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Anastasia Risikov

Piano prodigy

Piano prodigy Anastasia Risikov returns for a second time to play with the The Michigan Philharmonic in an all-French program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

"The French Connection" will feature Anastasia on Ravel's lush and jazzy *Piano Concerto in G Major*. The program will also feature a new composition by Dr. Mark Petering, composer and professor of music at Cathage College in Milwaukee, who tips his musical hat to Ravel and ends with a shorter and smaller, but no less magnificent version of Ravel's *Bolero*.

Tickets for the concert are \$30, \$25 for seniors and \$10 for students and may be purchased by calling the Philharmonic office at (734) 451-2112 or online at www.michiganphil.org.

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Plymouth police see 'huge increase' in pistol sales

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Pistol sales to Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents are up sharply in January following the December massacre at a Connecticut elementary school and talk of new gun regulation.

In the township, police recorded 88 pistol sales in the first 17 days of January, compared to 84 in all of December. In the city, some 16 sales were documented

in the first 10 days of the month, compared to 13 total last month.

"Apparently people are worried that there's going to be more regulation, more firearms regulation put in place," township Chief Tom Tiderington said, citing a "huge increase" in pistol purchases by township residents compared to what is normal for this time of year.

Local police departments are informed of residents' legal pistol purchases through paper-

work that buyers are supposed to turn in to police. If the sale is through a licensed dealer, a background check is required, either by the dealer or the police; police departments clearing residents for buying pistols issue them purchase permits. If the pistol sale is between two individuals, the buyer is supposed to obtain a purchase permit from police.

Dealers' background checks are done through the National

Instant Background Check System, or NICS.

Rifle and shotgun sales in Michigan are not reported to police, but Tiderington said his sense is that gun sales are up "across the board" in the weeks since the Connecticut shooting.

Neither Tiderington nor Plymouth Chief Al Cox knew of any stores in their communities that sell guns, though, they said,

Please see SALES, A3

Perfect Game

A fundraiser in Plymouth next month will give baseball fans a chance to see some legendary former Detroit Tigers and revisit the Tigers' two most recent championship seasons.

"The Perfect Game," a dinner and discussion among former Tigers about the World Series-winning teams of 1968 and 1984, is Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Meeting House Grand Ballroom. It's a benefit for the Miracle League of Plymouth, which in 2011 opened the Bilkie Family Field, a baseball field designed for special-needs children.

The event will feature hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, a five-course meal and the baseball discussion, plus a computer-simulated matchup between the 1968 and 1984 Tigers teams. Sports broadcaster Eli Zaret will be the master of ceremonies.

Representing the 1968 Tigers are Hal Naragon, Mickey Stanley, Tom Matchick, Gates Brown and Denny McLain. Guests from the 1984 team include Dave Bergman, Dave Rozema, Barbaro Garbey and Dan Petry.

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Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see Taylor Swift on Saturday, May 4, at Ford Field. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter. Go to our website, Hometownlife.com, and look on the right-hand side in our Don't Miss module. Click on the photo of Swift to take you to the contest page.



PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Macomb Community College Ice Carving Team member Bradley Groszkiewicz carves the fantasy plant that is part of Disney's new movie, 'Sophia The 1st Movie.'

Crowds enjoy interactive ice festival

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Visitors to Kellogg Park climbed, skated and skied as the Plymouth Ice Festival got under way Friday afternoon.

With a host of interactive features — sculptures to climb on and pose with, a skating rink of synthetic ice and a trail for cross country skiing — and more than 100 sculptures, the three-day festival brought families downtown during its opening hours Friday. The 31st annual festival continues through Sunday in the park and on downtown streets, offering carving competitions, demonstrations, refreshments, entertainment and the chance to try out winter sports.

"I like coming down with the family and seeing all the sculptures," said Kristy Glover of Plymouth, who was at the park with Adam Sexton of Plymouth and his brother, Todd Sexton of Westland, plus Todd's wife Brid-



Henriette Rowland, manager at Sun & Snow's Ann Arbor location, helps 6-year-old Larry Salisbury of Belleville navigate the cross country ski track.

et and their daughter Isabelle. "It's a nice, family-friendly atmosphere down here," Todd Sexton said.

Please see FESTIVAL, A2

Let the show begin!



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ron and Mary Pat Edwards are early arrivals for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new atrium at Robo Center. Ron is Plymouth Township Treasurer. The ribbon cutting kicks off the evening for the annual North American International Auto Show Charity Preview. See page B8 for more auto show coverage and view photo galleries of the Charity Preview at www.hometownlife.com.

Snyder's road focus music to local ears

By Phil Allmen
Staff Writer

Local government officials have long sought a way to fix road problems, most notably traffic congestion near the Ford Road/I-275 corridor, but have gotten precious little support from federal and state officials.

That's why Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy was glad to hear Gov. Rick Snyder make roads such an integral part of his State of the State speech Wednesday night.

During his speech, in which he said Michigan is on the right path but needs to continue to reinvent itself, Snyder said fixing the state's infrastructure is a priority, pointing out "it's time to do something about roads."

Changes, Snyder said, are needed both with revenue and distribution of funds. Snyder called for higher gas taxes and

Please see SNYDER, A3

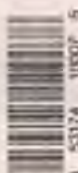
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FESTIVAL

Continued from page A1

He had just snapped a photograph of Isabelle posing on the "ice throne," on the Main Street side of the park, one of several sculptures that invited photo opportunities.

Isabelle, 5, pronounced a much larger castle sculpture, made up of many blocks of ice, her favorite.

"I love the castle," she said. "It's so big, and it's pretty."

Nearby, Dionne and Liyah Taylor were posing with sculptures of angel wings and television sets, with dad Dion taking pictures.

"The girls are having fun," said their mother Latreece. The Taylors, of Ypsilanti, were making their first visit to the festival.

Dionne, 10, said the



PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Chef Omar Mitchell from Rub BBQ Pub in Detroit gets the jumbo turkey sticks ready to serve the large crowds expected at this year's Plymouth Ice Festival.

blank television sets — which invite viewers to get behind them to get "on TV" — were her favorites; she liked the detail. Liyah, 6, said she liked the angel wings.

"We've got them well-insulated," against the cold, Latreece Taylor said. "Lots of layers."

Carver Bradley Groszkiewicz, representing Macomb Commu-

nity College, carved an abstract sculpture that was part of MCC's three-piece display near Penniman Avenue and Union Street. The display also featured characters from the upcoming Disney animated movie *Sophia I*.

"I started five years ago and I fell in love with it," Groszkiewicz, who studied culinary arts at MCC,



Henry Ford Community College display that stands out on a chilly Friday opening.

said of carving. "It's a whole different art."

Groszkiewicz, the chef for a soon-to-open restaurant in Mount Clemens, said he was also preparing for the upcoming World Ice Art Champion-

ships, to be held in Alaska. "This is like a little bit more practice for us," he said.

Groszkiewicz planned to compete in Sunday's collegiate team competition at Kellogg Park.

For more information on the Plymouth Ice Festival, visit the website www.plymouthicefestival.com.

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Sisters Carly and Allison McCulloch from Waterford play the MGM piano that is on display at this year's Plymouth Ice Festival.

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MARY HOLALY

Angie Sun (right) works with Salem High School senior Maddy Buchel in the writing center at Salem.

Sun rises to academic success

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When Angie Sun arrived at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park almost four years ago, she was a quiet, shy kid with few friends who was uncomfortable talking to people.

Her only thought at the time, she said, was this: "I really want to do well."

Mission accomplished.

Sun, the daughter of Min Yang and Pu Sun of Canton, scored a perfect 36 on her ACT, a perfect 2400 on her SAT, and is carrying what may be a P-CEP record 4.43 grade-point average.

If that's not enough, she's taken more Advanced Placement tests (15) than any girl in the state, and she's scheduled to take four more.

"She's very driven," said Sue Welker, an English teacher who runs the writing center at Salem High School, where Sun is a tutor. "Her drive is a mixture of expectations

and Angie's own personal desire to constantly better herself."

Sun, a 17-year-old senior at Canton High School, has certainly worked to do that. She's a member of the National Honor Society, president of the Science Olympiad, which finished second in the state last year, and also part of the Math Olympiad team.

She was the only girl in three different computer programming courses, including AP JAVA, and she tutors peers in the Writing Center at lunchtime.

"I really enjoy helping people," Sun said. "It makes me so happy when they 'get' it."

Sun took that "helping people" attitude to heart when she started a summer camp for kids in China a few years ago. Heart to Heart Summer Camps was founded in the wake of the Sichuan Earthquake of 2008. First started as a response to the earthquake, the camp

has shifted its focus to disadvantaged children throughout China.

As part of the camp curriculum, counselors use computer games — many of them created by Sun herself — with an educational orientation to try to engage the children.

"Chinese teachers are more book-oriented ... Here's the text, memorize it," Sun said. "Kids really need to be emotionally engaged, or they're just memorizing facts."

Sun credits the camps — now run in Mianyang, Chengdu and Le'an — with helping her break out of her shell.

"Campers needed someone to talk to them and lead them, and I was forced to be that person," Sun said. "It has made me a much more outgoing and confident person."

Welker said many of those gifts have led Sun to succeed.

"She's original in thought, and once she has these ideas, she follows

AP PICKS

Each year, Advanced Placement selects one male and one female student from each state in the union to receive its State AP Scholar Award. This year, both of those students were from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Todd Maslyk, a 2012 Plymouth High School graduate, and Angela Sun, a senior at Canton High School, are among 108 students nationwide to receive this honor. This is the 22nd annual celebration of State AP Scholars.

The College Board confers this distinction on these students with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.

through," Welker said. "Add those natural talents to the drive to succeed, and great things happen."

The next great things to happen will likely come for Sun in college. She's already been accepted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — from which her father graduated — along with University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State.

She has also applied to Wayne State's Med-Start — she said her mom would like her to go into the medical field — program and to John's Hopkins and Stanford.

But Sun's heart lies in computers, and she'd love to hook on at Google or Microsoft — as a leader, not just a behind-the-desk technician.

"It would be really cool to work at Google or Microsoft ... They are good at producing things that are publicly used," Sun said. "My perspective is unique. As a girl, I could add some energy to the field."

PCEP band hosts annual talent show

Band students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park have planned a variety talent show for the local community on Friday, Feb. 1, at Salem High School on Joy Road in Canton.

"Variety Is..." begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for all patrons. Children five and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host "Variety Is..." each February to help defray the cost of the upcoming Marching Band season. The public is encouraged to attend.

The "Variety Is..." event is a student managed talent show comprised of musicians, comedians, dancers, singers, and musical groups. With a total school population of over 6,000 students at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, there is a wide variety of talent right in our own

community. Each performance group or soloist must audition for the Variety Is... organizers.

The students organize the annual event as part of their concert band curriculum led by director of bands, David Armbruster, with assistance from Jonathan Thomann, associate director of bands. Senior band students have led the student committee volunteers to publicize, audition, and organize the acts as they prepare for the annual show.

Performances expected from the PCEP Dance Team, Indian American Student Association (IASA) and the Asian Pacific American Club (APAC). The award-winning Plymouth-Canton Marching Band will conclude the evening with their spectacular 2012 show, The Last Dance. This will be the last official performance of the 2012 National Finalist band.

Academy heads to Future City contest

Students from Crescent Academy International in Canton will return for the second year to compete in the Michigan Regional Future City Competition, set for Monday, Jan. 28, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Last year, Crescent Academy students walked away with three special awards: Best Engineered Project, Best Rookie Team, and the Sustaining Our Future award. This year, they will have the opportunity to try again for the top award as they compete against more than 500 other students from throughout the State of Michigan.

Organized by The Engineering Society of Detroit

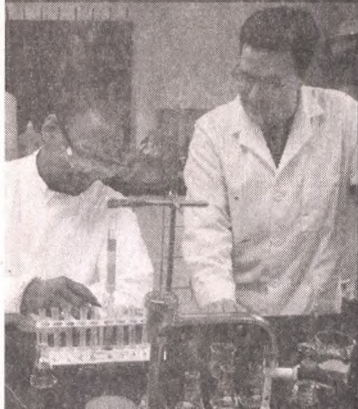
(ESD), Future City is a nationwide competition that challenges 6th, 7th and 8th grades students to envision a city 150-plus years into the future in which they would like to live.

This year's theme challenged students to "Rethink Runoff: Design clean solutions to manage stormwater pollution."

The winning team will go to Washington, D.C., in February to participate in the national competition with teams from throughout the country.

For more information about Future City, contact Della Cassia at (248) 353-0735, ext. 112, or visit www.esd.org. This event is open to the public.

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

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Arts group gets help with factory plan

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Since the Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities acquired the 50,000-square-foot Henry Ford factory in Canton's Cherry Hill Village last summer, the next step has been figuring out what to do with it.

Partnership officials, with the help of students in a graduate level business class at Madonna University, are developing a plan to do just that.

Using the kids in Madonna's Strategic Management of Business Policy class, Partnership officials are laying the groundwork for what the factory can become.

"We have not been at a loss for ideas of what to do with the space," said Jill Engel, the Partnership's director. "We were so excited to jump off that ship (when they got the keys in August). Now we've pulled back the reins a little bit and we're figuring out just what to do next. We want to make sure we do it right."

The property, built by Ford to provide jobs for veterans, includes a creamery building that used to be a dorm for those veterans, according to Engel. The 14-acre property (fewer than three are usable) and the 50,000-square-foot factory were last used by De-Staco of Auburn Hills as a cylinder factory, she said.

Arts expansion

While the specifics about what the partnership might put there are still sketchy, the partnership, Engel said, remains committed to expanding the arts in western Wayne and eastern Washtenaw counties.

The partnership is getting help figuring out exactly how that happens. In addition to the business class, a Madonna University marketing management class help develop the marketing aspect of the business plan.

Engel has also met with representatives of Michigan State University's graduate-level "Fundraising and Philanthropy" class. Students from the Novi outpost will help the partnership develop its fundraising plan as plans for the center move forward.

Financial help has also begun rolling in. The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., of Canton has donated some \$100,000 worth of in-kind services to help the partnership deal with environmental issues related to the project. Mannik & Smith is a consulting firm for, among other things, geotechnical engineering and environmental con-

sulting. The firm employs nearly 200 engineers.

"We're very excited," said Mannik's Walter Bolt. "The ... factory site has a unique and compelling story to tell. It's a great project with local roots that is part of an even bigger national story, one that has shaped our past and will continue in the future with the context-sensitive preservation and adaptive reuse of the property."

The partnership also benefitted from a \$10,000 grant from MotorCities National Heritage Area, an affiliate of the National Park Service dedicated to preserving, interpreting and promoting the automotive & labor heritage in Southeast Michigan.

Regional center

"We are both proud and inspired to be supporting the development of the Cherry Hill Cultural Art Center," said managing director Nancy Darga. "This project not only preserves this historic mill, it will act as a catalyst in the future revitalization of the Cherry Hill area as a cultural centerpiece for the region."

The regional prospects for what the center could become are intriguing to partnership officials. Doug Mans, one of the owners of Mans Lumber in Canton and the president of the partnership board, said he has a friend at the University of Michigan who told him the partnership should "think big."

"This is a regional

thing," Mans acknowledged. "You can't just think, 'This is Canton.' It's much bigger than that."

The regionalization of the project certainly isn't far-fetched. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill already draws patrons from around southeast Michigan.

Mans thinks, paired with the theater, the Cultural Art Center (a tentative name being used for now) could help form the basis of a "downtown" area of Canton.

"For me, for Canton to create a downtown we need a center hub," Mans said. "The theater started that, but this could really cement it. This could really be a neat part of what Canton can become."



The Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities has begun building a business plan for the 50,000-square-foot Ford factory it bought last year.

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Taking Ford buyout offer makes sense for some

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Q: Dear Rick: I am a Ford retiree and I have to make a decision whether to accept the buyout. I am 61 and I am still working. I love my job and I plan to work for at least another 10 years. My wife, who is about 10 years younger than me, is also working. My salary covers all of our living expenses and we basically bank my pension and my wife's salary. My wife will probably retire when I do. If I don't take Social Security until 70, it will cover the great bulk of our expenses. Currently, we have about \$400,000 in IRAs and approximately \$150,000 in other investment accounts. My wife and I are generally in good health and I don't see where we will ever need the money from the pension. We think it makes sense to take the lump sum, invest it and then leave it to our children. We are curious of your thoughts.

A: Congratulations on achieving the American dream. It appears to me that you can retire when you want and maintain your lifestyle throughout your lifetime.

I agree with you that you should accept the buyout. Taking the lump sum gives you lots of flexibility and opportunities. Since you will not need the money, you can have the money directly deposited into your IRA, where it will grow tax-deferred until required minimum distributions begin at 70½. You will have nearly 10 years to let this money grow tax-deferred. During that period, it can grow substantially for the benefit of your family.

After all, you have sufficient reserves between your current IRA and your other assets to cover any expenses that you

keep the pension. On the other hand, for an individual who understands the markets and is willing to accept some short-term pain for long-term gain, I would lean toward accepting the buyout. The key is to be honest with yourself and to know what type of investor you are.

If you're a Ford retiree and have received an offer for a pension buyout, it is one of the most important decisions you can make. This decision is too important to leave to salespeople. Unfortunately, too many people are falling prey to salespeople who are using this as an opportunity to sell their low-paying, inflexible investment products to unsuspecting individuals. All too often in the financial world, the only goal of a salesperson is to sell. The key in making this decision is to make the right decision for you.

I am holding another free Ford Pension Buy-Out Seminar on Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Laurel Manor Conference Center located at 39000 Schoolcraft Road (between Newburgh and Haggerty) in Livonia. The seminar begins at 10 a.m. (continental breakfast served at 9:30 a.m.). Register via email at seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com or call at (248) 932-1379. Good luck!

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

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Canton man charged in real estate fraud

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A Canton man who works for a Redford real estate office has been charged with conducting a criminal enterprise to buy and resell homes in Wayne County.

Samer Salami, 32 of Canton used his position with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to steer the mortgage company to purchase homes with low prices, authorities say. He then steered Fannie Mae to sell the homes for a higher price to a company called Trademark Assets, one authority says. Salami. He bought

and profited from more than 20 homes between August 2007 until April 2010 in communities such as Redford, Dearborn Heights and Detroit. Prosecutors say Salami made more than \$265,000 in the scheme.

He is employed by Villa Realty, located in the 25400 block of Plymouth in Redford. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy announced the charges against Salami Wednesday. He is charged with two counts of conducting a criminal enterprise, two counts of embezzlement of \$100,000 or more, three counts of using a computer to commit a crime and

five counts of false pretenses. He was scheduled for arraignment Wednesday in 17th District Court in Redford.

If convicted, Salami faces up to 20 years in prison.

"It is vital that we continue to arrest and prosecute those who manipulate the system illegally to line their pockets," said Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon in a statement. "These individuals are placed in a position of trust by the government and by the potential homeowners, they must be held accountable when they abuse that trust."

The two homes in Red-

ford named in the release are located in the 9500 block of Fenton and the 9700 block of Woodbine.

Worthy said the arrest and charging of Salami is crucial to show that criminals should not illegally profit during a time of low housing prices across the county.

"This is a breakthrough case because it is the first case in the country where there has been a state prosecution of a criminal enterprise involving Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac," she said. "We hope this case will send a message across the nation to those who think they will profit from mortgage and deed fraud."

Help 4 Healing Hearts holds free workshop

Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken? Does your mind stir with unanswered questions? Are you embarrassed to talk about it - to anyone?

For people who answered yes to any or all of these questions, Hope 4 Healing Hearts can help. The group can't make what has happened go away, nor can it help get them out of jail. It can, however, provide individuals with a safe place to talk, where no one else will judge them or their loved one or just a place to listen to others

and know that they're no longer alone.

The free workshop will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. on four consecutive Mondays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 23, at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. Donations will be accepted and appreciated.

While it is a free workshop, space is limited, so call by Feb. 1 to reserve a seat and to insure getting an informational packet.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Middel tapped to lead W-W school board

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board has a new member following the swearing of Sally Madison Monday evening.

Madison and incumbent Frederick Weaver were sworn into office as part of the school board's organizational meeting.

"I want to thank my family and friends for their support," said Madison, whose husband, Ron, administered the oath of office. "It's an honor to have been elected. I look forward to serving."

A Westland resident, Madison was the top vote-getter in the November school election, winning one of two six-year terms on the board.

Weaver, also a Westland resident, placed second. A veteran school board member who resigned in 2008, Weaver was appointed in August 2011 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of William Gabriel.

"I'd like to thank the voters in Wayne and Westland for their support and I look forward to serving for six years," said Weaver, whose wife, Theresa, administered the oath of office.

He also thanked Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc and other city officials who worked closely with his campaign

and told his fellow board members that he accepted the office "willingly" under the proviso that the board work together for the betterment of the district and the students.

Canton's Carol Middel will continue to lead the Wayne-Westland school board after being elected to a second term as president. Wayne resident Thomas Buckalew was elected vice president, with John Goci of Westland as secretary. Shawna Walker of Westland will continue to serve as the board treasurer.



The newest member of the Wayne-Westland school board, Sally Madison, is sworn by her husband Ron.

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LIVE SAT. 1/19 12:55 PM

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MON. 1/21 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:45

METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES TROYENS
ENCORE WED. 1/23 6:30 PM

THE BEST OF THE FRANK LINE - MARIANO
THE HOUSE OF WAX - FR. 1/24 7:30 PM

Ⓜ MAMA (PG-13)
12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

Ⓜ THE LAST STAND (R)
11:30, 2:05, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

Ⓜ BROKEN CITY (R)
11:10, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

Ⓜ GANGSTER SQUAD (R)
11:20, 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

Ⓜ ZERO DARK THIRTY (R)
11:40, 2:55, 6:15, 9:25

Ⓜ A HAUNTED HOUSE (R)
12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG)
FRI, SUN, TUE 11:50, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00,
9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:40
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rod Alberts is executive director of the North American International Auto Show. He's next to the Cadillac ATS, the 2013 North American Car Of The Year.

Auto show brings sense of pride to Detroit area

Alberts: 'My excitement comes from people loving the show'

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Sunglasses may be needed indoors at the North American International Auto Show this year as the automakers spared little expense to showcase their best and most innovative vehicles and products.

The \$250 million worth of displays on the show-room floor at the Cobo Center are different for every company, but one thing is constant — the vehicles all shine.

Rod Alberts, Bloomfield Hills resident and executive director of the NAIAS for the last 20 years, said the public is going to be taken aback by not only the displays, but the positive energy being exuded by auto companies throughout the world.

"(I hope) they say 'Oh my gosh, I cannot believe we have Vegas right here on the show floor,'" Alberts said.

And while the lights and sounds may make it seem like Vegas, there is something missing — gambling. The auto companies are no longer gambling on their futures, instead making calculated decisions and putting products in the market that consumers want and need.

As the executive director of the NAIAS, Alberts manages all aspects of auto show operations.

Alberts also serves as executive director of

the Detroit Auto Dealers Association and said better quality products and the economic turnaround have brought a "new sense of excitement" to the market.

In his role as DADA executive director, Alberts represents dealers' business interests at the state and federal levels, industry representation, communications, community relations, and educational and charitable endeavors and more.

He remembers in 2008 struggling to secure commitments from automakers to show off their vehicles at the show, and now the show is as strong as it has ever been.

"There's nothing like a comeback," he said.

The public show starts Saturday and Alberts is optimistic that attendance could approach 800,000 people. The media contingent approached nearly 5,000 people from upwards of 60 counties, and they were treated to more than 50 worldwide premieres.

"The feedback we received is that this is one of the best shows they have ever seen," Alberts said.

For Alberts, his "excitement comes from people loving the show" and he is off to a good start. He also wants those who come to Cobo, whether from the suburbs or out of state, to have a sense of pride in Detroit and

the progress being made. "I love being a small part of the change makers who can see the difference in the city and help with the turnaround," he said.

In addition to his duties at the DADA, Alberts is a member of the executive committee of the Metro Detroit Visitors and Convention Bureau; is a member of the board of directors of the Motor Cities Automobile National Heritage Area; serves on the board of directors

for The Parade Company; serves on the Steering Committee of the Harold E. LeMay Museum and; serves on the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference Committee. In 2002, he served as president of the Automotive Trade Association Executives, an affiliate of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

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Library center boosts business

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Fledgling companies, budding entrepreneurs, seasoned businesses and people seeking a career change have an ally in the Canton Public Library.

Doing its part to help the community pivot away from economic troubles; the library this month has initiated its Business Resource Center that provides access to over 2,600 books, a far-reaching database, business counseling, marketing strategies and other helpful measures.

Amy Lee, BRC coordinator, said the effort marks a joint venture with the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center and the Small Business Association.

Moreover, the library has partnered with Schoolcraft College's Business Development Center and SCORE, an organization that offers face-to-face advice from mentors, business support tools, local workshops, online resources and other measures to help companies get started, grow and thrive.

Canton's library hopes to pattern its BRC after similar programs in places such as Howell and Chelsea.

"Canton has a great business base," Lee said, "so I thought we could do something like that here."

The BRC itself is in its infancy, but SCORE counselors already had a debut program at the library, 1200 S. Canton Center. SCORE is set to offer other sessions 6-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Also, the BRC is

offering a free program at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, to teach attendees how to get noticed on Google, Bing and other web-based search engines.

Library Director Eva Davis said the BRC helps the library fulfill its mission of "connecting the community" — in this case by linking businesses and patrons to resources they can use to become more successful.

"We've had so much economic turmoil," Davis said. "So many people have had to make career changes. The library is a place of discovery, and we're connecting people."

Lee had previously been involved with Canton Township with its business-assisting Strategies of Success series. Her latest venture, the BRC, involved becoming certified by the Michigan Small Business and Technical Development Center.

Upcoming programs are expected to include topics as diverse as marketing a business and developing and writing a business plan. Laurie Golden, the library's marketing and communications manager, said a well-developed business plan can prove critical as owners pursue bank loans and other support.

Right now, the BRC consists of a small section inside the library, though SCORE and other organizations hold their sessions in meeting rooms.

For more information on Canton Public Library programs, go to www.cantonpl.org or call (734) 397-0999.

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Rod Alberts is executive director of the North American International Auto Show.

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Dog trainer for Broadway rescues animals from shelters for acting roles

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Bill Berloni doesn't have a household name in terms of any acting career, but thousands of Broadway fans, movie buffs and television viewers have watched his work and attention to detail.

Berloni has trained dogs for 30 years for scores of stage shows, movies, television shows and commercials, even winning a Tony award for his efforts.

What might be more remarkable is every dog he's trained he has rescued from an animal shelter.

Berloni appeared Wednesday at the Livonia Town Hall, a series of speakers that raises funds for nonprofits and charities, at St. Mary's Cultural Center.

Berloni brought one of his chihuahuas, Frankie. Frankie played the role of Bruiser in *Legally Blonde*, the musical.

Berloni learned about pets while growing up on a Connecticut farm, where he obtained a collie at age 2. "If you are mean to an animal, they won't hang around with you," Berloni said.

He described himself as "terribly shy" and "a geek" when he was young. Classmates teasingly called him "Billy Baloney."

From geek to class president

As a joke, a classmate nominated him for president. "I was terrified,"



Bill Berloni arrives with Frankie, one of his chihuahuas. Frankie played the role of Bruiser in 'Legally Blonde.'

Berloni said. "I didn't want to be a leader." A class adviser told him: "Don't let other people make you feel bad. Do the best you can."

Once at an assembly, Berloni heard chaos in the audience as he stood at the podium. He yelled "shut up!" The audience did, and a public speaker was born.

"I realized that people would listen to me when you stood at a podium," Berloni said.

"I was the class president for all four years," Berloni said. About that same time, he decided to get into acting, after seeing 13 girls on the stage at school one time.

"I would say other people's words that are witty, funny and intelligent so I gravitated towards the stage," Berloni said.

Berloni attended com-

munity college and worked for nothing as a technical apprentice to help with stage productions in Connecticut. One day, a new show needed a trained dog.

Trainers were too expensive and the stage crew nearly revolted when asked if they would train a dog. The responsibility to find a dog, and train it, fell on Berloni.

"Someone said they had cheap dogs at the shelter," Berloni said. He visited several animal shelters, seeing the dogs victimized by neglect by previous owners and now standing in their own feces. He wondered how can people do this to animals, especially after he had his own dogs as a child.

"I found out dogs were being abandoned," Berloni said.

Shelter dog turned actor

The sheer number of abandoned dogs was overwhelming to him, but one dog caught his eye. He was told that dog was afraid of people and that it was going to be put down the following day. He had \$3 to buy the dog, but it was \$7 and late in the afternoon. The shelter closed for the day.

He bought the dog the following day after borrowing \$4 from his roommate.

It began his training journey.

How would he get the dog on stage? Feed him.

He and the crew began feeding the dog and he slowly came around.

It was the original stage production of *Annie* and the dog became a big hit with audiences. Berloni said the dog loved the 10-year-old girl who played the title role. "It was fun to watch, especially with a dog that had been abused," Berloni said.

Then Broadway called and Annie was going to be performed there, so Berloni was asked again to train another dog. *Annie* opened and was a huge success.

"At the age of 20, I became a famous animal trainer," Berloni said.



Bill Berloni demonstrates how he can get Frankie to bark on cue.

He also kept a promise to himself that he would use animals from shelters for productions from then on.

"In the first seven years of *Annie*, we rescued 10 dogs," Berloni said.

Berloni realized he would not become an actor. But he found something more important: his destiny.

"There are the paths we want to take and the paths that we should take," Berloni said. In 2011 he was honored with a Tony award for his work.

He showed a brief demonstration of how he trains the dogs. He rewards them with food, but the dogs appear to catch onto a cue, which could be a line in the play such as "white shoes after Labor Day," Berloni also makes it appear that the dog is "cued" to bark even though Berloni is stopping the incessant barking by putting his hand over its mouth, and conversing with the dog to make it appear that the dog is responding with barks.

Dee Dee remembered

Former Mayor Bob Bennett introduced Berloni to the crowd, but before he did, he spoke about Dee Dee Dittmar, the president of Livonia Town Hall, who died earlier this month. It was the first Town Hall event since her death. Bennett asked for a moment of silence in her memory.

Dittmar served as president of Town Hall for more than 25 years. "Dee Dee brought a certain wit and humor to Town Hall," Bennett said. "She put together over 100 programs. She had a gentle, kind and humorous touch and was always willing to chuckle at herself."

Bennett said Dittmar and Bennett's wife, Janet, re-established the Friends of Greenmead. Dittmar also volunteered with the Friends of the Library.

"Livonia Town Hall and the city of Livonia will miss one Dee Dee Dittmar," Bennett said.

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BID FOR PURCHASE OF JANITORIAL SUPPLIES

Specifications and bid documents are available at the city hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: January 20, 2013

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Technology Department
1036 S. Haggerty Road
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Telephone 734-416-2711

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Technology Department
Truesdell Building
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Website: <http://tech.pccs.k12.mi.us>

Interpreter services available upon request to Technology Department.
734-416-2708

This project is authorized by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education Secretary Ms. Adrienne Davis.

Publish: January 20, 24 and 27, 2013

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Salem outlasts pesky Lions

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Bob Brodie won the 400th game of his Salem coaching career Friday night and he would be hard-pressed to find a tougher one than the Rocks' grueling 69-65 victory over South Lyon.

"They (Rocks) finished the basketball game and that's the mark of a good team," said Brodie, in his 29th year at the helm. "If you win the close ones and come back after you get down late in the game, that says a lot about your composure."

Entering the KLAA Central Division boys basketball matchup at Salem, the Lions were on top of the standings with a 4-0 record. Following the contest, both teams were 4-1 in the Central with the promise of a dogfight ahead. Salem and South Lyon are 9-3 and 9-2 overall, respectively.

With the combination of speed and physical play, the action sometimes seemed like a track meet and football game rolled into one.

"There (were) a couple different personalities to the game out there," South Lyon head coach Doug Host said. "Unfortunately, our problem was when it got into the 'football game,' we didn't play strong enough."

Salem managed to prevail despite a 23-point night by Luke Short, who kept the Lions close in the first half with two treys — including one in the final seconds to make it a 31-28 halftime lead for the Rocks.

Contributing 16 points was Dominick Quinlan, with Conner Weidman adding 12.



Salem's Kevin Mack (No. 11) dribbles away from the tough defense of South Lyon's Conner Weidman (No. 14) during Friday's KLAA Central Division boys basketball game.

Finding a way

Spearheading the Salem attack with 17 points and 12 rebounds was senior power forward Chris Dierker — who kept the Rocks in front during the third and early fourth with nifty shots in and around the paint for eight straight points.

Senior guard Kevin Mack scored 15, while senior forward

Nate Sass chipped in with 10 along with clutch defense just when the Rocks needed it most.

Despite foul trouble, senior center Ahmad Khalid (who fouled out) added eight points along with six rebounds. Also scoring eight was sparkplug senior guard Nate Sass, while junior center Michael Hoover

tallied seven points and four boards off the bench.

A 34-20 edge in rebounding went a long way toward the Rocks and Brodie coming away with the milestone win.

"You give up 12 second-chance shots to a taller team right by the basket, it's tough

Please see SALEM, B3

Hot start sets tone for Chiefs

Host Canton sprinted out to an 18-0 first-quarter lead Friday night and never looked back in a 59-19 rout of KLAA South Division opponent Livonia Franklin.

Rachel Winters paced a balanced Canton scoring attack with 14 points, while Taylor Hunley and Paige Aresco chipped in with 13 and 12, respectively.

Contributing six points each for the Chiefs (8-3 overall, 4-1 in the KLAA South) were Kelsey McDougall and Shannon Perry.

The Patriots, who trailed 39-3 at intermission, got 10 points from Katelynn Devers.

"The girls had a great first quarter and they sort of rolled from there," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "The entire team did a great job and I am very happy with the D they have been playing."

Conversely, Franklin first-year coach Jim Milican said his team (5-5, 2-3) was not "physically or mentally ready, but don't take anything away from Canton. They played a great game."

JOHN GLENN 60, PLYMOUTH 37: The combination of foul trouble and turnovers cost visiting Plymouth (4-7, 3-2 in the KLAA South Division) Friday night at Westland John Glenn.

Wildcats' head coach Bob de Bear said his team committed 30 turnovers (compared to Glenn's 11) "and that was pretty much the tale of the game."

Scoring 14 points and pulling down 14 rebounds for the Wildcats was center Shelby Cheston, who de Bear said "played great."

Senior guard Raven Bankston

Please see HOOPS, B3

Plymouth hockey wins playoff-like tilt

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The 'C' on Mitch Claggett's sweater stands for clutch and the Plymouth Wildcats varsity boys hockey team has an important victory because of it.

Plymouth defeated Livonia Stevenson 2-1 Wednesday night at Arctic Edge Arena thanks to Claggett's unassisted goal with 6:12 left in the second period — just 31 seconds after the Spartans' Dominic Lutz tied the intense KLAA Kensington Conference matchup.

The crisp, hard-hitting tilt had all the ingredients of a postseason game. Unfortunately, that can't happen now because of Stevenson's move to Division 2. Plymouth remains a D1 team.

"It's a great feeling," said Claggett, a senior forward. "Being able to put the puck in against a really good team means a lot, especially in tight games like this. It's just an unbelievable feeling, knowing our team can really battle through hard times and come out with a win."

The Wildcats won their ninth straight game and improved to 14-1-1 on the season, while Steven-

son (No. 3 in Division 2) dropped to 10-4-1.

"We're disappointed, but that's a good hockey club over there," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "They did the things necessary to win."

'Signature' response

On the go-ahead play, Claggett took advantage of a Spartans turnover. He wheeled and drove a hard shot from below the right faceoff dot that slid under the pad of Stevenson senior goalie Connor Humitz.

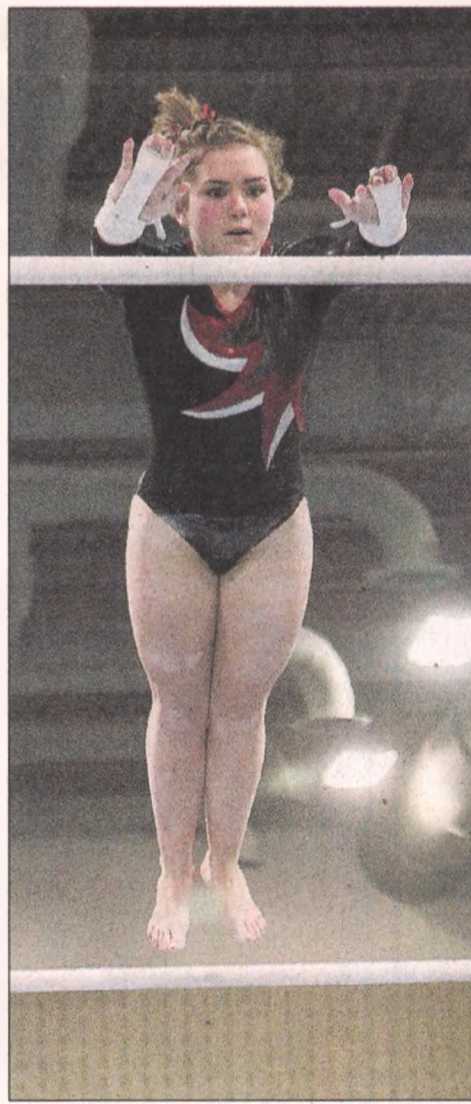
"That's huge," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said following the win against his former team. "That's just got to become the signature of our team. We respond well to adversity. Up in the Soo, we did the same thing. Our boys just don't know when to quit."

Claggett's goal doused any momentum the Spartans had going in the wake of Lutz's goal with 6:43 remaining in the second.

"They took the momentum right back," Mitchell said. "They didn't give us a chance to feed off of that."

Lutz briefly made it a 1-1 game

Please see HOCKEY, B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Melissa Green, shown here doing a routine on the uneven parallel bars earlier this season, helped Canton set a new school record for consecutive wins Wednesday.

23!

Chiefs set school record for consecutive wins

Make it 23 straight dual meet victories for Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team.

The Chiefs set a new school record for wins in a row with Wednesday's 144.575-to-136.5 victory over visiting Livonia Red. The previous mark was set in 1994-95.

Coach John Cunningham said the team's best score of the season was largely due to having 10 scores of 9.0 or higher on various events.

Spearheading the Chiefs were Melissa Green and Jocelyn Moraw, with three and two first-place finishes, respectively.

In the all-around, Canton sported the top three finishers as an indicator of how

talented and versatile the team's gymnasts are.

Green took first in all-around with a 37.15 score, followed by Moraw (36.575) and Nicole Lasecki (35.025).

In individual events, Green took the top spot on vault (9.35) and balance beam (9.575); Moraw won on uneven parallel bars (9.1) and floor exercise (9.6). Green also tallied a 9.325 on floor (third place).

Lasecki hit the 9.0 mark in two events. She placed second on floor with a 9.35, and came in third on beam (9.0).

Also with two nines was Maddie Toal, who finished second on

Please see 23, B2

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Jan. 17 at Wayne

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1. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Alex Bourdreau, Trevis Majtara, Josh Joy), 1:55.61; 2. Wayne (Ethan Drouillard, Alec Gibson, Noah Karson, Jacob Griffith), 2:08.89; 2. Canton (Anthony Garbarino, Jack Chaney, Nathan Benjamin, Grant Kurili), 2:14.24.

200 freestyle:

1. John Stover (WM), 2:00.56; 2. Michael Wilyard (C), 2:08.3; 3. Michael Gibson (WM), 2:09.09.

200 individual medley:

1. Bourdreau (C), 2:22.23; 2. Karson (WM), 2:28.25; 3. Zack Williams (WM), 2:33.38.

50 freestyle:

1. Devin Gibson (WM), 24.63; 2. Bindas (C), 25.05; 3. Joy (C), 26.17.

1-meter diving:

1. Nick Osann (C), 142.30 points; 2. Austin Tetlow (C), 140.35; 3. Uriel Figueroa (WM), 86.70.

100 butterfly:

1. Gerard Niermann (C), 1:02.48; 2. Karson (WM), 1:06.76; 3. Bourdreau (C), 1:09.49.

100 freestyle: 1. D. Gibson (WM), 54.45; 2. M. Gibson (WM), 56.99; 3. Joy (C), 59.13.

500 freestyle: 1. Stover (WM), 5:27.88; 2. Williams (WM), 5:56.23; 3. Mack Beeney (WM), 6:00.81.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (D. Gibson, M. Gibson, Williams, Stover), 1:40.44; 2. Canton (Majtara, Joy, Bindas, Niermann), 1:40.84; 3. Canton (Chris Jenner, Alex Sogge, Kyle Spence, Travis Alber), 1:48.87.

100 backstroke: 1. Drouillard (WM), 1:12.23; 2. Nathan Albin (C), 1:13.8; 3. Benjamin (C), 1:14.79.

100 breaststroke: 1. Jack Chaney (C), 1:25.12; 2. Nick Lacich (C), 1:25.63; 3. A. Gibson (WM), 1:26.72.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (Williams, Griffith, Beeney, Stover), 3:51.44; 2. Canton (Alber, Bindas, Sogge, Benjamin), 3:53.92; 3. Wayne (M. Gibson, Karson, D. Gibson, Collin Malcolm), 3:58.01.

Dual meet records: Wayne, 4-1 overall, 2-0 KLAAS South Division; Canton, 0-4 overall, 0-2 KLAAS South.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Several Canton gymnasts scored 9.0 or higher on events Wednesday, including senior Nicole Lasecki, shown from earlier this season.

Continued from page B1

beam with a 9.25 and had a 9.0 on floor — tying for fifth with teammate Hailey Hodgson.

Several other Canton performances weren't too far below the 9.0 mark, either: Green and Hodgson scored 8.95 and 8.7, respectively, on vault; Green (8.825), Lasecki (8.625) and Erica Lucas (8.6) performed well on bars; Moraw tallied a 8.925 on beam.

CANTON 144.575 LIVONIA RED 136.50

Jan. 16 at Canton

Vault: 1. Melissa Green (C), 9.4; 2. Maggie McGowan (Red), 9.05; Jocelyn Moraw (C), 8.95; 4. Hailey Hodgson (C), 8.7; 5. Sydney Grenier (Red), 8.6.

Uneven bars: 1. Moraw (C), 9.1; 2. Green, 8.825; 3. Katie Kretzschmar (Red), 8.75; 4. Nicole Lasecki (C), 8.625; 5. Erica Lucas (C), 8.6.

Balance beam: 1. Green (C), 9.575; 2. Maddie Toal (C), 9.25; 3. Lasecki (C), 9.0; 4. Moraw (C), 8.925; 5. Marissa McVey (Red), 8.875.

Floor exercise: 1. Moraw (C), 9.6; 2. Lasecki (C), 9.35; 3. Green (C), 9.325; 4. McGowan (Red), 9.15; 5. (tie) Hodgson (C) and Toal (C), 9.0 each.

All-around: 1. Green (C), 37.15; 2. Moraw (C), 36.575; 3. Lasecki (C), 35.025; 4. Toal (C), 34.60; 5. McVey (Red), 34.475.

Dual meet records: Canton, 5-0 overall, 3-0 KLAAS Kensington Division; Livonia Red, 3-4 overall, 1-1 Kensington Division.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 22
 PCA at Sfld. Christian, 7 p.m.
 Luth. W'sld at Macomb, 7 p.m.
 A.A. Greenhills at HVL, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
 Baptist Park at HVL, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
 L. W'sld at Luth. South, 6 p.m.
 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Roeper at PCA, 8:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 22
 Salem at Brighton, 7 p.m.
 Sfld. Christian at PCA, 7 p.m.
 HVL at A.A. Greenhills, 7 p.m.
 Regina at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
 Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Roeper at PCA, 7 p.m.
 Ladywood at Mercy, 7:30 p.m.
 L. W'sld at L. South, 7:30 p.m.
 Baptist Park at HVL, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Plymouth at S. Lyon, TBA
 G. Pte. N. vs. PCS Penguins at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 23
 Salem vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
 Ladywood vs. Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
 Churchill vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Compuware, 2 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. Mercy at Edgar Arena, 5 p.m.

Salem vs. Brighton, TBA
 Sault Ste. Marie Showcase, TBA
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Jan. 23
 Plymouth Quad, 5:30 p.m.
 Salem Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
 Clarenceville, Harper Woods at Luth. Westland, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
 Observerland Invitational at Churchill H.S., 9 a.m.
 Annapolis Tourney, 10 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 24
 Canton at Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
 Salem at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
 Wayne at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Sunday, Jan. 20
 Oakland County Tournament at Thunderbird Lanes, TBA.
Tuesday, Jan. 22
 Lady. at U-D High, 3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 23
 Salem vs. Canton at Super Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
 Northville vs. Plymouth at Super Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
 Ladywood at Mercy, 3:45 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
 Clarenceville Doubles Tourney at Merri-Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Tuesday, Jan. 22
 Livonia Red vs. Plymouth at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
 Livonia Blue vs. Salem at Plymouth H.S., 6:30 p.m.
 Ply. at B'ton/Howell, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26
 Troy Athens Inv., 10 a.m.
PREP SKIING
Wednesday, Jan. 23
 Ladywood vs. W.L. Northern at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Wednesday, Jan. 23
 Churchill Quad, 6 p.m.
 Franklin Quad, 6 p.m.
 Wayne Quad, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
 Northville Invitational, 1 p.m.
 Lake Orion Invitational, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 23
 St. Clair at S'craft, 7:30 p.m.
 Lourdes at Madonna, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
 MU at Marygrove, 3 p.m.
 S'craft at Flint Mott, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 23
 St. Clair at S'craft, 5:30 p.m.
 Lourdes at Madonna, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
 MU at Marygrove, 1 p.m.
 S'craft at Flint Mott, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Monday, Jan. 21
 Erie vs. Ply. Whalers at Compuware, 2 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
 Ply. Whalers at Windsor, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
 Ply. Whalers at Sarnia, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
 Sarnia vs. Ply. Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA – time to be announced.



DAVID SCHENDEL

The PCEP Figure Skating Team finished first at Monday's District 3 second initial round Team Compulsory competition at Farmington Hills Ice Arena. All three PCEP team levels (A, B, C) finished first.

PCEP figure skaters on winning course

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park figure skating team is on course to qualify for the state championships in March. That's thanks to how the largest team in the entire United States fared Monday at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

PCEP, coached by Barb Miller and Suzie Smith, prevailed in the District 3 second initial round team compulsory competition. All three team levels (A, B, C) finished first.

Other teams on hand included Farmington, Livonia Ladywood, Farmington Hills Mercy, Northville, Novi, Hartland, Ann Arbor and the Lakes area.

Skaters of all three team levels from Canton, Salem and Plymouth high schools comprise the PCEP team.

There will be more

than 50 teams (from five districts) at the state championships, up from seven teams the first year the competition took place in Michigan (1999).

Schools can field any or all of the A, B and C teams, which compete separately. The A teams have the most difficult elements with C teams having the least difficult.

Teams participate in three initial-round competitions within their district, then the top three teams in each district convene for the state championships.

At these competitions, skaters at each level perform three events (jumps, spins, moves) with each event including four elements — performed by a single skater from each team, in team rotation.

Who's who
 Members of the team, which all three levels and girls from Canton, Salem and Plymouth high schools are as follows: Sarah Bossidis, Brittany Brown, Danielle Cecil, Michelle Conklin, Sydney Darnall, Cheyanne DeMaggio, Alyssa Dews, Trisha Donnelly, Melanie Elliott, Emily Espinoza, Lauren Flynn, Alex Hanton, Delaney Hoberecht, Samantha Howell, India Johnson, Reagan Liberatore, Erin Lyddon, Victoria Massey, Abby Meyers, Laura Miazga, Mona Mori, Summer Mroueh, Taylor Murphy, Tamar Nemeth, Alison Panek, Aileen Peer, Natalie Puckett, Cherry Qian, Audrey Redding, Allison Schendel, Ally Schwinke, Emma Swales and Rose Vowler.



The alums have it

On Dec. 21 the Salem and Plymouth boys hockey alumni teams squared off at Plymouth Cultural Center, to help collect food for Gleaners. The Wildcats skated to a 6-4 victory.

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

when he took a feed through the neutral zone from senior defenseman Chris Catalano, skated down the right wing and cut into the slot before sending a high shot past Plymouth sophomore goalie Jared Maddock.

Plymouth clamped down in the third, outshooting Stevenson 11-6 (and 27-26 for the game) with the Wildcats' team defense keeping premium scoring chances to a minimum.

The Spartans still were relentless trying for the equalizer.

Protecting the lead

With Stevenson pressing in the Plymouth end, the Wildcats benefited from solid, physical play from their defensemen to help get pucks out of danger.

In the final minute, with Humitz (25 saves) pulled for the extra attacker, Plymouth junior defenseman Kyle Bauer's poke check against Lutz prevented a dangerous shot from the left circle.

Then with 7.1 seconds left, junior forward Michael Schultz won a faceoff and senior defenseman Dean Gunther cleared the zone to end the game.

"I knew they'd be

coming," Vento said. "With Lutz on the ice, you always got to be aware, the kid's so dangerous. I thought we played a great third period."

Whenever they had chances, Maddock (25 saves) was there. He played with the poise of a senior, calmly positioning himself to stop tips and deflections.

With 12 minutes left, Lutz redirected a right-point slapper by junior blueliner Ray Chartier that Maddock corralled.

The Plymouth goalie later robbed junior forward Ryan Frazer on the doorstep following a centering pass from sophomore forward Michael Sinclair.

Vento praised the netminder for his play, adding it is getting to be a tough decision picking between Maddock and sophomore Erik VandenBosch from game to game.

"I thought by this point we'd have a clear No. 1 (goalie)," Vento said. "But they're both playing outstanding."

Plymouth opened the scoring at 11:58 of the first period, on a goal by senior forward Joe Burke. He pounced on the rebound of a shot by senior forward Nick Schultz and sent a low shot from between the circles past the partially screened Humitz, who played

well in defeat. Drawing the second assist was Michael Schultz.

According to Mitchell, the contest provided another example that the KLAA "has improved dramatically, the Plymouth teams have improved dramatically. There's no nights off in our league anymore."

SOUTH LYON 2, CANTON 1: Shorthanded Canton (3-11-1) battled hard but lost this KLAA crossover boys hockey game Wednesday night at South Lyon.

The lone goal for the Chiefs was scored by Christian Flack, with Charlie Steslick picking up the lone assist.

"We had four guys out a lineup with the flu," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said. "A lot of guys stepped up, I thought we played really well."

Majszak said Isaac Salinas took the loss in goal but played a solid game.

"We found ourselves short-handed and couldn't capitalize on some opportunities," he said.

ANN ARBOR 5, PCS PENGUINS 2: In a girls hockey game Tuesday at Arctic Edge, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins could not recover from three unanswered second-period goals by the Pioneers.

Ann Arbor went up 2-0 in the first period before Morgan Cusumano scored for the Penguins with two seconds left in the frame. Cortny McAdoo assisted on the marker.

But that's the closest PCS got to catching Ann Arbor as the Pioneers built a 5-1 lead in the second on three goals in a 2:34 span.

Before the end of the stanza, Jordan Patterson converted a feed from Annelise Niermann to score the Penguins' final goal of the night.

Whalers rally for 3-2 win

After spotting Mississauga an early 2-0 lead Friday night, the host Plymouth Whalers turned on the power and earned a 3-2 victory before 2,777 at Compuware Arena.

Trailing 2-1 going into the third period of the Ontario Hockey League game, the Whalers (22-13-5-3) rallied as Ryan Hartman and Garrett Meurs each scored power-play goals — with the latter coming with 4:53 remaining.

On Meurs' goal, his 19th of the season, Hartman and recently acquired Vince Trocheck collected assists as the new linemates continue to click.

Setting up the tying goal, at 1:48 of the third, were Mitchell Heard and Connor Carrick. Hartman now has 17 goals.

Mississauga went up 1-0 at 1:23 of the opening frame when Dylan Smoskowitz beat Plymouth goalie Matt Mahalak (18 save).

The Steelheads (20-19-0-4) went up by two with a power-play goal at 9:09 of the second. Josh Burnside finished the scoring play.

Plymouth started chipping away on an unassisted goal by defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto, who cut in and fired the puck past Mississauga goalie Spencer Martin with 6:59 to play in the middle stanza.

It was the stellar play of Martin that kept the Steelheads in the game. He stopped 39 of 42 shots.

The Whalers will host Erie at 2 p.m. Monday.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

K-of-C foul shot contest

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. All age-group contestants will be recognized for their participation in the event, which will progress through local, district and state competition.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call Dave Lengel at (734) 516-4930 or e-mail dlen-gel2@yahoo.com.

Jones to host pitcher clinic

Detroit Tigers pitching coach Jeff Jones, along with the Livonia Stevenson High baseball program, will stage two sessions of pitching clinics Sunday, Jan. 20, at the high school fieldhouse.

Session 1 (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by Session 2 (ages 13-18) 12:30-2:30 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per person.

For more information, call Stevenson varsity baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623 or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.

Salem tennis meeting set

A mandatory meeting for those interested in playing Salem girls tennis this spring is slated for 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, in the Salem High School library.

Forms will be filled out and uniforms ordered for the upcoming season. This will be the only opportunity to order a uniform.

Interested players should bring a current physical dated after April 30, 2012, as well as the following: health care policy information; a copy of parent's driver's license and car insurance for team travel; a check made out to Salem Girls Tennis to order a uniform.

Nike combine

Nike Combine Training for high school football players to prepare for the 2013 season will begin Sunday, Jan. 27, at D1 Sports in Bloomfield.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine. To register, go to www.coachjacksonspeed.com or for more information contact coach Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

Taylor earns GLIAC award

For the second time this season, Grand Valley State University senior forward Brianna Taylor (Livonia Franklin) was named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference North Division women's basketball Player of the Week.

The 5-foot-10 Taylor scored a season-high 30 points in a win Jan. 12

Salem needs discus coach

The Salem varsity girls track and field team is looking for an assistant coach who specializes in the throwing events.

Please contact head coach Dave Gerlach at (734) 416-7708 or Salem-GirlsTrackandField@pccs-mail.net if interested.

over visiting Tech after scoring 24 in the victory Jan. 10 against Northern Michigan.

She shot 48.8 percent for the week on 21-of-43 from the field, while also going 11-for-15 from the line.

Taylor has led the first-place Lakers (11-3, 7-3) in scoring in five straight games and nine overall this season while also topping the team with 6.8 rebounds per game.

Softball camp

Madonna University will hold a series of winter softball camps (ages 7-18) including:

- Fundamentals (Camp I) – 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26;
- Fundamentals (Camp II) – noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. (Cost for each is \$125 by Dec. 1; or \$150).

For more information, visit www.Madonna Crusaders.com.

CHS Hall of Fame

The 11th annual Livonia Churchill Athletic Patron Hall of Fame induction will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21 at the Italian-American Hall, 392000 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Among the inductees are the 2007 Class A state champion girls volleyball team, former Churchill baseball player Rod Hawraney and parent volunteers Don and Jane DeRoo.

Tickets are \$35 per person (if purchased by March 1) or \$40 (after March 1).

The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, dinner and program (from 7:30 p.m.)

For more information, call Rob Suida at (313) 617-5448; or email rjsuida@cmsenergy.com.

Genealogy journey

Woman finds family roots, relatives in Guatemala

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Dianna Neckel has grown her family tree from sapling to towering timber over the past three years — and all it took was a little curiosity, a lot of determination, unwavering faith and a passion for adventure.

The Livonia woman, who is married and has two children, has returned to Guatemala every year for the past three years to learn about her ancestors first-hand from newly-discovered relatives.

Neckel's continuing journey in genealogy began five years ago, when she decided to search the history of her mother's father, Florintin Castillo, and his brother, Alejandro "Hector" Castillo. Her grandfather had emigrated from Guatemala as a young man, leaving behind his parents and siblings, including his brother. He lived in Cuba and Louisiana before hopping trains north to Michigan for a job with Ford Motor Company and to settle into family life.

"I felt bad because I only knew one story of my grandfather. He spoke broken English and was a very old man when I was young, so I never asked him for stories about his parents, his siblings. I just knew he had a brother named Hector. No one wanted to pursue my grandfather's part of the genealogy because it was in Guatemala," said Neckel, one of five siblings.

"My older sister does a lot of genealogy, but she couldn't track anything down. She said, if anyone is going to get grandfather's genealogy, it's going to be you."

Neckel accepted the challenge and spent two years researching online, including in the ancestry data base, FamilySearch.org, developed and maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which Neckel is a member. At Family History Centers, located in Church of Jesus Christ branches throughout the world, history-seekers can get one-on-one help or take how-to classes in accessing genealogical records. The service is open to the public.

"It was a huge help, but I didn't know at the time that they didn't have records before the 1900s. My grandfather was born in 1898," said Neckel, who knew her father died in 1981. "I was looking for birth information and I should have been looking for death information."

She also didn't realize at the time that her great-uncle, Hector, was formally known as Alejandro.

Heading south

With just a few photos of her grandfather and his brother in hand, along with a letter about Hector's death in the late 1970s, and an old address on a postcard, Neckel headed to Guatemala in August 2010 to search for clues. Because she doesn't speak Spanish, Neckel recruited her friend, Mimi Edwards, a



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mimi Edwards, (left) who speaks Spanish, accompanied Dianna Ross Neckel on two trips to Guatemala. The women are good friends and attend the same church. The skirt on the table is from Guatemala and the sculpture is Mayan.

native Argentinian, to go with her on the eight-day trip.

"My husband thought I was crazy because all I knew was 'hola' for 'hello' We didn't know any place there. We didn't have a contact person. But we did it. I guess if you have a strong desire and you have faith, doors will open for you," Neckel said. "All I kept thinking was that I knew Hector Castillo had 14 children

and if I could just find one of them and make the connection, it would help me go further."

Researching

The pair arrived in Guatemala City and took a five-hour bus ride to Quetzaltenango, where they searched local records in churches, post offices and government agencies. They also visited cemeteries. They bought a cell phone

and called all the "Castillo" names they could find. On their third day in Guatemala, they were granted permission to search records at a city hall.

"We looked page by page at books that were like old torn cookbooks," Neckel recalled. When she finally asked for death records, she hit pay dirt. Puzzle pieces were beginning to fit.

"We went to the local post office and spoke



Frank
(Florentin)
Castillo
1898 - 1981

Photos of Dianna Ross Neckel's grandfather. Neckel found his brother's children and grandchildren in Guatemala.

with the mailman, it was a long shot. My uncle had been dead for 33 years. I hoped that someone would know of him. Or maybe one of his children were still in the town. The mailman knew the area and went with us in the bus and we located my uncles home."

A long-time neighbor knew one of Hector's children, a daughter named Sandra. With the neighbor's help, they found her home. She wasn't there, but her phone number was posted on the house, which doubled as a propane store. Edwards dialed the number and

told the woman that her second cousin — Florentin's granddaughter — wanted to meet her.

"She couldn't believe it and said it was an answer to her prayers," Neckel recalled.

Uniting families

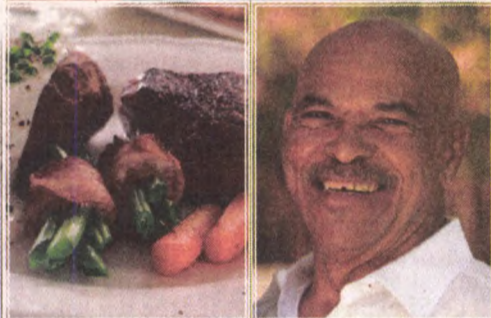
By the end of the trip, Neckel met many other cousins — and their children — and collected their statistics to input on FamilySearch.org. But she also detected a rift among some relatives. Their father, Hector, had been married twice. Half

Please see ROOTS, B7

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY | INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING



A New Year,
A New Chapter!



Bunyan & Banjos
Friday, January 18
2:00 p.m.

Join us as we travel back through Michigan's history through songs, stories, and great food! Presented by Kitty Donohue.

RSVP by January 14.

Expert Seminar for Seniors & Families
Wednesday, January 23
6:00 p.m.

Try and stump the experts as we will have them here to give you expert advice on the challenging questions you may have!

RSVP by January 21.

History of the Underground Railroads
Wednesday, January 30
1:30 p.m.

Keep us on the track as we take a look at how the railroads came about! Presented by Author/Historian: Carol Mull.

RSVP by January 28.



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Prevent sports and recreation injury by raising awareness

By L.J. McCulloch
Guest columnist

Our winter season is upon us! The season brings with it many sporting recreational opportunities. The National Hockey League (NHL) is officially back on the Ice, including our Detroit Red Wings. The Super Bowl is also around the corner. Basketball at the professional, collegiate and high school levels is in full swing. Snowmobiling, skiing, sledding, and ice skating activities, in our community are readily available for family fun.

While these activities provide sources of enjoyment, competition, and socialization, they also carry risks of injury. That is why it is extremely important that we arm ourselves with awareness of potential dangers, so we can reduce risks by prevention.

More prevalent than one would think is the specific risk for traumatic brain injuries also often referred to as concussions. An estimated one million children alone, in this country, sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year. And, research informs us that every 21 seconds, a head injury

occurs to someone of any age in the U.S., according to the American Brain Injury Association (ABIA).

Myths and facts

It was previously thought that the head had to hit something for there to be a concussion-like injury to the brain. This myth has been proven wrong. A whiplash-like motion of the head can cause damage to the brain. Also, a loss of consciousness is not necessary for the brain to be hurt. This has been repeatedly proven. Technically, a disruption in consciousness, no matter how brief — such as mildly dazed to a full coma — constitutes a concussion. And, repeated concussions of the brain can have a cumulative effect as often seen in boxing (pugilistic dementia). Recently, we are hearing more and more reports of professional sports figures disclosing that they have sustained significant concussions which influence decisions to retire early from their career. Furthermore, the premature development of Alzheimer's-like disorders is being reported by the media, the players themselves, their families and league officials raising awareness, which is tremendously important to all of us.

It is becoming public knowledge that an NFL football player, for example, can sustain a multitude of brain concussions within a 10-year career while it takes

only three seconds to permanently damage a child's brain in the so-called shaken baby syndrome (SBS).

Now, if we imagine the head as a container (the skull) and within the container, 95 percent Jello-like material (the brain) and we shake or strike the container (the skull), we see cracks and indentations and various irregularities (lesions) within the Jello-like material (the brain). These represent injuries of brain tissue that can be small or large, localized or diffuse. They can be seen or they can be missed on CT Scans. They can cause mild, moderate or severe disruption in thinking, memory, emotion and behavior. Sometimes these problems don't appear immediately after injury because of a gradual change in brain chemistry which can have a cascading affect in the months following the injury. Additional symptoms such as irritability, frustration, depression, slower learning, inattention, sleep problems, and being "quick tempered" also are commonly reported.

It can be a good idea to have a person who has experienced a head injury to be examined by a neuropsychologist and neurologist. Tests can be conducted, problems identified and treatment/rehabilitation strategies implemented. A big concern after a sports injury often revolves around the decision of

when to allow the athlete "back in the game."

What can be done

Many resources now are available for children, teens and adults, as well as their families, teachers and coaches about brain injuries. In the end, it seems that the best treatment is going to be prevention. There are many sports medicine and physical therapy professionals trained in concussion recognition and treatment. For example, The Plymouth Physical Therapy Center has numerous offices near in our community. It utilizes state-of-the-art assessment tools, many of which were developed by our own Wayne State University scientists and are used by organizations such as the NFL, NHL, and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). They have in-office and on-site (sideline) professionals for students in many nearby high schools covering all the major sports. Some school districts now have one or more trained persons identified as "safety coaches," who attend practices and games. Their job is to demonstrate safe ways of engaging in contact sports, such as safer ways to tackle, block, fall down, etc. This is reportedly giving parents and the athletes themselves reassurance that safety awareness is a priority, and thus prevention of trauma is the goal. The importance of prevention

cannot be overstated. And, prevention is only possible through increased awareness by all involved. The Brain Injury Association of Michigan estimates that 90 percent of TBI/Concussion's could be prevented if people took more precautions in sports and recreation. The efforts being made towards this at the professional, amateur, college, high school, and lower school levels are a good start and need to be given as much priority as possible.

Resources

- Brain Injury Association of America, www.biausa.org; contact director of Sports Concussion Education
- Brain Injury Association of Michigan, www.biami.org; contact president, Michael Dabbs
- Plymouth Physical Therapy, www.plymouthpts.com; contact Ben Wallace
- Catholic Youth Organization (CYO Detroit/Archdiocese of Detroit), www.aod.org; contact John Fenbert
- Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), www.mhsaa.com; contact director of Sports Concussion Education.

Leonard J. McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is also credentialed in brain injury, mental health, addictions and social work. He can be reached at (248) 474-2763, Ext. 22.

Heart campaign kicks off with casting call

Celebrate 10 years of fighting cardiovascular disease by responding to the Go Red for Women Casting Call, 3-6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1 at Beaumont Hospital's Ministrelli Women's Heart Center, 3601 W. 13 Mile, in Royal Oak.

Local women may share their personal stories on-camera for a chance to become a national spokesperson in the Go Red For Women campaign, presented by the American Heart Association. Anquette Jamison of FOX 2 News

and Tracey McCaskill of MIX 92.3 will kick off the search for the next Go Red For Women spokesperson who will represent the campaign in marketing materials, at events, and on the official web site. Other highlights include free health screenings, health speakers, fitness demos and give-a-ways. Attendees also will have the chance to enter to win Go Red For Women packages and other prizes.

"The Go Red For Women Casting Call inspires women to serve as health advo-

cates and contribute to a cause that encourages long-term healthy behaviors," stated Pamela Marcovitz, M.D., director, Beaumont's Ministrelli Women's Heart Center, in a press release.

According to the American Heart Association, an estimated 43 million women in the U.S. are affected by heart disease and 90 percent of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease. Statistics suggest that women who Go Red are more likely to make healthy choices like improving their diets and talking with their doc-

tors about developing heart health plans.

To RSVP for the Go Red For Women Casting Call, call (248) 936-5828 or e-mail amy.figot@heart.org. For more information visit www.heart.org/semi.

"America Goes Red Challenge" also kicks off Feb. 1 on National Wear Red Day. The American Heart Association encourages cities, businesses, organizations, hospitals, individuals and home owners to "go red." Suggestions include:

- Decorate homes,

churches, hospitals and businesses with red decorations

- Use red lighting, wreaths or ribbons
- Cover mailbox in red paint or fabric
- Illuminate pathways with red luminaries
- Display the iconic red dress on windows or in store fronts

• Wear an article of red clothing or the Go Red For Women red dress pin

Aside from "going red," individuals can participate in the celebration by attending the Go Red For Women Luncheon, learn

more about their risk for heart disease and register for a free red dress pin at GoRedForWomen.org. The Luncheon begins with registration at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15 at the MGM Grand in Detroit. The event includes health screenings, educational exhibits, along with a silent auction, a program and lunch. Cost is \$175 per person.

Visit GoRedForWomen.org or call (888) MY-HEART for more information. Register for the Go Red Luncheon at www.detroitgoredforwomen.org.



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Dianna Neckel (center) poses with her relatives, including her great-uncle's daughter, (left) in Guatemala.



Dianna Neckel visited many churches, including this one, during her first trip to Guatemala.

ROOTS

Continued from page B5

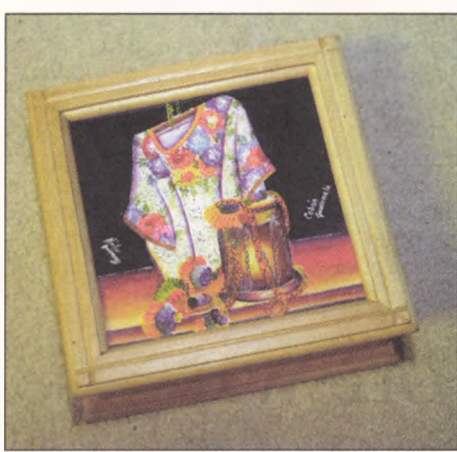
of the cousins were from one marriage and the other from his second marriage.

She was determined to "soften their hearts" and unite the families. When she returned home, she created calendars with their photos and birthdays and sent them to everyone she had met. She also planned a reunion for her next visit, in July 2011.

"I realized my mission wasn't just to unite the ancestors, it was to unite the families," she said. During the two-week visit, she met her grandfather's one remaining sister, searched for her great-grandfather's farm, and brought more than 65 relatives together for a family reunion. Edwards again served as interpreter.

"I felt like everyone has a little piece of the puzzle and once you find all of those pieces and put it together in a big picture, it helps you to understand where your family has been and their struggles and all the things they've had to overcome in their lives," she said.

Neckel returned to Guatemala on her own last Christmas to spend five days with her cousin, Sandra, and her family. The pair communicated through sign language, gestures and the few words they know in each other's native



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A colorful box Dianna Neckel brought home from her trips to Guatemala, where she searched for information about her ancestors.

tongues.

"We danced in the kitchen. They had a parade down the street. Their Christmas is like Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July and New Year's combined. I wanted to see what it was all about."

She hopes her story will compel other families to look into their roots. She suggests they start with FamilySearch.org or find help through a Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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North American International Auto Show

The new and revived Dodge Dart on display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PUBLIC SHOW OPEN

The auto show opened to the public Saturday, Jan. 19, and continues through Sunday, Jan. 27. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (no admittance after 9 p.m.) Jan. 19-26. The show ends Jan. 27 and hours that day are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (no admittance after 6 p.m.). Tickets are \$12 per person and \$6 for seniors (65 and older) and children (7-12 years old). Children ages 6 and under are free with parent or guardian.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 2013 Ford Shelby Focus at the North American Auto Show in Detroit.

Cooper Standard energized by future vision

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

There is an energy permeating through the North American headquarters of Cooper Standard in Novi these days as the company has a renewed focus on being the leader in its field.

Lyle Otremba, vice president of innovation and advanced product strategy, is sporting a new title that goes with a new vision on how the company plans to grow.

Otremba, a Bloomfield Hills resident, said a separate team has been created to focus on game-changing ideas and products, and instead of a short-term vision on where the company wants to go, it is now looking at plans five and 10 years out.

"Our success has been very good," Otremba said while at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Tuesday. "We had a great year and expect to have an even better year this year. The North American market has really been helping us out."

The company is a leading global supplier of systems and components for the auto industry, including body sealing, thermal and emissions,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new Corvette Stingray.

fluid and anti-vibration systems. It has more than 21,000 employees around the world and operates in 19 countries.

The Novi headquarters houses 300 employees and is "approaching a pretty full house," Otremba said.

Three years ago, the com-

pany's focus was on recovery after emerging from bankruptcy protection and cutting \$650 million in debt.

But those times are now in the rearview mirror. "We were dealing with survival as opposed to successful growth," Otremba said.

One of the things that helped the company pick itself back up was that two of its largest customers — General Motors and Chrysler — also were going through a similar situation.

And as a result it appears all entities are enjoying a revival.

The Cadillac ATS won North American Car of the Year on Monday featuring Cooper Standard's multi-state mount, and Chevrolet's 2014 Corvette Stingray that Cooper Standard did the ceiling system for was a popular attraction.

"We regrouped together," Otremba said. "It helped us and it helped them."

Novi resident Sharon Wenzel, who also serves as the vice president of corporate communications for Cooper Standard, said one area that hasn't changed over the years is the employee's commitment to helping others.

At the annual holiday party this year, the employees chose to forgo raffle items and gifts and instead asked that the money be donated to five charities — The Salvation Army, Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners, Northville Civic Concern and Haven.

Wenzel said giving back is "very much part of our culture."

"It's very important for the generations coming into the work force," she said. "They want to work for a corporation that does those things."

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New message: Automakers market to millennials

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Targeting cars toward younger drivers can be challenge for many domestic automakers. Berkley resident Annalisa Bluhm, who works as a communications representative for General Motors, said it's tricky attempting to market new vehicles to "Millennials," those born in the 1980s and 1990s, because their lifestyles choices may not include a car.

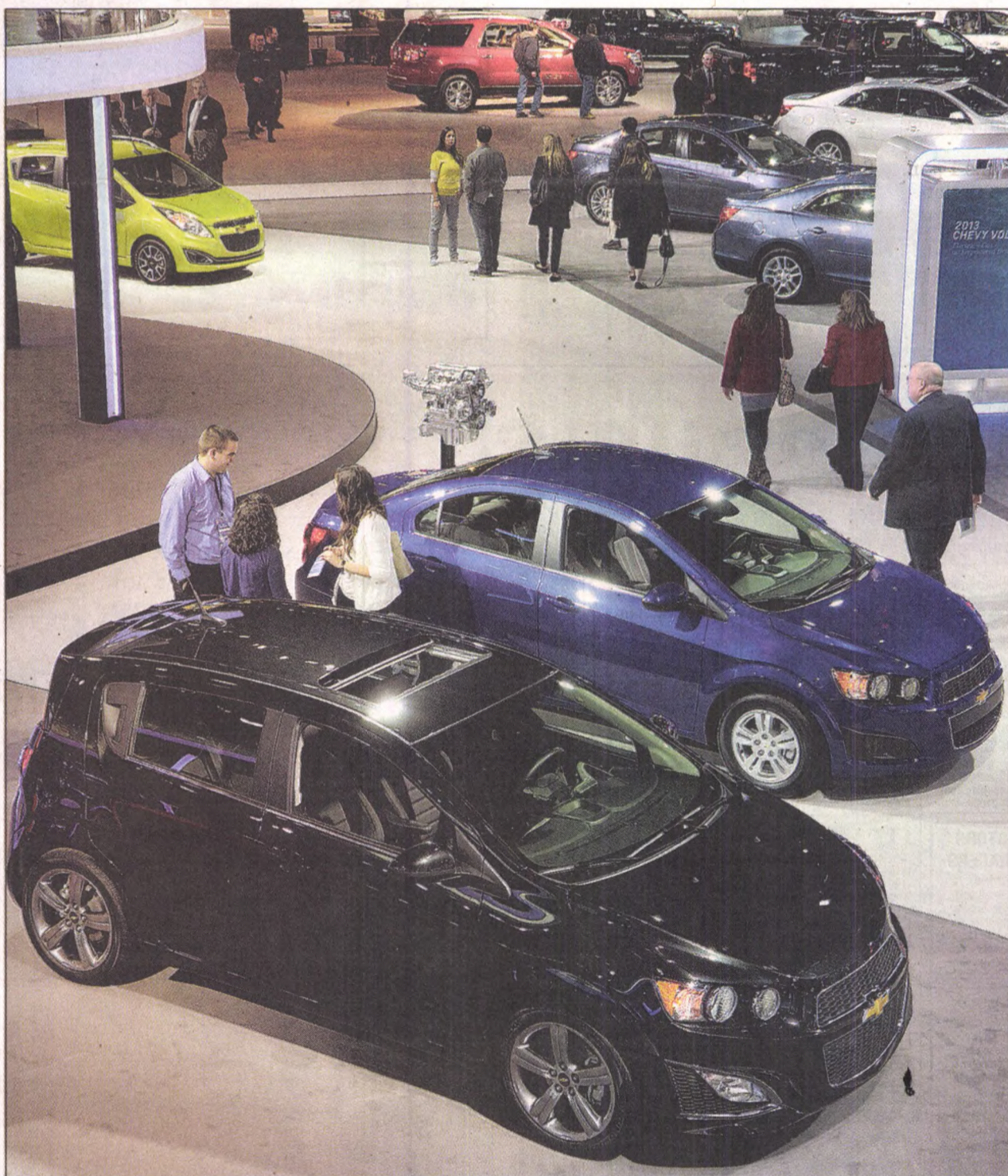
"Most Millennials are delaying car purchases or even getting their license," she said. "It's not that they're never going to buy a car, it's just due to economic factors that they're staying in school longer, many are moving to cities with good public transportation and don't necessarily have a need beyond a vehicle-sharing service, like ZipCar."

As those Millennials find they need to purchase their own car, they've already established a good rapport with GM vehicles such as the Chevy Cruze and Sonic, smaller vehicles with a higher fuel efficiency.

That's one reason Bluhm said GM has teamed up with car-sharing services such as Enterprise to reach a younger customer base.

"We embrace that. It's not a threat," Bluhm said. "As the time comes when you can afford the parking spot in front of your apartment or you finally move out of your mom's house and want your own car, you had a great experience with a Chevy, you're comfortable with a Chevy, you saw the value and hopefully you buy one."

Many of the vehicles being marketed by the domestic automakers to younger people are available to see at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chevrolet Sonic RS Turbo and LT models are two models available aimed at younger buyers.

Global C-Car marketing manager said the company couples what younger drivers want, including smaller vehicles, technology and fuel efficiency, with a string of good financing and the customer base has begun to increase.

Financing issues

"The ability to finance that product over a reasonable amount of time, that's definitely brought us a higher conquest rate," he said. "It's our highest amount of new customers coming into the Ford portfolio."

Joe Veltri, vice president of product planning for Chrysler in Auburn Hills, said the company has begun offering customization on popular cars such as the Dodge Dart, which came with a heavy marketing campaign targeted at younger drivers.

Customizable interior colors allow for younger drivers to show off their style in an age where phone cases and display screens are changed to match the owner, he said.

"The Dart comes with two or three main interior colors, but the accent color in the interior, you can put a lime green or red or black or gray," he said. "We're giving you that kind of personalization that it's kind of yours."

For the automakers, it's about trying to stay in the market and keep drivers loyal. Bluhm said GM is seeing growth in young people, including around Wayne and Oakland counties.

"Our rate of people new to the brand is 63 percent. Of people that bought the Sonic, 63 percent are trading in a car, or have never been with Chevrolet," she said. "And of that 63 percent, about 40 percent of them are 18-to-34 year-olds. So that's a perfect place we want to be."



Ford Fiesta ST offers what younger buyers want including technology and fuel efficiency said Northville resident Mike Murphy, the Ford Global C-Car marketing manager.

this week.

Smaller cars aren't only seeing success at GM. Those who are buying vehicles are starting small, opting for cars such as the Ford Fiesta, Ford Focus and the newly released Dodge Dart.

Northville resident Mike Murphy said Ford has seen a lot of success selling compact cars, such as the Fiesta and Focus, to younger buyers. The Ford

Puppy Mill Awareness group shows ice dog

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you're heading to the Plymouth Ice Festival Sunday, Jan. 20, in downtown Plymouth, stop by and see Steve.

He's the Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup's fifth annual festival ice sculpture, designed to help the group spread the word about the cruelty of puppy mills — large-scale factory-type breeding facilities that supply pet stores with dogs for sale. The group encourages families and individuals to adopt dogs from shelters and rescues, rather than to buy them from stores. They'll be on hand at the festival with leaflets about their mission.



Ice dog, Steve, will be, too.

He's sculpted in the image of Steve, a mixed breed from Plymouth, who lives with Kristen and Tom Grube and their son, Jackson. Real Steve is the perfect spokesdog for shelter adoption.

"Steve was our first foster dog when we volun-

teered with MHS (Michigan Humane Society) Detroit," said Kristen Grube. "He came to us with a leg injury about 10 years ago. After he was healed, my brother, Dave, was lucky enough to adopt him. Recently, my brother and his family needed our help and we agreed to take Steve in for about a year due to a change in his family's living situation.

"We all love Steve and he has adapted well to our family which includes our 6-year-old, Jackson, and several other pets."

Grube, who volunteered with Puppy Mill Awareness in the past, described Steve as "a great dog" and likely a mix of Labrador retriever and chow. He has the

chow's signature blue coloring on his tongue and the smooth coat and friendly temperament of a Lab.

"He's very arthritic, but tolerant of everyone."

She said Pam Sordyl, Puppy Mill Awareness founder, used Steve as a model for the ice dog because he had been rescued from a shelter.

Sordyl also described the family's willingness to take in Steve temporarily is "a perfect example of how families members should help keep animals safe and in forever homes."

Grube said she'd do the same for any other relative or close friend in need.

She doesn't plan to take Steve to meet his icy

likeness — he'd be too nervous in the crowd — but she intends to help the group leaflet.

"I agree with their cause 100 percent," Grube said.

Popular attraction

Sordyl said the group gets a good response from festival goers.

"Most of Saturday and Sunday members actually speak with people and pass out literature. We never have a problem getting volunteers out for this activity. It is a lot of fun just being at the show," she said.

"We know that there are many families who support adoption. They love to tell us their dog was adopted. Lots of people bring their pets to the

festival, too.

"People tend to gravitate to our ice dog, maybe because we have accessories like hats, scarves, collars, dog tags, that make the ice sculpture more personal and interesting. Our ice dog shows enthusiasm for the show and our excitement over how great shelter dogs are."

Previous ice dogs have included two bull dogs, a dachshund and a shelter dog wearing glasses and perched on a stack of books.

The three-day festival ends Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

For more information about Puppy Mill Awareness, go to meet-up.com/pupmilla-wareness/.

GARDEN & NATURE



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

English Gardens

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- Youngsters, 3-12, can make a pine cone bird feeder for \$5 at a workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. Register at www.englishgardens.com.
- Learn about growing orchids at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2. Then at 2:30 p.m. find out how to re-pot orchids.
- "More About Orchids" runs 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, with a free re-potting session following at 2:30 p.m. that same day.
- Find out the basics of landscape design, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 at a

free presentation.

- Learn about fresh flower arranging at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23.
- Make a spring flower arrangement for \$29.99, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23. Register at www.englishgardens.com.

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.

60-minute classes

Master Gardeners Western Wayne County (MGWCC) will offer a series of hour-long seminars in February at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, in Wayne. Classes start at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$10 each or \$30 for all four classes if registered in advance. All proceeds fund gardening grants and scholarships. To register, e-mail to mgwccorg@gmail.com.

- Pat Mann of Greenfield Village Herb Associates will talk about fairy gardens, including history and popularity, Tuesday, Feb. 5. Learn how to create your own fairy garden.
- Heirloom Tomatoes - From Seed to Sauce, will include tips on seed selection, growing techniques, use in the kitchen and recipes. Paul Rodman, community garden expert and an Advanced Master Gardener, will lead the class, Tuesday, Feb. 12.

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Boost your memory

Authors: Lifestyle changes help stave off dementia

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dr. Gary Small, M.D., is a professor of psychiatry at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and director of the UCLA Longevity Center. In his new book, *The Alzheimer's Prevention Program: Keep Your Brain Healthy for the Rest of Your Life*, he writes of a busy businesswoman.

She comes to his office with her smartphone turned on and is unable to avoid taking calls and monitoring the phone.

"It's very typical," Small said in a recent phone interview. "Technology has insinuated itself into our daily lives."

The key, he said, is to manage technology to the good.

"If we can wrap our hands around it in a way that will make sense, we can use it to augment our biological memory," he said. We don't really need to remember many phone numbers now as they're easy to look up.

Small wrote his latest book with his wife, Gigi Vorgan. The two also wrote *The Memory Bible*, and he gives her a lot of credit.

"She's a tremendous writer. A wonderful collaborator," he said.

She's learned about science and medicine, as he's learned about writing. The couple has a son, 18, and a daughter, 20.

Lifestyle factors

They focus on lifestyle factors, including diet and physical exercise, as ways to stave off symptoms of

MEET DR. GARY SMALL



Small

Information on Dr. Gary Small is online at www.drgarysmall.com. He will speak and sign books 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at Fox Run, 41000 13 Mile, Novi.

"It should be a lot of fun," Small said of the Novi appearance, which is open to the public. Fox Run can be reached at (800) 843-1433.

Alzheimer's and dementia.

Gary Small was interested in medical school in the mind and behavior, and how the body and brain work. That drew him to geriatrics.

"I realized it was something we could have an impact on," said Small, 61. "But I feel healthier now than I did in my 40s."

He and his wife write of a baby boomer who can't recall an acquaintance's name. "It's a very common situation," he said. "You're concerned about your risk. Behind those jokes is an element of anxiety and fear."

In the average person, genetics only account for about one-third of risk factors, he said, with lifestyle key. In diet, Americans need to learn to control both portions and what they eat to counteract the epidemic of obesity.

He advocates for omega-3 fats such as found in fish, along with a diet with lots of fruits and vegetables.

"It doesn't have to be exotic," said Small, who has a Novi appearance coming up. "It's a kind of food that's readily available. What we need to do is eat nutritious and delicious."

Boost memory

The couple's book is designed to educate people to follow a healthy lifestyle. Memory exercises, what some call "brain teasers," are included, along with common-sense advice on handling stress and getting sufficient sleep.

The authors include assessment tools to help you make a change in lifestyle habits.

Small said exercise that works your heart boosts cognitive performance, sending blood to your brain. Finding a "workout buddy" helps with motivation and more.

"You're having a conversation which is working for brain health," he said. Talking over the day reduces its stresses, too.

In 2002, scientists were able to report human results from PET scans for Alzheimer's and dementias. The goal now is to find a drug to treat Alzheimer's effectively, much like statins work on those with high cholesterol.

"We don't think we can cure it," Small said. Delaying onset of symptoms is key.

"There's always hope for people," he said, citing clinical trials targeting families of those who have dementia. In studies of twins where only one gets Alzheimer's, lifestyle is proving to be key.

Small agreed it also helps boomers and seniors to remain connected socially.

"There's a big plus in staying connected with others," he said. "Social butterflies do better as they age, there's no question about it."

Their life expectancy

tends to be better as well, and they have emotional and practical support.

Scientists are also studying areas with a high number of centenarians, including parts of Italy and Japan. People there tend to be socially connected, he said, as well as physically active and with good diets.

"That's where people show the most resistance," he said of Americans. He and other health care providers have found people feel better once on a better diet, and have less desire

for high-sugar and other foods that aren't nutritious.

His work is rewarding in that it changes lives:

"It really is tremendously rewarding." On a book tour, he met a woman who's followed the advice since his first book some 10 years ago. His work is mentally stimulating, "but also to see it help so many people" is great.

"They're going to start feeling better right away," he added of those who follow the advice.

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Sunday, January 20, 2013

Spread the News, Not the Flu

Important Insight Into the Deadliest Flu Outbreak in Over 10 Years

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Jessie Lutz, R.N.
Community Health Services

This flu season is one of the worst in decades, creating a flood of questions relating to the flu, flu shots and flu etiquette. This week, Jessie Lutz, R.N., 28 year veteran nurse at Garden City Hospital, answers what you want to know. "Nurse Jessie" has been answering your questions in the "Ask Jessie" column of GCH's Healthy Generations Magazine for the past three years.

Q: When will flu activity begin and when will it peak?

A: The timing of flu is very unpredictable and can vary from season to season. Flu activity in the U.S. most commonly peaks in January or February, however, it can begin as early as October and continue to occur as late as May.

Q: Why should I get the flu vaccine every year?

A: Flu viruses are constantly changing and flu vaccines are formulated each year to keep up with these changing viruses. This year one flu vaccine protects against three different viruses which are circulating today; influenza B viruses, influenza A (H1N1) viruses and influenza A (H3N2).

Q: Kids being kids, how can I help them avoid other children's flu germs?

A: Have your children remember these three rules: I will use Kleenex, I will wash my hands, and I will stay away from anybody who is sick.

Keep small children away from crowds as much as possible. Small groups are best. As always, try to stay away from people who have the flu.

Q: Can cold weather make you sick?

A: Cold weather does not cause colds. People who live year-round above the Arctic Circle have no more winter colds than people living in Australia. On the contrary, cold weather appears to stimulate the immune system according to a study by the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. Hypothermia (the lowering of the body's core temperature) does suppress immunity, which can lead to colds.

Make sure to dress appropriately for the weather by using hats, gloves, scarves, thick socks and warm shoes or boots.

Q: I am very concerned about transmitting and catching the flu this year. Is shaking hands or hugging just too risky?

A: The most common way to pass the flu virus is through human contact. While it may feel impolite not to shake an extended hand, most people would prefer not to be given the gift of flu. In those instances where a hug or hand shake feels needed, simply let the other person know that you may have come in contact with the flu and would not want to pass it on. This gets you both off the hook and will be appreciated.

On that same topic, while employers appreciate a dedicated employee, they will not appreciate one who causes the whole office to call in sick. Don't try to be a hero. If you're sick, stay home and get well. You need your rest and others don't want your bug. If you're concerned about what your boss will think, call and ask what you should do. Let your boss tell you to stay home...most will.

If you would like to read more from Nurse Jessie or any of the GCH Health Experts, visit GCH.org and click the Healthy Generations icon.

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I want you back: Getting rehired by a former employer

Susan Ricker,
CareerBuilder Writer

People leave jobs for a variety of reasons: They find better opportunities, they're offered higher salaries or they get fired or laid off, to name a few. But what if a job seeker wants to go back to a former employer? While it may seem out of reach, there are benefits to considering a previous place of work, such as already understanding the company culture and how the business functions.

If you're not sure where to look next in your job search, a look back at a past company may be the answer. Here's how to get rehired by a former employer you miss:

Consider why and how you left before asking if you want to return

If you're considering a former employer for a job, will your old boss be interested in hearing from you? "The answer is, it depends on who you are — [your] skills, capabilities, etc. — And the manner in which you left," says Mitchell D. Weiss, adjunct professor of finance at the University of Hartford and author of "Life Happens: A Practical Guide to Personal Finance from College to Career."

"I've owned and run commercial-finance companies, and I've served as an executive officer at several banks," Weiss says. "I've also hired back former employees. Not only were the folks

we rehired competent and productive employees while they were on board the first time, but they also conducted themselves honorably and responsibly on the way out — they transitioned their responsibilities, cleaned up outstanding issues and made themselves available for follow-up questions. In contrast, those who attempted to leverage the offer they had in hand for a counteroffer that beat it were invited to leave — the sooner, the better."

Proceed with professionalism and keep an open mind

If you're convinced you should rejoin your old team, where should you start? "You will need to reconnect with former co-workers and bosses to let them know that you are interested in coming back," says Cheryl E. Palmer, career coach and owner of Call to Career. "It's a good idea to start by putting out feelers to see if there are any positions that open that you would be qualified for. You can also take a former co-worker out to lunch to re-establish the relationship."

Palmer also suggests setting up a networking meeting with a former boss to see how open the company would be to your return. "In addition, you can join any alumni groups that the company has on LinkedIn to reconnect with people in the previous organization."



Offer proof they'll be better off with you on the team

Whether or not you think a company will want to take you back, it will likely come down to what makes good business sense. "Regarding how to return to your old company and why they would be willing to take you back, it is actually a very simple proposition, and it doesn't matter how ugly the separation may have been," says Roy Cohen, career coach and author of "The Wall Street Professional's Survival Guide."

"Offer a solution to a problem that no one else has solved and one which is both visible and important to the company," Cohen says. "You have an advantage. Having worked there once before, you know their needs and challenges as well as what resources may or may not be available. In a world where companies and bosses are struggling for answers, imagine the relief to be delivered one with few, if any, strings attached. An even better option — show them how you will generate immediate guaranteed revenue and that you will do so legally and without creating

conflict with your former colleagues. This is a crowd pleaser. It will get you rehired."

Returning to a former employer is possible. It can be a good business decision for the company and a smart career move for you if you can prove that the relationship will be beneficial for everyone.

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

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ACROSS
1 Butter serving
4 GI supply
8 Congeals
12 Vocalist - Sumac
13 "Instead of" word
14 Get closer
15 Puts on a new coat
17 Essay byline
18 Result
19 Active volcano
21 Genetic material
23 Flirtation
27 South Seas paradise
30 Hull bottom
33 Help-wanted abbr.
34 Mayhem in the streets
35 Ego companions
36 "Great" dog
37 Bother
38 "Orinoco Flow" singer
39 PTA and NEA
40 Manufacturer
42 Ode inspirer
44 Hostile, as a crowd
47 Llama habitat
51 Crazy captain
54 Soak through
56 Hindu attire
57 Mashed potato serving
58 Friar's title
59 Price increase
60 Two-BR units
61 Util. bill

Answer to Previous Puzzle

SMART VOILE
EARFUL JAMMED
WIT MINIS BEG
ELI SCANT IRE
DEEM KIX ABES
DREG LEAFED
LUG SUR
IRONED GOUT
SOON TIN STUB
ADA ASSET ORE
HIS RICER PEA
INTACT DICIER
BESTS GRAND

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- 8 "Slammin' Sammy"
9 Electric swimmer
10 - chi ch'uan
11 Mexican Mrs.
16 Books inspection
20 Zilch
22 Quite similar
24 Wine label info
25 - time, no see
26 Sediment
27 "Dracula" author - Stoker
28 Verdi heroine
29 Take a peek
31 Ben & Jerry rival
32 Hairy twin
36 Metaphysical poet
38 Joule fraction
41 - Blake of jazz
43 Freeway accesses
45 Grp. for Nancy Lopez
46 Sharp bark
48 Foolish
49 To be, to Henri
50 Apply caulking
51 Blonde's shade
52 Yes, in Kyoto
53 Noah's vessel
55 Go bad

Grid for crossword puzzle with 1-61 numbered squares.

Want more puzzles?
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SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled: 4, 6, 8, 9, 2, 5, 2, 8, 5, 8, 6, 3, 7, 6, 2, 7, 4, 8, 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 8, 3, 7, 9, 6, 9, 3, 8.

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DIY WORD SEARCH

Word search puzzle grid with words listed on the right: ARCHITECT, BATHROOM, CARPETING, CIRCUIT, CLEANUP, CONCRETE, CONSTRUCTION, CONTRACTOR, DECK, DECORATE, DEMOLITION, DESIGNER, ELECTRICIAN, EXTERIOR, FINANCING, FRAMING, HARDWOOD, HOME, HOUSE, IDEAS, IMPROVEMENT, INSULATION, INTERIOR, KITCHEN, LANDSCAPING, MARKET, MATERIALS, PAINT, PAVE, PERMITS, PLANS, PASTER, PLUMBER, PROJECT, REAL ESTATE, RENOVATION, ROOFING, SIDING.

Sudoku and Word Search checker boxes. Sudoku checker shows the solved grid. Word search checker shows the puzzle grid with words highlighted.

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Japan's Luxury Brands Wow Detroit at 2013 NAIAS



By Dale Buss

With the U.S. luxury market showing few signs of slowing down, Japanese-owned luxury brands are each making bigger investments in capturing larger shares of mind – and pocketbook – among American upscale consumers.

Here's what they're displaying at the 2013 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Hall in Detroit:

Lexus is bringing out an all-new IS Sport Sedan that will appear in dealer showrooms in mid-2013. It comes in rear-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive versions as well as a hybrid version, the first vehicle to feature Lexus Hybrid Drive.

But while performance is at the heart of the new IS, the automaker has built a new road to get there, said Junichi Furuyama, chief engineer on the IS.

"The conventional approach involves developing each individual aspect in the hope that they will combine to offer an engaging driving experience," said Furuyama. "By contrast, development of the new IS flipped this process on its head, first establishing the pleasurable driving experience owners desire, and then developing the individual performance elements to support it."

Mark Templin, Lexus general manager, said the result of that strategy has been very dramatic.

"The IS has always been precise and fun to drive but the all-new IS kicks it up a notch with true sport sedan driving dynamics, state of the art onboard technol-

ogies, and an all-new design that makes it look fast even when it's standing still."

The IS 350 features a 3.5 liter V6 gas engine. The IS 300h, the hybrid version, based on a newly developed 2.5L Atkinson-cycle engine.

Infiniti said that the 2014 Infiniti Q50 on display at NAIAS will be the world's first vehicle to offer a safety feature that the company's president said will eventually be on every car on the road.

For now, the new Infiniti Q50 will be the only vehicle with Predictive Forward Collision Warning.

Infiniti President Johan de Nysschen, speaking at the worldwide introduction of the new Q50, said several other complementary safety features include Intelligent Cruise Control with Full Speed Range, Forward Emergency Braking, Distance Control Assist, Blind Spot Intervention, Back-up Collision Intervention, Lane Departure Prevention and Active Lane Control.

The Infiniti Q50 comes with a choice of powertrains for its U. S. launch: a 3.7-liter V6 or a 3.5 liter Hybrid.

Drivers will enjoy a fully customizable digital environment for linking various driver settings and driving characteristics through the ignition key.



Lexus executive Mark Templin reveals the all-new 2014 Lexus IS in Detroit.

But performance is where the Infiniti Q50 will truly shine.

"This exciting new Infiniti Q50 stretches the boundaries of what a sports sedan can be, propelling Infiniti in a bold new direction," said de Nysschen.

On the design side, a smooth yet dynamic character line arises from its "double arch" grille, energetically flowing through the bodyside like a wave and merging with the rear end, creating a highly fluid and intriguing profile and fully illustrating the Infiniti Q50's dynamic and wide athletic stance."

Other exterior refinements include new door architecture with narrower, roll-formed A- and B-pillar sashes that provide improved ingress and egress, as well as a more open cabin environment. A new color palette has been specially selected to accent the Q50 contours and sculpted surfaces and includes a range of eight premium colors.

Acura is unveiling an updated version of the NSX sports-car concept at NAIAS. The vehicle displayed by Acura represented an evolution in the design of NSX as it moves from the unveiling of the original NSX concept vehicle at last year's NAIAS to mass production, which the brand said could begin about two years from now.

The original concept showed only the exterior of the NSX,



Infiniti is revealing the new Q50 at 2013 NAIAS.

but the updated version on display at 2013 NAIAS also includes a functional cabin lined in plush leather and soft-touch materials and featuring real-metal elements as well as carbon fiber.

Acura designed the new NSX concept with "modern surfacing" and "edgy details" that "communicate a high-tech feel," said John Ikeda, chief designer at the brand's California design facility.

The brand also unveiled a prototype of the third generation of its popular MDX sport-utility vehicle that it said it plans to introduce at mid-year. The 2014 MDX is to be 1.5 inches lower than the current MDX without any compromise in interior space, Ikeda said. And Acura is "really amping up luxury and comfort" in the new version as well as making the interior much quieter.

The new MDX will be based on an all-new, more rigid and lightweight chassis and be powered by a new, 3.5-liter, V6, direct-injected engine. Other features will include "lane-keeping" assist and adaptive cruise control as well as access to Pandora, Aha and other digital services.

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