largest Maltese populations outside the small nation, which is south of Sicily in the Mediterranean.

Published by Arcadia Publishing in the Images of America series, the book is filled with pictures of early immigrants and introduces readers to settlers and current residents. Pictures of Most Holy Trinity in Detroit and the Maltese clubs in Dearborn and Detroit offer a flavor of life among the Maltese today.

From 35,000-70,000 people of Maltese heritage



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 26, 2012

Diane Gale Andreassi

live in the United States and the Detroit area has the largest concentration. In fact, it is one of the largest Maltese populations in the world outside the small European nation in the Mediterra-

"The response to the book has been overwhelming," said Andreassi, who was born in

Detroit of parents who left their homeland to settle in a large Maltese-populated Corktown neighborhood of Detroit. "It was wonderful to meet so many Maltese people and to learn about the pride they have in their heritage,"

The book illustrates the importance of the Roman Catholic church in Malta and among the Maltese immigrants in their new land. It introduces readers to the Maltese priests who were among the notable people who welcomed and helped acclimate the others as they arrived.

It took a year to assemble Maltese in Detroit, but it was a labor of love for Andreassi, who graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a double major in economics and English.

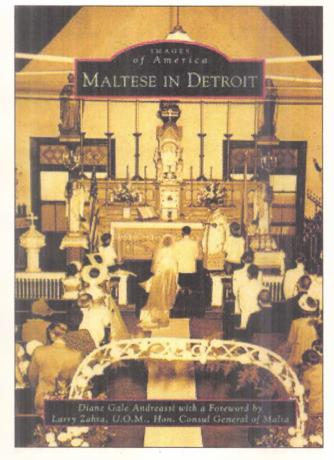
She started her career in journalism at the Dear-

born Heights Leader and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as a reporter and a lifestyles editor before taking a leave to raise a family. She has worked on countless free-lance stories for a number of publications, including Gale Research, working on encyclopedia entries, one of which was about Malta and its people.

She was active in Livonia's St. Colette religious education program for more than 10 years and worked as a substitute teacher and volunteer in Livonia Public Schools. Andreassi is an avid reader of books and newsprint of all kinds.

The books are available at large and small bookstores and for a discount rate by calling (734) 432-5974.

Readers can contact Andreassi at dandreassi@ hometownlife.com.



Reporter Diane Gale Andreassi said her book was a labor of love.

Livonia church seeks members for musical groups

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard Drive, Livonia, offers four performance groups for anyone interested in making music a part of their spiritual journey

during Lent and Easter. The Chancel Choir is preparing new music for the Lenten season,

including the Palm Sunday Cantata. The Palm Sunday program will bring choir, orchestra, handbells and narration together. Rehearsal CDs are available. Chancel Choir meets 8-9 p.m. Thursday. In addition to singing during the 10 a.m. service every Sun-

day, the choir will par-

ticipate in worship on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., and the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, beginning at 7 p.m..

Carillon and Campanelle Bell Choirs offer an opportunity to perform on handbells. The Carillon Choir meets from 6-7 p.m. and the Campanelle Choir rehearses 7-8 p.m., both on Thursday. Positions are available in both groups, particularly for bass bell ringers.

The church's orchestra, Grace Notes, periodically adds an exciting element to worship with original arrangements by director Mark Adams. Instrumentalists of all kinds may join the group.

For more information, call Paula Clinard, director of music, at (734) 422-0494, Ext. 15, or via e-mail at officergpc@yahoo.com.

GARDEN & NATURE

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

Library series

The Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, will offer a free series of gardening classes, 6:45 p.m. Monday, beginning Feb. 27. Topics are propagating plants simplified, methods of starting plants, Feb. 27; timing and tips for pruning trees and shrubs, March 5; composting done easily and inexpensively, March 12; trellises, arches and vertical plantings, March 19; and spring gardening — do it the right way, March 26. Advanced Master Gardener LeRoy Wolff is the instructor. Register at adult reference desk, or call (313) 531-5960, Ext. 103.

Livonia Club

Marsha Heads, Livonia Garden Club member, and Alicia Gorbutt will present "Gourds in the Garden." 7

p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Livonia Senior Center. located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. For more information, visit www.orgsites.com/ mi/livoniagardenclub/

Gardening seminars

The Master Gardener Association of Western Wayne Country presents a seminar for the gardening public, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the Wayne County Extension Office auditorium, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, Wayne. Cost is \$10. The topic is "Square Foot/High Yield Gardening," which 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. For more information visit mgwwc.org. To register, e-mail mgwwcorg@gmail. com or call (313) 719-1181.

English Gardens

• Learn about starting seeds indoors at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 3.

 A free presentation focuses on herb growing at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 10.

 Plant four herbs in a stylish container at a "Make it and Take it" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10. Cost is \$19.99. Register at www. englishgardens.com.

· Learn how to keep your lawn green at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17.

 Get tips on landscape design at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

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.English-Gardens.com.

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Evangeline Pescasio, RN In-Service Training Director

Fours Seasons staff 6-10 times a month in small group settings. It's her job to give nursing staff the tools they need to provide quality

"I teach about attitude and sensitivity, compassionate care and how to motivate staff to be exceptional," said

Before coming to Four Seasons, Evangeline worked as an RN for transplant and the surgical medical floor at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.

Her manager called her an ambassador for safety; everyone called her 'Angel' for a reason. "I got the inspiration from nursing to care for the whole person, not just the physical being. I spend time with residents, eye to eye, give them a hug. We're caring not only for residents, but families and co-workers.

I don't look at nursing as a job but as a calling." Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152

Phone: (248) 478-7860



A patient with a painful and swollen knee sees a doctor who removes the fluid and injects a steroid. But the doctor does something more: he sends the fluid to a laboratory for analysis. The report comes back with a fluid white blood cell (wbc) count of 5,000. With that information, the physician knows that the patient has a knee condition more serious than a sprain.

For physicians, joint fluid is not a watery substance to remove and discard. Rather, the fluid obtained needs analysis including a white blood cell count, a stain of a sample to uncover possible infection and a microscopic examination to look for crystals such as occur in gout.

In the instance cited above, the finding of 5,000 wbc's was key. Normally, the cell count in synovial fluid ranges from 50-500 cells. In instances of injury the cell count could reach 900-1000. A higher number indicates an inflamed joint and tells the doctor that he needs to obtain additional information from the patient.

In this case, further inquiry brought out that the patient had a past history of psoriasis, and that knee problems similar to the present one had occurred in the past, but always went away in time. Now the pain and swelling persisted which is why the patient made a doctor's appointment.

With this additional data, the physician could make a diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis, initiate proper medication - an anti-TNF drug - and give the patient assurance that well being would return. This resolution occurred because the physician took the time to treat synovial fluid with care and attention.

Catholic & Divorced? Married Outside of the Church? Curious About Rev. Fr. Jerry Slowinski, J.C.L. Pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish and member of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Marriage Tribunal, will join St. Michael pastor, Fr. Bill Tindall, to explain annulments, convalidation and the Catholic teachings on sacramental marriage Monday, February 27th 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria No charge or reservations required St. Michael the Archangel Church 11441 Hubbard Road (S. of Plymouth Road) Livonia www.livoniastmichael.org 734-261-1455



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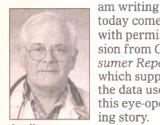
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Investigating appliance fires takes sleuthing

COMMUNITY LIFE

By Joe Gagnon **Guest Columnist**

The Sacramento Bee, a newspaper in California, published an article on Feb. 2 about the defects in appliances that can cause a fire. Much of what I



Appliance **Doctor**

Joe Gagnon

today comes with permission from Consumer Reports, which supplied the data used in this eye-opening story. The Web site

address www. SaferProducts. gov should be written in your personal direc-

tory because it may be of great help to you once you have read this column. This a Web site where you can go back years to check out the model number of your appliances and check

to see if they were ever under a recall published by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, (CPSC).

In the past five years, more than 15 million appliance units have been recalled by the CPSC and manufacturers for defects that could cause a fire; 7.3 million (almost half) of the recalled units were dishwashers. Almost four of every five recalls in Consumer Reports' analysis involved products made outside of the U.S. with the majority coming from China. The biggest recall in Consumer Reports' analysis was for 2.5 million GE dishwashers in May 2007. In March 2009, 1.6 million Maytag refrigerators were recalled because of electrical failure in the relay, the component that turns on the

compressor. National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data from 2002-2009 showed more than 69,000 fires in which

the appliance was the primary cause. Most incidents were attributed to ranges, followed by dryers, air conditioners, refrigerators and dishwashers.

Since March 2011, consumers have logged more than 850 instances of appliance fires on www.SaferProducts.gov, a site maintained by the CPSC that allows consumers to report product safety problems. The site has proved to be a useful forum for sharing safety concerns, but it has encountered resistance from companies that contend the information publicly posted is unverified. Consumers Union supports efforts to protect and promote the Web site as a way to publicly provide early warning of potential product problems. Consumers should be encouraged to share their experiences with unsafe products on the site to provide real-life experiences that can contribute to safety.

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taker@comcast.net or Fred

to receive a reunion packet.

above information is all pretty good stuff and I urge you to pass it around. I have spent the past 30 years writing books, this column, and doing radio shows across this country and always in my own polite way trying to scare the pants off of home owners. I have such a passion for this subject as most service technicians carry the same feelings. Talk to any appliance repair guy or gal and they have seen so much in regards to appliance safety. Don't you ever think I have a great love for these manufacturers who I know could do so much more for the customer who purchases their product? I honestly think that appliance manufacturers don't have a clue what the words "quality control" means and if government put the same emphasis on them that they do on the automobile industry we would certainly have safer products in our homes.

Register new appliances:

The large number of recalls is a sobering reminder of how important it is for consumers to register their products with manufacturers in order to be promptly notified in the event of a recall. Consumers concerned about their privacy or junk mail need only provide manufacturers with their name, contact information and the appliance model and serial number. I talk with thousands of homeowners every year and it still shocks me at how many people have plugged up vent lines on their clothes dryers. I will continue to scare every person I can in regards to the use of appliances and don't forget the Web site in this column. It could prove to be the most important address you have. Stay tuned.

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

Retired racer

My name is Image. I'm a retired racing Greyhound and I hope to find a home of my own. I'm looking for someone to love me and think I'm as special as I really am. My foster mom says that I'm actually the "Perfect Girl" so perhaps you will too. I'm a lovely brindle girl with eyes that will melt your heart. If you would like to meet me and learn a little more about me, please contact **GRACE** Greyhound Retirement Adoption Care and Education at (734) 558-4218 or e-mail gracegreyhounds@yahoo.com. Visit the GRACE website at www. houndsofgrace.org



SHOW

Continued from page B5

among more than 20 dogs they took from a puppy mill raid nearly 12 years

Activist, rescuer

McIver, who says her mini schnauzers are ner "second family," after raising her own two children, has rescued dogs from puppy mills, too. She and her volunteers regularly foster mini schnauzers that have been surrendered by owners, taken from puppy mills or dumped

in shelters. "You'll find me protesting at pet stores from time to time, although I can't do that as much because I've got the rescue," said McIver, who loves to watch rescue dogs "blossom" and "build confidence" while living in foster care. She got involved in animal rescue seven years ago after working in a pet store and took on leadership of the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer



Julie Barnett of Livonia, a volunteer with Farmingtonbased Michigan Pug Rescue, gives Detroit Pistons mascot, Hooper, a chance to check out a pooch at an adoption event in Novi.

Rescue in 2006, after its founder retired.

"I saw behind the scenes at the store what went on, the sick dogs that came in. I said we have to change it. People will say where do you expect me to get a puppy if I can't go to the pet store? You want to support breeders who are doing it the right way," she said. "The thing about getting a rescue dog is they usually are older. They've been in a home, they are

potty-trained and past the chew stage. They're a lot less work than puppies.'

Both McIver and Nathan said their favorite dog breeds make good family dogs. They like to "do whatever you are doing," McIver said.

For more about Michigan Pug Rescue, visit www.michiganpugrescue.com. For more on Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue visit members.petfinder. com/~M171/index.html.

REUNIONS

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST

CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the 'Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on face book. Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail. com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@char ter.net, SuzieWright Ŕogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@ gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH

weaver@sbcglobal.net

CLASS OF 1963 Planning for 50-year reunion, set for Sept. 15, is underway For more information contact JeanBadoud-Riddell at

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 **REDFORD THURSTON HIGH**

SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkiwestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more informa-

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1957

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or polly-girl219@aol.com. Or call Rich-ard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Óleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

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 personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperi-enced 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

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

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.

www.ssdfighter.com



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> Showtimes posted on www.mjrtheatres.com on the Tuesday before the posted date.

Passages Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BEANE MARY "PAT"

Age 79 of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Robert "Bob". Loving Mary mother Sobocinski, Robert Jr. (Virginia) Beane, and Connie (Rick) Fletcher. Dear grandmother of Sarah and Sheila Sobocinski, Rebecca (Greg) Perdue, and Robert III (Cassandra) Beane, and Ricky Fletcher. Dearest great grandmother of 8. Please call Fred Wood Funeral Home for service times (734)464-8060. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Please share your memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

ERICKSON, KENNETH HENRY

Age 80, of Holland. passed away, Friday, February 17, 2012 at Holland Hospital following a courageous battle with cancer. Ken was born on March 22, 1931 in Brooklyn, NY to Henry and Isabel Erickson. He received a bachelor's degree from Hope College and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan. Ken was employed by the Redford Union School District, where he served as school superintendent before retiring in 1992. Ken was also president of the Redford Township Chamber of Commerce. He served in the United States Army with distinction, earning the Bronze Star Medal with Valor in Korea. He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Betty in 2008. He is survived by his children; Jeffrey (Rosemary) Erickson of Holland, Brent (Marcia) Erickson of Williamston, and Bradley (Fiona) Erickson of Clarkston; eight grandchildren, Bryan, Michael, Jason, Nicole, Kelsey, Colln, Aidan, and Regan; sisters, Lois (David) Brenner of Oneonta, NY and Carol MacKenzie (Richard Lane) of Williamsburg, VA; in-laws, Joyce Martinus of Muskegon, Roger (Ruth) Borr of Holland, and Marsha (Paul) Northuis of Holland. Funeral services were held Monday, February 20, 2012 at Grace Episcopal Church, 555 Michigan Avenue, with the Rev. Jennifer Adams officiating. Burial was in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or Grace Episcopal Church. Arrangements were by the Dykstra Funeral Homes-Northwood Chapel in Holland, MI. For more information and an online registry, visit:

www.dykstrafuneralhome.com **GIBSON-WEST,**

Age 77 of Rochester Hills, passed

away Friday, February 24, 2012 at her residence. She was born May 1934 in Berkley to Charles and Lilyan Gibson. Mrs. West was an active member in the local community servicing many groups. She was the Past President and founding member of the Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxialiary. She was a Past Directress and longtime member of the Christ Church Cranbrook Alter Guild. She was a Past President and longtime member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood-Chapter DD. Mrs. West was also a past committee chairwoman of the Bloomfield Hills Village Club and a member of the St. Andrews Society of Detroit. She also retired as a bank teller from Standard Federal Savings. Most of all she was longtime wife, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Ronald A. West, whom she married June 25, 1955; her children, Michael (Suzanne) West of Grosse Pointe, Scott (Nancy) West of Duxbury, Massachusetts, Megan (Michael) Thurston of Bloomfield Hills, and Paul (Debbie) West of West Bloomfield; brother, Raymond (Ingrid) Gibson of West Bloomfield; and grandchildren, Elizabeth, Harrison, Charles, Jonathan, Julie, Nina, Christa, Mitchell, Emily, William, and Kirsten. Precededing her in death were her parents; her daughter, Julie; and her brother, Grant. The family will received friends Thursday 5-8 PM and Friday 1-8 PM at the Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home, 2125 12 Mile Rd. (2 blocks West of Woodward), Berkley. Mrs. West will lie in state Saturday from 10:30 AM until the time of service 11 AM at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Interment, Roseland Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family would ask that you consider a donation in Joan's memory to the Christ Church Cranbrook Altar Guild at 470 Church Road. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 or to the Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary, 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0801.

Share your memories at: www.sawyerfuller.com



HOLZHETER, **DOROTHY ANN** Dorothy took her final journey on

Monday, January 9, 2012 at home in Virginia Beach, VA. She was born in Pennsylvania on July 16, 1926 and lived in Livonia the majority of her life, she was 85 years young. She is reunited withher husband Herbert Holzheter, daughter Laura and son Louis Heller. She is survived by her loving children, Denean Evans, Herbert Holzheter Jr. and son-inlaw Jim. She took immense pleasure in, and loved, her grandchil-Rick, Laurie, Michael, Ryan and Kim and her great grandchildren, Evan, Ayden, Dillon, Emma and Hailey, along with many nieces and nephews. Mom had many longtime friends who will miss her. She was a great mother, wife, friend and neighbor, and above all, kind to everyone Mom always thought of others first and did not know a stranger. She was also an avid bowler and card player. Her Celebration of Life open house will be held at her Grandson's home at 34009 Edmonton Ave, Farmington Hills, Michigan on Saturday, February 25, 2012, from 1-6pm.

JOHNSON, GARY RAY

Age 60 of Bancroft/formerly of Howell passed away on Monday, February 20, 2012 at his home. A funeral service will be held in Livonia on Monday. Family will meet with friends on Friday from 1-8 p.m. at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home, Bancroft Chapel. Gary was born on February 15, 1952 in Detroit, the son of Raymond V. and Marcia A. (Kokones) Johnson. He was a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, Class of 1970. Gary was a Iron Worker. He is survived by his Fianc ee Myrna Wintermote, daughter Stacey (Richard) Griffin, grandchildren, James and Brianna, brother, Darrell D. (Donna) Johnson, step-brother, Nicholas Kokones, mother, Marcia (George) Kokones and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Raymond and brother Kevin. Memorials can be made to Bandcroft Lions Club or Durand Eagles. Online condolences can be sent to:



JONES, JACK

19, 2012, age 77 of Beloved husband of Livonia. Maureen. Dear father of Karen (Don) Taulby and John (Kim) Jones. Loving grandpa of Alec Jones. Mr. Jones is survived by 2 brothers and 1 sister. A memorial gathering will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home 36100 Five Mile Road (E. of Levan) Livonia, Sunday February 26 from 2-4PM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Please share your memories at fredwoodfuneralhome.com

ROBISON, ALBERT R. Age 83, February 20, 2012. Beloved husband of Bernice. Father of Diana (Greg) Cowling, Al (Dee), Rod (Michele) and the late Richard. Grandfather of Meredith (Shawn) Galdeen, Andrea, AJ (Jen), Ashley, Ryan, Kyle and Tyler. Great grandfather of Melody and Evangelene. Visitation Thursday 3-8pm at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). In state Friday 10am until llam funeral service at Garden City Community Baptist Church, 28237 W. Warren Rd. (Between Inkster Rd. & Middlebelt). www.santeiufuneralhome.com Family suggestions memorials to

REDDIG. WILLIAM EDWIN **AUGUST 8, 1923**

REDDIG, **BETTY FOLEY** JUNE 15, 1924



Taking a cue from the ending of the movie The Notebook, on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 12:35pm, William Edwin Reddig passed peacefully from this world. On his way to heaven William walked the nine miles to his wife's apartment in Petoskey, Michigan. After being told by her husband of 64 years that it was time to go on to their next great adventure, Betty also went to heaven. The two, independent of each other for the past three months, left this world within two hours of each other. As in life, Betty and Bill are together still. Bill was born August 8, 1923, to James Burr and Rhoda Fischer Reddig of New Jersey. Bill was the youngest of four children. Betty was born on June 15th of 1924, and was the middle child of her family, three beautiful girls, born to Hazel and Michael Foley of Bellaire, Ohio. Bill was commissioned as a Navy Pilot through the V5 Program shortly after the conclusion of World War II; He returned to New Jersey and completed a course in Industrial Design at the Pratt Institute. They met on a blind date at Penn Station. He and Betty were married in 1947 at the Church of the Transfiguration (the Little Church around the Corner) in Manhattan. Betty excelled at everything she set her mind to during her busy and productive life. In Birmingham, she was the President of the League of Women Voters. Bill's considerable talents were recognized at American Motors Corporation. Bill was responsible for the design of the roof rack placed on top of a car. From AMC he accepted a promotion to be Head of Design at the appliance subsidiary Kelvinator. His signature accomplishment there was to apply the style of the auto side of the business to what were then plain white appliances.
His concept shows "The Kelvinator Originals" featured refrigerators styled as fashion statements, integrating an elegant designer touch to custom kitchens. After divestiture of the appliance company, he rose through the management ranks to become Chief Executive Officer of White Consolidated Industries of Grand Rapids, Michigan. They are survived by three children, CAPT J.R. Reddig, USN-Ret., of Arlington, VA, Michael S. Reddig of Flagstaff, AZ, playwright and professional IATSE stagehand, Ann C. Reddig of Anchorage, AK, and seven grandchildren. There will be a memorial service in Shippensburg, PA, on Saturday, June 16. There will also be a memorial service in Bellaire, OH, on Sunday, June 17th. The family requests donations in lieu of flowers to be made in Bill's name to the Alzheimer's Association National Office, 225 N. Michigan



Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL, 60601,

and/or donate to your local com-

munity library in Betty's name.

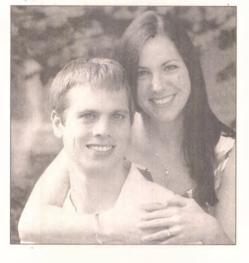
STREET, BERNICE L.

February 19, 2012, Age 92. A long time resident of Birmingham, she was the daughter of the late Lillian A. and Edward T. Leonard of Philadelphia, PA. Wife of Fletcher D. for 62 years. Mother of Richard L. of Birmingham, and Shirley E. (Nina Stark) of Troy, NY. Grandmother of Hannah D. also of Troy, NY. Sister of the late Elizabeth G. Leonard of Sarasota, FL. Highly intelligent, she received her degree in English at Temple University, and was a voracious reader. She had her masters in Bridge and loved to play. Above all though, was the kindness in her heart. Words cannot express how greatly she will be missed. Services have been held at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 362-2500.

JPANYIING TIRIIBUTTE TO THUE ILIUFIE OF YOUR LOVIEID ONIE

the Alzheimer's Association.

Milestones



Patterson-Jacobs

Mr. and Mrs. William Patterson of Plymouth are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Ann, to Robert (Jake) Jacobs, both of Corvallis, Ore. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jacobs of Webster Township.

Julie is a graduate of Salem High School and University of Michigan and is employed as a fitness and nutrition coach. Robert is a graduate of Dexter High School and Purdue University. He is pursuing a doctorate in physics from Oregon State University.

A summer 2012 wedding is planned.



Mitchell-Wooley

Elizabeth Ann Mitchell and G. Michael Wooley announce their engage-

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jim and Ruth Mitchell of Farmington Hills, graduated from Farmington High School and has a B.A. degree in special education from Michigan State University and an M.A. degree in education from Eastern Michigan University. She teaches elementary special education in East Detroit Public Schools.

Her fiance, son of Elizabeth Wooley of Colorado Springs, Colo., and the late George Wooley, earned a B.A. degree from Michigan State University and an M.B.A. degree from Walsh University. He is a sales director for Saturn Electronics in Rochester Hills.

A March 2012 wedding is planned at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester.



Bird-Smith

Ken and Linda Smith of Pinckney announce the engagement of their son, Jason, to Sarah Bird, daughter of Brian and Linda Bird of Tecumseh.

Jason graduated from Farmington High School and Michigan State University, with a bachelor's degree in music education. He received a master's degree in music education from the University of Michigan and is employed as director of bands at Skyline High School in Ann Arbor.

Sarah is a Tecumseh High School graduate. She received a bachelor's degree in music education from Eastern Michigan University and is employed as music director at St. Mary Catholic Central in Monroe.

The wedding is planned for July 2012 in Tecumseh.



Freeman-Lorentz

Alexandria Freeman and John Lorentz announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Kemper and Barbara Freeman of Livonia, will graduate in April with a BA degree in special education, language arts and elementary education from the University of Michigan Dearborn.

Her fiance, son of Joyce Lorentz of Novi, graduated in 2011 from Kettering University. He works for General Motors as an exhaust manifold DRE.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in Dearborn.



Parzuchowski-Foess

Kelley Leigh Parzuchowski and Scott David Foess announce their engage-

The bride-to-be, daughter of Kim and Joanne Parzuchowski of Westland, graduated in 2002 from Livonia Churchill High School and received a B.A. in accounting in 2006 from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. She earned a master's degree from The School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State University in 2008 and works as a CPA for Ernst & ' Young LLP.

Her fiance, son of David and Barbara Foess of Canton, graduated in 2003 from Salem High School and earned a B.A. degree in finance from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University in 2007. He received a juris doctorate degree in 2010 from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and works as a licensed attorney at Ernst & Young LLP.

The couple met in 2005 during a summer business program with the Multicultural Business Programs at Michigan State University.

They plan a fall 2012 wedding at Sts. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church, Detroit's oldest church building in use since 1848. Their reception will be held at the historic Colony Club of Detroit.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

February

BLACK HISTORY Time/Date: 11 a.m., Sun-

day, Feb. 26 Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100

Southfield Road, South-

Details: Observe Black History Month at 11 a.m. service. The church's Praise Dance Group and Children's Church will present dance and music selections. Light refresh-

ments will be served after the service. United Voices in Christ, a male singing group, also will perform at 3 p.m., Feb. 26

Contact: (248) 569-2972 or firstbaptist@fbc-detroit **BOWLING FUNDRAISER**

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26

Location: Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland

Details: For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes, pizza, and

Contact: (734) 427-3660

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 29 and March 7, 14 and 21 Location: St. Michael's Catholic Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Grieving with Great Hope, a four-week grief support series for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Presenters will include The Rev. Bill Tindall as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry. Register by calling the church of visiting Good Mourning

Ministry's Web site Contact: (734) 261-1455; www.goodmourningministry.net

FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hospital, hospice partner on new inpatient unit

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital's new hospice and palliative care unit began receiving positive reviews even before it opened last week.

"Prior to the opening, the staff did have the opportunity to make the unit available to a couple of patients to make sure that everything was in place," said Christine Westphal, director of palliative care services for Oakwood Health Care System. "One of the families in particular said they had a hospice experience before with another hospice, and they said this hospice experience was just tremendous by comparison. They couldn't say enough about the unit, the staff and the care they received. It was fabulous feedback that let us know we are definitely doing the right thing."

The six-bed unit, which opened Thursday at the Wayne hospital, offers the comforts of home, along with the expertise of medical staff. It's the first time Oakwood and Hospice of Michigan have collaborated on an in-patient unit dedicated solely to end-of-life and palliative care. Palliative services help patients with chronic or progressive conditions live as well as possible with their illness for as long as possible.

"Most people go to hospice because they don't want to stay in



The new hospice and palliative care unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital includes spacious seating areas for families, in addition to a kitchen and private patient rooms.



The new hospice and palliative care unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital offers large, private rooms.

the hospital," said Dr. Michael Paletta, vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer for Hospice of Michigan. But for some hospice patients, who need more intensive care than a private home or nursing center can provide, the hospital becomes a necessity.

"When that occurs, the patients are placed in whatever room is made available. They might be on a med floor. They might be in the emergency depart-

ment," Paletta said. "The thinking behind Annapolis is that this is a special area where all the staff is specially trained in end-oflife issues. We'll have the ability to transfer patients (from other floors) to there. And if a patient is in Oakwood Southshores or Oakwood Dearborn, they can be transferred to the unit without leaving the Oakwood system."

Like home
Diane Hartley, direc-

tor of patient care services for Oakwood Annapolis, said the new hospice unit originally housed a medical-surgical wing.

"We felt we could free up six rooms to provide hospice and palliative care," she said. "What we've done with the unit is made private rooms with more home-like furniture and amenities. The family has the ability to stay with the patient."

Families can sleep in a lounge and cook



Hospice nurse Rhonda Berndt is ready to welcome patients to the new unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

in a common kitchen area. The unit also includes separate bathrooms for visitors and patients, as well as a consultation room.

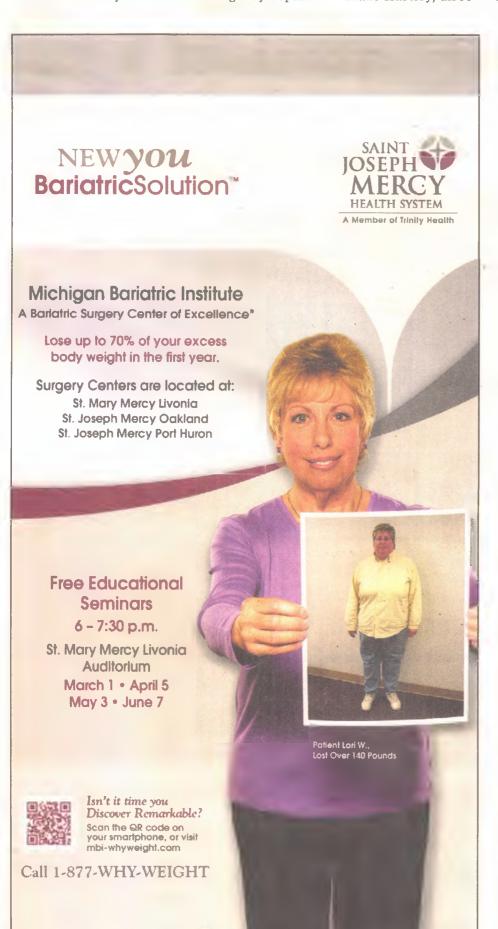
Each patient will receive a keepsake blanket that they can take home when they leave the hospital.

"The unit is not designed for long-term residential," Westphal noted. "It's designed for patients who are too unstable to be discharged or just need round-the-clock attention while we fine-tune their plan of care. The goal for all the patients is to help that patient and family transition to a place other than the hospital, whether it's a home

or nursing care center. For patients who are too ill, they'll stay with us for their final days."

Partners

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is located at 33155 Annapolis, Wayne; (734) 467-4000. Visit the Oakwood Health Care System site at www.oakwood. org. Hospice of Michigan offers pain and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support, home health aides, respite for family caregivers, equipment, supplies and grief support in the home, hospital and long-term care facilities. Visit its website at www.hom.org.



Spring forward to a good night's sleep with Garden City Hospital.



Having trouble sleeping? Believe it or not, Daylight Savings Time can play havoc with your sleep schedule. Come discuss a variety of sleep related topics with the board certified "GCH Dream Team". From insomnia to sleep aids, the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan will help you rest easier...and better!

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 5:30 pm – Registration 6:00 pm – Presentation

Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan

35600 Central City Parkway • Westland, MI 48185 (Located in the Westland Specialty Center; adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods)

This event is free to the public and includes speakers:

- Medical Director of the Sleep Disorders Center of MI,
- John Morrison, Jr., DO Reviews and explains the various sleep disorders
- Pharmacist, Lisa Cayo, R. Ph.
- Discusses over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids, and the interactions and effects of medications
- Sleep Medicine Specialist, Amal Omran, MD Provides an overview of sleep disorders in children
- Diabetes Educator, Sharon Goodsell, RN

 Explains the link between Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and diabetes

Plus, tour our technologically advanced facility

Also, on-hand to discuss the latest products and services for improving sleep are: Garden City Home Medical Equipment and Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc.

There will also be a prize drawing that will include gift cards and more!

Light refreshments will be served, but space is limited and registration is required. To reserve your space, or for more information, call 734.458.3330



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Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

Offers Up To 40 highway MPG²

• 2.0L Ti-VCT direct-injection I-4 engine • AM/FM Single Disk CD Player with MP3 Capability Advance Trac® Electronic Stability Control System ● MyKey™

2012 FUSION SEL FWD

Great Lakes Special Value Package MSRP: \$28,9855



23 city / 33 highway MPG²

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For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees at Signing Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title

Heated Leather Driver/Passenger Seats

and license fees extra.

- Moonroof Blind Spot Information System
- Reverse Sensing System
 Rear View Camera Sony® Audio System • Rain Sensing Wipers
- Sync® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System • MyKey™

2012 ESCAPE LIMITED 4x4

MSRP: \$30,9955



7 21 city / 28 highway MPG

For 24 months for current A/Z plan \$1,492 Cash Due Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

- Heated, Premium Leather **Trimmed Front Seats**
 - Power Moon Roof
- Reverse Sensing System
- 6-speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac with Roll Stability Control • 2.5L Duratec I-4 Engine

2012 EDGE SE FWD

MSRP: \$29,265



To Offers Up To 30 highway MPG²

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Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra

- 3.5 Ti-VCT V6 Engine
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™ AM/FM Stereo/Single CD-Player with
 - MP3 Capability Personal Safety System • 17" Painted Aluminum Wheels

2012 EXPLORER XLT FWD

MSRP: \$36,325⁵



Offers Up To 28 highway MPG

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees4 \$2,133 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Tire Pressure Monitoring System
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability
- Control™ and Curve Control Rear Camera
 MyKey™
- MyFord TouchTM

2012 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4



offers Up To 22 highway MPG²

For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees4 \$3,310 Cash Due at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

- Sync, Tow & Chrome package
- 5.0L V8 Engine
- 18" Chrome-Clad Aluminum Wheels
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll **Stability Control**
- Trailer Sway Control

FORD HAS EARNED MORE IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK RATINGS THAN ANY OTHER BRAND EVER.



Available on most vehicles.7 Check out Syncmyride.com



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(1) Horsepower and torque achieved with premium fuel. (2) 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 Edge SE with 2.0L I4 optional EcoBoost engine 21 city/30 hwy mpg, 2012 Explorer XLT with 2.0L 14 optional EcoBoost engine 20 city/28 hwy mpg and 2012 F-150 Super Cab with optional 3.5L V6 EcoBoost engine 16city/22 hvy mpg. (3) Not all customers will qualify for 1.9 % APR Ford Credit Financing, \$19.19 per month per \$1,000 financed for 60 months at APR of 1.9% on the 2012 Ford Focus. Take delivery from decler stock by 2/29/12. Residency restrictions apply. (4) 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. Fusion, Edge and Escape payments include \$500 trade in assistance and \$1,000 trade in assistance on F-150. Payments include \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash and \$250 on 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 3/31/12 and 3/5/12 on Focus & Edge. (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) Total of 37. (7) 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.