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SPORTS, B1

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This is a Facebook contest, so you can share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest. The drawing is Monday, March 18, and you can enter once every

Relay kickoff

The kickoff party for the annual Plymouth Relay for Life is set for Tuesday, March 26, at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. and the program runs 7-8 p.m. The Plymouth Cultural Center is located at 525 Farmer in Plymouth.

American Cancer Society representative Abigail Stonerook, who is organizing the Plymouth Relay for Life, said the team has "been working hard to recruit potential new teams and get them to commit to becoming teams" for the Relay.

The Plymouth Relay for Life is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, at Central Middle School.

day. Good luck! Is MDOT plan DOA?

Kurt Heise, a Republican who represents Plymouth and Plymouth Township in the Michigan House of Representatives, recently offered a grim assessment of the chances for Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to raise fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees to give the Michigan Department of Transportation more money to fix the state's roads.

"I don't detect any interest in the governor's plan in either the House or the Senate, so we're all looking for alternatives right now," Heise said. "Basically what we're hearing is we all want better roads but we don't

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Fire halts factory production

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Production was halted at a Plymouth Township automotive parts plant Wednesday morning after a fire broke out in a giant oven used to coat frames for the Jeep Wrangler. One firefighter was hurt.

The fire at Tower Automotive, on Plymouth Oaks Boulevard near M-14, was reported about 9 a.m. and, by about 11:30 a.m. was largely extinguished, said Capt. Dan Phillips of the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

One PCFD firefighter suffered a leg cut from a saw he was using to access the oven, and was being treated at a local hospital and was expected to be released, Phillips said.

Phillips said the fire consumed insulation between the oven's inner and outer steel skins. The coating oven appeared to be two stories high and, Phillips estimated, about 6,000 square feet.

"We've got to go into each one of those lay-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Once the fire was out at Plymouth Township factory Tower Automotive, the cleanup began.

Please see FIRE, A2

DIGITAL LEARNING K-12: PART 2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Barrett Barker doesn't need any encouragement to read, using his family iPad.

Innovation guides teaching, learning

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

On a recent snow day for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, parent Tonya Barker was surprised to see her 8-year-old son, Barrett, awake at 7 a.m. eagerly reading a book — on his iPad.

Getting her son to read has been an "ongoing battle" since he started school, she said, but this day was different.

Armed with an iPad, the Farrand Elementary third-grader spent his morning happily reading and earning reading minutes for his homework, Barker said.

"To see him wake up so early in the morning just to start reading was amazing," said the Plymouth mother of two. "He really has never liked to read before, but his teacher loaded some books for him onto an iPad app that he can access from home and he loves it."

Barrett agrees that using the iPad played a role in boosting his interest in reading.

"I really like reading on the iPad because you can push a button

Please see TEACHING, A6

Joining the party

P-C, other districts crossing digital divide

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district is among a host of others throughout the state moving students into the world of digital instruction.

In Northville, Ann Arbor, Wayne-Westland and across the state in Allendale, a suburb of

Grand Rapids, school districts are making technology a priority as school leaders seek new approaches to engage learners and boost student achievement.

"It is important students have the tools to go beyond the classroom in terms of student engagement and learning resources," said Daniel Jonker, Ph.D., superintendent of the Allendale district, which serves approximately 2,500 students.

Following a nationwide trend of 1:1 computing in the classroom, all Allendale students in grades four through 12 have had an individual laptop since 2009, Jonker said, funded by the passage of a bond issue in 2007.

"Technology is critically important in our instruction delivery model ... Our students now have the ability to take interactive, virtual field trips — they can travel anywhere from South Africa to speak with apartheid survivors to Alaska to explore sea life."

PAUL SALAH
deputy superintendent for educational services, Wayne-Westland Schools

The 1:1 initiative focuses on providing one digital learning device per student in an effort to increase access and boost student achievement.

In addition, each classroom has a "Smart Board" for interactive teaching and learning as well as a document camera and data projector, Jonker said.

"Technology should be used to enhance the learning process, not determine it. We look at devices in terms of what applications and software is available and how our students will use it," he said.

There is a wide variety of how technology is currently used in education throughout school districts across the state, said Ric Wiltse, executive director for the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning.

Staying competitive

"Students going into the work force need a good grasp of technology skills to be competitive," and more school districts are starting to recognize this, Wiltse said.

In comparison to other states across the country, "Michigan has always been in the middle of the curve," Wiltse said, behind states such as Washington, Texas and California that use technology more aggressively.

However, there has been tremendous growth within the last year, he said.

"School districts realize that in order to remain competitive they need to offer the digital learning resources that their

Please see DISTRICTS, A6



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brian VanDerziel and an iPad cart. VanDerziel joined Plymouth-Canton as the district's technology integrationist last year.



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Downtown post office to move after building sale

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The U.S. Postal Service branch office on Penniman in downtown Plymouth, built in the midst of the Great Depression, will be moving once the sale of the largely unused building is completed. An offer for the 21,000-square-foot building has been accepted, a U.S.P.S. official wrote to Mayor Dan Dwyer last week, and the sale does not include a provision for the post office to lease back space for postal services. The U.S.P.S. only needs about 2,000 square feet for serv-

ices such as selling stamps, offering post office boxes, and receiving letters and packages.

The U.S.P.S. pledged, when the building was put up for sale nearly three years ago, to maintain a presence in Plymouth, and five sites are under consideration as possible locations for the branch now on Penniman, the letter said.

Only two of the five, however, are in the downtown area. Two others are on Ann Arbor Road and another is on Sheldon Road.

Details of the offer and a timetable for the pending sale were not

available Wednesday.

The post office is called the Pursell Station, renamed in the 1990s for Carl Pursell, a longtime Republican U.S. congressman who represented the Plymouth area. The U.S.P.S. has said that any new location will keep the name.

The postal service also pledged to preserve the mural, Plymouth Trail, that decorates the post office lobby. The mural was painted by Carlos Lopez, a local artist who taught at the University of Michigan.

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FIRE

Continued from page A1

ers to make sure there's no fire," said Phillips around noon. Firefighters had been cutting into the oven from the outside, he said. He expected the PCFD to be on the scene for another hour or two, mostly cleaning up and making sure there were no pockets of fire left.

In addition to the PCFD, the firefighters from Canton and Northville townships and the city of Northville's Plymouth Station responded, plus paramedics from Huron Valley Ambulance. Phillips said there were about 25 firefighters on the scene.

"It (the fire) never left the oven," Phillips said. "Our crews were on scene fast enough to prevent that."

Phillips said firefighters' initial assessment is that the oven simply failed. "It's an old piece of equipment that failed," he said.

Tower lab technician Tom Mosher said a venting system typically takes exhaust from the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Firefighters from the Plymouth Community Fire Department, Canton Township, Northville Township and the city of Northville's Plymouth Station responded to the fire at Tower Automotive.

oven when it is in use, but that he and other employees knew something was wrong when they spotted smoke gathering between the top of the oven and the roof of the plant.

Mandy Varga, the plant's human resources manager, said the plant's first shift, which began at 6 a.m., was halted because of the fire, and about 80 workers sent home early. Varga was unsure about whether there would be a second shift on Wednesday. "We don't know what

kind of damage we have to repair," she said.

Roughly 15 skilled trades workers stayed behind, Varga said.

"When we get the oven back, should we get the crew that gets us up and running again," she said.

Varga said the plant was built in 1996. Workers there use metal stampings to assemble the Wrangler frames and then paint them in a powder-coating process.

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Saturday concert has Irish lilt

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Musicians will be celebrating folk music's Irish roots in Plymouth on Saturday during the Base-Line Folk Society's March coffeehouse concert.

The 7 p.m. show at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, will feature guest players Hammer Harmony, a group focused on the hammer dulcimer, a 5,000-year-old stringed instrument, played with hammers, that originated in the Middle East and spread around the world, including to the British Isles.

John Delle-Monache, a PCAC board member, will

host the show and perform, and promises an Irish tune or three.

"I'll be wearin' of the green that night," said Delle-Monache, who has played folk music for 50 years. "The only thing we won't have is green beer."

Scott Ludwig of Canton Township, a musician and the BaseLine president, said Hammer Harmony plans a number of Irish-themed pieces, like traditional jigs and airs, plus singalongs to favorites like *Londonderry Air* (probably best known as with the lyrics *Danny Boy*) and *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*.

Hammer Harmony last appeared in BaseLine's lineup in 2007, Ludwig

said. The BaseLine concerts, he said, often touch on Irish folk music.

Saturday's show will also feature an open-microphone segment for up to 10 players or groups, who can play two tunes each. Registration for open-mic playing is between 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. at the PCAC; if more than 10 players or groups are interested, a lottery will be held to determine who will play.

The PCAC is at 774 North Sheldon, at Junction, south of M-14 in Plymouth. Admission is \$5; refreshments will be available. Parking is available in the PCAC lot or on residential side streets.

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Teachers, district reach three-year deal

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Science teacher Valerie Leveille knew there wasn't anything she could do about the contract agreement reached between Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators and the 1,100-member Plymouth-Canton Education Association last week.

After all, her own union members ratified it with a March 4 vote, and the district's Board of Education was poised to approve it Tuesday night.

But Leveille, who has taught in the district for four years, was at Tuesday's meeting, pleading with the board to stop asking so much of its teachers — and other staff — in the wake of a contract that freezes teachers' step progress for at least two years, provides no pay raises and takes nearly three furlough days over the first two years of the three-year deal.

"I'm not going to be able to afford to be a teacher here anymore," said Leveille, who told board members she took a \$6,000 pay cut to come to Plymouth-Canton four years ago "because this is where I wanted to be."

With the two-year step freeze, combined with the freeze that took place in 2011, Leveille pointed out Tuesday she would be 60 before she reached the top of the scale.

"I can't afford to wait that long," she said. "I implore you over the next year to keep in mind you have a lot of hard-working staff here. They deserve to be rewarded for their hard work."

Not this time

It won't happen with the current deal. In what the union president acknowledged was the "smallest passing margin we've ever had," members of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association agreed to the

new three-year contact with the district.

Though union President Ken Fistler wouldn't say what the vote was and he did note the historically small margin of passage, he pointed out the contract, which expires after the 2014-15 school year, still passed easily.

"It was closer than any (vote) we've had, though it wasn't that close," Fistler said. "It's a concessionary contract, so there are some giveups, but these are the (economic) times we are in."

PCEA members ratified the agreement March 4. The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education voted 4-0 Tuesday night to approve the deal. Board Secretary Adrienne Davis and Trustee Mark Horvath were absent; Trustee Mike Maloney abstained because his wife, an Allen Elementary School teacher, is in the bargaining unit.

In the contract:

- Teachers agreed to take 1.25

furlough days this year, and 1.5 furlough days in 2013-14.

- No pay increase in the first two years, and teachers' step levels will also freeze for the first two years.

- A 20-percent reduction in pay for extra duties such as meal or testing duty.

- The district agreed to pay 100 percent of teachers' premiums for dental and vision coverage.

- The district will offer less-expensive health care options, according to Fistler.

- PCEA representatives will be included in the annual insurance bid process.

Wage freeze

While wages and step increases are frozen the first two years, the sides did agree to a "wage re-opener" for the third year.

The contract calls for those talks to start in March 2014; if the sides can't reach agreement by Aug. 1, 2014, either side can sever the contract.

Monica Merritt, the district's executive director of human resources, said the deal saves the district some \$2 million in the first two years, with the wage re-opener discussions to come in the third year.

"It's a very good deal," Merritt said. "We're very appreciative of our teachers for stepping up to the plate on this one."

Merritt said there were no discussions about making the contract longer in light of the impending right-to-work laws the state will enact next year.

"For us in particular, our contract had already expired," she said. "We've been negotiating since April 2012, so we were far into it and mostly had our language issues worked out (before the right-to-work legislation was approved). We've been working on the financial component since December."

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Plymouth observers happy with Kilpatrick conviction

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Visitors to the Plymouth District Library usually go about their business briskly as they arrive or leave, but few were reluctant to stop on the porch Monday afternoon to weigh in on the verdict in the trial of Kwame Kilpatrick.

The former Detroit mayor was convicted Monday of 24 corruption-related charges, including racketeering, extortion, bribery and mail fraud, by a jury that deliberated for 14 days at the end of a five-month federal trial. City contractor and longtime Kilpatrick friend Bobby Ferguson was convicted of nine charges, and the ex-mayor's father, Bernard Kilpatrick, a former Wayne County official, was convicted of one.

Library patrons expressed satisfaction and confidence in the

jury's decision.

"He does deserve what he's getting," said Edwin Ortiz of Canton Township. "I was really happy the verdict came out today."

Ortiz said his hope is that Kilpatrick, who was sent to jail to await sentencing, along with Ferguson, after a bond hearing Monday afternoon, doesn't get a light prison term.

"I think he deserves a lot more than that for what he's done to the city of Detroit," he said.

"Just look at what he did, how many years it took to get him," said Rick Smith of Plymouth Township, who said the conviction was "long overdue."

Prosecutors accused Kilpatrick of using his office to steer millions in city contracts to Ferguson, a longtime friend, and enrich himself and Ferguson. The former mayor, who left office in 2008 over a text-mes-

saging scandal involving an affair with his chief of staff, Christine Beatty, maintained his innocence and did not testify at trial. Ferguson and Bernard Kilpatrick also claimed they were innocent.

"I think justice has been served," said Dorothy Simescu of Plymouth. "I think he's had his trial, and I'm pleased with the verdict."

At the Canton Coney Island, former Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill said the right verdict was delivered after a months-long ordeal.

"I think the jury did a great job," she said. "They had a tremendous responsibility to go through all that information — months and months of it. I had hoped there would be a guilty verdict. I tried to keep an open mind, but I really thought he was guilty."

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, stopping by the library for one of his regular coffee-with-constituents events, said he was "happy to see that justice was done."

"I'm hopeful this will be the last chapter in this very sad story for the city of Detroit," said Heise, a former municipal attorney and the former director of Wayne County's environment department.

Heise said conviction brings closure to "this very long saga" but isn't the turning point for Detroit that some commentators have made it out to be. There are many challenges ahead for the city, Heise said, and a lot of hard work, given the impending appointment of an emergency financial manager, which Gov. Rick Snyder has said is warranted.

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BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

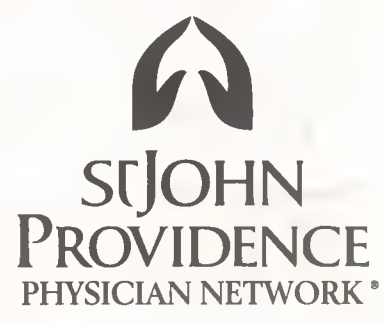
Former Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill said the right verdict was delivered after the months-long Kwame Kilpatrick ordeal. "I think the jury did a great job," she said.

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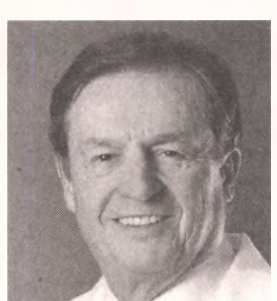
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Suspect pleads in Walmart knife case

By Darrell Clem
 Staff Writer

An Inkster man, accused of brandishing a knife and cutting a police officer inside a Canton retail store, averted trial Wednesday by pleading no contest to a reduced charge of unarmed robbery.

Alden Ralph Mays, 57, could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced March 26 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin for an incident that occurred in November inside the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue west of Belleville Road.

Canton Police arrested Mays following accusations he wielded a knife while attempting to steal a 42-inch television. Authorities said he wounded a Novi police officer who intervened while at the store investigating an unrelated credit card fraud case.



Mays

Mays' accepted a no-contest plea to unarmed robbery on March 6, averting his trial Wednesday and a potential life-in-prison sentence if he had been convicted of original charges of armed robbery, assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder), assault with a dangerous weapon and assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer.

Mays was captured during an incident that Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said happened shortly before noon Friday, Nov. 9.

Mays accepted his plea four months after the Novi officer apprehended him and took him to a store office, where Canton Police say a scuffle ensued and a knife was pulled.

Mays then fled the store but Canton Police found him inside a 2005 Cadillac XRS in the Walmart parking lot, where he was taken into custody. A police report said the knife was found under a car seat.

Authorities have said the Novi officer wasn't critically injured when he was cut on the hand.

According to the Wayne County Jail, Mays has remained in jail since his arrest. Plymouth 35th District Judge James Plakas had originally set a \$1 million/10 percent bond, which was reduced to \$375,000/10 percent in Wayne County Circuit Court.

However, a jail spokesman has said no one posted the \$37,500 needed to secure Mays' release. Even if he had left jail, he had been ordered by Boykin to stay away from the Novi officer and the Walmart store.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Heroin bust

Canton Police arrested a woman on heroin charges after she allegedly ignored two flashing red traffic lights while driving southbound on Haggerty Road at the Michigan Avenue intersection, a police report said.

The 23-year-old woman, driving a red Dodge Caravan, was traveling 45 mph when she crossed both the westbound and eastbound lanes of Michigan Avenue without stopping, the report said.

Police trailed the woman and stopped her on Van Born Road west of Haggerty. She told police she was on her way home from a friend's house in Garden City and was on the phone with her father when she ran the flashing red lights, the report said.

The woman said the vehicle she was driving belonged to her fiancé. Police learned she had a suspended license and was wanted for warrants in Dearborn.

Police searched a bag and found what was described as a prescription pill bottle, a glass pipe and heroin, which had been wrapped in lottery tickets, the police report said.

The woman allegedly told police she had bought the heroin the day before. She was taken into custody.

Purse purloined

A 32-year-old woman contacted Canton police to report her purse had been stolen around 9:50 p.m. Monday inside the Chuck E. Cheese location southeast of Ford and Lilley roads.

The victim told police she left her purse unattended as she away from her booth — then learned it was missing when she returned. The purse contained credit cards, a driver's license, keys to a Ford Windstar and \$200, among other items.

A friend of the victim reported she had seen a woman walking out of Chuck E. Cheese holding her stomach in a suspicious manner, though she didn't think anything of it until the purse came up missing.

Identity theft

A woman who lives in the Canton Crossings apartment complex, southeast of Joy Road and I-275, notified police Monday of an earlier incident apparently involving identity theft.

The 21-year-old woman told police she had moved from Florida in 2008 and left behind personal effects such as her Social Security card and birth certificate. Over the last two years, she told

police, she has received numerous letters and phone calls from bill collectors and attorneys regarding outstanding bills she says she doesn't owe.

The latest letter, mentioned in a Canton police report, involves \$3,585 the victim allegedly owed on a Mercury Mountaineer involved in a traffic crash in Florida. The woman indicated that a relative may have stolen her identity.

Phony money

Police received notification Saturday night from the Emagine Theater, southeast of Ford and Lotz roads, that someone had earlier passed two counterfeit \$20 bills at the concession stand. An employee discovered the fake money while it was in a counting machine.

Car vandalized

A man notified police Saturday afternoon after he said another driver followed him to the Walgreens store northeast of Ford and Sheldon roads and used a sharp object to cause a 2-inch scratch on the passenger-side rear door of his red truck.

The 42-year-old victim said he was driving his 2013 Chevrolet Silverado westbound on Ford near Sheldon when he changed lanes to get into a right turn lane, making the turn in front of a silver Jeep Liberty, a police report said.

He went to the Walgreens and noticed the Jeep had followed him. When he came out, he told police he noticed the damage to his truck. He described the suspect as a "scruffy" white male in a silver Jeep Liberty.

Failed invasion

A woman who lives in the Academy Point mobile home community southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty Road notified police after someone tried to break in her home Friday afternoon. She said she left for one hour and returned to find pry marks around her door. She said it didn't appear entry was gained.

False return

A 40-year-old man notified police March 6 after someone used his Social Security number when filing income taxes. He said he learned of the identity theft after his wife tried to file their taxes electronically and received notification from the Internal Revenue Service that taxes already had been filed.

—By Darrell Clem

One injured in apartment fire

By Darrell Clem
 Staff Writer

A Canton apartment fire Sunday afternoon apparently started when a man was smoking while

using an oxygen machine, Fire Chief Joshua Meier confirmed.

Firefighters doused the blaze, which sent the resident to a hospital for treatment, and Meier said the incident should serve as a reminder to keep cigarettes and other sources of fire away from oxygen tanks.

Meier said the fire occurred inside a first-floor unit of a two-story building at Lincolnshire Apartments, south of Joy between Canton Center and Sheldon.

Canton Public Safety's dispatch center received a 9-1-1 call around 4:45

p.m. alerting firefighters to the incident. The caller indicated occupants could possibly still be inside the building.

Firefighters quickly determined no one was inside the apartment, and they made an interior attack on the fire while wearing their breathing apparatus and protective gear.

Meier confirmed "significant fire damage" and some water damage to the apartment where the fire began. Otherwise, three other units in the building were affected by smoke damage, the chief said.

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Author fair features variety of writers

The Plymouth District Library showcases writing with a local flavor when it hosts its fifth annual "Local Author Fair" 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 16.

The fair features a wide variety of interesting topics presented in a casual setting and offers an opportunity to meet, mingle and enjoy conversations with published writers.

The spectrum of offerings will be diverse. Included will be Larry Paladino and his "Thank You for Fighting the Bad People," a historical remembrance of Airborne activities in Vietnam. It is a timeline of 1960s history and remembrances of the Vietnam conflict and entails a time capsule of personal and family memories.

"We are honored to highlight so much literary talent as this provides a forum for writers to meet each other and to meet the



Paladino

community," said Marge Sadler, the Plymouth District Library's Adult Services Coordinator.

Two of the other 18 featured writers that will be showcased will be Westland's Brenda Dziedzic with her "Learn About Butterflies in the Garden" and Linda Clancy Kaminski, RD and CDE, and her thought-provoking "You Gotta Eat." Kaminski, who has a pedigree of impressive credentials, presents a thought-provoking review of nutrition topics along with non-nonsense diet and exercise advice. She is also a registered dietitian and certified diabetic educator. Her CDE qualifications allow attendees this unique opportunity to

network with a specialist who can advise on diabetes management and prevention.

"Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir", will be shared by Irene Miller. It is a thought-provoking offering about a Holocaust survivor and the unusual journey though Poland to Siberia to America.

Longtime veteran author, storyteller and retired newspaper writer, Joel Thurtell, will present his children's offering "Mouse Code."

"This is a great event for anyone to embrace, there is a wide range of offerings," library trustee Jackie George said. "There is something for everybody, all ages and for all interests."

The event is sponsored by The Friends of the Plymouth District Library and for more information www.plymouthlibrary.org

Democrats push ethics package

State Rep. Dian Slavens, (D-Canton), announced she will be sponsoring legislation in a Democratic-sponsored package of ethics, accountability and transparency bills that call for an open, honest and accountable Legislature.

"It's disheartening that so many people have such a dim view of their elected officials," Slavens said. "They think politicians are untrustworthy. We need to change that perception, and this legislation will help us do it."

The House Democratic package of bills, if enacted, would create a culture of accountability

and transparency in campaigns and in the legislature. Slavens' bill, House Bill 4428, will ban the state from awarding a contract of \$100,000 or more to a contractor or vendor that donates to the campaign of officials who award contracts.

Other bills included in the package will:

- Require a corporation that makes independent expenditures to file a notice with the Secretary of State and get permission from shareholders.
- Require committees to file quarterly campaign finance filings in both on and off years to shed more light on campaign contributions.

• Create an ethics act for the administration and its employees to strengthen conflict-of-interest concerns for those individuals.

- Create a lobbying expenditure database.
- Require a candidate who switches parties to pay back with interest any contributions collected before the party switch.

"Elected officials are supposed to serve the people, not their campaign donors or special-interest groups," Slavens said. "We need to make sure politicians are accountable only to the constituents who put them into office."

Money for political TV ads difficult to trace

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Throughout this decade, the Michigan Campaign Finance Network has been collecting political spending data from the public files of state television broadcasters and cable systems. MCFN has documented more than \$50 million worth of campaign advertising that was not reported in the Department of State's campaign finance disclosure system, according to Robinson.

Robinson used the Michigan Supreme Court as an example. In 2008, the candidates' spending plus reported independent expenditures by PACs and the political parties totaled \$3.7 million. MCFN documented \$3.8 million worth of candidate-focused advertising by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the political parties that was not reported through the state's campaign finance reporting system. Literally, over half the money in the 2008 Supreme Court campaign was "off the books," Robinson said.

"Between 2000 and 2012, there was \$61 million in spending and about \$35 million was off the books, which means that over half of it is undisclosed," Robinson said.

Just \$4.7 million out of the \$18.6 million in spending documented by MCFN — 25.4 percent — was reported through the state campaign finance disclosure system in 2012.

Records compiled by MCFN from the public files of the state's television broadcasters and cable systems showed gross sales of \$13.85 million for advertisements about the Supreme Court candidates that were not reported to the Department of State. Those advertisements

were purchased by the Michigan Republican Party (\$6.67 million), the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee (\$6.17 million) and a D.C.-based non-profit corporation called Judicial Crisis Network (\$1.02 million).

"Why does it matter? We should have a right to know who supports the candidates, and what positions they have that are supported by the contributors," Robinson said.

Contributors may have a court case or ruling pending that may impact them as well, and the public should know this, Robinson said.

Robinson said Michigan ballot committees raised more than \$154 million for advertising to support or oppose the six statewide ballot proposals in 2012.

"We've never had that before," Robinson said. All six proposals lost at the polls.

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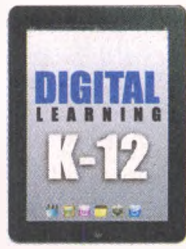
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Network upgrades, expansion planned

The new service demands by everything from wireless phones and personal digital devices to laptops and more have taken their toll on Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' aging network technology infrastructure.

In addition, new mandates from the state of Michigan Department of Education requiring a switch to online testing beginning with the 2014-15 school year will place additional strains on an already burdened network, said Jim



Casteel, district director for integrated technology systems. The state testing program requires a switch from the current MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) test to the new Smarter Balanced Assessment online testing program beginning in 2014. "We need to have the infra-

structure to support this testing," Casteel said, adding that in order to meet the increasing demands on the network, the district needs to build the infrastructure to ensure connectivity. "The network is at capacity and needs to be upgraded to support expansion for additional web-based tools in order for students to gain more access," Casteel said.

According to Casteel, there are currently 4,000-5,000 computers in the district. "As we expand access, we

could have close to 22,000 devices to support," he said.

District plans for connecting all buildings together with a 10-gigabyte fiber network that would allow the schools to centralize service while providing increased connectivity.

The district currently leases network services from local commercial providers such as Comcast and A&T.

The construction of a district-owned fiber network would be a potential cost savings, Casteel said.

The district is also exploring options with local communities to connect municipalities such as fire and police services to the fiber infrastructure, allowing them to have their own connectivity, Casteel said.

Installation of the fiber ring would eliminate the service leasing fees, Casteel said. "Once the fiber network is installed, all we would be paying for is the monthly maintenance fees."

—By Jill Halpin

DISTRICTS

Continued from page A1

students and parents demand. Those moving into a new community may look at how progressively the district is using technology and make comparisons," Wiltschko said.

Voters in the Ann Arbor school district passed a \$45.8 million bond in 2012 that focuses on upgrades to an aging infrastructure as well as the purchase of new computers and other learning devices.

The 10-year, three-part bond issue fits with the districts' "Strategic Plan for 21st Century Learning," said Liz Margolis, director of communications for Ann Arbor Public Schools.

"For us and for our students, it is about being hyper-linked into the world," Margolis said. "Our kids use technology every day. We look at how we can relate the technology to more effective teaching and learning."

The district is undergoing the first phase of the bond, which focuses on repairs and renovations to the district technology infrastructure, built before the recent upsurge in handheld devices such as smartphones.

Margolis said the need for the upgrades to the system was driven home a few years ago after students returned from a holiday break.

"The students came back from Christmas break with all of the new devices and it overloaded our system; they shut us down," she said,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Barrett Barker says using the iPad played a role in boosting his interest in reading. "I really like reading on the iPad because you can push a button instead of lifting pages. Things are a little bit more interesting on the computer."

"Teachers were unable to get into their portals for grading and instruction."

Second phase

District leaders are now preparing for the second phase of the bond, which will include the purchase of new equipment, including laptops and tablet devices.

"We are looking at other classrooms across the country and the world to see how they are using technology to enrich teaching and learning. In Singapore, for instance,

some students use Twitter to communicate with their teachers during the day; it is just another form of communication," she said, adding, "Technology is not isolating; it is how kids communicate."

In Northville Public Schools, a two-phase \$20 million dollar bond issue won voter approval in November. The technology bond includes upgrades to the server infrastructure, the district phone system as well as the installation of

GOING DIGITAL

Here's a look at how other districts are spending bond or grant money on technology.

District	Year	Amount	Technology Purchased
• Ann Arbor	2012	45.8 M*	Infrastructure upgrade, new computers/learning devices
• Allendale	2007	45.4 M*	1:1 Ratio of learning device per student
• Northville	2012	20 M*	Interactive whiteboards and desktop computer replacement
• Livonia	2013 (?)	195 M*	Wifi access, mobile learning devices
• Wayne/Westland	2012/13	3 M*	Smart boards, Ipad carts, web cams and software
• Plymouth/Canton	2013 (?)	114.4 M*	1:1 learning device per student, broadband access, STEM labs

M* = Millions

interactive whiteboards in each classroom and the replacement of the school's entire desktop computer fleet.

According to Janice Henderson, curriculum coordinator, the district's focus on technology is essential to enabling students to take their learning to the next level.

"We looked at students in the 21st century and how we can move our students forward," Henderson said.

"Our students are digital natives. Technology is an exciting tool for them, and it is very motivating for them," she said.

Virtual labs

The new technology will allow for virtual exploration and virtual labs, "taking them to places that they have nev-

er been," she said.

It is important to address students where they are now in terms of technology, Henderson said.

"As student learning becomes more interactive, it takes on deeper meaning for them," she said.

It is a view shared by Paul Salah, deputy superintendent for educational services for Wayne-Westland Schools. "Technology is critically important in our instruction delivery model," Salah said.

Salah said that the district used grant dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to invest in technology improvements ranging from classroom Smart boards, iPad carts, web cams and software as well as small upgrades to servers. The additions have

allowed teachers to enhance instruction in a variety of ways, Salah said.

"Our students now have the ability to take interactive, virtual field trips—they can travel anywhere from South Africa to speak with apartheid survivors to Alaska to explore sea life," he said.

Today's learning

New research on brain development shows that children learn differently today as a result of their exposure to technology, said Salah.

Students today are self-motivated to learn and find answers, he added.

"If they want to know how to do something, they just 'Google' it," he said. "We need to adapt to the changes." Finding the money to make technology upgrades can be challenging, acknowledges Steve Woloszyn, technology manager for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

"There are a lot of districts across the state dealing with funding with regards to technology," he said.

The district recently completed a three-year upgrade project funded by an \$800,000 donation from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Excellence. The project included the addition of smart boards in every classroom as well as cameras and projectors.

The district is currently in a planning phase, looking at "how technology and curriculum interact," he said.

"We are determining what the 21st learning process looks like," said Woloszyn.

TEACHING

Continued from page A1

instead of lifting pages. Things are a little bit more interesting on the computer," he said.

His mother is thrilled with the tool that started him on a new path in learning and giving him the ability not only to be successful but to become self-motivated as well, she said.

"It's so simple and brilliant. The iPad is something that he relates to; it is how he is going to grow up," she said.

It is also one of the reasons that district leaders will ask taxpayers to approve \$114.4 million bond issue at the polls on May 7.

"Using technology is second nature to our students," said Jeanne Farina, the district's assistant superintendent for instructional services. "This is how they learn and we need to adapt to them."

Today's students are motivated and energized by the use of classroom technology, contributing to a growth in student achievement, Farina said.

Brian VanDerziel, the district's technology integration specialist, said he is encouraged that district leaders are taking the initiative with technology.

Teaching methods change

Recent innovations in technology, such as the iPad, offer teachers a unique ability to individ-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brian VanDerziel and media specialist Tricia Hackney, at Field Elementary. The iPads fit into the cart, at left. Hackney can easily move the cart from class to class.

ualize classroom instruction for even the youngest students.

"Today's intuitive touch-screen means that technology is now accessible to all students, regardless if they are able to use a key-board," he said.

Spelling City, an iPad app used at the elementary level, allows teachers to input a student's spelling words and then allows the students to play different games to help them learn both spelling and usage, VanDerziel said.

"They can play a word unscramble, a sentence unscramble, definition match and more. The neat thing is that the student can also do it from home if they have a supporting device. It is a much more engaging way to learn," he said. "It takes it to a deeper level of learning."

The iPad's accessibility feature is key with Johnita Porter, the district's supervisor for learning and

instructional technology.

Porter, who helps with the process of putting tools and strategies in place for students who have barriers to learning, said that classroom iPads make sense from both equality and budget standpoints.

"The iPad has a lot of built-in accessibility features that all students with learning differences can benefit from. There is a built-in speech-to-text feature that allows students to highlight a word and hear the word spoken to them. For students who have trouble using a finger to touch a screen, the device can be programmed to allow the swipe of a hand," Porter said.

Porter said that as she looks at curriculum, she puts plans in place that will benefit all students, whether they have a disability or not.

Everyone benefits

"If you put supports in place for all students,



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two students in Karen Brackett's third-grade class work with an iPad. Brackett uses the iPad in four subjects: math, language, spelling and handwriting.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In a display of technology at its finest, Plymouth-Canton robotics team members built a robot good enough to win a district competition earlier this month.

then everyone benefits," she said.

The iPads have "built-in support for all students — not just those with a disability or a difference," said Porter.

"It is so important from a humanity perspective. If you are a student with a difference or disability, imagine the power of sitting in your classroom without having to have something different from the person sitting next to you," she said.

The built-in features also eliminate the need for additional software purchases and offer potential savings for the district, Porter said.

Central Middle School teacher Rick Cough-

lin teaches English language arts and educational technology, an elective, to seventh- and eighth-grade students. He said he uses some form of digital technology in most of his lessons. A recent biography unit culminated in students creating video "trailers" for their subject following online research.

"Rather than a written report, the students actually created a presentation that they could post on line and share with the world," Coughlin said. "They still went through the writing process—they just took it to the next level."

Coughlin said schools prepare students for life beyond school.

"It is important they get the ground-level skills. Adults use technology to manage their lives for daily productivity and we should be teaching our students to do the same," he said.

Engaged learning

Tim Nadon has taught economics and psychology at Plymouth High School for the past 17 years. He said the newer digital devices such as iPads encourage interactive teaching and learning and allow students to move at their own pace.

"Lessons that are traditionally taught in two-dimension slide show format with the teacher running the show are very passive. If I can use technology to get students directly involved, then I am helping them to be engaged," he said.

He contrasted the difference between a lesson brain physiology taught using a diagram in a book with a 3-D iPad app that allows students to dissect the brain with a touch of their finger.

"It is extremely motivating for kids — even the novelty of it," he said, "and they learn better when they are engaged."

Plymouth High School senior Brad Conley has used technology in some of his classes, including finance. He said using technology in the classroom "helps me get more out of it."

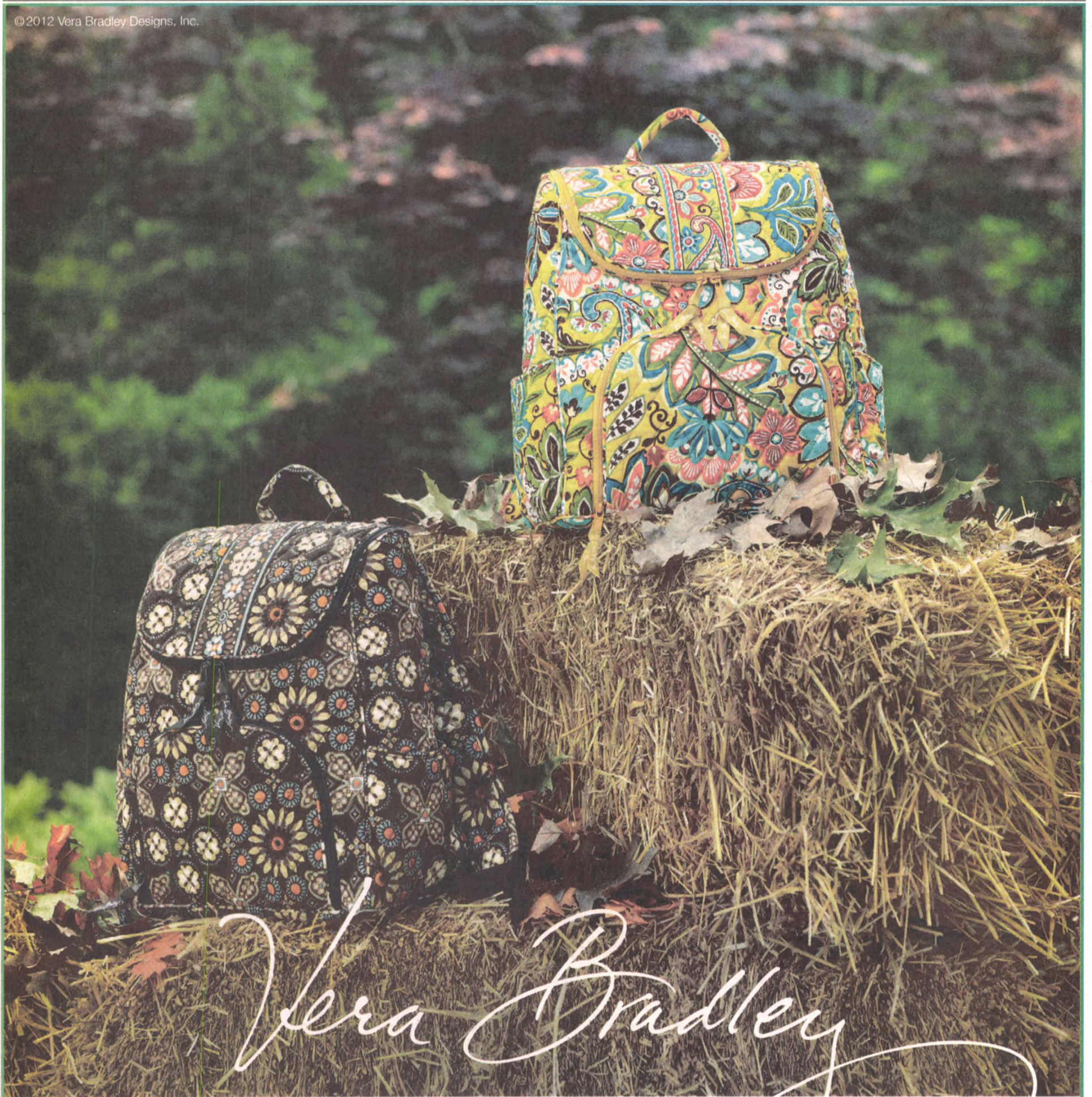
Conley, who will attend Michigan State University in the fall, said adding more technology into the classroom will help kids learn more effectively.

"It just makes it more interesting," he said. Canton resident and school board member Sheila Paton concurs. As the mother of two students attending Plymouth-Canton schools — a middle schooler and high school freshman — she said she has gained insight into the impact of technology in education.

"I have seen first-hand how much more students get out of learning when they are engaged and involved," Paton said.

"This (using technology) is how they learn now. If we want kids to get the most out of it, they have to have access to it," said Paton, who was among the majority of board members who voted to place the millage on the May ballot.

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Samsung delivers fresh camera experience

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

Many of us own phones, MP3 players, computers and other devices with built-in cameras, but have you ever seen a digital camera with Wi-Fi? With its new line of "smart" cameras, Samsung allows picture-takers to access the Internet on the go and seamlessly share photos to social networks.

I tested a new Samsung Galaxy camera, which featured a full-touch screen and Wi-Fi courtesy of Verizon Wireless. Verizon is just one way to get wireless Internet on a smart phone — free wireless hot spots are another.

Like the Galaxy smartphones, the Galaxy camera may be the coolest camera on the market. It has a number of mind-blowing features, including voice-command so you can talk to your camera and slow-motion video shooting capabilities. Imagine taking videos of sports in slow motion and then uploading them to the Web.

Impressive specs

The Galaxy Smartphone is sleek and easy to use for beginners, but also has impressive specs like a 21x optical zoom for more advanced users. It runs on 3G or Wi-Fi, so you can share photos with groups easily. No more waiting as every person in the group takes a photo with their not-so-cool Galaxy cameras.

The Galaxy also includes a content manager, photo editing wizard and video editing wizard. And in true Samsung Galaxy fashion, the camera features a nearly five-inch ultra-clear screen.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

For users who want more professional shots with less of the cool digital functions, Samsung also has a line of smart cameras, including its NX100 that captures pictures in 20.3 megapixels and records photos in 1080p high-definition. For those of you keeping score at home, the NX1000 records higher-definition videos than the iPhone and takes photos with two times the amount of megapixels.

Even Samsung's cheapest smart camera model has features that will make picture taking easy. The DV150 which retails for \$139, offers a front-facing LCD screen, self-portrait mode and even jump mode to help users capture the exact type of photos they love to take.

This new line of Samsung smart cameras is just another example of innovative products being developed by the South Korean-based company. While the company is still battling Apple for market share in the mobile and tablet world, there is arguably no company making a full-line of electronics better than Samsung is right now.

Digital March Madness

Important basketball games during your work day are happening this

week with major college basketball conference tournaments and next week with the NCAA tournament. There are many ways to follow the action from your cubicle or office — without your boss knowing.

This year, the NCAA — in conjunction with your cable company — is making every game available for free on computers and mobile devices. Users who visit www.ncaa.com/marchmadness can download an application that will stream games during the entire weekend. And if the games are blocked at work, you can stream them using your wireless connection (just be careful of high data costs).

If you don't need video, keeping up with the tournament is as easy as checking news and scores with an app. Consider using the Sporting News NCAA basketball app for scores. It is free and available for Android and iPhone devices.

Additionally, ESPN is offering a similar app called "Bracket Bound 2013." It provides scores, highlights and access to the ESPN tournament challenge. The coolest app of all might be the Buffalo Wild Wings Big Shot Challenge, where users play a game using augmented reality. Top scorers can even win a \$25 Buffalo Wild Wings gift card or a trip to the 2014 Final Four. And as always, the app is free and available on Android and iPhone devices.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? Email Jonathan.Gunnells@gmail.com.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



ETD Services, a Wayne-based staffing company, features customized quality staffing solutions, specializing in helping employers with the burden of their staffing needs.

Local staffing company provides 'options that fit'

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

ETD: ETD Services is a staffing company that features customized quality staffing solutions not matter what the sourcing requirements, we provide options that fit.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

ETD: We decided to open our staffing business in 1986 because we were all ready in the employment training business and started the staffing company to further help our customers needs.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

ETD: Since we were already providing services to western Wayne County we choose Canton because of its location, business opportunities, and industrial growth.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

ETD: We are unique because of our flexibility and customization of our offerings to our customers, both employers and employees.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

ETD: Since ETD has

ETD SERVICES

Business name and address: ETD Services, 35425 W. Michigan Ave., Wayne

Your name: Doug Ward, business development manager

Your hometown: Livonia

Owners: Antoinette Wirth of Salem Township and Bruce Ottenbreit of Trenton

Business opened: October 1986

Number of employees: 8

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Your business specialty: Quality staffing and quality training — we specialize in helping employers with the burden of their staffing needs.

Business phone | website: (734) 858-1600 | www.etd-services.com

opened things have changed due to the economy and downsizing of companies staffing. On the good side technological changes have created new staffing positions and more offerings.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

ETD: The recent economy has affected our business because companies who used our services were downsizing staff. We have noticed that many companies are poised to grow and things are starting to pick up. The use of temporary staffing helps compa-

nies grow. Companies are now realizing that we can take care of their burden due to staffing cost which frees them up for other areas of focus

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

ETD: Our advise to other business owners is stay true to what you do best, don't take shortcuts, and if you want to grow give us a chance to take on your burden and prove ourselves.

Observer: What's in store in the future for your business?

ETD: Our future is bright. We have weathered the storm and the horizon looks awesome.

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AROUND TOWN

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VFW FUNDRAISER

Date/Time: Thursday, March 14, 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Bob Evans Restaurant, Ford Road and I-275

Details: Bob Evans Restaurant is sponsoring a community fundraiser for the Plymouth VFW Post 6695. Bob Evans will donate 15 percent of sales to diners who present the flyer at checkout time. Flyers may be gotten at the post's location at 1426 S. Mill in Plymouth. Fundraiser proceeds will assist Post 6695 in continuing administration efforts with some of their projects in helping need veterans, the National Home for Children, Eaton Rapids, and supporting Scout Troop #1539.

MILLER WOODS TOURS

Dates/Times: Sundays, April 14, 21 and 28, 2-4 p.m.
Location: Miller Woods (Powell Road, east of Ridge between N. Territorial and Ann Arbor Road)

Details: Free, guided tours will occur in April to see the native spring wildflowers in Miller Woods. Tours depend on when the flowers are blooming, but are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 21 and 28. Check the website at millerwoods.com for up-to-date tour dates. Tours start every half hour. Park on side of road. Sorry, no dogs allowed in the nature preserve.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Date/Time: Sunday, March 17, noon
Location: VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill in Plymouth

Details: VFW Post 6695 hosts a St. Patrick's Day dinner, featuring corned beef and cabbage (\$7.50) or a corned beef sandwich with a pickle (\$5.50). Serving starts at noon and runs 'til the food is gone.

PRICE HOURS

Date/Time: Monday, March 11, 11-1 p.m.; Friday, March 22, 8 p.m.
Location: March 11 at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth; March 22 at the Crescent Academy International, 40444 Palmer in Canton.

Details: Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price will hold office hours at those locations. His constituents are welcome to visit with him at either location.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Art show support

Karen Siegel (left), Coordinator for Visual and Performing Arts, and Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, accept a \$2000 check from Jill Engel, Executive Director of the Partnership For Arts and Humanities. The money will fund a second day of the Plymouth-Canton Schools K-12 annual art show. The money was donated by Ibex Insurance and Sysco Food Services.

Contact: For details, call (734) 729-1000.

MAD HATTER TEA

Date/Time: Sunday, March 10, 2-4 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: It's tea time ladies! Grab your gals and come to the Plymouth Historical Museum for the annual Mad Hatter Tea where ladies wear their craziest hats! "Mad About Hats--100 years of Wearing Hats, 1860-1960" will be presented by Sandy Root, a Civil War reenactor and period milliner. Before the presentation, enjoy scrumptious delicacies from Joe's Deli of Plymouth and the Museum's signature "Mary's Blend" tea—a taste bud tingling cherry and almond black tea in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase in the Museum's store. Tickets for the Mad Hatter Tea are \$20 for Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by March 1 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date), and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html> using PayPal.

Contact: For further information, call (734) 455-8940.

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: This Plymouth-Canton neighborhood group is open to sewists of all levels. The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer," followed by "3D Flying Geese-hands on" on March 7; "Charity auction" April 11 (note date change); and "Machine or Hand Applique Quilt Block-hands on" on May 2.

Contact: For more information email asgpc@comcast.net

MASTERING MEDITATION

Date/Time: Saturdays, March 16 and 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: The Center - Massage, Yoga Wellness Studio, 1200 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Details: Dr. Kapila Castoldi offers a free introductory series on mastering meditation. Topics include concentration, relaxation and meditation techniques; creating a meditative lifestyle; self-awareness through meditation. Castoldi has studied meditation under the guidance of Indian spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy for 27 years. It is offered free of charge by the Sri Chinmoy Centre of Ann Arbor as a community service.

Contact: For information call (734) 994-7114.

19th annual 'Steppin' Out' benefits First Step

First Step is inviting shopping aficionados to "Steppin' Out in Style" at a private shopping event Sunday, March 24, at Carson's (formerly called Parisian) at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

The 19th annual after-hours evening of fashion and entertainment is being organized by the Zonta Club of Farmington-Novi. It will benefit First Step which works with the survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Shopping trends will be unveiled on the runway. Local restaurants will have their signature dishes available. And guests will get a 25 percent discount on most items, not to mention a chance to enter a raffle to win \$500 cash.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Also available are sponsorships - Grande Couturier for \$2,000, Couturier for \$1,500, Designer for \$1,000, Stylist for \$500, Fashion Plate for \$250, Clotheshorse for \$100 and Trendsetter for \$50. One hundred percent of ticket sales and sponsorships will go directly to First Step to provide free services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Wayne County.

Checks should be made payable to Zonta Club of Farmington-Novi and mailed to Steppin' Out In Style, 385550 Alma Lane, Westland, MI 48185. The deadline for advance tickets is Monday, March 18. For more information, send an email to herasckle@comcast.net or call (248) 496-9841. More information about First Step can be found on its website at www.first-step-mi.org.

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Kathleen Crombie

Thursday, March 21st at 7 PM

Director of Minority Outreach for Right to Life of Michigan and former "marginal and outspoken Catholic", Kathleen Crombie, shares the story of her miraculous rediscovery of the faith.

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OUR VIEWS

Campaign finance

Proposals offer accountability

"Transparency in government" has become a catch phrase used by almost everyone elected to office these days. Too bad it isn't used more during political campaigns by those seeking elected office and by those working on ballot issues.

It's too bad, because voters cast ballots and often don't know who is supporting those candidates and issues, and by how much.

"Why does it matter? We should have a right to know who supports the candidates, and what positions they have that are supported by the contributors," said Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, a nonpartisan, non-profit group. Robinson spoke recently before members of the League of Women Voters in Livonia, specifically examining last year's Michigan Supreme Court race.

So how bad is it? Some overt political advertising is not considered such, because it addresses issues and does not necessarily try to get a candidate elected, according to Robinson. Nevertheless, the practice can have a big impact — at an enormous cost.

In fact, the MCFN, which has been tracking campaign expenditures, estimates that about \$50 million in advertising went unreported as required in the Department of State's campaign finance reporting system. That money did not spontaneously seep from some well to ground level, only to be siphoned off to fuel someone's campaign. On the contrary, it came from people — or corporations and special interest groups — who could very well have a vested interest in that campaign. That means, in some cases, it was likely more of an investment than

a donation — an investment with an expected favorable return in the form of a critical vote.

What is a voter to do?

Follow the money. Unfortunately, that is easy to say but pretty tough to do. Some campaigners file financial reports after state deadlines, making it tough to know where their support is coming from.

"The (campaign committee) treasurer is critical to the election process," said Oakland County Commissioner Kathy Crawford, R-Nov. She said the treasurer is responsible "not only to meet reporting requirements, but also to inform candidates of all donations so that they may decide to accept or not."

The situation is not all doom and gloom. Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, a Republican who had her roots in northern Oakland County as a state representative, has chosen this "Sunshine Week" to cast light on the campaign finance reporting process with a series of proposals.

Sunshine Week promotes the state's Freedom of Information Act and openness in government, and Johnson has called the week "a great disinfectant." Those who have ever hung laundry outdoors understand the reference.

At first glance, Johnson's proposals are promising, and they merit quick attention as the election cycle is already beginning with fundraising efforts in some communities, such as in Royal Oak where the Chamber of Commerce is hosting an event for the incumbent mayor.

Her proposals call for expansion



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson is pushing proposals to increase voters' access to candidates' campaign contribution records. The announcement comes during National Sunshine Week, which runs through March 16 and promotes open government and freedom of information.

of electronic reporting, tracking of campaign committee finances in non-election years, "real time" reporting of donations of \$1,000 or more and additional finance reporting for ballot question committees.

In western Wayne County, State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, said that Wayne County already requires reporting by local candidates, but "that information is often difficult to access." Heise said he likes some of what Johnson has proposed.

Dave Staudt, a Novi city councilman who says he is treasurer for several campaign committees, points out that Oakland County has had online reporting for years. A Republican, he adds that he supports Johnson's measures.

Indeed, Johnson has carried forward to the state level things

she had implemented as Oakland County clerk.

"Our goal is to apply some of that sunshine to Michigan's campaign finance reporting so citizens can continue to have confidence in our elected officials," Johnson said in a press release. "Transparency promotes accountability."

With that, Johnson zeroes in on the key to the whole issue: Voters must demand transparency not for its own sake, but for the accountability it provides.

"Elections are one of the most important parts of our American society," said Novi Mayor Bob Gatt. "People have the right to know who is donating money to the candidates running for office and that information should be out in the public view for everyone to see."

COMMUNITY VOICE

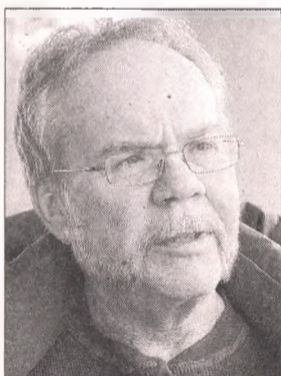
Would you support a May ballot proposal for a \$114 million bond issue to pay for new technology and a new middle school?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"No. I went to the middle school, and the teachers weren't concerned about handing out busywork. ... Computers over new roads?"

Jeff Straub
Plymouth Township



"Seems like a good idea. ... I don't mind taxes for good programs."

B.T. Morse
Plymouth



"If it's (taxes) going to stay the same, I'm (in favor). It's important to the schools. It's important to the community."

Mary Maludy
Plymouth Township



"I don't know enough about it. I would have to do a little more research. ... I would consider it."

Stephen Maludy
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Colbeck's plan

Sen. Patrick Colbeck has a plan to fund our roads (Observer, March 10). Let's dissect these new ideas. Reprioritizing expenditures? Such as cutting more aid to local governments and school districts? Paying down debt? With what money? They already gave it to their backers. Build better quality roads? Something that has been pushed for decades, but abandoned because of the initial cost. Where would the senator come up with the extra 50 percent needed per mile?

Now the coup de grace: Selling advertising rights in our rest areas and bring in a half billion dollars. Wow, that's some expensive space on our toilet walls.

How about selling our state name and change it to Michississippi? This will be appropriate once the senator's policies of the past two years finish taking effect — unions destroyed and only two segments of our population remaining, the rich and the poor, nothing in between.

Nowhere does the senator suggest that the corporate gifts of billions of dollars be reversed and sanity returned to our tax code. That would be going against the very entities that paid to get him and his fellow tea party members elected.

James Huddleston
Canton

Search for truth

Consider this a response to Lori Levi's open letter ("Lack of response," Observer, March 7). I am one of those who know so well and love this nation. A senior who dates back to a childhood of World War II.

An observation of how many times you contradicted yourself by a lack of logic and reason: "Make it appealing to our senses and emotions and use things we care about to make the case." Senses and emotions are what has dumbed down the past generations, including yours. Senses and emotions may do for the latest upgrade, but my past and your future need logic, reason, common sense with a big dose of thinking.

What are you asking us to come to? What do you think those meetings and rallies are for? Without listening how do you search for truth and creditable information? Are you

waiting for a tweet to cover years of history and the deliberate chaos we are experiencing? We can't tell you if you don't come.

It's to your credit that you write "need you and need your message." The message you need is that these past generations have been losing the freedoms our Founders fought for and are on a path to an authoritarian/dictatorship of socialism.

Can you define socialism and its history of consequences? Your generations are a product of it. "... in lingo we understand," should raise your red flags. Your understanding will be enhanced by learning the lingo of logic, reason and history. Who gave you the lingo that made you a "foreign student" in your own country?

You ask "If you were in our shoes, would you want to follow? A better question would be "who and what put you in those shoes" that are pinching and not wearing well. They are taking you to Hayek's "Road to Serfdom" (1944). You may have learned of him in one of those meetings you passed up.

"Stop looking to us to get engaged or blaming tomorrow's potential demise on our dismissal of what's important." That potential demise of tomorrow and your dismissal of it is your future and maybe what you think is important today is an illusion due to a lack going back to logic, reason and commonsense.

We're looking to you ... please start by telling us your story, listening to us at times without saying a word, and sharing the vision for what we can become as individuals, a generation and a nation. I have four generations in the vision you speak of. I care very much, but seldom is anyone of those generations willing to share, speak, think or listen. It does happen and the result is to see actual thinking take place. Those you are looking for were at those meetings, but you were absent. I might have been one of them.

I truly hope there are more like you who sense something is wrong but whose red flags send activity on your part to find answers. Right now you have answers and don't know the questions to ask. Search for truth.

Joanne Sonnenberg
Canton

Spend money wisely

Far be it for me to be an expert on road construction, but it is odd that roads built 35 to 50 years ago have lasted so long. However take I-96 from Telegraph to Newburgh; that stretch of road has been rebuilt/resurfaced countless times since 2000. How much money gets poured into these projects and yet they continue to fall apart in several years? Look at Seven Mile and Eight Mile roads between Farmington and Newburgh, falling apart after several years from a complete replacement. Should we not look at holding inspectors and contractors responsible for repairs? I would assume that a new road should give us the same longevity as those built by our grandparents that just now need repairs.

It's not a matter of spending the money for legitimate repairs but how many times do we have to repair the same set of roads in a five- to 10-year span? A newly installed concrete road such as Eight Mile or Seven Mile should last 35 years, not crumble in seven to eight years. We need oversight on what materials are put into the road and not just take the lowest bid. How about a story on that? If you spent a few million dollars out of your pocket for a purchase, you would expect some type of warranty, would you not? Why is this not part of a contract? Where are the building inspectors in all of this? How come there is no oversight in the type of concrete used or how asphalt is laid?

If we are to spend money, let's spend it once on a road and get a 25- to 30-year return on it. We should not have to repave or replace every five to 10 years. Now we have to spend money again, this time a complete replacement of I-96 between Telegraph and Newburgh. How long will this road and set of bridges last before they are crumbling and need to be repaved again for several million more? I understand concrete is expensive and more costly than asphalt, but if I spend \$1 to \$2 million today to repave with asphalt to have to turn around and spend \$4 to \$6 million to rip it out for a concrete project five to seven years later, what costs savings is there?

Dave Muscat
Livonia

Realtor's passing 'leaves a hole'

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The real estate industry lost one of its top local performers when Chris Knight, a Realtor for Coldwell Banker, lost a two-year battle with colon cancer and passed away early Monday.

Knight, 47, was a 1983 graduate of Canton High School who started selling real estate at the age of 19 and, within five years of starting with the company, became one of the top-selling agents at Coldwell Banker.

With more than a half-billion dollars in career sales, the Chris Knight team was Coldwell Banker's top-selling team in the nation in 2010, and hit Number One in the region in both 2011 and 2012.

Mark Guidobono, a builder/developer with Cambridge Homes, has known Knight for 25 years and said his passing has left "something missing."

"Chris was the type of guy that everybody loved," said Guidobono. "When he left this Earth, he left a hole. It's like there's a spot missing now, and I'm sure everyone who knows him feels



Local Realtor Chris Knight (right), here with wife Susan and daughters Kylie and Alyssa, lost his battle with colon cancer Monday.

that way."

Guidobono said he met Knight "in our single days," and that the friends watched each other get married, have their children and succeed in business.

"We've done business together, we've played golf together," Guidobono said. "He was always there for his friends."

He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Susan; daughters Kylie and Alyssa; parents Pamela (Randy) Webster and Gordon (Kathy) Knight; sister Kelly (Robert) Webster; in-laws Gary and Janice Miller; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death

by his cousin Jason Rambo and grandfather Gene Bischof.

There will be a funeral Mass 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 15, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, with visitation at church beginning at 10 a.m. Friends may also visit 4-9 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main in Plymouth. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth.

Memorials in Chris' name may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Arbor Hospice.

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

Disney seeks local performers

Disney Parks Talent Casting is coming to Canton in search of character performers and candidates for the WDW college program.

Auditions are being held Sunday, March 17, at Central City Dance Center, 6700 N. Canton Center Road in Canton. Sign-in is required from 10:30-11:00 a.m., with auditions starting at 11 a.m. Late

applicants will not be accepted; advance registration is not required.

Disney Parks Talent Casting is seeking energetic college students interested in the Walt Disney World College program. Applicants must have been enrolled in college/university for at least one semester.

Male and female performers are needed to do

thousands of guest "meet and greets," as well as perform in parades, shows, and dances. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, be willing to relocate to central Florida and be available for at least one year.

For more information visit <http://disneyauditions.com>, or for directions to location, please call Central City Dance Center at (734) 459-0400.

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Eagles clipped in Class D quarters

4 MU cagers All-Academic

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

All throughout the Class D girls basketball tournament, Plymouth Christian Academy had second-half answers to first-half problems.

The Eagles tried the same formula after falling behind early in Tuesday's quarterfinals against Athens at Battle Creek Central. This time, unfortunately, PCA could not pull off another big comeback, falling 54-48 to the Lady Indians.

GIRLS BASKETBALL QUARTERFINAL

Athens (22-3) will move on to Thursday night's Class D semifinal at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. The Eagles finished their outstanding season with a 18-7 record.

"I'm very proud of them, they never gave up, not until the buzzer," PCA head coach Carol Gerulis said. "They were fighting for their life trying to stay alive because



now if you don't win you're done."

A tough-shooting first half put PCA in early trouble, with junior center Jenny Malcolm's eight points before intermission at least keeping the Eagles within range.

Athens, sparked by a senior forward Chantel Davenport (20 points, 17 in the first half) kept rolling early in the third

with back-to-back layups by Davenport and Allysha Beal (10 points) making it 31-17.

Be careful

Lady Indians head coach Calvin Quist, however, emphasized to his players not to get complacent if they wanted to make it back to Breslin for the Final Four (as they did in 2012).

"This team (PCA) is a team that's fought back four times in the tournament," Quist said. "So we knew, they were going to

make a run. We just had to sustain that run and we did enough to do that, That's a credit to my girls."

Quist was correct that the Eagles weren't done for the night.

Four treys by PCA junior guard Emily Gerulis (15 points, three steals) and eight points by senior guard Karen Windle — all in the second half — sparked the Eagles, who trailed 10-2 in the first, 27-17 at half.

Please see EAGLES, B3

Four Madonna University players were among 178 student-athletes named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Daktronics Division II Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete Team.

The four players, who carried a 3.5 grade-point average or better included seniors Michelle Lindsey (Birmingham Marian), Kristie Porada (Gibraltar Carlson) and Heather Pratt (Flushing), along with sophomore Rachel Melcher (Marian).

For Lindsey (nursing), Porada (pre-medicine) and Pratt (business administration), the selection marks the trio's second straight season of earning the honor, while Melcher (biology) is making her first appearance on the squad.

All four were also honored as member of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference All-Academic team earlier this fall.

BOYS BASKETBALL REGIONALS

Ypsi stops Chiefs' tourney march

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Michigan State University's Breslin Center is the venue Canton wanted to reach during this postseason, but the Chiefs' march hit the "Green House" wall at Ann Arbor Huron instead.

There was no shame in that, of course. The way Ypsilanti played in Monday's Class A boys basketball regional semifinal, a lot of teams would have been up against it as the Chiefs were — falling 77-64 to the Phoenix.

Canton couldn't keep Phoenix power forwards Jaylen Johnson and Lavonte Davis from dominating the boards or getting extra cracks around the rim. And when Ypsilanti had open looks out on the perimeter, it often connected.

Conversely, the Chiefs, who finished with a 17-7 record, were forced into taking too many rushed field-goal tries after falling behind by double figures midway through the second quarter.

Those off-the-mark chances often led to dashes by Ypsi players to the opposite end of the floor.

"They're really aggressive, they play full-court. Man, they play hard," said Canton senior point guard Josh Mayberry, who led all scorers with 24 points in his prep finale. "They can shoot the ball, they really didn't miss a lot."

"That was one thing that killed us, they were making a lot of shots and we weren't. That's what it came down to."

For the game, the Phoenix made 28-of-56 shots from the floor and held a 30-16 rebounding edge.

Sharing the offensive load for Ypsilanti (19-4) were senior Justin Bernard and junior Janeau Joubert (17 points each), freshman Corey Allen (13 points), 6-7 Davis (12 points, eight rebounds, three blocks) and 6-8 Johnson (10 points, nine rebounds).

"We had to execute at both ends and we didn't do a good enough job in the

Please see CHIEFS, B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Dribbling down the court Monday night is Canton senior forward Scott Gring (No. 10), while Ypsilanti's Janeau Joubert (No. 3) closes in. Gring's career with the Chiefs ended with the team's 77-64 loss to the Phoenix.

Canton girls bring home the medals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

On Friday, the Canton Chiefs experienced the same old routine at the Division 1 team finals when they were defeated by Grand Ledge — just like in 2012.

The picture was considerably brighter for Canton and head coach John Cunningham at Saturday's D1 individual finals at Plymouth High School.

"If only our fantastic Saturday performance, matched with Grand Ledge's mediocre day, had been Friday," said Cunningham in an e-mail to the Observer. "The team really came through, even though they had back to

INDIVIDUAL FINALS

back meets, with 13 medals and two state champions."

Capturing the Division 2 championship on vault for the second consecutive year was Erica Lucas, whose 9.525 score actually tied for first with Grand Ledge's Presley Allison.

Epitomizing the gutsy mindset that prevailed among Canton's squad was sophomore Jocelyn Moraw. Despite dealing with groin and back injuries that hampered her during the team finals, Moraw's 9.55 on balance beam earned her the D1 championship.

For good measure, Moraw also tallied a 9.7

on uneven parallel bars (third) and placed fifth in all-around with a 37.225.

"Jocelyn Moraw was the team inspiration," Cunningham said. "Taping up a strained groin and back, finishing Friday's competition for the team and then coming back the next day and winning a state championship. ... What a gutsy, fantastic display of fortitude."

Winning four medals in D1 for the Chiefs was Melissa Green. She finished fourth on floor (9.6) and all-around (37.25), tied for sixth on beam (9.3) and 10th on vault (9.35).

Other Chiefs to med-

Please see GYMNASTS, B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Bandaged-up Canton sophomore Jocelyn Moraw focuses during her routine on balance beam. She won the Division 1 state championship in the event.

Taylor makes GLIAC squad

Grand Valley State women's basketball senior Briana Taylor (Livonia Franklin) was recently named to the All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference first-team and the All-Defensive squad.

It is the third straight season that the 5-foot-9 Taylor earned first-team honors and first time for the defensive award as voted on by the conference coaches.

Taylor paced the 19-8 Lakers with 15.8 points, 6.9 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game.

She also shot 44.7 percent from the field to rank third on the team and in the top 20 in the conference.

Taylor led the team in scoring 16 times and grabbed a team-high in rebounds on 15 occasions. She had five double-doubles on the year.

Barber CCHA rookie honor

Miami University (Ohio) freshman forward Riley Barber (Livonia) was named to the All-Rookie team in Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

Barber leads the RedHawks offensively with a 36 points and 21 assists in 34 games. The Washington Capitals draft pick has 11 multi-point games and was named CCHA Gongshow Rookie of the Week four times.

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COMPUWARE HOSTS BOYS HOCKEY FINALS

Ice-breaking title for Spartans

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

They've earned the right to "Spartan On" as Stevenson did what no other Livonia prep hockey team has done in 43 years on Saturday - win a coveted state championship.

The Spartans are the newly crowned MHSAA's Division 2 champions by virtue of their 5-4 victory at Plymouth's Compuware Arena against fellow Kensington Lakes Activities Association member Hartland.

Stevenson, getting a pair of goals each from senior defenseman Travis Harvey and star junior forward Dominic Lutz, survived a wild second period that featured six goals to hoist the state championship trophy.

"You have to do it to feel it," Harvey said. "I'm speechless right now."

For Lutz, who notched his 42nd and 43rd goals of the season, it was surreal moment.

"It's unbelievable," he said. "A lot of my teammates have been playing together for years and it just means a ton to me and it's great to accomplish this. We've worked so hard and it's great to be rewarded. It was a great team win."

It was 1-1 after one period as Harvey scored from Mick Sinclair and Blake Battjes at 4:55, but Hartland's Austin Flores countered when he beat Spartan goaltender Connor Humitz in the upper right corner from Chris McRae and John Nagel.

McRae then scored unassisted at 54 seconds of the second period to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Dominic Lutz celebrates after scoring one of his two goals in Saturday's 5-4 Division 2 state championship win over Hartland.

DIVISION 2

give the Eagles a momentary 2-1 advantage, but Stevenson answered with three straight goals.

Lutz connected for two in a row, one unassisted at 4:30 and the second from Jake Kierdorf at 7:07 followed by Harvey's second of the game from Ray Chartier at 9:10 to make it 4-2.

"In this kind of game you try and pick your corners, but in the end you've just got to get good shots on net," Lutz said. "My second goal ... I just threw it at the net and it deflected off someone and got in. I shoot pucks all the time, but once it comes down it, you've got to just put it on net and make it's on the goal and not wide."

Lutz's first goal, however, was a beauty as he took a pass from Kierdorf between the circles and ripped a shot by Hartland netminder Nick Wineka.

"That time I had no pressure and was able to place it where I wanted," Lutz said. "My slap shot takes more time, but my wrist shot I think I'm way more accurate with it. And it just seems to work

for me." Hartland's Ned O'Boyle, however, made it a one-goal game again with an unassisted effort at 9:56 of the second.

But Chartier's drive from the left point was redirected off an Eagle player to put Stevenson back on top by two again, 5-3, at 12:48.

"We would rather not play that way," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We'd rather play a little more defensive and shut things down, but these guys next to me - when they see opportunities - they tend to go. We saw some opportunities and took some, but give Hartland credit in the world because once we started looking for goals, they caught us. They turned around and buried some of their own."

Although Stevenson held a 40-29 shots on goal advantage, it was no piece of cake as Hartland (19-9-2) made things interesting just 14 seconds into the third period when Chris McRae notched his second goal of the game to cut the deficit to 5-4.

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Shamrocks stymied in D1 final

By Tim Robinson
Gannett News Service

It was loud, it was suspenseful, and for the Brighton hockey team, it was everything the Bulldogs could ask for.

Brighton repeated as Division 1 hockey champions on Saturday night at Compuware Arena, beating old nemesis Detroit Catholic Central 2-1 to earn its third championship in eight years.

It was the second championship of the day for the KLAA, which saw Livonia Stevenson beat Hartland 5-4 for the Division 2 title earlier in the day.

Saturday's title victory was a lot like last year's. The Bulldogs were outshot by a large margin - 38-16 - but made the most of the opportunities they had and never trailed.

"I thought that defensively we were making them shoot a lot of pucks wide and Jimmy (goalie Jimmy Milletics) was seeing a lot of them," Brighton coach Paul Moggach said. "Both goalies played great. It's hard to say a winner and one wasn't, but that's the way it goes."

It went that way because Milletics was superb throughout, and never more so than in the final seconds, when he stopped Michael Babcock Jr., son of the Detroit Red Wings coach, twice from point-blank range before covering the puck with 6.8 seconds remaining.

"He got a shot off and I stuck my leg out, hoping I could get it," Milletics said. "It worked pretty well."

The ensuing face-off, to Milletics' left saw the



Vying for a loose puck during Saturday's Division 1 boys hockey final at Compuware Arena are Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Luke Turner (No. 10) and Brighton's Alex Sauchak (No. 17).

puck go into the corner of the rink, and the Shamrocks couldn't dig it out in time.

"He was a difference-maker today," Moggach said. "He was one yesterday (in the semifinals, a 4-1 win over U-D Jesu-it). Good goaltending in really big games. They're a tough team to beat, and I thought he did a great job. We had good team defense as well. Everybody worked hard. They helped him see pucks and kept pucks on the perimeter."

Catholic Central head coach Todd Johnson also had high praise for the netminder, but noted that the Bulldogs "blocked a ton of shots. They had a pretty darn good formula for success."

Johnson added that it was costly to go down 2-0, and that a late penalty also cut into any possible time for a comeback.

Up by two

Michael Yuhasz, in the first period, and Lucas Morgan, in the second, gave the Bulldogs a lead they never relinquished.

Yuhasz got the Bulldogs on the board with 1:53 left in the first period.

"I don't know how it got to me, really. It must have bounced off someone's stick," Yuhasz said. "I just tried to get whatever I could on the puck, and that was a huge difference maker, getting the first goal. It got us started. It was a good thing for our team."

Luke Morgan, a freshman, scored Brighton's second goal. Yuhasz streaked up the ice to the left of Catholic Central goalie Derek Moore and got off a shot, with Morgan putting the rebound into the net.

"He got it across from the wing, and I crashed the net," Morgan said. "It was a great play carrying it up the ice."

Catholic Central scored when Carson Gatt beat Milletics for a power-play goal with 7:02 remaining, but a stalwart Brighton defense held the Shamrock at bay the rest of the night.

— Contributing was Perry A. Farrell, courtesy Gannett News Services.

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BOYS SWIM RESULTS

MHSAA BOYS SWIMMING DIVISION 1 MEET RESULTS March 8-9 at Holland Aquatics Center

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Saline, 313 points; 2. Birmingham Brother Rice, 309; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 191; 4. Rockford, 163; 5. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 156; 6. Zeeland, 155.5; 7. Holland West Ottawa, 142; 8. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, 108; 9. Hudsonville, 107; 10. Lake Orion, 87; 24. Salem, 18 (32 schools).

EVENT RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Saline (David Boland, Josh Ehrman, Michael Bundas, Adam Whitener), 1:30.01 (MHSAA Division 1 and all-class record); 12. Salem (Jason Zhang, Turner Solterman, Jerry Bai, Matt Pairitz),

1:39.03; 22. Plymouth (Cameron Earls, Nick Weber, Ryan Heinze, Alex Wilson), 1:42.64.

200 freestyle: 1. Whitener (Saline), 1:38.31.

200 individual medley: 1. Ehrman (Saline), 1:47.86 (Division 1 and all-class record).

50 freestyle: 1. Bundas (Saline), 20.96; 21. Zhang (Salem), 22.24.

1-meter diving: 1. Nick Nicoletti (Forest Hills Northern), 442.30 points.

100 butterfly: 1. Boland (Saline), 48.59 (Division 1 record).

100 freestyle: 1. Whitener (Saline), 44.65; 23. Pairitz (Salem), 48.57.

500 freestyle: 1. Arakelian (Stevenson), 4:27.75 (Division 1 record); 31. Solterman (Salem), 4:56.56.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Saline (Ehrman, Bundas, Stefan Koberl, Whitener), 1:23.92 (Division 1 record); 16. Salem (Pairitz, Bai, Jason Basanese, Kenny McManimon), 1:30.45; 30. Plymouth (Alex Johnson, Weber, Heinze, Wilson), 1:32.75.

100 backstroke: 1. Boland (Saline), 49.75; 20. Zhang (Salem), 55.46; 25. Earls (Plymouth), 55.87.

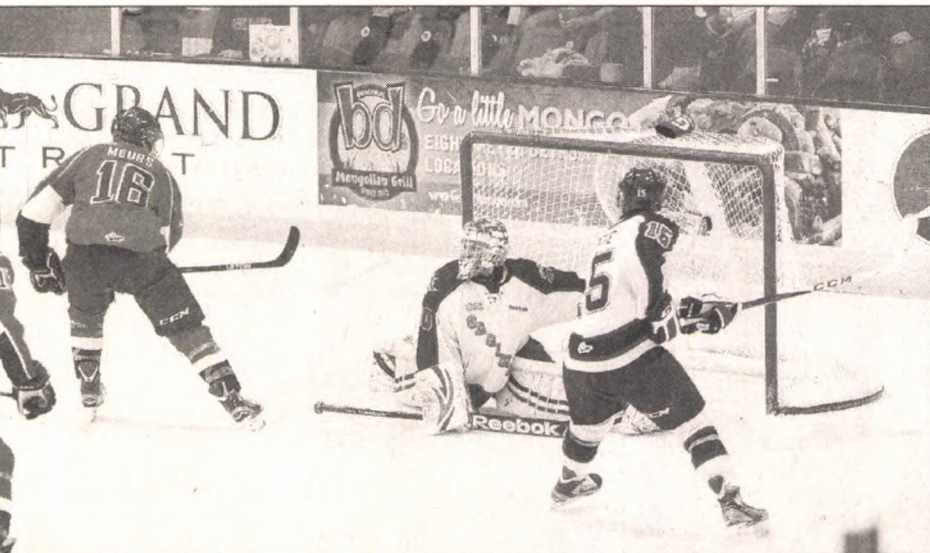
100 breaststroke: 1. Ehrman (Saline), 55.31 (Division 1 and all-class record); 21. Solterman (Salem), 1:01.60.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Brother Rice (Gust Kouvaris, Patrick Nodland, Mark Blinstrub, Joe Krause), 3:03.78 (Division 1 and all-class record); 14. Salem (Pairitz, Danny Lynch, Basanese, Zhang), 3:16.87.



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton senior point guard Josh Mayberry (No. 2) — in what turned out to be his final high school game — looks to maneuver through Ypsilanti defenders including Janeau Joubert (No. 3) during Monday's Class A regional semifinal at Ann Arbor Huron.



RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth Whalers forward Garrett Meurs (No. 16) scores one of his three goals Sunday against Saginaw goalie Nikita Serebyakov (No. 30) at Compuware Arena. Eric Locke (No. 15) is at right.

Spirit snowed under

Avalanche prospects spearhead Whalers to 7-5 victory

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Triggering a proverbial avalanche of offense for the Plymouth Whalers were linemates Garrett Meurs and Mitchell Heard, who combined to score four goals Sunday afternoon as the Whalers defeated Saginaw 7-5.

Meurs — who registered a hat trick to now have 30 goals on the season — and Heard could perhaps envision having big games in the not-too-distant future as teammates on the Colorado Avalanche. Both players are property of the NHL team.

Following the matinee played before nearly 3,100 at Compuware Arena, Meurs said the topic of playing together someday on the Avalanche hasn't been discussed that much, with the top priority all about gearing up for the Ontario Hockey League playoffs.

"Not really, he (Heard) tells me a little bit of what he did up there in the A (American Hockey League) and I know some of the guys, too," Meurs said. "We haven't really talked about the future yet."

Heard played the first half of this season with Colorado's Lake Erie AHL farm team and has only played 29 games with Plymouth since being returned to juniors. He has 13 goals with the Whalers, including Sunday's marker where he stickhandled through Saginaw defenders before snapping a short-side wrist shot past goalie Nikita Serebyakov.

"He's been great since he's been back," Meurs said, referring to Heard. "And with Matt Misteale on that line, too, we all work hard and try to get pucks to the net and they're going in for us."

About the Colorado prospects, Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci had nothing but praise for their performance against the Spirit.

"That was Heard's best game since he's been back," Vellucci said. "He played really well, he had a lot of speed, using his legs. And Meurs, he plays the same every

night. He contributes and he had three big goals."

The Whalers (39-17-5-4, 87 points) have already clinched the OHL West Division and, with it, the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference. But they are still bound and determined to keep the positive momentum going into the postseason, which begins Friday, March 22, at Compuware against a to-be-determined opponent.

"We're excited, everyone's ready to go," Meurs said. "We just got to keep playing the way we have the last 10 games or so. Keep pucks out of our net and score more than them."

Stemming the tide

Sunday's game didn't always follow the script as the Spirit took a quick 1-0 lead. Garret Ross netted his 43rd goal of the season at 2:44 of the first.

An opportunity for Saginaw to take a two-goal lead went by the wayside when Plymouth penalty killers Connor Sills and Danny Vanderwiel teamed up for a shorthanded goal at 5:46 to even things up at 1-1. It was Sills's first OHL marker.

"Using him (Sills) on the penalty kill, with Vandy, they made a nice play there," Vellucci said. "He probably had a lot of chances throughout the year to score his first one, but he played well."

Saginaw's Eric Locke sent the puck past Plymouth netminder Alex Nedeljkovic (23 saves) at 7:50 on another power play.

Back came the Whalers again. Meurs scored on the power play at 15:31 with assists going to Stefan Noesen and Gianluca Curcuruto to send the teams into the intermission at 2-2.

It took just 3:29 of the second for Plymouth to take a 3-2 lead and it was Meurs to again light the lamp. Serebyakov (33 saves) made a poor clearing attempt that Meurs intercepted along the right half-wall. Meurs motored down into the low slot and backhanded a shot into the net.

High-scoring center

Vince Trocheck made it 4-2 with a power-play marker at 14:59, from Noesen and Sebastian Uvira. Noesen fed the puck between the circles to Trocheck, whose slapper caromed in off the left post for his 48th goal of the season and 101st point.

Saginaw's Dalton Young cut the lead to 4-3 with a goal at 16:17, a rising shot from the left point.

Meurs banked a shot from behind the net off of the Spirit goalie for his third of the game, to put Plymouth up 5-3 at 55 seconds of the third. Assisting were Heard and Misteale.

Saginaw did not go quietly, however, tying the contest at 5-5 on goals from Young and Justin Kea.

The equalizer came at 6:30, and the Whalers needed just 1:14 to respond.

Breaking the tie with his goal was Heard, putting the finishing touches on a play started by Meurs and defenseman Austin Levi.

Uvira capped the scoring at 18:35, skating in from the neutral zone and sending a low shot between Serebyakov's pads.

The loss dropped Saginaw's record to 31-28-3-3 (68 points), but the Spirit clinched the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"Right now we're just playing for points against the other division," Vellucci said. "It wasn't a great game. Offensively we played pretty good."

"It wasn't great on the penalty kill, but I used different guys to try to get ready for the playoffs."

WHAT'S NEXT: Plymouth traveled to Sault Ste. Marie for last night's matchup and will wrap up the regular season with a home-and-home this weekend against Windsor.

The teams play at 7 p.m. Saturday at Compuware (it will be Plymouth's "Green Out" game for St. Patrick's Day), followed by a 2 p.m. game Sunday at Windsor.

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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

first half at either end," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "In stretches we were OK, but we took way too many bad shots, which you got to credit Ypsilanti for forcing us into."

"And defensively, sometimes we overhelped and then we didn't block out good enough and they got second and third opportunities. That's one of the best parts of their offense, just keeping those big guys crashing the glass."

Momentum stoppers

Mayberry, as did Canton's other seniors, left it all out on the floor, even after it became apparent in the second quarter what the final outcome would be. Ypsilanti led 22-14 after one quarter and expanded that to 44-27 at halftime.

All game long, whenever the Chiefs made a big play or basket to seemingly grab some momentum, back came Ypsilanti to stick a pin in Canton's comeback balloon.

For example, down 61-43 going into the fourth, senior forward Scott Gring stole the ball in the Canton end and Mayberry drained a trey from beyond the top of the arc to make it a 15-point spread.

But not too long afterward, Joubert banked in a triple.

Back-to-back treys by Canton senior guard Ryan Planey and junior guard Greg Williams (the latter following a steal-and-dish from Mayberry) cut Ypsi's lead to 71-58 with 2:15 remaining in regulation. Right down the floor came Davis, for a thunderous dunk.

Even though Ypsi had the game in hand, the Chiefs never wavered. In



Taking aim at the rim Monday night is Canton junior center Jordan Nobles (No. 15), shooting the basketball over the outstretched arm of Ypsilanti's Jaylen Johnson (No. 10). In the foreground for the Chiefs is Scott Gring (No. 10).

the final minute, Mayberry sank another 3-ball and forced a turnover that led to a pair of free throws with 49 seconds left to make it 73-63.

A few seconds later, both Mayberry and Gring left the game, receiving applause from Canton fans and hugs from teammates — saluting how they played during the game, not to mention their careers.

"It's over, but you got to move on," Mayberry said. "It's been a fun four years and I appreciate my coaching staff and all my teammates. It's been a fun ride."

Planey netted 12 points off the bench, while Gring (six rebounds) had a solid game in the paint. Also seeing action were seniors Adnan Bayz and Matt McKoy.

"It was a heck of a year for all those guys," Reddy said. "Josh and Scott were three-year varsity guys who had 16 wins as sophomores, 16 wins as juniors, 17 wins this year, two division championships, a conference and a district."

"I'm just really proud of the guys, Bayz, McKoy, Planey. They were great chemistry guys."

One, they're great people, great citizens for Canton basketball. And two, they had a heck of a year on the basketball floor."

The seniors weren't alone in trying to rally Monday night.

Junior center Jordan Nobles scored 15 points and contributed three boards and three blocked shots. Two other key juniors, Williams and forward Davon Taylor, scored nine and four points, respectively.

"Jordan, Davon and Greg, we have a core that played a lot of meaningful minutes," Reddy said. "And the other guys, the younger guys that didn't play as many, got experience winning championships."

"They just got to get better in the spring, summer and fall. Hopefully, they contribute next year for us."

It still was a season for the record books as far as the Chiefs are concerned. This was the first year since 1996 since Canton won the district, conference and division in the same season.

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EAGLES

Continued from page B1

time and 36-22 with 2:45 to play in the third.

Malcolm also fueled the PCA comeback try with three baskets around the rim, finishing the night with 14 points and eight rebounds.

"We've been going through a lot of tough starts the past few games in this whole tournament," said Windle, who had eight rebounds and three steals along with her eight points. "It's just another one of those. ... Emily really carried us through with her threes and we all just decided we wanted to play strong no matter what to finish."

"Win or lose we could leave the court knowing we played our best and that we gave glory to God. That's the most we can do."

PCA did cut the gap to 46-43 with 2:50 remaining following a Geru-

lis rainbow trey from well beyond the arc and a putback by junior forward Rachel Smith (eight points, five rebounds).

That basket got the purple-clad Eagles' student section noisier than it had been all night.

"We thought we had it in us (another game-winning rally) and Smitty got that rebound, put it back in and kept it at three so that was really awesome," Windle said.

Leading the way

But then Windle was whistled for her fifth foul and had to exit the floor, ending her high school career with 1:42 remaining. It also was the final game for PCA senior guard Jenna Abraham.

PCA missed on three straight triples in the final 100 seconds, and Athens tacked on free throws by Allison Fuller (10 points) and Leia Fuller.

"I've had them on varsity since they were

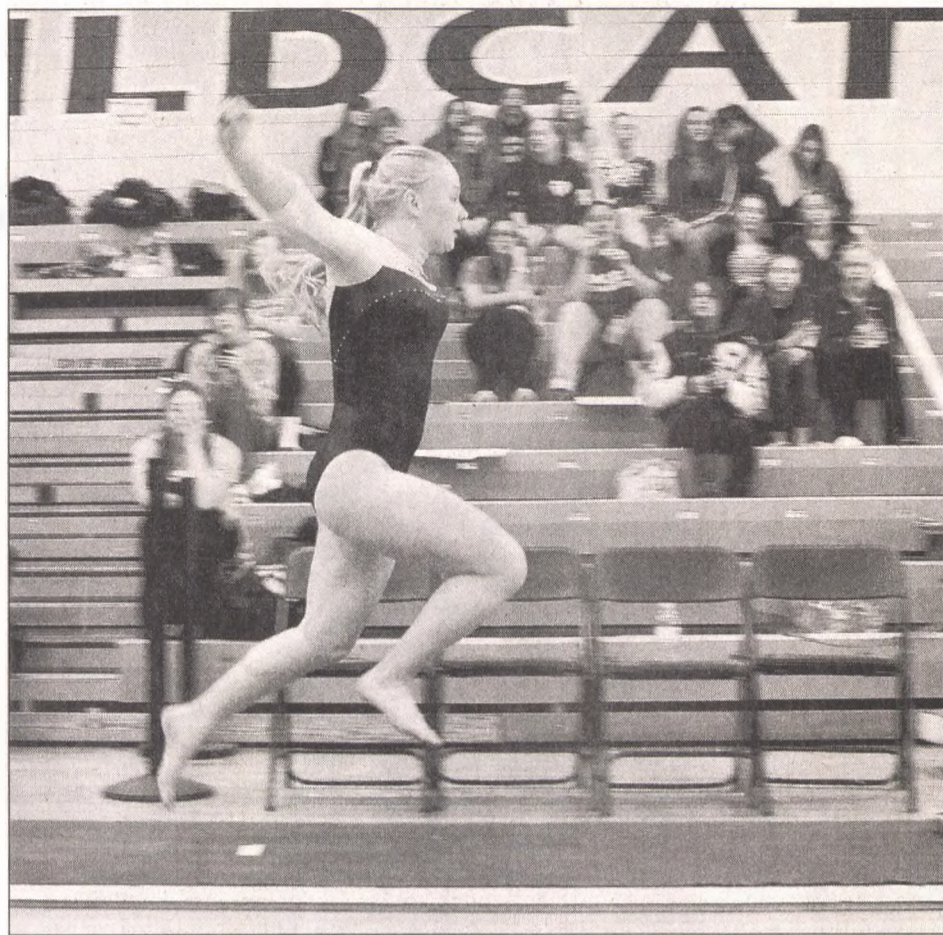
freshmen," said Gerulis, about Windle and Abraham. "They have the biggest hearts of any kids I've ever coached. They're great leaders, they give you everything they can on the floor."

"Karen just came out and fought, she has a bad ankle from the regional final game. She played on it anyway and gave it everything she's got. I'm just really glad I got to coach those two kids."

Windle added that the future is bright because of the players who will return in 2013-14 (led by Malcolm, Gerulis, Smith, currently injured Rachael Fuller and Martha Mullett, who scored three Tuesday).

"They have so much talent within the five of them and I know they can go just as far if not further next year," Windle said. "I know they are going to leave a legacy just like we left."

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Springing into action on the vault Saturday is Canton's Erica Lucas. She finished first in the event among Division 2 gymnasts at the individual finals.

GYMNASTS

Continued from page B1

al included senior Nicole Lasecki (10th on beam in D1, 9.25), Hailey Hodgson (seventh on vault in D2, 9.2) and Maddie Toal (sixth on beam in D1, 9.3).

Lucas also tallied eighth in D2 on bars (8.725) and finished ninth in D2 all-around with a 35.150.

The way the team responded to Friday's outcome had Cunningham pumped up for 2013-14 to arrive.

"These girls will win states next year," he said.

Also winning medals Saturday were Brittany Ramirez (eighth, D2 vault, 9.175) and Andrea Merlotti (ninth, D2 vault, 9.150) of Salem and Plymouth's Samantha Fontana (ninth, D2 bars, 8.7).

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL GYMNASTICS MEET AREA FINISHERS March 9 at Plymouth H.S.

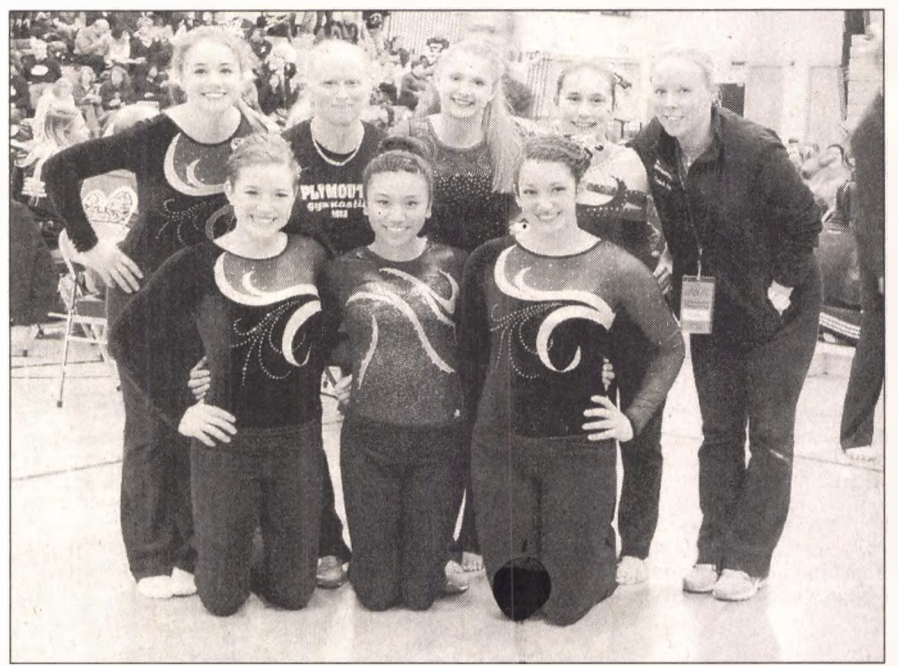
DIVISION 1

Vault: 1. Ashley Hextall (Pinckney), 9.65; 10. Melissa Green (Canton), 9.325; 18. Jocelyn Moraw (Canton), 9.0; 19. Haley Metz (Plymouth), 8.975; 21. Rebeca Simu (Plymouth), 8.9; 27. Maddie Toal (Canton), 8.675; 31. Nicole Lasecki (Canton), 8.25; **uneven bars:** 1. Kylie Dudek (Coldwater), 9.8; 3. Moraw (Canton), 9.7; 12. Green (Canton), 9.025; 14. Lasecki (Canton), 8.975; 16. Toal (Canton), 8.875; 18. Simu (Plymouth), 8.825; 20. Metz (Plymouth), 8.775; **balance beam:** 1. Moraw (Canton), 9.55; 6. (tie) Green (Canton), Toal (Canton), 9.3; 10. Lasecki (Canton), 9.25; **floor exercise:** 1. Rachel Hogan (Grand Ledge), 9.8; 4. Green (Canton), 9.6; 16. Toal (Canton), 9.225; 20. Lasecki (Canton), 9.075; 24. Moraw (Canton), 8.975; **all-around:** 1. Christina Shabet (Troy), 37.70; 4. Green (Canton), 37.25; 5. Moraw (Canton), 37.225; 16. Toal (Canton), 36.075; 21. Lasecki (Canton), 35.55.

DIVISION 2

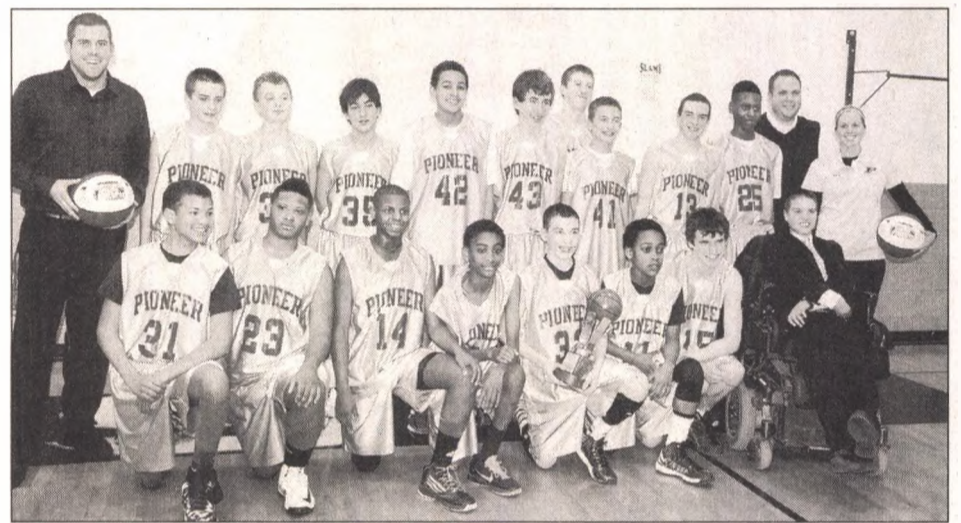
Vault: 1. Erica Lucas (Canton), 9.525; 7. Hailey Hodgson (Canton), 9.2; 8. Brittany Ramirez (Salem), 9.175; 9. Andrea Merlotti (Salem), 9.15; 17. Morgan Soper (Salem), 9.0; 29. Brooke Allgeyer (Salem), 8.725; **uneven bars:** 1. Emma Abessinio (Grosse Pointe United), 9.075; 4. Merlotti (Salem), 8.85; 8. Lucas (Canton), 8.725; 9. Samantha Fontana (Plymouth), 8.7; 24. Soper (Salem), 8.25; 38. Ramirez (Salem), 7.45; **balance beam:** 1. Presley Allison (Grand Ledge), 9.675; 16. Fontana (Plymouth), 8.825; 31. (tie) Lucas (Canton), Merlotti (Salem), Soper (Salem), 8.075; 35. Sarah Uhlian (Plymouth), 8.0; **floor exercise:** 1. Allison (Grand Ledge), 9.7; 13. Katie Salanga (Plymouth), 9.1; 15. Soper (Salem), 9.075; 30. Lucas (Canton), 8.825; 37. Jane McCurry (Plymouth), 8.65; 40. Merlotti (Salem), 8.55; **all-around:** 1. Allison (Grand Ledge), 37.875; 9. Lucas (Canton), 35.15; 16. Merlotti (Salem), 34.625; 19. Soper (Salem), 34.4.

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Taking the Fifth!

Plymouth's varsity girls gymnastics team had an outstanding showing at the March 8 Division 1 team finals, finishing in fifth place. The team is coached by Pam Yockey, shown second from left in the back row. Team members (listed alphabetically) are Brenna Connelly, Samantha Fontana, Kayla Janeveski, Jane McCurry, Molly McSween, Haley Metz, Katie Salanga, Rebeca Simu, Sarah Uhlian and Emily Welch. Not all gymnasts are pictured.



Pioneer Middle School's A and B boys basketball teams recently were presented the district trophy for the best combined middle school record. In the back row (from left) are as follows: In the front row (from left) are as follow: AJ Neal, Markus Sanders, Julius Crouch, Jonathan Williams, Jake Cesarz, Eian Barker, Nick Sexton and manager Clay Martin. In the back row (from left) are as follows: Coach Palmer, Kyle Burnette, Connor Engel, Tyler Adams, Jeremy Armstead, Ryan Boyd, Matt Johns, Grant Harrison, Trevor Genaw, Hakeem El, coach Wallen and coach Johnson.

Pioneer MS cagers win new trophy

Pioneer Middle School boys basketball teams put 'A' and 'B' together and it added up to a championship late last month.

Pioneer's two teams combined to sport the best overall record among Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' five middle schools and thus capture the title.

It is the first year for the championship trophy, as Pioneer Middle School team parents on Feb. 28 donated it to the school district. It will travel to the middle school with the best combined record for the A and B teams in future seasons. The A and B teams primarily are comprised of youngsters in grades eight and seven, respectively.

Also at the ceremony, each Panthers coach (Johnson, Palmer and Wallen) received an autographed team ball complete with team photograph.

Players on the Panthers



This is the autographed basketball recently presented to each coach of the Pioneer Middle School Panthers.

A team include Kyle Burnette, Jake Cesarz, Julius Crouch, Hakeem El, Trevor Genaw, Matt Johns, Markus Sanders and Nick Sexton.

On the B team are Tyler Adams, Jeremy Armstead, Eian Barker, Ryan Boyd, Connor Engel, Grant Harrison, AJ Neal, Conner Riedel and Jonathan Williams.

For this season, Pioneer's B squad finished with an undefeated record with the A team closing out the year with a 5-3 record to give Pioneer the best overall record among PCCS middle school basketball programs. Central Middle School's A team did compile a better record than Pioneer's.

Madonna's Stoney finishes no-hitter

Jeremy Gooding and Dan Stoney combined to keep Avila University (Mo.) out of the hit column as the Madonna University baseball team closed its 2013 spring trip with a sweep at the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational at Lake Myrtle Park.

The Crusaders took the opener, 2-1, followed by the no-hitter in an 8-0 victory to improve to 12-5 overall.

Gooding (3-0), a right-hander from Dearborn Divine Child, went the first six innings for MU, walking five while striking out nine before giving way to Stoney.

The Canton right-hand-

COLLEGE BASEBALL

er allowed the lead-off runner to reach, but struck out the final two batters to compete the first MU no-hitter since the 2008 season.

Victor Barron and Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison) led MU's 15-hit attack each going 3-for-4.

Alex Charles and Justin Cook contributed two hits apiece, while Shane Dokey and Barron each knocked in three runs.

Gooding was also named NAIA National Pitcher of the Week after finishing 2-0, including a 3-2 victory over No. 6-ranked Point Park (Pa.)

University on March 4.

In that game, Gooding allowed two runs on four hits and only one walk while striking out a season-high 10.

Meanwhile, in Game One, MU scored a run in the bottom of the sixth to break a 1-1 tie and pull off a 2-1 win.

Matthew Cook (2-1) threw a complete game for the Crusaders, striking out eight while allowing just a pair of base hits and one walk.

Dokey and Justin Cook combined for four of MU's six hits, while Barron collected the lone RBI.

Avila falls to 7-3 overall.



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Speaker shares story of rediscovering her Catholic faith

St. Michael the Archangel Parish continues the fourth season of its series, "Why Be Catholic," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21 with guest speaker Kathleen Crombie, director of minority outreach for Right to Life Michigan.

She'll share the story of rediscovering the fullness and truth of her faith.

Of her "awakening," Crombie says, "Sometimes God allows us to see his hand in life-changing ways. We prayed for my son to be healed physically and God granted a miracle. The unexpected bonus round was my own spiritual conversion and healing at the same time — conversion and healing that I didn't even know I needed."

Since rediscovering her faith, Crombie, who has bachelor of science degree in speech from Northern Michigan University and a master's

degree in organizational communication and public relations from Wayne State University, has become wholeheartedly committed to the pro-life movement, completed a two-year study of Theology of the Body through the Cardinal Maida Institute, co-founded the first Fatima Family Apostolate Married Marian Couples prayer group in Michigan. She also serves on the board of directors for the Divine Mercy Center in Eastpointe, and is an accomplished iconographer.

St. Michael's is located at 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington Road and Merriman, in Livonia. No charge or reservations are required to attend. For more information including the availability of child care, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or see www.livoniast-michael.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

March

BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 30
Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft, east of Inkster, Redford

Details: Bethany, an organization serving Catholics and other Christians, offers a singles dance. Tickets are \$13. Beer, wine, pop, snacks and coffee are included
Contact: (586) 264-0284

BRUNCH

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 24

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Palm Sunday brunch will be served

between the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services

Contact: (248) 553-3380

CLASSES

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, March 14

Location: Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills

Details: All classes are open to the public. A \$5 donation is suggested. Refreshments will be served at a 7 p.m. social gathering. Classes for the evening include "Secrets, Fantasies and Intimacy - Rekindling the Bond" with Julea Merlin; "Make Your Organization More Efficient Using Google Docs" (for MS Word/Excel users), with Chuck Eglinton; and "Fiction and Fact: Stories and Reality about the Holocaust" with author Susanna Piontek and her husband, Guy Stern

Contact: (248) 478-7272; www.uuFarmington.org

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

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GOUGH, JEROME R.

Age 72, of Livonia, passed away March 5, 2013. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.



MESZAROS, JR., ALEX J.

March 9, 2013, age 70 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Carol. Loving father of Greg (Diane), Tracy (Jeffery) Smith and Mark (Julie). Dear grandfather of Zachary, Haley, Austin and Tristan. Also leaves one brother Paul. Funeral Service was held Tuesday at First Methodist Church of Plymouth. Arrangements handled by Vermeulen Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association. To share a memory with the family, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com
VERMEULEN FUNERAL HOME

WRIGHT, BEVERLY ANN

Of Canton, died March 7, 2013. Memorial will be held at a later date. www.davidbrownfh.com



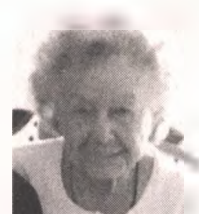
KNIGHT, CHRISTOPHER BRUCE

47, of Plymouth passed away March 11, 2013 after a courageous nearly two year battle with cancer. Beloved husband of Susan (Miller) for 18 years. Dear father of daughters Kylie and Alyssa. Son of Pamela (Randy) Webster and Gordon (Kathy) Knight. Brother of Kelly (Robert) Webster. Son-in-law of Gary (Janice) Miller. Chris also leaves behind many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews as well as many, many friends. Chris was preceded in death by his cousin Jason Rambo and grandfather Gene Bischof. Chris graduated from Canton High School in 1983 and attended Eastern Michigan University. Chris remained in Plymouth/Canton and built a successful real estate business. Chris' love of Plymouth and the Plymouth community inspired his commitment to the growth and success of the downtown area. Chris' career spanned 28 years during which for many years Chris was the top Coldwell Banker sales agent in the Midwest. In 2011 his sales team achieved the status of #1 Coldwell Banker sales team in the nation. Chris' greatest love was spending time with his family, friends and watching his daughters play soccer. His many loves included golf, spending time at his cottage in Charlevoix, traveling and cheering on the UoM football team. There will be a Funeral Mass Friday (March 15, 2013) 10:30AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, with visitation at church beginning at 10AM. Friends may also visit Thursday 4-9PM at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorials in Chris' name may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Arbor Hospice. Share memories at schrader-howell.com

ROSSO, THERESA ANN

Age 54, of Farmington, passed away March 10, 2013. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.

In Memoriam



STOOPS, BEVERLY ELAINE

Born June 12, 1922 - Died March 11, 2013
Beverly E. Stoops, nee Martin, age 90, born in Pleasanton Township (Bear Lake), Manistee Co., Michigan on June 12, 1922 passed away March 11, 2013. Beverly was a resident of Plymouth Township, Michigan. Loving wife of the late John Stoops for 66 years. Dearest mother of Gwendolyn (William) McCann of Auburn Hills, Michigan, Martin (Char) Stoops of Waterford, Michigan and Brent (Debbie) Stoops of Plymouth, Michigan. Proud grandmother of Janyl (Brian) Finnerty of Sudbury, MA, Jennifer (Kenneth) Schrock of Austin, TX, Tracy (James) Tackett of Waterford, MI, Jason (Kristin) Stoops of Northville, MI, and Matthew (Jessica) Stoops of Livonia, MI. Great grandmother of Katherine, Alexandra, and Brendan Finnerty, Lauryn, Trevor, Dylan, and Logan Schrock, Alexander Helzer, Gabriella, Sophia and Charles Stoops, and Ella and Jackson Stoops. Sister of Donna (Bud) Guthard of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Beverly graduated from Bear Lake High School in 1940 and married John Stoops in Pleasanton Twp, MI in 1941. John and Beverly settled in Detroit in 1941, and later lived in Farmington, MI, Bloomfield Hills, MI and Naples, FL. Beverly was a dedicated wife of 66 years to John Stoops, and a loving mother. She cherished her time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, and was proud of their accomplishments. Beverly enjoyed traveling the world, playing golf, entertaining, solving crossword puzzles, watching the Tigers, and playing Pinochle. Visitation will be Thursday 5-9pm, Friday 1-9pm, and Rosary 7pm Friday at the Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, in state on Saturday 9:30am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth with a funeral mass at 10:00am. Entombment at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia, Michigan. Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Police Officers Association Benevolent Fund, Attn: Matthew Stoops, at 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

To share a memory with the family, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com
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St. Patrick's Day celebration draws all ages for music, food, dance

By Sharon Dargay
 Staff Writer

Mick Gavin hopes you'll attend the annual St. Patrick's Day party Sunday, March 17, at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.

But if you want to stop by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert in Detroit first, that's okay with him, too.

"My son, Sean, is playing with the symphony at Orchestra Hall," said Gavin, a Redford resident and member of the Crossroads Ceili Band, which is set to play at the Hellenic Center in Westland.

His son will play flute and Devin Shepherd will be on fiddle. Both men are members of the band, Bua, which performs traditional Irish songs.

"They are playing *Wheels of the World* with the symphony. It's an Irish classic. And they're playing *Mist Covered Mountains*, which is another Irish piece," Gavin said. "The symphony is over at 5 p.m. You can be back (in Westland) to catch the Arden School of Dance at 6 p.m. and supper and a lot more music."

The symphony concert starts at 3 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets start at \$14 and are available at www.dso.org or call (313) 576-5111.

The 29th annual Saint Patrick's Day Irish Fest runs 2 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road. Admission is \$10 and children under 12 are admitted at no charge. In addition to Gavin and the Crossroads Ceili Band, entertainment will include The Conor O'Neill's session group, Eddie McGlinchey, Colin Paige, Ray Maguire, members of the Ardan and O'Hare schools of Irish dance, piper Calum MacNeill and the Dolowy family of Plymouth.

"It's an hour earlier this year," Gavin said, noting the start time. "I thought it would be nice for seniors and families who want to come in and have lunch."

With four balladeers



Ella, (left) Dermott, Bridget and Duggan, all members of the Dolowy family of Plymouth, will play at the 29th annual Saint Patrick's Day Irish Fest in Westland. That's Mick Gavin (left) and Lance Wagner in the back row.



Sean Gavin (left) and Devin Shepherd, both from the Irish band, Bua, will play with the Detroit Symphony on Sunday, March 17. Gavin's father, Mick, will play with his own band that same day at the Hellenic Center in Westland.



Dancers from the Arden School of Dance will perform Sunday, March 17, at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.

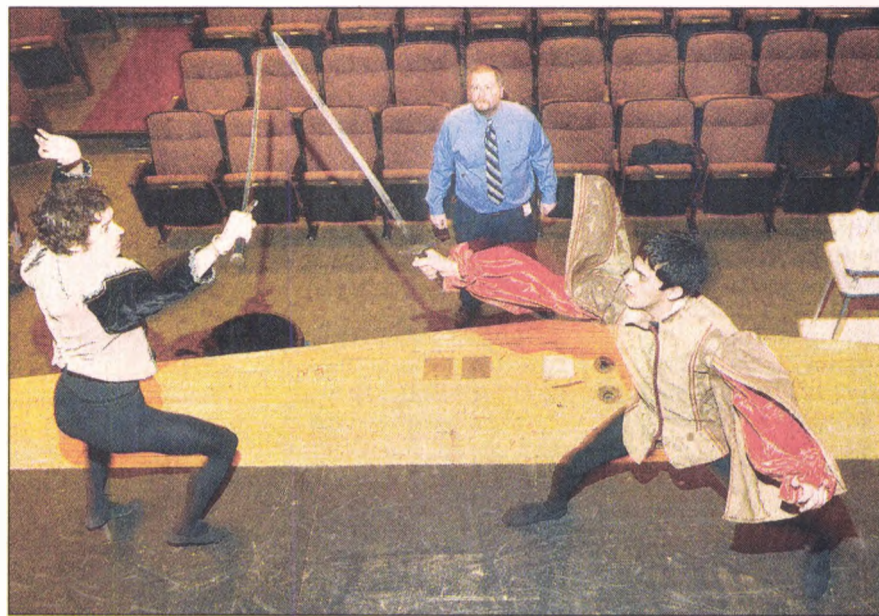
performing, the crowd, which will include revelers from as far away as Flint, Lansing and Ohio, can expect to hear more ballads this year. Dance performances are set for 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. and pipers will play at 4 p.m. There's also a dance floor for attendees who want to quick step or waltz to the music.

"We usually have a lot of kids out there. They love to dance. The kids get to socialize with each other and run around and be a part of the party. We get babies to grandmas and grandpas. The

whole family comes. They enjoy the food and the music. It's a cultural celebration. And it's an opportunity to celebrate the arrival of Christianity in Ireland," Gavin said, referring to St. Patrick, who preached in Ireland.

The Saint Patrick's Day Irish Fest runs through 9 p.m. Corned beef and cabbage dinners, Irish Stew, hot dogs and a cash bar will be available. For more information call (313) 537-3489.

For more local St. Patrick's Day events, visit the *Observer's* entertainment listing at www.hometownlife.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hamlet (Joey Kulling of Livonia) and Laertes (Sean Thomas of Northville) watched by Professor Jason Kallas, who is supervising fight scenes in the play.

'Hamlet' revised

Schoolcraft College Theater Department stages understandable Shakespeare

By Sharon Dargay
 Staff Writer

To be or not to be afraid of Shakespeare?

You won't have to ask yourself that question if you watch James Hartman's edited version of *Hamlet*, which begins a three-weekend run March 22 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"I expect that when we do Shakespeare, people are afraid of it. If they come to see my edited version they'd love it," said Hartman, professor of theater and drama at the college. "If any Shakespeare scholars were to see my play, they'd know editing was done, but they'd know the entire story is there and it makes sense."

That's because Hartman, who has edited seven other of Shakespeare's plays, carefully considered every word as he worked to make the language in the play more accessible to the audience. He began revising *Hamlet* five years ago, took a break half way through to edit *Romeo and Juliet* — which he staged in 2012 — and then returned to *Hamlet* last year. He finished the revision in June last year, but figures he re-edited it six or seven more times over the summer. With all of his revised Shakespeare plays he also has tweaked the script after each rehearsal.

"I was able to see what worked on stage and what didn't every night while in rehearsal. I thoroughly enjoy doing that."

Hartman stresses that he maintains the Shakespearean-style language in the plays.

"It's not modern language. I replace pronouns with nouns because sometimes when you hear 'he,' 'she,' 'it,' or 'they,' you may not remember what it's referring back to," he explained.

Editing techniques

In *Hamlet*, he replaced some words, particularly those Shakespeare "made up" and that are difficult to understand, with language that conveys information more clearly. He also



At right, Joey Kulling, of Livonia, plays Hamlet. Left, alas, it's Yorick.



Ronya Mallad of Canton, is the doomed Ophelia.

'HAMLET'

When: 6:30 p.m. dinner, followed by 8 p.m. show, Friday-Saturday, March 22-23 and April 5-6; 8 p.m. show only, April 12-13

Where: Dinner is served in the VisTaTech Center, with the show in the Liberal Arts Theatre, both on the Schoolcraft College campus, located on Haggerty between Seven Mile and Six Mile, Livonia

Details: The Theatre Department stages an edited version of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." James Hartman considered every word in the script as he made the language more understandable. Tickets for the dinner theater performances are \$24 per person. Tickets for the theater-only performances are \$12 per person

Contact: Get tickets at the college bookstore on the main campus or call (734) 462-4596

broke long sentences into two or three to make the script easier to follow. He reduced multiple metaphors into the few "most powerful or most beautiful."

"If you've ever read a contemporary edition, usually at the side (of the script)

there are tons of notes. I've taken what would have been notes and I have inserted the note into the line, making it sound like the actual line. Or I've taken the information and made an appositive in the line. It makes it so clear. In some cases where Shakespeare did not supply a subject or verb, I did."

Hartman's editing also shortened the play. He has watched a performance of the full script at Stratford, Ont., Canada that ran three hours and 45 minutes. His version of *Hamlet* will run about two and a half hours, including a 10-minute intermission.

With opening night little more than a week away, Hartman, who had been sidelined with health issues during two weeks of rehearsal, is working quickly to ready lighting, sound and programs. Jason Kallas, an English teacher at the college, ran a few of the rehearsals in Hartman's absence.

"I will take over the rest of the play now. He'll stay on as fight choreographer." The first two weekends of *Hamlet* include dinner at the college. The final weekend is show only. Get tickets from the bookstore on the main campus or call (734) 462-4596.

GET OUT!

Arts Crafts

BIRMINGHAM GALLERY

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through March 15

Location: 33772 Woodward Ave., Birmingham

Details: The show, "Katerland," features paintings by Kate Paul of Livonia

Contact: (248) 792-3375

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Artist reception is 6-9 p.m., Thursday, March 14; exhibit runs through April 12

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

Details: Works by Farmington Hills resident, Bob Aikins

Contact: Aikins at www.AikinsAviationArt.com; (248) 473-1800 for Costick Center

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS


Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling,

Please see GET OUT!, B7

The Wonder! The Magic!



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Thurs-Sun March 28 - March 31

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At Hazel Park Raceway

Tigers, Lions, Elephant Rides, Petting Zoo

Children 2 & Under FREE on Parents Lap

Group Sales/Information

GET OUT!

Continued from page B6

performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs: Then and Now, through June 16; Shirin Neshat, includes eight video installations and two series of photos, April 7-July 7; printmaking by Ellsworth Kelly, May 24-Sept. 8

Special program: Hedar Leslie and Leigh Keno, known to "Antiques Roadshow" fans as the Keno brothers, will share stories about some of their most important discoveries at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. They'll give a behind-the-scenes peek at their work while discussing what makes American furniture so special. Cost is \$15 for the lecture only. Tickets for the lecture, a 5:30 p.m. cocktail reception and a sit-down dinner at 7:30 p.m., both with the Kenos, are \$125. Tickets are available by calling (313) 833-4005, visiting the DIA box office, or online at www.tickets.dia.org.

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

GALLERY@VT

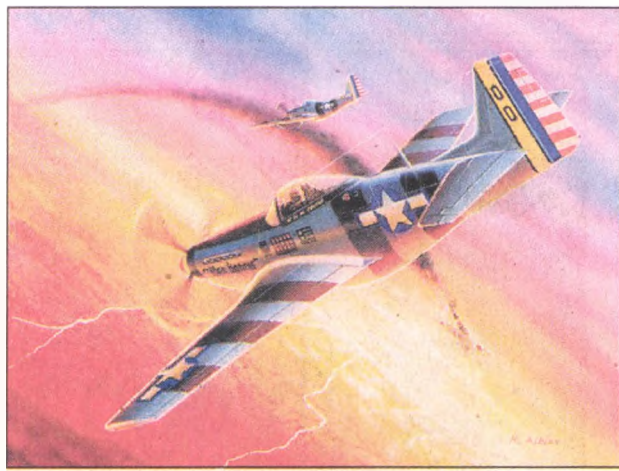
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through March 26

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Works by the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild

Contact: (734) 394-5308

LIBERTY STREET



Aviation art by Robert Aikin of Farmington Hills is on display through April 12 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Meet Aikin at a reception, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile.

BREW PUB

Time/Date: Exhibit through March 30; pub hours are 3 p.m.-midnight, Monday-Thursday; 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday; and noon-midnight, Sunday

Location: 149 W. Liberty St., Plymouth; Upper Hall Gallery

Details: Second annual group show by Art Circle Six. This year's show features the artist challenge "Icons, Myths and Legends"

Contact: (734) 207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through March 30

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: Works by Dennis Michael Jones of Plymouth. The artist integrates words and objects into simple

images

Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through March 31

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: "Miracles Among Us," consists of works by Nick Bair

Contact: (734) 416-4278

Auditions

INSPIRE THEATRE

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 19

Location: 33445 Warren Road, Westland

Details: Looking for at seven men and four women between the ages 16 and 75 for "The Foreigner." This is a cold reading. Ar-

rive a few minutes early and plan to stay the entire audition time. The show dates are May 31, June 1-2 and 7-8

Contact: inspiretheatre.com; (734) 751-7057

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, March 17 and Thursday, March 21, and 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 16-17

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," \$3

Coming up: Premiere Screening of "Love and Honor," 8 p.m., Friday, March 22 includes a Q and A with Jim Burnstein, screenwriter/producer, Patrick Olson, producer, Danny Mooney, director, and Eddie Rubin, executive producer. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds will benefit Friends of the Penn. Order tickets by calling the Penn or e-mailing to info@friendsofthepenn.org. "The Guilt Trip," runs 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday, March 23; 4:50 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 24; and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28. "Hop," a 2001 animated film, screens 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 29-30

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. March 22 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 23

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: "Easter Parade," starring Judy Garland and Fred Astaire; \$4

Coming up: Three Stooges Festival, featuring the films "Women Haters," "Movie Maniacs," "Disorder in the Court," "False Alarms," "Mutts to You," and "Three Missing Links," 8 p.m. April 5 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 6; tickets are \$5

Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

WESTLAND MJR

Time/Date: "Rise of the Guardians," March 16-17

Location: 6800 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Free to children, 12 and under; adults pay \$1. No advance ticket sales

Contact: (734) 298-2657

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Time/Date: 5:15 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. film, Thursday, March 21

Location: U-M Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn

Details: See a special screening of the Academy Award nominated documentary, "The Invisible War," a film that exposes the epidemic of sexual assault in the military

Contact: (313) 583-6445 or womensresourcecenter@umd.umich.edu

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WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month. Next event is Satur-

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Susan Tobocman performs with Cliff Monear Trio March 26 at Jazz at the Elks in Plymouth.

day, March 16

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The group celebrates St. Patrick's Day Eve with featured performer, Hammer Harmony, a group that plays penny whistle, glockenspiel, hammer dulcimer and other instruments. John Delle-Monache, singer, songwriter and guitarist, will host the show, which will include 10 open mic performances along with the featured act. Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

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www.livoniastmichael.org

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Spring gatherings

Hatch a delicious brunch with egg recipes

Spring is an exciting time filled with new life and bright colors blooming both in the garden and in the kitchen. Inspired by these hues and flavors, the experts in the McCormick Kitchens have developed a collection of recipes and tips for spring gatherings with a special focus on a star ingredient of the season — the egg.

Celebrate eggs by creating a delicious menu with warm cinnamon and bold mustard to wake up the flavors in savory dishes such as brunch casseroles and deviled eggs. Play up eggs in colorful fresh baked treats paired with lemon, almond and vanilla extracts.

Once the menu is finalized, use these tips and ideas from the McCormick Kitchens to simplify your at-home gatherings:

- **Make prep a snap:** Enjoy more time with your guests by making no-fuss dishes that are easy to prepare ahead, like casseroles and fruit salads.

- **Delicious deviled eggs:** Offer guests exciting variations on classic deviled eggs by adding tarragon paired with capers, or season with the unexpected flavor of curry.

- **Add a "punch" of color:** Make the punch bowl part of the party décor. Start by mixing five to seven drops of food color into a punch bowl filled with your favorite springtime drink. Continue to add more drops to achieve the desired hue.

- **Artsy egg dyeing:** Kids will love fun techniques like sponge painting, crackle color and tie-dyeing for a unique take on egg decorating. Mix 1/2 cup boiling water, 1 teaspoon vinegar and 10 to 20 drops food color in a cup to achieve desired colors. Repeat for each color.

- **Batch Bake:** Double-batch a festive dessert recipe like Easter Egg Cake Bites, and vary the extracts and food color to make two unique treats in one effort. Try lemon extract paired with yellow food color, or raspberry extract paired with blue food color.

For more recipes, visit www.mccormick.com.



Cheesy Bacon & Egg Brunch Casserole

This one-dish brunch casserole is ideal for a crowd. Add a fruit salad and you can sit back and enjoy your company.

Makes 12 servings

- 8 slices bacon,
- 1 medium onion, chopped (1 cup)
- 1 loaf (8 ounces) Italian bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (5 cups)
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 5 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 teaspoon mustard, ground
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg, ground
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper, ground

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Cook bacon in large skillet until crisp. Reserve 2 tablespoons of the drippings. Drain bacon on paper towels; crumble and set aside. Add onion to drippings in skillet; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened.

2. Spread 1/2 of the bread cubes in 13- by 9-inch baking dish. Layer with 1/2 each of the onion, bacon, Cheddar cheese and mozzarella cheese. Spread evenly with cottage cheese. Top with remaining bread cubes, onion, bacon, Cheddar cheese and mozzarella cheese.

3. Beat eggs in medium bowl until foamy. Add milk, mustard, nutmeg and pepper; beat until well blended. Pour evenly over top. Press bread cubes lightly into egg mixture until completely covered. Let stand 10 minutes.

4. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until center is set and top is golden brown.

Make ahead: Casserole can be assembled 1 day ahead. Prepare as directed, increasing milk to 2 cups. Cover and store in refrigerator. Remove cover and bake as directed.

Nutritional information per serving: 260 calories, 16 g fat, 14 g carbohydrates, 128 mg cholesterol, 492 mg sodium, 1 g fiber, 15 g protein



Overnight French Toast

Sweet and fruity, Overnight French Toast makes a delicious addition to your brunch or breakfast table.

Makes 8 servings

- 5 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 loaf Italian bread, cut into 8 (1-inch thick) slices
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen whole strawberries, thawed
- 4 ripe bananas, sliced
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Cinnamon Sugar

1. Mix eggs, milk, vanilla and baking powder. Pour over bread to soak; turn to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

2. Preheat oven to 450°F. Mix strawberries, bananas and granulated sugar in 13- by 9-inch baking dish. Top with soaked bread slices. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.

3. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Cooking tips:

Overnight Apple French Toast: Prepare and refrigerate bread slices as directed. Substitute 4 medium apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced (about 4 cups) for the strawberries and bananas. Toss apples with 1 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon in baking dish. Top with soaked bread slices. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Cover with foil. Bake in preheated 375°F oven 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake 10 to 15 minutes longer or until apples are tender

Nutritional information per serving: 333 calories, 279 mg sodium, 5 g fat, 63 g carbohydrates, 134 mg cholesterol, 9 g protein, 4 g fiber



Easter Egg Cake Bites

Make Easter even more festive and delicious with egg-shaped cake bites. Give the crumbled cake filling a light lemony flavor with Pure Lemon Extract.

Serves: Makes 4 dozen or 24 (2 cake bite) servings

- Cake Bites:
- 1 package 15 ounces white cake mix
- 2 teaspoons pure lemon extract
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- McCormick Assorted Food Colors & Egg Dye
- Assorted NEON! Food Colors & Egg Dye
- 1 cup marshmallow creme
- 14 ounces (1 bag) white confectionery coating wafers
- 14 ounces 1 pound white baking chocolate
- Decorating Glaze:
- 2 teaspoons water
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

1. Prepare cake mix as directed on package, adding lemon extract and desired food color. Bake as directed on package for 13- by 9-inch baking pan. Cool completely on wire rack.

2. Crumble cake into large bowl. Add marshmallow creme; mix until well blended. Shape into 1-inch balls then roll to form an egg shape. Refrigerate 2 hours.

3. Melt coating wafers or chocolate as directed on package. Using a fork, dip 1 cake bite at a time into the confectionery coating or chocolate. Tap back of fork 2 or 3 times against edge of dish to allow excess to drip off. Place cake bites on wax paper-lined tray.

4. For the Decorating Glaze, mix confectioners' sugar and water in small bowl until well blended. Tint with desired food color. Using a fork, drizzle glaze over cake bites. Let stand until glaze is set.

Nutritional information per serving: 217 calories, 152 mg sodium, 9 g fat, 33 g carbohydrates, 0 mg cholesterol, 1 g protein, 0 g fiber



Delicious Deviled Eggs

From holiday parties to warm weather barbecues and potluck suppers, these classic deviled eggs will spice up any occasion. Makes 6 (2 halves) servings.

- 6 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon mustard, ground
- 1/2 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt
- Paprika

1. Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks; place in small bowl. Mash yolks with fork or potato masher.

2. Stir in mayonnaise, mustard, parsley and seasoned salt until smooth and creamy. Spoon or pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle with paprika.

3. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve.

To hard cook eggs: Gently place eggs in single layer in medium saucepan. Add enough cold water to cover eggs with 1 inch of water. Bring just to boil on medium-high heat. Remove from heat. Cover and let stand about 15 minutes for large eggs. (Adjust time up or down by 3 minutes for each size larger or smaller.) After 15 minutes, pour off the hot water and rapidly cool eggs by running them under cold water (or place in ice water) until completely cooled. Refrigerate and use within a week.

Nutritional information per serving: 136 calories, 172 mg sodium, 12 g fat, 1 g carbohydrates, 216 mg cholesterol, 6 g protein



Easy Mini Cheesecakes

These luscious cheesecakes are gently flavored with Vanilla and Almond Extract. Sized just right, they can be garnished with fresh or canned fruit topping.

Serves 12

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon pure almond extract
- 12 vanilla wafers
- 1 cup fresh berries

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Beat cream cheese and sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs and extracts; beat well.

2. Line 12 muffin cups with paper baking cups. Place a wafer in bottom of each muffin cup. Spoon batter into each cup, filling each 2/3 full.

3. Bake 22 to 24 minutes or until centers are almost set. Cool in pan on wire rack. (Mini cheesecakes will deflate in center upon cooling)

4. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Garnish with berries. Topping Suggestions: lemon curd, canned fruit such as cherry pie filling or mandarin orange segments, or melted chocolate

Nutritional information per serving: 210 calories, 166 mg sodium, 14 g fat, 17 g carbohydrates, 79 mg cholesterol, 4 g protein, 0 g fiber

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures and what it takes to get started. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved. Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at (248) 782-7130 or e-mail june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Keep fire safety in mind at nightclubs, stadiums

The National Fire Protection Association recently marked the 10th anniversary of The Station nightclub fire that occurred in Rhode Island with a plea to the public to be cautious and keep safety in mind when visiting nightclubs or similar venues. The Station fire occurred on Feb. 20, 2003, and killed 100 people.

NFPA recently updated and expanded its resource page on assembly and nightclub fires in light of a January fire at the Kiss nightclub in Santa Maria, Brazil, that killed 238 people. The Kiss nightclub fire is ranked third on NFPA's list of the deadliest nightclub fires in the world; The Station is ranked 10th.

"When selecting or settling into an entertainment venue like a nightclub, sports arena or restaurant for an evening of enjoyment, how to get out if there in an emergency is probably not one of the first things on your mind, but it should be," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Communications. "Fire drills are or should be common practice for businesses and schools, along with family home escape plans, so it's only natural for this level of awareness to be carried over to other places, even if you only plan on being there for a short time."

For those visiting events in nightclubs or other places of assembly, there are basic tips to keep in mind when entering a potentially unsafe gathering place.

- Before you enter:**
- Take a good look.
 - Have a communication plan
 - Plan a meeting place
- When you enter:**
- Locate exits immediately
 - Check for clear exit paths
 - Look for smoke alarms and fire sprinklers

• Do you feel safe?
During an emergency:

- React immediately
- Get out, stay out!

Full descriptions of these steps, along with videos, reports and further analysis, can be found at NFPA's website.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.



Pet dropping plan needs legal check

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I have suggested to the board a more practical way of dealing with pet droppings at our condominium. It entails having a professional come in to pick up the droppings. What do you think?

A: While that process may be controversial, particularly, because certain people do not have dogs and believe that it is the responsibility of the pet owner to clean up, I am aware of commentators who have suggested that approach, and, it may not be totally unreasonable given the fact that it could be part of the maintenance responsibilities of the association, particularly if there are a number of dog owners who do not mind paying, perhaps by way of an additional assessment for that service. Where it gets more "hairy" is if the cost of cleaning up is distributed among all co-owners although, presumably, the garbage pickup is paid by all co-owners through the association even though some co-owners have more garbage than others and/or some co-owners may not have any garage when they are out of town, perhaps during the winter. It is not an idea, therefore that should be totally rejected, but I would check with legal counsel for the association before implementing that plan.

Q: I have leaking in my basement. I called the management company and the representative came out and looked at it and I paid a plumber to give me an estimate to correct the problem which included standing water in the sewage pipes for approximately five years. I have problems with my pipes and I think it is the association's responsibility. Do I have recourse with the management company, association, builder, township inspector who signed off on the work or the State of Michigan?

A: You need a good lawyer to give you your answer, but generally speaking, if it is the association's responsibility, you will need to put pressure on the association, as well as the managing agent, to take care of your problem. The State of Michigan and the township building inspector are not in a position to help you any more than your legislators or congress persons. All too often, people look for help from "free sources" when their best recourse is hiring a competent attorney.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condo-minium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 12-16, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
1753 Brookdale Dr	\$218,000
6802 Devonshire Dr	\$177,000
7451 Embassy Dr	\$217,000
45061 Horseshoe Cir	\$140,000
299 Princeton St	\$218,000
45612 S Stonewood Rd	\$174,000
42078 Saratoga Cir	\$152,000
42162 Saratoga Cir	\$156,000

223 Scarlett Dr	\$260,000
7130 Sylvania Ln	\$324,000
1713 Thistle Dr	\$178,000
GARDEN CITY	
29525 Barton St	\$25,000
29434 Rosslyn Ave	\$60,000
LIVONIA	
36720 Seven Mile Rd	\$520,000
15621 Auburndale St	\$139,000
9322 Eastwind Dr	\$147,000
11739 Hunters Park Ct	\$49,000
29510 Lori St	\$105,000
29232 Lyndon St	\$66,000
9918 Mayfield St	\$129,000
9035 Merriman Rd	\$30,000
38801 Plymouth Rd	\$175,000

NORTHVILLE	
44927 Brookmoor Cir S	\$325,000
16970 Carriage Way	\$390,000
16340 Mulberry Way	\$326,000
41816 Rayburn Dr	\$240,000
39656 Rockcrest Ln	\$117,000
49626 S Glacier	\$345,000
46425 W Main St	\$829,000
PLYMOUTH	
561 Kellogg St	\$200,000
799 N Holbrook St	\$277,000
40544 Newport Dr	\$67,000
520 Pacific St	\$211,000
REDFORD	
8990 Arnold	\$49,000
14254 Breakfast Dr	\$152,000

19351 Delaware Ave	\$75,000
18851 Lennane	\$27,000
18346 Lexington	\$55,000
19137 Lexington	\$47,000
14219 Marshall Dr	\$140,000
14251 Mason Dr	\$145,000
12261 Nathalie	\$58,000
WESTLAND	
35976 Central City Pkwy	\$29,000
1115 Easley Dr	\$27,000
30737 Joy Rd	\$68,000
31132 Merritt Dr	\$110,000
486 N John Hix St	\$45,000
34729 Somerset St	\$35,000
29090 Van Born Rd	\$20,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the weeks of Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
15975 Amherst Ave	\$245,000
1045 N Old Woodward Ave	\$316,000
31426 Waltham Dr	\$287,000
18663 Warwick St	\$340,000
BIRMINGHAM	
687 Davis Ave	\$240,000
1743 Derby Rd	\$205,000
2291 Dorchester Rd	\$120,000
1905 E Lincoln St	\$436,000
661 Fairfax St	\$606,000
463 Henley St	\$395,000
1050 Lake Park Dr	\$518,000
1651 Latham St	\$355,000
397 N Old Woodward Ave	\$315,000
1045 N Old Woodward Ave	\$150,000
662 Purdy St # 103	\$175,000
1186 S Eton St	\$153,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
4387 Barchester Dr	\$415,000
1948 Bloomfield Dr	\$20,000
4720 Cimarron Dr	\$725,000
2618 Covington Pl	\$700,000

1920 Hillwood Dr	\$733,000
875 Ivy Ln	\$243,000
1015 Joanne Ct	\$175,000
3147 Middlebury Ln	\$195,000
3917 Mount Vernon Dr	\$290,000
5572 N Adams Way	\$224,000
1339 N Carillon Ct	\$873,000
3036 Patch Dr	\$258,000
20 Scenic Oaks Dr N	\$515,000
42550 Woodward Ave	\$40,000
1760 Woodward Ave #42	\$110,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
3335 Burning Bush Rd	\$585,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
3255 Lochmore Ct	\$192,000
5866 Majestic Oaks Dr	\$420,000
2195 Palmetto	\$40,000
5072 Parkgate Dr	\$309,000
FARMINGTON	
23899 Colchester Dr	\$103,000
30624 Sunderland Dr	\$290,000
35654 Tall Pine Rd	\$253,000
Farmington Hills	
29941 Fox Club Dr	\$225,000
35101 Glengary Cir	\$196,000
22159 Inkster Rd	\$95,000
23105 Juniper Ct	\$116,000
23516 Middlebelt Rd	\$140,000
34134 Old Timber Ct	\$235,000
35136 Pennington Dr	\$190,000
30348 Shiwasssee Rd	\$80,000
32423 Sprucewood St	\$99,000

30606 Squires Trl	\$41,000
32005 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 105	\$32,000
25357 Wykeshire Rd	\$180,000
FRANKLIN	
32800 Brandingham Rd	\$290,000
MILFORD	
1027 Bird Song Ln	\$193,000
3162 E Maple Rd	\$139,000
761 Milford Glen Ct	\$236,000
455 Napa Valley Dr	\$25,000
763 Promontory Dr	\$150,000
2615 Shagbark	\$338,000
NOVI	
45230 Bartlett Dr	\$84,000
45236 Bartlett Dr	\$84,000
45237 Bartlett Dr	\$87,000
45285 Bartlett Dr	\$84,000
41805 Borchart Dr	\$153,000
41960 Borchart Dr	\$297,000
303 Duana St	\$122,000
44561 Gwinnett Loop	\$159,000
44565 Gwinnett Loop	\$157,000
28022 Hopkins Dr	\$160,000
25998 Petros Blvd	\$225,000
25534 Portico Ln	\$120,000
48140 Rushwood	\$299,000
22170 Shadybrook Dr	\$235,000
44855 Stockton Dr	\$86,000
44873 Stockton Dr	\$360,000
27003 Victoria Rd	\$260,000
27135 Victoria Rd	\$45,000
23373 Winnsborough	\$355,000

44229 Winthrop Dr	\$255,000
SOUTH LYON	
741 Challenging Trl	\$139,000
23691 Copperwood Dr W	\$68,000
23862 Copperwood Dr W	\$50,000
455 Eagle Way	\$175,000
61009 Evergreen Ct	\$180,000
58996 Peters Barn Dr	\$75,000
59038 Peters Barn Dr	\$80,000
156 Princeton Dr	\$26,000
448 Princeton Dr	\$195,000
51999 Red Cedar Ct	\$68,000
53970 Springwood Dr	\$25,000
53686 Valleywood Dr	\$212,000
26721 York Ct	\$310,000
SOUTHFIELD	
16336 Addison St	\$32,000
27430 Arlington Dr	\$130,000
29285 Brooks Ln	\$225,000
29254 E Chanticleer Dr	\$130,000
21771 Hidden Rivers Dr N	\$16,000
19015 Hilton Tr	\$50,000
29629 N Rutherford St	\$160,000
30513 Shoreham St	\$121,000
27140 Spring Arbor Dr	\$57,000
21147 W Nine Mile Rd	\$58,000
WHITE LAKE	
927 Aglaia Dr	\$166,000
697 Akehurst Dr	\$286,000
605 Sunnybeach Dr	\$471,000
452 Woodsedge Ln	\$325,000



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Saturn

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