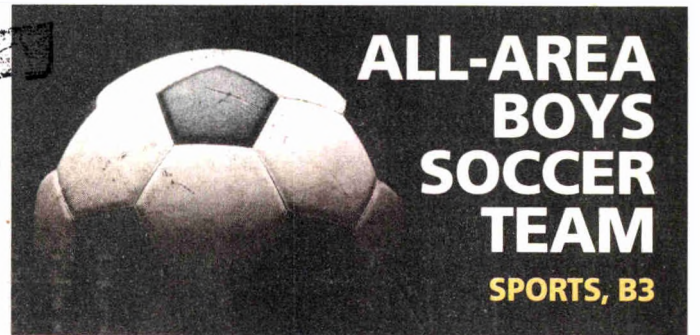


PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014 • hometownlife.com



Plymouths' crime rates compare favorably to state, U.S. numbers

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The number of reported violent crimes ticked up slightly in both Plymouth and Plymouth Township in 2013, but both communities remain among the safest of their size – and with crime rates far below the state and national rates.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2013 Uniform

Crime Reports, released last month, show increases in violent crime and property crime in the township over 2012, with an increase in violent crime and a drop in property crime in the city.

The annual reports focus on the most serious violent and property crimes, including robbery, aggravated assault, burglary (including attempts) and larceny.

Local police chiefs said the

small increases aren't statistically meaningful when looking at the big picture. For example, the number of robberies in the township in 2013 tripled over 2012 – but in raw numbers, there were three robberies in 2013, versus one the year before.

"There are always too many crime victims," Plymouth Township Chief Tom Tiderington said. But he added, "This is a very safe com-

munity and these numbers reflect that."

"These certainly don't cover all of our crimes, but for what they measure, we're pretty flat," Plymouth Chief Al Cox said, noting an increase in the number of violent crimes (by three) and a decrease in the number of violent crimes (by 11).

"The city is indeed a safe place to live and visit," Cox said.

Tiderington said that just a few criminals can be responsible for a high percentage of reported crimes. Township police arrested several people this year who are believed to be responsible for a high proportion of larcenies from vehicles and Tiderington suggested those arrests should have an impact on the township's future larceny statistics.

See CRIME, Page A2



BRAD KADRICH

David Morphew used the horse-and-carriage ride at Thursday's Christmas in Plymouth event to propose to his girlfriend, Renae Danko.

Decision near on township roads plan

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township officials are nearing a decision on where to spend a \$750,000 grant from Wayne County that's earmarked for local road improvements.

Chipping in to pave gravel roads and to improve paved roads in neighborhoods where property owners have expressed an interest in paying for upgrades are the priorities so far for Board of Trustees. But property owners would have to foot much of the bill.

"Reward those who are willing to take care of themselves," Trustee Chuck Curmi said as the board discussed the issue Tuesday.

The money would come from the county's local roads initiative, which was announced as a two-year, \$14 million program to help pay for road improvements in the county's nine townships. Townships in Michigan do not receive gas-tax revenue to fund road improvements the way cities do and counties are responsible for township roads.

Based on a population formula, Plymouth Township is eligible for \$750,000 in each of the two years, but officials said that given the county's financial troubles and a changing county administration, they don't consider a second year of program funding a guarantee.

Supervisor Richard Reaume said that consideration would likely be given first to four areas where roads are gravel-covered and to five neighborhoods with paved roads that are in poor condition and where property owners have recently expressed an interest in creating special assessment districts, or SADs, to raise money for improvements. Those areas are the Plymouth Colony, Plymouth Gardens, Eastlawn and Finch subdivisions (gravel

See ROADS, Page A2

LOVE GETS A RIDE

Plymouth Christmas event provides proposal backdrop

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Christmas chimes weren't the only bells ringing Thursday through downtown Plymouth for David Morphew and Renae Danko.

For the couple who'd met online and had been dating some nine months, there were also wedding bells.

While enjoying a horse-and-carriage ride he had arranged in advance for the couple, Morphew finally worked through his jangling nerves and asked Danko the most important question of their lives.

"I told her I'd been waiting for her since I was 17 years old. ... Will you marry me?" said Morphew, an Ann Arbor

resident originally from Texas.

For Danko, a Canton resident, the answer was easy.

"Obviously, yes!" she said. "The whole atmosphere downtown was so romantic."

Morphew planned the whole thing as part of the first-ever Christmas in Plymouth event set up by retailers and restaurant owners to provide a holiday-style shopping venue for downtown shoppers. It's the first of two such events; the other is a Ladies Night set for Thursday, Dec. 18.

Christmas in Plymouth featured horse-and-carriage rides provided by Camelot Farms in Flushing. When Morphew read about the rides being offered, he knew it was the right moment.

"I know she loves downtown Plymouth," Morphew said of his new fiancée. "I found out about (the event) online and

See PROPOSAL, Page A3

"I know she loves downtown Plymouth. I found out about (the event) online and saw the pictures of the lights and the carriages. I just knew it was what I wanted to do."

DAVID MORPHEW

Ann Arbor man who proposed during carriage ride in downtown Plymouth

"I started getting a little idea. He started getting a little nervous. It was cute."

RENAE DANKO

Canton woman who said 'yes'

Inaugural Christmas event brings out the crowds in downtown Plymouth

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The city of Birmingham has its share of retail shops and niche stores, but that doesn't really matter to Pam Bouchard.

Bouchard, a frequent customer at downtown Plymouth's Home Sweet Home, was back in the store Thursday, taking advantage of sales that were

part of the first-ever Christmas in Plymouth event, organized by, among others, Home Sweet Home owner Carol Uber, who calls Bouchard "one of my best customers."

Bouchard's presence in the store isn't anything new and she was glad to be back for the Christmas event.

"(Home Sweet Home) is one of the most unique shops around," said Bouchard, who

said she makes the drive from Birmingham at least monthly. "I think (the event) is fabulous. You can't find a place to park, it's packed down here. It's an old-fashioned Christmas and that's what everybody wants."

The event was designed as a "unique shopping and dining experience," with store specials running the entire four-

See EVENT, Page A2



BRAD KADRICH

The Evenin' Gentlemen barbershop quartet – (from left) Roger Boyer, John Paul, Keith Opal and Terry Webner – braved the cold to entertain the crowd.



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CRIME

Continued from Page A1

Low rates per 100,000

With 14 violent crimes reported in 2013 and a population, per the FBI, of 8,949 people, Plymouth's violent crime rate last year was 156 per 100,000 people, compared to the overall U.S. rate of nearly 368 per 100,000. There were 89 reported property crimes in Plymouth in 2013, making the rate 994 per 100,000, compared to a nationwide rate of 2,730 per 100,000.

In the township, with a population of 27,076 and 18 reported violent crimes, the violent crime rate was just over 66 per 100,000. With 296 reported property crimes, the rate was about 1,093 per 100,000.

Michigan's rates were about 430 (violent crime) and 2,337 (property crime) per 100,000 in

COMMUNITY CRIME STATS

City	Population	Murder/ nonnegligent manslaughter	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny/ Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Canton Twp.									
2012	89,312	0	12	26	50	149	688	68	NA
2013	88,958	0	18	16	60	173	968	109	8
Garden City									
2012	27,428	1	8	14	50	177	367	64	2
2013	27,110	2	11	18	49	155	327	59	3
Livonia									
2012	96,028	3	19	32	92	323	1,601	200	13
2013	95,220	0	18	34	96	285	1,498	178	11
Plymouth									
2012	9,047	0	2	0	9	22	74	4	0
2013	8,949	0	3	2	9	13	75	1	4
Plymouth Twp.									
2012	27,262	0	2	1	5	33	189	13	NA
2013	27,076	0	5	3	10	46	231	19	0
Redford Twp.									
2012	47,903	5	21	85	131	551	770	343	NA
2013	47,432	1	35	71	137	479	731	328	9
Wayne									
2012	17,427	0	18	23	78	141	341	75	9
2013	17,232	2	15	26	78	140	276	63	7
Westland									
2012	83,299	1	61	80	196	575	1,505	330	20
2013	82,554	1	66	93	203	564	1,553	282	14

Source: FBI, based on reporting from local police agencies.

2013. The FBI compiles its annual reports based on reporting from more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies around the country.

Crime is committed regionally, Tiderington said, and local communities have teamed up to fight it regionally with such programs as the multi-agency task force,

in which the township has an officer, that investigates serious felonies in western Wayne County. This year, that team investigated both a homicide and an attempted homicide in the township.

In 2012, the last year for which the FBI provides comparisons, Plymouth Township's rates for both violent crime

and property crime were the lowest among the more than 30 communities in Michigan with a population between 25,000 and 50,000. The FBI doesn't provide such comparisons for communities with fewer than 10,000 people.

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ROADS

Continued from Page A1

roads), plus the Woodlore, Deer Creek, Plymouth Commons and Ridgewood Hills West subdivisions, plus Litchfield Road (already paved), according to a survey from the engineering firm Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment.

Reaume said the board will likely make a final

decision by mid-January and that property owners in the designated areas would have until May to organize SAD campaigns and start the process. The fewer neighborhoods that agree to form SADs, the supervisor said, the larger each participating neighborhood's share of the grant money will be, but it's unlikely that property owners in all nine areas would agree to SADs.

Board members also discussed setting aside money for a crack-sealing program to better maintain roads that don't need extensive repair, but are starting to show cracks. The engineering consultant is to conduct a survey and report on which roads would be best suited for such maintenance.

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EVENT

Continued from Page A1

hour time limit of the event.

The event featured horse-and-carriage rides from Camelot Farms in Flushing. The 72 available tickets were sold out in just over an hour, ac-

cording to Uber. Entertainment was provided by the Evenin' Gentlemen barbershop quartet, the Schoolcraft College Brass Ensemble and a holiday sing-along led by the Cherry Hill Singers.

Uber had a lot of help organizing the event from her husband, Bob May, and the owners of Sun & Snow (Rob and

Bob Parent), Tranquili-Tea (Colleen and Pat Cannon) and The Candy Trail (Sandy McGrew).

The event, for which some 40 businesses were participating, drew a huge crowd, much bigger than the organizers could even have hoped for.

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Boundary plan moves closer to final vote

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

After several postponements, adjustments and reconsiderations, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education finally appears poised to vote on middle school recommendations made by its boundary steering committee.

Board members voted 5-1 Wednesday to accept the first reading of the latest recommendation, put together by the committee after months of delays while the board tried to appease disgruntled residents. Trustee Mark Horvath was the only "no" vote; Trustee Mike Maloney was absent.

The board is scheduled to vote on the second and final reading of the recommendation in a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the E.J. McClenon Education Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

Horvath voted against accepting the first reading, saying the information was too recent.

"I haven't had enough time to go through it," Horvath said of the proposal, which was final-



New Plymouth-Canton Board of Education members Kim Crouch (from left), Kate Borninski and Michael Siegrist were sworn in Wednesday by Wayne County Judge Mark Slavens, a former school board member. Crouch is on the current board; Borninski and Siegrist join her next month.

ized Monday. "There are a lot of moving parts here."

The latest delays had been caused by several factors, among them keeping the students in the Sunflower subdivision together and safe and perhaps dividing schools currently being recommended.

In fact, under the newest recommendation, no elementary school family will be divided into more than two schools.

Ten of the district's remaining 14 elementary schools (after Allen and Gallimore elementaries are closed or re-purposed next year) will

migrate to a single middle school.

Students from Far- rand, Isbister, Miller and Smith elementaries will be split between two middle schools.

The new recommendation also addresses what had popped up as a safety concern for students in Canton's Sunflower subdivision. Surrounding Tonda Elementary School, the subdivision is bordered by Canton Center, Beck, Ford Road and Joy.

Under the last version of the plan, Sunflower kids would have been divided between Discovery Middle School, at Hanford and Canton Center, and Pioneer Middle School, on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

Under the version accepted for first reading Wednesday, Sunflower students will all be bused to Pioneer. It's the latest in a

growing number of options that have been considered.

That had some parents wondering why the rush to get to this one when there are other options that have been considered.

Nicole Der-Stepanian, whose daughter thought she was going to go to middle school at Pioneer, has now been shifted to the new middle school opening on Cherry Hill near Canton Center.

"I'm asking you to take a moment," Der-Stepanian told board members Wednesday. "There were so many great proposals. I'm not sure why all of a sudden, at the 11th hour, this brand-new proposal is being put on the table when there are so many great options out there."

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PROPOSAL

Continued from Page A1

saw the pictures of the lights and the carriages. I just knew it was what I wanted to do."

Morphew and Danko met through an online dating service, though they had mutual friends who could have set them up much sooner.

"I guess they were letting us down" by not introducing them sooner, Danko said with a laugh.

While Morphew and Danko were the only ones who used the Christmas in Plymouth car-

riages to get engaged, Camelot Farms owner Warren Atwell said his carriages are often used to give romance a little nudge.

"It happens once in a while," he said. "We try to make it as special as we can for them."

Morphew worked it out with Carol Uber, owner of Home Sweet Home and one of the major organizers of Christmas in Plymouth. They picked up the carriage on Ann Arbor Trail and, when it hit Main Street, he popped the question.

"All the trees are lit up right there and it's the

prettiest spot," Morphew said.

Once the carriage ride started, Danko started thinking something might be coming. The couple had the carriage to themselves, even though it was a sold-out event and most carriages carried six riders. And as the ride progressed, she said, she noticed Morphew getting fidgety.

"I started getting a little idea," Danko said afterward, still all smiles. "He started getting a little nervous. It was cute."

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Blue-ribbon panel aims to market district

Group is cross-section of community members

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Don Soenen believes that, as solid a reputation as the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district enjoys, not everyone is aware of the kinds of programs the district offers.

So Soenen, who has already stepped up to help the Michigan Philharmonic and save downtown Plymouth's Penn Theatre, agreed to chair the district's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel, a group composed of community stakeholders designed to help market the district.

And if the district is to withstand challenges from private, charter and online educational opportunities – district officials have said they're losing 400-500 students a year – he believes the district has to have a better connection to the community.

"If we can sell the district to the community more successfully, it will lessen the pressure we feel from charters and others," said Soenen, president, CEO and chairman of Sensors, Inc., in Saline. "(Parents) will think twice before they jump ship."

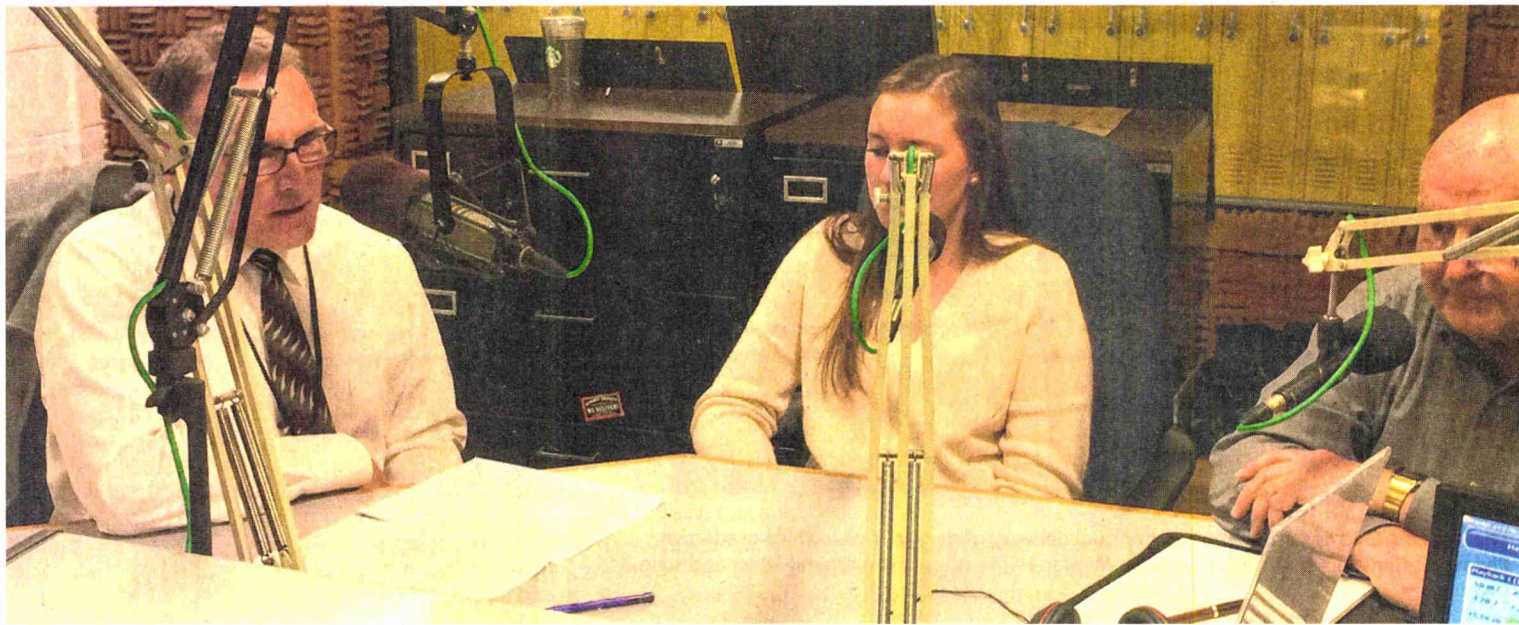
The group consists of a variety of stakeholders – municipal entities, nonprofit, alumni, the arts, higher education, community organizers, parents, students, and business leaders – from across the region.

First meeting

The group met for the first time last week to outline the district's strengths/challenges and brainstorm ways to improve.

The panel has been well-received by both the Board of Education and district leadership.

"We've recognized we can't do it alone," Dr. Michael Meissen, the district's superintendent, said during the taping of



Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen (left) talks with senior Alyce Krumm and Don Soenen, who is chairing the district's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel.



Senior Alyce Krumm joined Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel chairman Don Soenen on Dr. Michael Meissen's radio show.

his radio show Wednesday. "Having this Blue Ribbon Panel is a good thing."

The advisory panel will provide periodic and ongoing communications about the work of the group. It's expected to meet five times per year and operate as part of the Superintendent's Strategic Priorities.

Soenen said the panel's mission is to find ways to battle the challenges faced by public schools in this day of tight budgeting and increasing opportunities such as charter schools.

'Perfect storm'

Districts point to challenges with issues of equity and funding, "particularly out of Lansing," Soenen said, and falling enrollment due to lower birth rates and the explosion of charter schools, particularly in the Plymouth-Canton area. For instance, the area's first charter high school opened in September.

"The combination of this perfect storm is presenting challenges to public schools," Soenen said. "It's critical we maintain a strong public education system."

Soenen said the district needs to become more connected with the community, saying too many people "don't know enough" about the programs the district offers.

There are professionals in the community, he said, who can be brought into the conversation to help the district get the word out.

"There is talent, resources and expertise that could help us address these issues," Soenen said. "If we have an opportunity to help our community, we have a responsibility to do so. There are wonderful offerings in the district that no one knows about. They can help get that message out."

The first meeting was well-attended, an indication, according to Soenen, the work of the panel will be welcomed by the community.

"Based on the reaction we got from our initial meeting, the community is excited," Soenen said. "I don't know anything more exciting than taking on some of these challenges."

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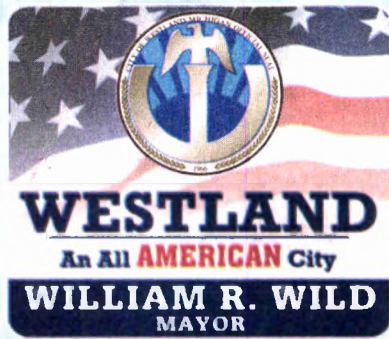
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THE KIWANIS CLUB OF CANTON
The Kiwanis Club of Canton made its annual delivery of dictionaries to third-graders at Plymouth-Canton schools and at Walker-Winter Elementary in the Wayne-Westland school district.

Kiwanis Club makes annual dictionary delivery

Kiwanis Club of Canton once again has completed its annual donation of dictionaries all across the Plymouth-Canton school district.

All of the elementary schools from Allen to Workman were recipients of this year's book distribution. Walker-Winter Elementary in the Wayne-Westland School District was also included, since it has a large Canton population enrolled.

"Students get to discover all of the fun facts in their new dictionaries," Kiwanis spokesman Mark Ott said. "In fact, all of the third-graders were using their dictionaries to look up words like 'service' and 'volunteer.'"

The books include biographies of the presidents, statistics on the states and other countries, so it is a source of information beyond

words.

Joanna Uhl's and Vanessa Guastella's classes at Eriksson School were just two of many in the elementary schools to receive complimentary dictionaries from the Canton Kiwanis Club.

"This is my favorite time of the year," Guastella said.

More than 1,200 books were personally distributed to each of the students in their respective classrooms by members of the club. Since the inception of the project, more than 10,000 books have been presented. Evidence suggests that students use the books through middle and high school years.

The distribution is done with books purchased through the Dictionary Project. This is a national organization supporting literacy by providing access to affordable books for stu-

dents. The Kiwanis Club of Canton received a grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation to partially fund the project this year. This grant represents a strong show of support for the validity of the program. The Kiwanis International Foundation supports project all over the world and the grant was awarded through an application process after meeting certain criteria.

For information on the Dictionary Project or other Kiwanis service projects in the Plymouth and Canton communities, contact Ott at 734-748-9159.

Photos are available for viewing on the club's website (www.cantonkiwanis.com) as well as on its Facebook page.

The club meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Summit on the Park.

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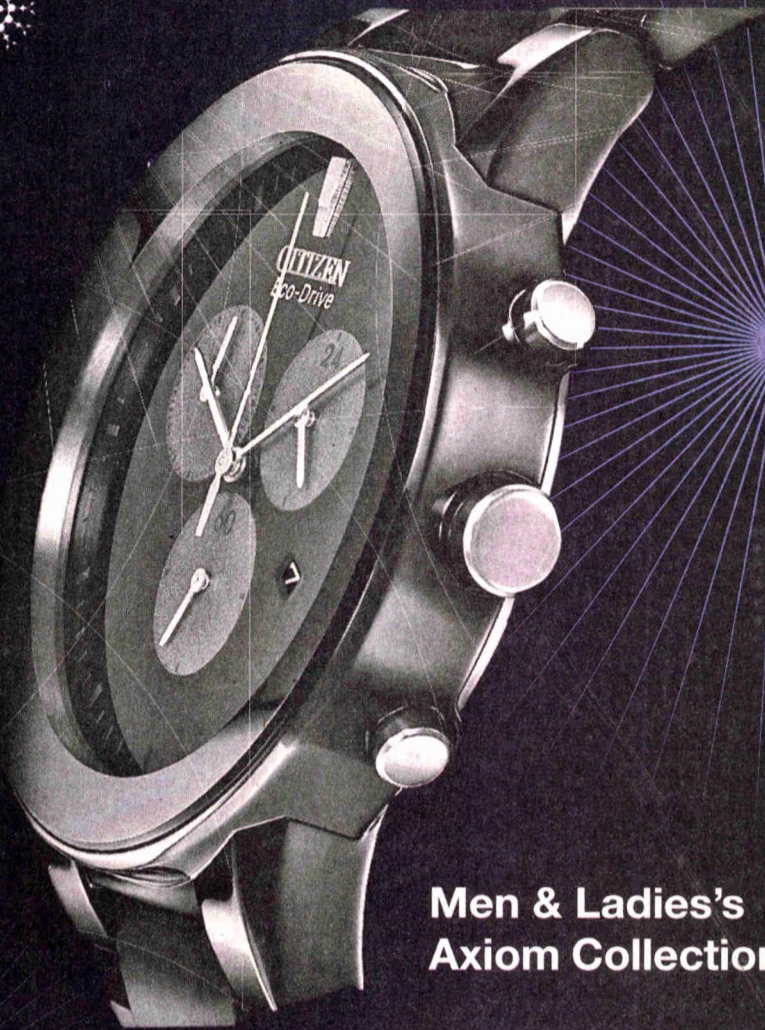
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United Way seeks help from local residents

In recent weeks, four homeless individuals have walked into the Plymouth Community United Way office in search of help.

As the holidays approach, many people's thoughts turn to shopping for holiday gifts, while others wonder where they will find shelter.

As the year draws to a close, PCUW staff is asking the community to give, volunteer and care. Help is only available when individuals, church groups, service clubs and businesses contribute.

PCUW counts on donations from the community to provide human services in Plymouth,

Canton and western Wayne County. For the last several years, the local United Way has been busy providing emergency food, rent and utility assistance due to the recession.

In addition to basic needs, this year's contributions help pursue its Community Impact Initiative.

In an effort to address issues and create lasting change, grants were awarded to organizations attempting to create change.

These included Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (bridge program to prepare ninth-grade students for success in high school and an after-school pilot

program to tutor elementary students) and Southeast Michigan Stand Down to assist homeless veterans. Funding also went to food pantries, bus transportation for seniors, housing for adults with developmental disabilities, shelter for domestic violence victims and their children, hospice

and substance abuse assessment and treatment for youth and many more programs.

Donations can be made online at www.plymouthunitedway.org or to Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170. For information, call 734-453-6879.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NO RECORDS

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 19, noon to 2 p.m.

Location: Canton Police Department, Canton Township Hall

Details: Canton Public Safety's Records Bureau will be closed.

LIBRARY BAG SALES

Dates: Jan. 23-26; Feb. 20-23; March 27-30

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: The Canton Public Library hosts several Bag Sales to benefit Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public Library bookstore. Visitors can shop during the monthly sale and fill a bag with books for just \$5.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Dates/Times: First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman

Details: Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

Contact: For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at



KIWANIS CLUB OF CANTON

Kiwanis grant

Kiwanis Club of Canton Secretary Janet Ott (left) and club President Sherrie Chrysler accepted a recent grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation to assist in the funding of the club's Dictionary Project. The Dictionary Project is a program designed to provide personal dictionaries to third-grade students. The book also includes other information such as biographies of presidents, statistical information on the United States, other continents and countries. The grant is recognition of the value and impact the program has on third-grade students in their development of reading and writing skills. Kiwanis Club of Canton meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Summit on the Park.

888-983-9050, or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third

Thursday, January through May 2015, 11 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

Details: Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Waltonwood Cherry Hill.

Contact: To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Dates: Through Dec. 19

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council

Details: The Plymouth Community Arts Council is offering gift certificates for sale. They are available in any denomination and good for all PCAC classes, workshops, camps and programs. PCAC gift certificates can be purchased at the PCAC office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Contact: For more information, call 734-416-4278.

BASELINE FOLK BENEFIT

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 20, 7-9:30 p.m.

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

Details: The Baseline Folk Society's benefit concert for the Plymouth Goodfellows features

The Sorenson Family. The band features Stephanie and Chris Sorenson, with Chris' father Wayne on bass. The host will be Rick Pitts, who will sing a couple of tunes and introduce the performers (there are 10 open mic slots).

Contact: For more information, contact Scott Ludwig, president of Baseline Folk Society, by email at scatludwig@aol.com or call 734-453-0869.

LIBRARY CONCERT

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.

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

Details: The Friends of the Plymouth District Library present Lee Murdock and The Christmas Tree Ship Concert: Great Lakes Maritime History. Murdock combines music and stories of the inland seas, Great Lakes and port cities of the early 1900s. Murdock will also share his favorite holiday songs as part of the magical season. His song about the Rouse Simmons is the centerpiece to this concert, a story and song of hope and tragedy, of loss and renewal, as the famous ship struggled into a raging winter storm in November 1912.

Contact: Register for this free concert in advance by contacting the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org

FOOD/WINTER WEAR

Dates: Through Dec. 18

Locations: Nico & Vali, The Sardine Room, Fiamma Grille, Compari's, the Post Local Bistro, Sean O'Callaghan's, Penn Grill, E.G. Nick's and the Ironwood Grill in downtown Plymouth

Details: Diners at any of the participating restaurants who donate either non-perishable food or winter wear can receive 5 percent off their bills (up to \$50) in a drive to help the Plymouth Salvation Army in a drive being sponsored by the Metro Times.

Contact: For more information, call The Salvation Army at 734-453-5464.

BAREFOOT PRODUCTION

Dates/Times: Sunday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.

Location: Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: Barefoot Productions presents *The Desk Set*, a comedy by William Marchant which inspired the movie starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. All seats are \$15.

Contact: For tickets, call 734-560-1493 or go to www.just-gobarefoot.com.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: This event features Judie Cochill with the Ron Kischuk Trio. The group features Judie Cochill on vocals, Ron Kischuk on trombone, Tad Weed on piano and Jeff Halsey on bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

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TUE. 12/16 7:00 PM

THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES
STARTS TUE. 12/16 7:00 PM

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (PG-13)
11:40, 12:05, 2:55, 6:05, 6:25, 9:15 FRI/SAT LS 11:10

3D EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (PG-13) \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
3:15, 9:35

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (R)
11:10, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR (PG)
11:20, 1:50, 4:05, 6:35, 9:00

HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 1 (PG-13)
12:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

DUMB AND DUMBER TO (PG-13)
FRI 11:30, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
SAT 7:20, 9:50 SUN 11:30, 9:50
MON 11:30, 2:20, 9:50

BIG HERO 6 (PG)
11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05

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FACEBOOK

Kettering Elementary School is among four vacant Wayne-Westland schools that will be torn down next year.

W-W board OKs demolition of four vacant schools

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Four Wayne-Westland schools that have sat vacant since 2010 will be torn down and the properties re-purposed as part of group bid put together by Wayne County RESA.

The school board approved the demolitions of Madison, Lincoln and Kettering schools in Westland and Vandenberg School in Wayne and use of sinking fund money to pay the \$897,066 price tag.

"We had Plante Moran CRESA review our options," Deputy Superintendent Jim Larson-Shidler said. "We can re-open them up to three years after they closed, but ours have been closed four years and we would need to bring them up to code. We looked at the cost of re-opening them for schools, but our current enrollment doesn't support that."

The district will use a combination of \$470,025 in its sinking fund and a loan of \$417,041 from the general fund. The latter amount will be paid back when the district re-

ceives sinking fund tax revenue after July 1, 2015.

According to Larson-Shidler, maintenance is on unoccupied mode, but the district pays \$159,000 a year for utilities and building and grounds for the four schools. Of the four, Kettering costs the most, with \$82,432 spent annually for utilities and maintenance/vandalism.

Cutting costs

Eliminating those expenses means the district will recoup the \$225,634 spent to demolish the school in 2.7 years. Plante Moran CRESA estimated that it would cost \$4.3 million to re-open it.

"The recommendation from Plante Moran CRESA was that the land is more valuable without the buildings," he said. "We could sell or lease the property, but it's worth more as vacant parcels than having vacant schools on them. We could solicit bids for development, but it's not something we could do immediately. It's something we could look at."

Trustee Sally Madison

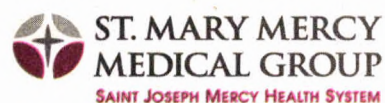
questioned the costs, pointing out that as a parents in 2010, she and her husband Ron brought up the fact that the "numbers didn't add up."

"We were told it was affordable, but our fears have come true," she said. "I'm concerned about making a decision when we have no structure. We were told everything was fine when they closed the schools, now we're moving forward without any structure."

"We have to look at the liabilities," district superintendent Michele Harmala said. "We're concerned about those buildings sitting and eating up money. We see the decline in enrollment continuing. We need a strategic plan for that and we need to reduce the costs for those buildings."

Harmala added that there have been "conversations" with Westland Mayor William Wild and Community Development Director Joanne Campbell. The city also is looking at a grant to build affordable housing for families to buy instead of

See SCHOOLS, Page A16



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Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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Families find fun outdoors, inside in winter

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

When winter comes, Beth and Josh Haynes of Plymouth Township don't necessarily stay inside.

The couple, parents to Andrew, 6, Caleb, 3, and Joanna, 1, find fun stuff to do outdoors in winter. They go geocaching.

"Geocaching is just all over the place. There are geocaches in Miller Woods down the street," she said, as well as Plymouth Township Park and in downtown Plymouth. "We bundled up our kids over Thanksgiving and went out. We didn't do a lot last winter."

In geocaching, a hidden container/box with contents is usually in a park, with GPS coordinates guiding geocachers. Beth Haynes has an app on her smart phone for that, which helps with number of feet away and what direction.

She comes by her love of the outdoors naturally, having grown up the daughter of Graham and Mary Martin of Plymouth Township. The Martins for years ran the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp, so a little snow and cold doesn't bother them.

"One thing we do is go snowshoeing up in the Upper Peninsula," Graham Martin said. They enjoy seeing frozen waterfalls there and he often photographs them.

"When the snow's on the ground, you can put on your snowshoes and go just about anywhere," he said. They also enjoy dogsled races in the U.P., which cover great distances.

Retreat center

"There's downhill skiing, of course," he said. "The kids love to make snow forts." The Martins have four married children and 12 grandchildren ranging from 9 months to 9 years



Frozen waterfalls up north are a winter highlight for Graham and Mary Martin of Plymouth Township and their family.

FUN CLOSE TO HOME

Maybury State Park, 20145 Beck Road, at Eight Mile, Northville, MI 48167, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015

Start off 2015 on the right foot with a healthy hike! Participants should meet at the Concession Building. Tom Griebel will lead a three-mile hike in two loops. This casual, fun, easy to moderate hike lasts about one hour. Hike will be on cleared paved trail through the central areas of the park. Light refreshments and fire in the Concession Building after the hike. Dress for the weather, Concession Building is only heated by a fireplace. Participants can get more information and register at www.friendsofmaybury.org. A Recreation Passport is required for entry into all Michigan state parks and recreation areas. Check "YES" when you renew your license plate.

GRAHAM MARTIN

of age.

There's now also a Woodlands of Upper Peninsula Bible Camp, which the family will sometimes rent the cabin on site. There had been another camp nearby UPBC which a man donated, complete with 60 acres with a dining hall and winterized lodge, as well as a 100-year-old church.

There's a retreat center that sleeps 38, too, and fundraising's underway to add on a sleeping wing.

Visitors can do tubing in the snow, including church youth groups that come up to visit. "That's a lot of fun," he said. "They play broom hockey on the ice. A lot of fun for kids to get involved with."

Martin is a retired teacher from the Plymouth-Canton district who taught 38 years, including art. He does winter photography "around here, too, but up north as well. You can get into some areas because

the lakes are frozen over."

In addition to art, he taught Earth science, physical science, computers, physical education and a junior high careers class.

The family hikes around Hogback Mountain and Sugarloaf Mountain in the Marquette area. "You can look out over Lake Superior," he said.

Sometimes indoors

They enjoy ice caves in the Leelanau Peninsula and seeing the ice balls formed and washed up on the beach. "And pulling the grandkids on sleds," he added.

The family's outdoorsy, but also enjoys time together inside, with Mary Martin saying, "I'd stay inside and read a book." Her husband agreed: "Sitting in front of a wood stove with a book is a good activity."

"It didn't slow us down much," he said of last winter and the infamous

"polar vortex." "I snowblowed a lot of snow."

Their extended family likes to play the Rook card games together, as well as board games, with the younger children going to bed and the older kids joining in the board game fun. "It's kind of a family tradition to play games," he said.

Daughter Beth agreed: "One indoor thing we like to do in the winter is play board games. Andrew is getting old enough."

The Haynes family - Josh is pastor of student ministries at Lake Pointe Bible Church - also has several bird feeders outside the kitchen window. "We see several different species of birds in one day," she said. "It really helped me enjoy the outdoors even when it was too cold to go outdoors."

Last winter was their first with suet feeders and they saw nuthatches and woodpeckers. In fact, little Joanna's first word

was "bird."

Andrew, a first-grade home schooler, was able to do a science project on the birds, too.

"The hard part for me was that it was so cold," Beth Haynes said of last winter. She normally likes winter and the outdoors. "You just even didn't want to do those winter sports type of things."

What helped her last year was the Mothers of Preschoolers group at the Plymouth Township church, as well as Bible Study Fellowship.

Ready for winter

"We put our snow stakes (for plow measuring) in our driveway this week," she said Dec. 2. "I guess so," she added, when asked if she's ready for another winter.

Bevis and Ralph Richardson of Canton are both retired, she as an Oakwood registered nurse, he from a Ford Motor subsidiary. "We used to cross country

ski," Bevis Richardson said. "Since I got a new hip I'm afraid of falling."

They do snowblowing for themselves as a team as well as for a 93-year-old widow neighbor. "We sort of look out for her," Bevis Richardson said. "He plays volleyball with Canton Seniors. We both swim at the Summit in the winter. We do a six-month membership."

The Richardsons have four grown children and five grandkids. Bevis is ready for another winter: "We made sure the snowblower's in working condition," she said.

As a nurse, she knows the importance of year-round fitness. "I would say it's important to keep moving. The younger ones seem to know it," but some seniors struggle with health.

"It's easier to sit than move," Richardson said. "You have to keep moving."

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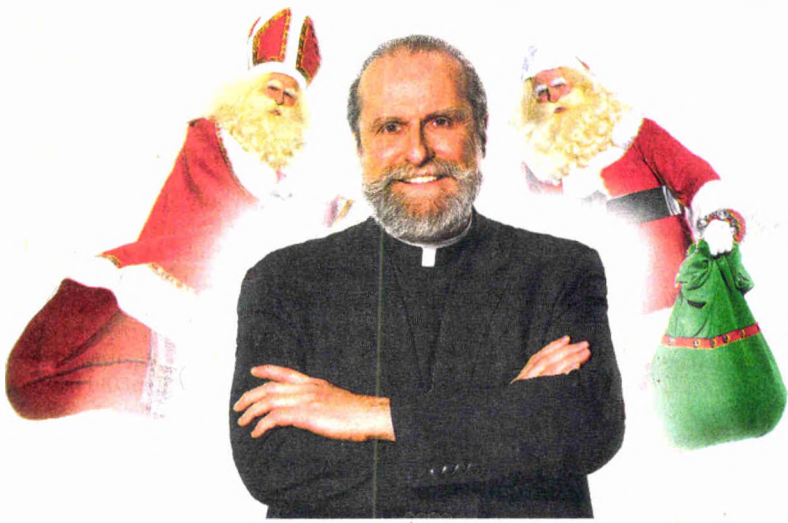


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The Rev. Joseph Marquis, pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, founded the St. Nicholas Institute three years ago to teach those who portray Santa Claus about the original St. Nicholas, whom he calls "the first true philanthropist."

St. Nicholas Institute founder: 'Everyone needs a Santa'

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Forget about the North Pole: Santa – or St. Nick, that is – may be closer than you think.

In what may be the area's best-kept holiday secret, a local priest has opened a school aimed at educating Santas – and those who love them – on the truth about the man behind the myth: St. Nicholas of Myra, the model for modern-day Santa.

The Rev. Joseph Marquis is a Catholic priest serving as pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia. He is also founder and executive director of the St. Nicholas Institute, which he began three years ago with the purpose of spreading the message of St. Nicholas, whom he calls "the first true philanthropist."

"Everyone needs a Santa," Marquis said. "Santa is based on St. Nicholas, who is known for spreading peace, joy and love – the fruits of the Holy Spirit – and for selfless giving."

Drawing people from across the country and even Canada, the St. Nicholas Institute conducts a four-day seminar each year at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat and Conference Center in Redford Township for would-be Santa Clauses – even Mrs. Clauses have been known to attend.

Designed to give would-be Santas the tools needed to convincingly portray both St. Nicholas and/or Santa Claus in a wide variety of venues – either religious or secular – the seminar covers topics such as active listening, responding to common children's questions with ease and poise

and the appropriate use of makeup and beard care.

"Voice, stage presence and much more – it is all taught in the context of the traditions and spirituality of Christmas," Marquis said. "These are all important if you want to play the part accurately."

He should know: A 2011 inductee into the Santa Claus Hall of Fame in Santa Claus, Ind., Marquis has more than 40 years of professional Santa Claus and St. Nicholas experience. If you are from the area and attended Detroit's Thanksgiving Day parade as a child, you may recognize him. From 1977-89, Marquis was the official Santa for the parade, waving to children along Woodward Avenue from atop his sleigh.

See SANTA, Page A10

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SANTA

Continued from Page A9

The original St. Nick

Marquis said that many people don't realize that our modern-day Santa Claus – and even his red suit and cap trimmed in snowy-white fur – has roots in history dating back to the third century.

"St. Nicholas was born to wealthy parents in what is present-day Turkey. His father was in textiles and he was educated, something that was rare in those days," Marquis said.

St. Nicholas had a strong desire to follow Christ, giving away his inheritance to focus on helping others and giving to those in need anonymously, Marquis added.

He became a bishop at age 19 and, after suffering persecution for his faith for seven years, his life was spared and he made his way to Holland, continuing his focus on self-effacing philanthropy, tossing money into the windows of those in need under the cover of darkness in order to remain an anonymous donor.

"The actual person was a committed Christian, a person of integrity sharing unconditional love and focusing on the dignity of the human person," Marquis said.

Not only has our modern-day Santa Claus appropriated some of those same characteristics, he has also been inspired by St. Nicholas' style of dress. Note the red cap resembling a bishop's tri-cornered hat; the richly colored fur-trimmed robe (similar to you-know-who's suit coat) and the bishop's staff, now a simple striped candy cane.

"I think it is important for people to realize that Santa Claus is based on a real-life person that anyone can imitate," Marquis said.



The Rev. Joseph Marquis (right) is shown with Michael Jones, vice president and general manager of Ave Maria, who accepted the St. Nicholas Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in October on behalf of philanthropist and Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan. An annual awards dinner is part of the graduation ceremony of the St. Nicholas Institute, a four-day course for would-be professional Santas and Mrs. Clauses.

Christmas Eve miracle

It is Marquis' personal experience that led to a lifelong devotion to St. Nicholas, known the world over as the patron saint of children.

Growing up in metro Detroit more than 65 years ago, he and his twin brother were struck with adversity. His father was losing a battle with tuberculosis in an area sanitarium, leaving his mother, pregnant with a third child, struggling to find money to feed her young boys.

"We were very poor – we couldn't even afford a pumpkin for Halloween, let alone a Christmas tree," he said. "My mother took us to see Santa – not the one downtown at Hudson's because it was too expensive to get there, but another Santa in a hut on a sidewalk somewhere. When he asked my brother and I what we wanted for Christmas, we told him that we wanted our father home."

"I saw tears in his eyes and his expression changed. He looked at us and said, 'Santa will pray for your father,'" he added.

The situation grew even more desperate Christmas Eve, when his mother went into labor early and ended up in the hospital, near death.

Marquis still tears up at the memory.

"It was Christmas Eve and both of our parents were very, very sick," he said. "We didn't know if my mother would make it through the night. Some of my father's co-workers knew our situation and brought us a tree, but we were so poor we didn't even have any decorations. I remember an aunt came to stay with us and took us down the street to the dime store to buy a cardboard Nativity so we could say a prayer for our mother and father."

"As we said our prayer in front of the Nativity, I felt a little chill. My brother did, too. He looked at me – we were only 5 – and said, 'Did you feel that?' My aunt said it was the Holy Ghost letting us know that God was with us."

Upon waking the next morning, he learned that not only had his mother survived the night, he also had a new brother. Soon after that, his father was healed – one of only a few who escaped the fate of other TB patients – and made it home.

His devotion to St. Nick, he explained, is his way of expressing his gratitude – and to show others the importance of trusting God.

"It is the child in each of us that brings him to life," he said.

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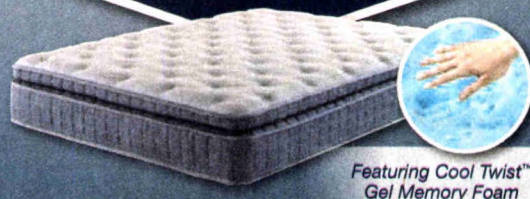
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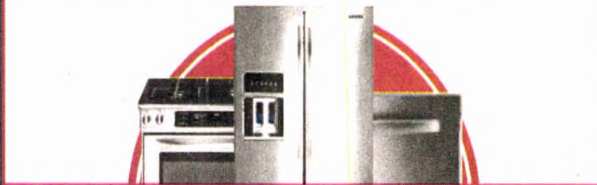


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Cell study tastes good in kids' workshop

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Cells are curious things, as kids in grades 4-8 found Thursday at the Plymouth District Library.

Some 20 kids explored the world of cells, courtesy of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's STEM Academy. The STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) teens meet regularly with younger students at the Plymouth library to explore science subjects.

"Basically we thought, 'What better way to get kids' attention than candy?'" said Sena Al-Ado, 17, a Canton High School senior. She and other STEM teens were setting out cookies and decorations to be used in the afternoon lesson.

"Then we'll have some fun and play a little game," Al-Ado said, and indeed the youngsters were eager to play the game, in which parts of cells and their roles were explored. Al-Ado wants to major in biochemistry, possibly with an art minor.

"We'll figure that out," she said with a smile, noting she's waiting on college acceptance letters.

Vatsala Singh, 16, a Plymouth High junior, also assisted. Singh plans to study computer engineering/science at the University of Michigan.

"I think it's a good opportunity for them to learn at a young age," Singh said. "They're getting a head start on this. They're learning it through food, so they'll probably remember it more."

She noted her science classes were more basic, even in middle school.

Karly Patterson, 14, is a Canton High freshman who plans to become a pediatrician and may attend school in New York. "Michigan's such a good medical school," she said of U-M.

"If you get the right base of information, it's much easier. I wish when I was their age I had somebody to do it for me," she said of science instruction by teens for younger kids. "And this is so cute," Patterson added of the cookies and decorations, which ranged from marshmallows to green frosting and candy "Nerds."

Librarian Barb Dinan and the teens had snacks on hand for the after-school program. "You can eat your project today, but you don't want



Evan Adamski, 11, (front) chows down on his "cell cookie" as others watch.

JULIE BROWN

to eat it until it's finished," Dinan said.

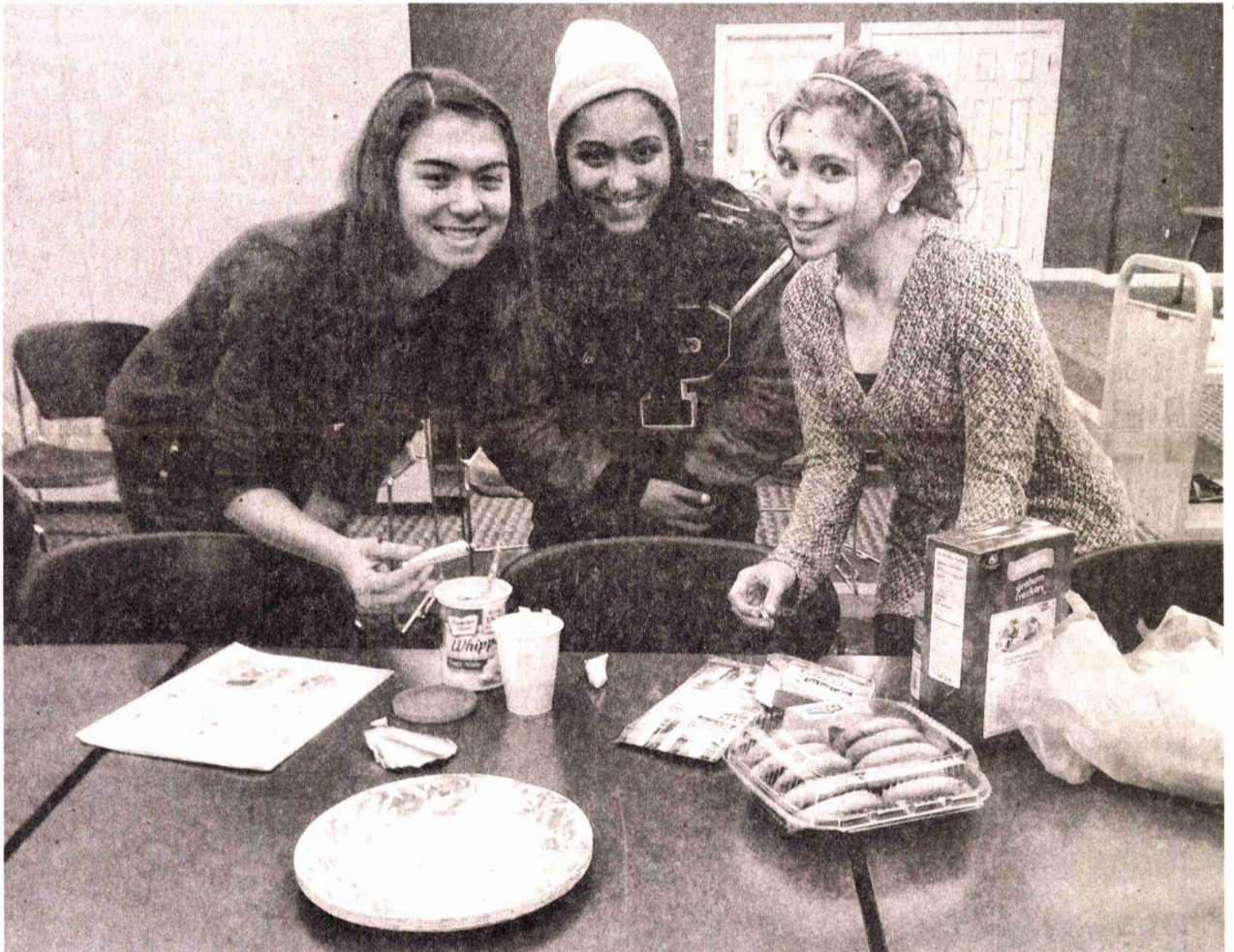
Al-Ado led the session, describing how cells in the hair, eye and liver are all different, but have similarities. The nucleus is usually the biggest, she said.

"It's kind of like the brain of the cell. It's going to tell the cells what to do and what to make," Al-Ado said.

She covered the cell membrane, which controls what enters and exits cells, as well as other cell parts and their functions. The kids had fun with the game time and with creating their "cell cookies."

They began with the cell membrane "border" in frosting and continued from there. A marshmallow formed the nucleus and, as the session ended, some kids chowed down on their science projects, while others were carefully carried out of the room to show parents.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



JULIE BROWN

STEM teens working on the cell project Dec. 11 included (from left) Bailey Brown, 17, a Plymouth High junior; Vatsala Singh, 16, a Plymouth High junior; and Sena Al-Ado, 17, a Canton High senior and session leader.



JULIE BROWN

The "cells" were entirely edible and tasty.



JULIE BROWN

STEM students prepare for the session, with Vatsala Singh (left) and Bailey Brown pitching in.

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FIBROMYALGIA-MYTH AND MISCONCEPTION

The belief remains that Fibromyalgia is a diagnosis of exclusion, that is, if a person experiences pain, and physicians come up with no explanation, then the person receives the diagnosis of Fibromyalgia. In short, Fibromyalgia is a waste basket diagnosis, used by physicians when nothing else fits.

That isn't so.

The features of Fibromyalgia are characteristic and distinct allowing a doctor to make a definite diagnosis, even though the condition lacks blood tests to confirm the condition is present. These features include:

- daily pain, occurring for years
- shifting and migrating pain that changes daily
- fatigue and exhaustion combined with inability to sleep
- pain present above and below the waist, being at times in the arms but other times in the legs and feet
- associated migraine like headaches, TM jaw pain and irritable bowel
- tingling in the arms and legs but shifting from left side to right side

Other symptoms include panic attacks, difficulty concentrating, episodes of dropping cups or dishes for no known reason, spells of sudden shortness of breath. Flares of pain may come on suddenly, repeatedly, and remain for prolonged duration.

As already noted, laboratory testing and/or imaging by x-rays, MRIs or ultrasounds do not reveal findings to explain the pain or diagnosis that Fibromyalgia is present. But special studies are not required, the physician only needs to let the patient tell his or her story.

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Area Kwanzaa program celebrates 10th year

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

For Kay Green and her two kids, Maki and Caleb Johnson, attending Farmington Hills' Kwanzaa program has become an annual event.

"I'm here to learn more and embrace the idea of Kwanzaa and the meaning behind it. Last year, I was impressed with the principles and ideas, so we're making it a tradition (to attend the program)," she said.

The trio was among the 100 or so who turned out for the 10th annual event, "Celebrating and Living Kwanzaa — Unity in the Family and Community," held Dec. 6 at the Farmington Public Library's 12 Mile branch. Presented by Douglas

and Dyrene Ouley Saulsberry, the program included a presentation of Kwanzaa's seven principles, a performance by the Harrison High School Dance Troupe, storytelling and refreshments.

Farmington Hills City Councilman Mike Bridges was one of several officials who offered greetings during the program. The community, he said, is "blessed with diversity."

"I believe diversity brings value to our community, I believe it is an asset to our community and I know others feel the same way," Bridges said.

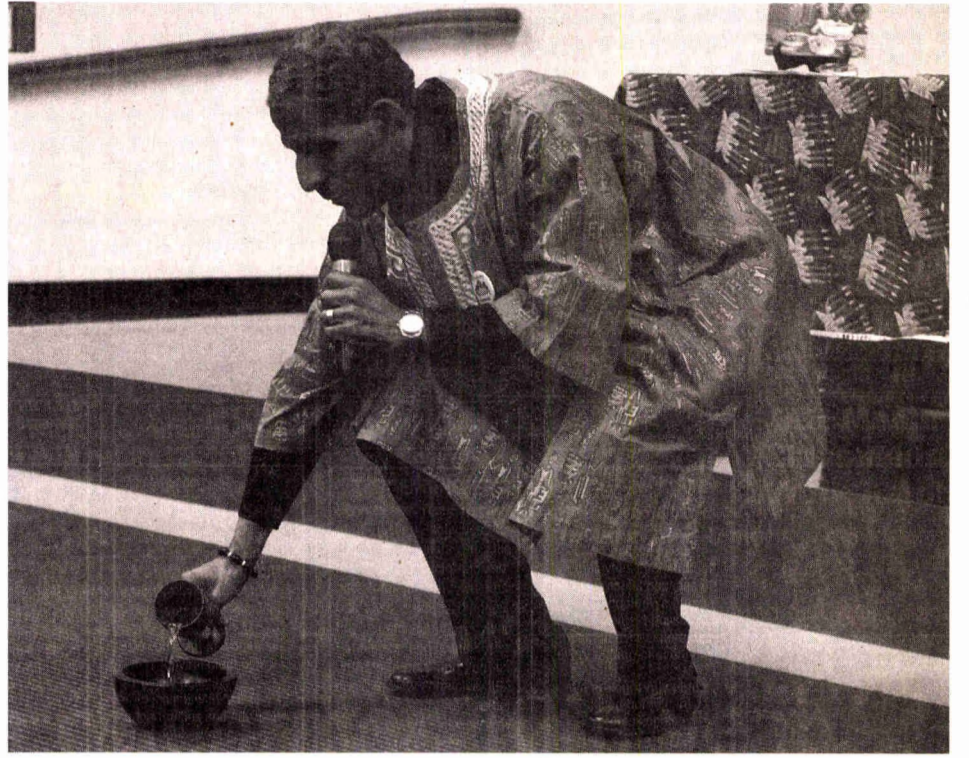
Former Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Sue Zurvalec was also on hand, noting she's participated in the

Farmington-area Kwanzaa program every year since its inception. "The principles of Kwanzaa affirm and strengthen our families and community and truly are universal for all people," she said.

The principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Kwanzaa runs Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Black activist and California State University professor Maulana Karenga — born Ronald Everett McKinley — is credited with establishing the seven-day holiday in 1966.

According to his website, Karenga has had "a far-reaching effect on



Douglas Saulsberry pours libations as those who have died are remembered during the Kwanzaa celebration.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Black intellectual and political culture since the 1960s ... (and) has played a vanguard role in shaping the Black Arts Movement, Black Studies, the Black Power Movement, the Black Student Union Movement, Afrocentricity" and other ideas. Additional sources reference him serving several years in prison for assault in the 1970s and describe him as a separatist.

The Farmington Hills Kwanzaa event was held weeks before the holiday's official start to allow time for preparation by those interested in celebrating it, Dyrene Ouley Saulsberry explained. "We want to get you focused, we want to get you thinking about the Kwanzaa principals and be ready by the time it comes, Dec. 26," he said.

While no HHS dance



Retired Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Sue Zurvalec and board member Karen Bolsen took part in the Kwanzaa program at the Farmington Community Library in Farmington Hills.

TOM BEAUDOIN

troupe member said they or their families celebrate Kwanzaa, one dancer, Chandra Sahu, said she can sense a connection. "I feel like the values of Kwanzaa can re-

late to us as dancers, especially unity and purpose," she said.

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Industrial park coming to old spring-bumper plant site

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

A multi-tenant industrial park is planned for 116 acres of the former GM property near I-96 and I-275 in Livonia.

RACER Trust announced Wednesday it has reached an agreement to sell the former Spring and Bumper Plant (Delco Chassis) property on Eckles Road to Ashley Capital.

Livonia Chamber of Commerce President Dan West said the site is probably the largest single parcel of developable industrial property remaining in the city. "This is good news because it is the next step in a process that will eventually bring significant new investment and jobs to Livonia," he said.

While no potential user for the property has been identified yet, ac-



At least 300,000 cubic yards of clean fill from this summer's I-96 highway project were moved to the Eckles Road property, filling in low-lying parts and improving its redevelopment capacity and marketability.

FILE PHOTO

According to city officials, West said the property's proximity to two free-ways makes it attractive. Livonia Mayor Jack

Kirksey said in a prepared statement that the Eckles Road project has outstanding potential to be a catalyst for growth.

"Livonia is committed to working with Ashley Capital to see that the development reaches its full potential to maxi-

mize job creation and economic activity for the area and the city," he said.

Local job creation

Ashley Capital, which manages approximately 22 million square feet of industrial and office space in the United States and has the largest industrial property portfolio in Michigan, has redeveloped other Livonia properties leading to the creation of more than 2,400 local jobs, according to the company.

Those properties include redevelopment of the former Peregrine plant, now the 1.1 million-square-foot Plymouth Road Technical Center where Roush Industries and FedEx are located; redevelopment of the former Ladbroke/Detroit Race Course, now the 1-million-square-foot

Livonia Corporate Center; and a major renovation of the 130,000-square-foot Laurel Park II office building.

"Redeveloping brown-field sites has inherent challenges, but Livonia is a first-rate city in which to develop, market conditions are steadily improving and Ashley Capital has the experience needed to transform this site into a first-rate industrial park," said Susan Harvey, senior vice president for Ashley Capital.

The sale is the second major transaction for RACER in Livonia in 2014. In March, RACER announced the sale of the former GM Livonia Powertrain Plant to Schostak Brothers & Co. Inc., which also said it planned to seek multiple business tenants.

See PLANT, Page A15

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'Maire's Journey' coming to an end

Filmmaker Famie nearing completion of movie about a dying woman's last wish

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Local filmmaker Keith Famie's journey to capture the real life story of one young woman's battle with a terminal cancer diagnosis is nearing its end and he hopes the final results will positively impact many lives — just like Maire Kent did.

Famie, whose film-making company Vision-artist Entertainment Productions is based in Wixom, along with award-

winning producer/director John Feist and their crew will complete production in the next few months on *Maire's Journey* and release it this spring.

The movie captures the last months of a young woman's life, the journey she would undertake following her death and the impact it had on others. It's Famie's hope that anyone who sees the film gains a clear understanding of what a cancer patient goes through, both phys-

ically as well as emotionally.

"I also hope that this will open the door for end-of-life discussions for families. We are all going to die someday," he said. "Some of us will have the ability to plan our exit and what we would like to see happen afterward in memory of our existence. For those of us who will leave our earthly world abruptly, I hope that we understand just how precious life is and every day is a gift."

Meeting Maire

Famie met 24-year-old Maire (pronounced Mary) Kent after she had been diagnosed with



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
In his Wixom office, documentary filmmaker Keith Famie shows the small sailboat that carried the ashes of Maire Kent from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

cardiac sarcoma. They quickly became friends. He realized as he spent more time with her that she was special and her will to live — while eventually facing the reality that she would lose the battle with this rare cancer — told a unique story.

Famie said as her story unfolds, "we witness how Maire is forced to think about her end of life after a short nine months. She reflects on a book she learned to read from that would inspire her after-life journey to the ocean of her ashes in a small three-foot sailboat built by a blind carpenter."

This journey, Famie noted, would bring together random strangers who felt a deep desire to help Maire get to the sea. "In the end, we learn that cancer is everyone's story at some point in our

lives," he said in reflection.

A dying wish

Maire's dying wish was to be cremated and have her ashes placed in a small, wooden sailboat set in Lake Michigan, in the hope it would ultimately find its way to the Atlantic Ocean. It did, getting help along the way by people with their own stories.

"Maire's journey was viewed by so many as impossible," Famie said. "I heard so often before we set out on this production this past summer that no one would help this vessel containing Maire's ashes get to the ocean. I am sure many who I told Maire's story to thought I lost it. I just believed that humanity is good and, if given the chance, they would be there for Maire."

He said so many things could have gone wrong during the weeks while Maire's ashes made their way some 1,400 miles to New York City, but they didn't.

"We experienced some very moving moments that brought our crew of six to say to ourselves more than once, 'Maire is guiding this journey.' So quite possibly when we are gone, just maybe we are not really ever gone," Famie said.

What's next?

They are now finishing the movie and preparing for a two-month edit session. During this time, Famie will film a few follow-up interviews with Maire's doctors, singer-songwriter Jill Jack, blind carpenter George Wurtzel

See *JOURNEY*, Page A15



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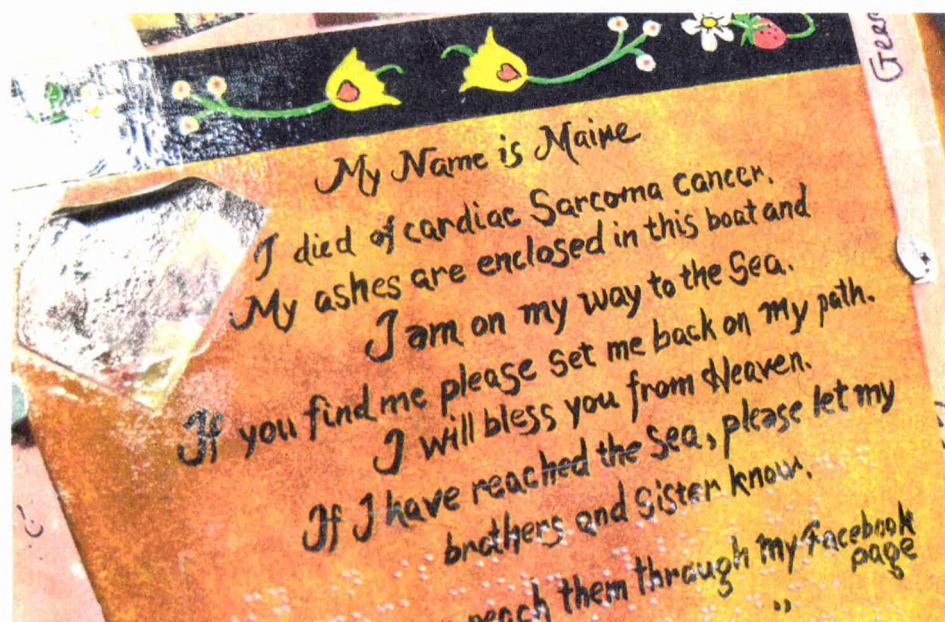
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maire Kent asked that these words be written on her sailboat.

JOURNEY

Continued from Page A14

and friends. These interviews will help them narrate Maire's long battle with cancer, as well as the journey she took in her afterlife. The interviews will also allow for these people to reflect on Maire as a person.

It's Famie's plan to host a large premiere in Michigan before taking the movie to New York. The premiere will benefit Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit (named after Gilda Radner, former *Saturday Night Live* television show cast member and native Detroit) as

well as the Maire Kent Memorial Fund for Sarcoma and Cardiac Tumor Research at the University of Michigan. Famie is hoping to attract through a formal invite one of the original cast members of *Saturday Night Live*, such as Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd or Jane Curtin, who were close to Radner.

In addition to Gilda's Club, the film's other primary support has been through executive producers Tom Rau, who has been supporting this story from day one, and Anthony Schimizzi, recently added to the team. Both are businessmen who have been successful.

"I am certain there will be so many lessons that will come from this wonderful spirited lady's story, more than can be written at this point in time," Famie said. "We are all very fortunate to have had Maire Kent in our lives. And come spring, we hope her story and the others who helped her along her way will touch possibly hundreds of thousands the same way."

To learn more, go to <https://www.facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea> or <http://mairesjourney.com>.

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PLANT

Continued from Page A13

The project benefited this summer from the reconstruction of I-96, as Dan's Excavating agreed to transport, deposit and level at least 300,000 cubic yards of clean fill from the highway project on the Eckles Road project, filling in low-lying parts and improving the property's redevelopment capacity and marketability at no cost to RACER.

RACER (Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response)

Trust was created to clean up and position for redevelopment properties and other facilities owned by the former General Motors Co. before its 2009 bankruptcy.

Plant history

The site of the former Spring and Bumper Plant, at 13000 Eckles, on the northeast corner of Amrhein, once housed 14 buildings comprising 2.1 million square feet. Between 1954 and 1998, this site was operated by various divisions of GM.

The buildings were removed in 2001.

At the plant, GM manufactured vehicle bump-

ers, leaf springs, coil springs and struts. Other operations included bumper plating, metal forming, heat treating, metal plating and finishing and assembly.

According to an article in the *Observer* in September 1970, more than 2,600 employees worked there.

In 1993, GM ceased its bumper operations and, in 1998, sold the coil spring business to an independent company, which leased a portion of the facility through the year 2000.

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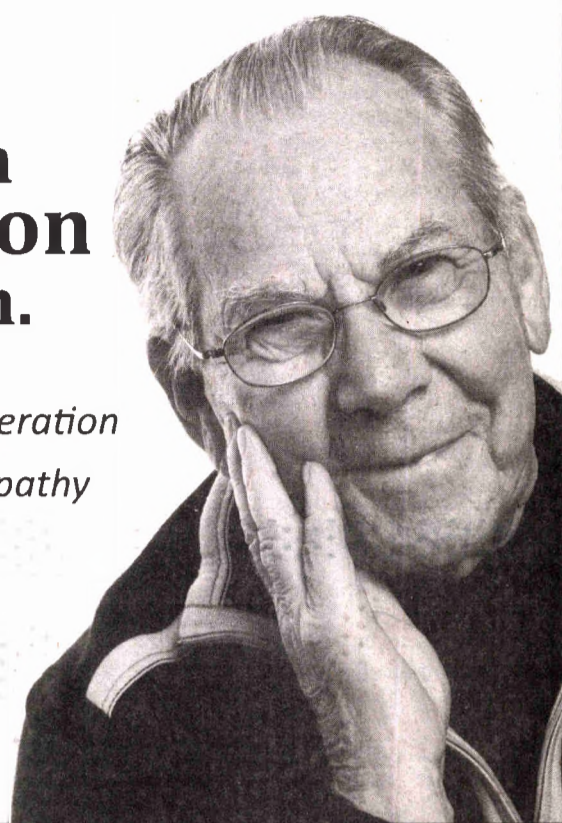
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When loaning money, make sure to put it in writing

Q: Dear Rick: A few years ago, I loaned a friend \$10,000. Because he was a friend, we didn't have anything in writing, but we had a handshake agreement. He was supposed to pay me back when he sold his home. He recently sold his home and, when I asked for the money, he told me that he thought it was a gift, not a loan. Needless to say, I'm not happy about this. My first inclination is to sue him, but when I talked to an attorney, he said that since nothing was in writing, I would have a tough case. Do you agree? And if I don't sue him, is there any way I can write this off my taxes? A friend of mine said I can treat it as a bad debt.

A: I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but I agree with your attorney. As a plaintiff in a legal action, you would have to



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

prove that this was not a gift, but a loan. You would also have to prove what the terms of the loan were. Absent anything being in writing, it becomes a he said/she said and those are very difficult cases to prove.

One thing you may have going for you is if you gave your friend a check for the money and on the memo line of the check you wrote that it was a loan. However, absent any sort of documentation, you have a difficult case.

Decide whether it is worth putting good money after bad. After all, not only would you have to prove that it was a loan and what the terms were, but you also have to hope that your friend is col-

lectible. If he's not, then hiring an attorney and going through all the aggravation and expense probably doesn't make sense.

You will also have difficulty in writing the loan off as a bad debt. Bad debts are tax-deductible, however, the taxpayer would have the burden of proof. If the IRS questioned the write-off, you would have to prove that there was a loan.

In addition, there is another IRS requirement when it comes to deducting bad debt. You would have to show that you made efforts to collect the loan. That doesn't necessarily mean that you have to file a lawsuit, but it does mean that you have to show an attempt to collect the debt.

If you take the deduction and the IRS questions it, the burden is upon you. If you don't have the necessary documentation, the IRS could

deny the deduction.

I suggest a hybrid approach. Have the attorney write a letter to your friend saying that you will pursue legal action unless there is a resolution. Many people, when they receive a letter from an attorney, know that you are serious and, as a result, they may be more willing to reach a settlement.

Loans to family and friends create all sorts of issues. My advice is if you're loaning money to a family or friend, put it in writing. Then both parties understand that it is loan, not a gift. Loans are meant to be repaid.

Good luck

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

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page A7

rent.

The district piggy-backed on bids Wayne County RESA sought for several former Inkster Public Schools buildings, including Blanche Middle School, which was turned over to Wayne-Westland as part of the dissolution of the Inkster district.

2010 closings

The four schools were among six the district closed in 2010, when it reconfigured its elementary program due to declining enrollment. It was able to sell Patchin School in 2011 to the Harvest Bible Chapel and earlier this year inked an agreement with the city of Westland for a 50-year lease of Jefferson-Barns Elementary, which will become a new community center in Norwayne.

It appeared the dis-

trict had Kettering Elementary sold in 2012 to the Crescent Academy, when a title search turned up deed restrictions on two parcels – under the school building and parking lot – that limited use to public entities. Crescent Academy is a private, college preparatory Islamic school.

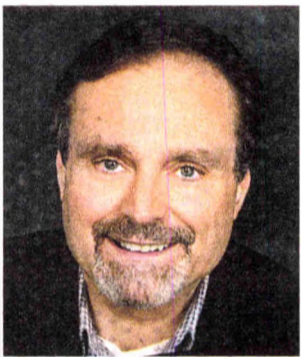
In response to a question from board Treasurer Frederick Weaver about redeeming the two restricted parcels, Larson-Shidler said there is a process with the state that the district will begin following the demolition.

Wayne County also appeared interested in Vandenberg School to move in programs from the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue; however, it "didn't gain financial support and the deal fell through," Larson-Shidler said.

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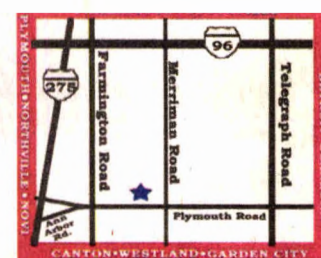


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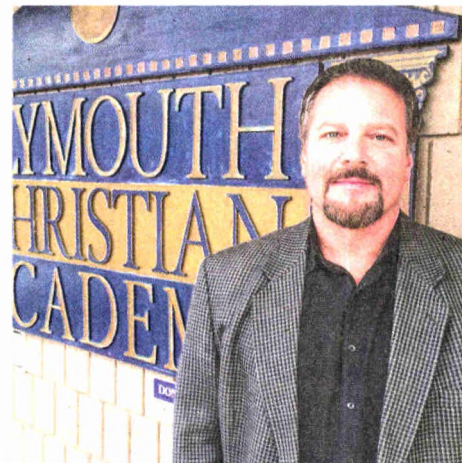
GIRLS BASKETBALL



Salem senior guard Shara Long (left) tries to elude defensive pressure from a Dearborn Divine Child player Friday night.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 3



PCA ATHLETICS
Plymouth Christian Academy's new coach, Dino Mattei, is ready to guide the Eagles to new heights.

Mattei pumped to lead PCA

Student of game to stress fundamentals in first varsity coaching gig

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Dino Mattei played basketball at a high level throughout his life, starting in high school at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist and then at the college level in South Carolina.

But it wasn't until several years after college that Mattei — the new varsity boys basketball coach at Plymouth Christian Academy — discovered what his true calling was as far as the sport is concerned.

He started coaching his son's and daughter's teams in community leagues before moving up to coach in the Amateur Athletic Union, where he "fell in love" with basketball all over again.

After eight years coaching in the AAU, Mattei is primed to lead a varsity boys team for the first time with the Plymouth Christian job.

"This is my first high school head coaching job and I am truly excited to take on this challenge at Plymouth Christian Academy," Mattei said. "I am honored to say that PCA has charged me with the task of building their boys varsity basketball program and bringing it back to prominence where it once was."

Helping Mattei will be assistant coach Monte Dennard, who has worked with Mattei in recent seasons in the AAU. Dennard brings coaching experience from Inkster and Robichaud high schools and Madonna University.

Mattei takes over from Dominique Washington, the former Salem basketball star who continues to coach at

See PCA, Page B4

WIN SLIPS AWAY

Rocks unable to stop late surge by Divine Child

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For three quarters Friday night, Salem's varsity girls basketball team looked poised and ready to defeat Dearborn Divine Child and notch that first victory of the season.

The host Rocks carried a 30-28 lead into the fourth quarter. Players were making key buckets and going into scrums and coming away with rebounds.

But the Falcons rallied with a 16-7 final quarter to earn a 44-37 non-conference win, to the chagrin of Salem

head coach Lindsay Klemmer.

"They picked up their intensity and this has been the story of our season right now," Klemmer said. "We can't finish a game, we can't play a full 32 minutes. Teams go on runs and we shut down."

"We stopped attacking. I think we got soft. I can't tell you how many we missed around the rim. We missed at least 15-20 bunnies around the basket and that's a problem; it's been a problem all year. We have to learn how to finish."

One player who did finish down the stretch was Hailey Case of the Falcons. She led all scorers with 19 points, including nine in the fourth.

She sank a jumper from the left wing in the opening moments of the fourth to tie the game at 30-30 and

later drained a 3-pointer from the left wing with 2:40 remaining to put Divine Child ahead to stay at 37-34.

"We had some high-intensity players," Klemmer said. "I thought our defense was great, honestly, until the fourth quarter. That's what we worked on the last week is our defense and, again, we have a lapse and kind of shut down."

Salem senior guard Jamyra Wilson led the Rocks (0-3) with 10 points, while senior forwards Shara Long and Hayley Rogers tallied nine and eight points, respectively.

Also in double figures for the Falcons (3-0) was Riley Blair with 11 points, while Kelsee Kinder chipped in nine.

See ROCKS, Page B4

BOYS WRESTLING PREVIEW - PART 2

READY TO WORK

Canton's youth and inexperience won't keep team from getting after it in 2014-15

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It's a new era for Canton wrestling, with the graduation of standouts Ben Griffin and Alec Pantaleo, who nearly gave Canton two individual state champions last season.

The 2014-15 roster is relatively young, but veteran head coach Cory Mancuso still sees plenty of reason to be optimistic.

"We are a young and inexperienced team overall," Mancuso said. "We are a small group this year, but we are a hard-working group. We will continue to get better each day."

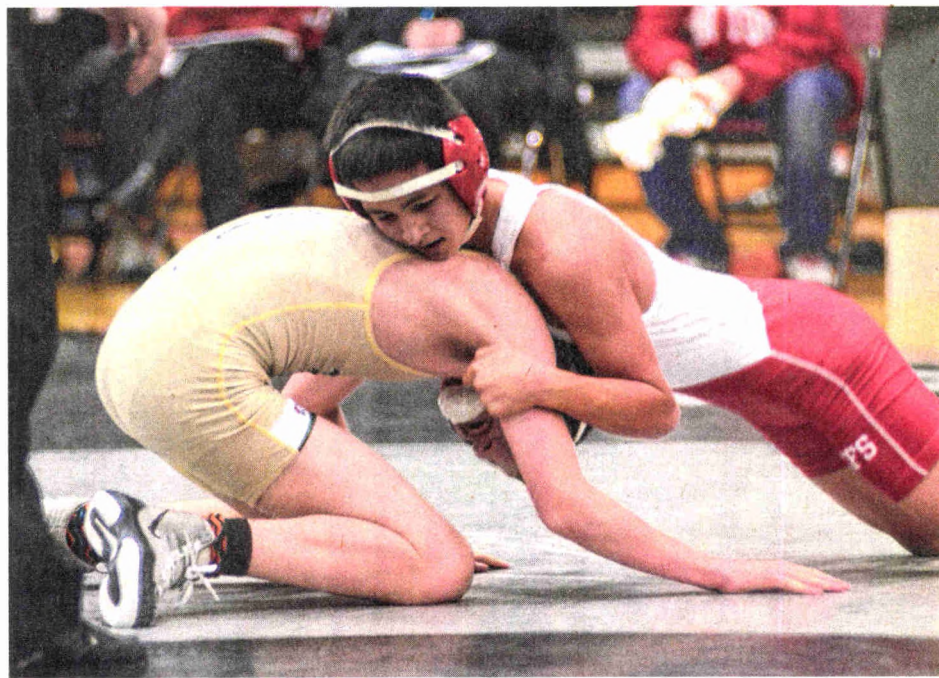
Leading the Chiefs is senior Ty Jassman, a returning state qualifier who will compete in the 145-pound weight class. He also is ranked No. 4 at 140 by Michigan Grappler.

"Our young guys will look to him for leadership throughout the season," Mancuso said.

Another plus for Canton is getting senior heavyweight Adam Arnesto back after a season's absence. Last winter, Arnesto opted not to wrestle in order to focus on his senior season of football.


"It is great to have him back on the

See CANTON, Page B2



CHRISTOPHER GUDECK

Canton's Harrison Samoy (right), shown from last season, will start in the 125-pound weight class.



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PREP GYMNASTICS

Canton tops Farmington to extend win streak to 46

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Defending gymnastics state champion Canton defeated Farmington on Tuesday, 145.55 to 138.55, extending the team's winning streak to 46.

Chiefs head coach John Cunningham credited "generally well-balanced scoring, with everyone contributing."

"Without Maddie Toal, home sick, the team really stepped up and nearly matched last year's state championship score," Cunningham added.

Canton tallied three firsts, by Hailey Hodgson (vault, 9.2), Allison Kunz (uneven parallel bars, 9.575) and Jocelyn



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Hailey Hodgson, shown from last season, continued to excel on the balance beam against Farmington.

Moraw (balance beam, 9.6).
Farmington's Carina

Wright scored 9.55 on floor exercise to win that event.

Winning the all-around was Kunz, with 36.975, followed by Moraw (second, 36.725), Hodgson (third, 36.35), Jana Hilditch (fourth, 34.85) and Stephanie Cox (fifth, 34.6).

Canton scorers, by event, were as follows:
VAULT: 1. Hodgson, 9.2; 2. Kunz, 9.15; 3. Moraw, 8.95; 4. Hilditch, 8.3.

BARS: 1. Kunz, 9.575; 2. Moraw, 8.8; 4. Cox, 8.7; 4. Dickson, 8.65.

BEAM: 1. Moraw, 9.6; 2. Hodgson, 9.4; 3. Hilditch, 9.15; 4. Kunz, 8.85; 5. (tie) Cox, 8.75.

FLOOR: 1. (tie) Kunz, Hodgson, 9.4; 3. Moraw, 9.375; 4. Cox, 9.05.

PREP WRESTLING

Good start for Salem grapplers

Rocks defeat Lakeland, Garden City on opening night

Salem's wrestling team started off its season Wednesday on a winning note, winning both ends of a double dual meet at Milford.

The Rocks opened the night defeating Lakeland, 45-27, and followed up with a 48-30 victory over Garden City.

Against Lakeland, Salem took the early lead with Nate Gaubatz and Akasheed Rai both getting wins in the 103 and 112 weight classes. They also got wins at 130 and 135 with pins by freshman Tyler Knopp and junior Andrew Lindsay.

After dropping a match at 140, Seth Dunn quickly got the Rocks back on track with a fall at 145. Lakeland then got

some momentum, winning 152 and 160 before voiding 171 and then winning 189. Senior Mitchell Gross and junior Tyler Moore sealed the victory for Salem, recording pins at 215 and heavyweight, respectively.

The Rocks continued the momentum against the Cougars, with Rai opening with a win by void at 112.

Garden City rallied off a pair of wins before Knopp (125) stopped the bleeding with a win. Salem dropped the bouts at 130, 135 and 140, but the Rocks responded with wins at 152, 160 and 171.

Roy Foster sealed the match with a victory at 189, while Gross and Moore accepted voids to increase the margin. Garden City ended the match with a hard-fought win against Salem freshman Nate Gaubatz.

"It was nice to see the Rocks start off with a couple wins tonight, but there is a long way to go as wrestlers get healthy and down to weight," co-coach Jeremy Henderson said. "We have a lot more hard work to do in order to achieve the goals we set."

Henderson said Gross, Knopp, Rai and Moore all had strong starts to their season, each going 2-0.

"Roy Foster had a tough match with a very talented kid from Lakeland," Henderson said. "If Roy keeps working, I believe we will see him on the top of podiums this year. Nate Gaubatz and Daniel McGhee also wrestled very tough tonight for the Rocks and have bright futures ahead."

Salem was scheduled to compete at Saturday's Waterford Mott invitational.

CANTON

Continued from Page B1

team," Mancuso said. "Once we knock off the rust, he could be a contender in March. He is a big strong, athletic kid."

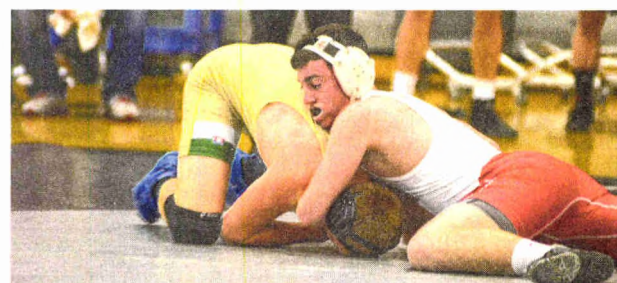
"Hopefully, he will pave the way for more football players to come out for wrestling. There is such a misconception out there that you have to focus on one particular sport to earn a scholarship, when the research proves otherwise."

Armesto isn't Canton's only 285-pounder, as junior Terrelle Crutchfield also is ready to compete.

Young lineup

Canton's lineup is sprinkled with a few seniors and juniors, but composed mainly of freshmen and sophomores.

Senior Nicholas Durocher is slated to wrestle at 171, while the



FILE PHOTO
One of the few seniors on Canton's roster is 171-pounder Nicholas Durocher (right), shown competing last season.

Chiefs also have seniors Paras Gill (160) and Ryan Morelli (215).

Gill and Morelli will be challenged in their weight classes by sophomore Clayton Declue and freshman Kyle Hensley, respectively.

Starters from the junior class include Harrison Samoy (125), Sam Orr (140) and Armando Chacon (189).

Canton will open the season with freshmen starters in the light weights.

Konlan Berean is set to wrestle at 103, with Robbie Laird and Ben Samoy penciled in for 112

and 119, respectively.

Sophomore Grant Trotman is the starter at 152.

There will be competition at 130 and 135, as Mancuso finds out what he has on the mat as the early season unfolds.

In the running at 130 will be sophomore Justin Winnie, junior Walter Beavers and freshman Zackary Dehnke.

Meanwhile, sophomores Abdelhadi Shuaib and Jeremy Van Berkel will divide duties in the 135-pound weight class.

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ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers battle to the wire but lose, 6-4

Knights able to squeak to win

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The first part of the 2014-15 season has been rough for the Plymouth Whalers, but the OHL team always shows up to give rivals such as London a tussle.

Such was the case Friday, when the Whalers bothered the host Knights throughout — but could not seal the deal, falling 6-4.

London (19-10-1-1) never really salted away

the Whalers (10-18-1-1) until tallying an empty-netter by Julius Bergman with 22 seconds remaining.

Christian Dvorak got the Knights going with a power-play goal at 6:55 of the first period, slipping the puck past Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (44 saves).

But the pesky Whalers, as they did all night, wouldn't go away. Mathew Campagna tallied a goal on the power play at 16:05, from Sonny Milano and Victor Crus Rydberg (finally back from injury).

The Whalers then

went up 2-1 less than two minutes later, when Milano tallied his seventh of the season.

London made it 2-2 after one period when Mitchell Marner scored at 18:30.

The second period went London's way, with the Knights up 5-3 after 40 minutes.

Netting the Whalers' third goal was Connor Sills, with Campagna and Wesley earning assists.

Plymouth's Matt Mistele then made it 5-4 when he scored at 4:09 of the third, from Milano and Crus Rydberg. It was Mistele's 22nd goal of the

season.

The Whalers made a gallant effort for the equalizer, outshooting the Knights 16-12 in the period to undoubtedly make fans squeamish at Budweiser Gardens.

Unfortunately for Plymouth, London goalie Tyler Parsons (37 saves) was able to hold off long enough until Bergman could score the empty-netter to finally close out the victory.

SAULT STE. MARIE 5, PLYMOUTH 1: On Wednesday at Sault Ste. Marie, the Whalers scored in the first minute on an unassisted goal by Matt Mistele, only to give up five unanswered. Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 39 of 44 shots before being relieved during the third period by Zack Bowman.



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Plymouth Whalers forward and Los Angeles Kings prospect Matt Mistele (right, shown from last season) got the Whalers off to a quick 1-0 lead Wednesday night against the Greyhounds.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Plymouth offense pours it on, 8-0

A five-goal outburst in the second period Wednesday powered the Plymouth varsity boys hockey team to an 8-0 win over South Lyon Unified at the Arctic Edge Arena.

The Wildcats opened the scoring 52 seconds into the game on a goal by senior forward Josh Smith, but there was no further scoring in the opening period.

That changed in the second period as the Wildcats dominated play and scored five times on goals by Smith, junior defenseman Kyle Kozler, junior forwards Alex Bump and Jake Silvester and senior forward Mitchell Lope-trone. Plymouth outshot South Lyon 17-6 in the second period.

The Wildcats closed the scoring on third-period goals by defensemen Derek Szczepanik and Jake Zaborowski.

Forwards James Baldwin and Andrew Jossey each chipped in three assists. Smith and Zaborowski each added two assists. The team collected 36 shots on goal.

Senior goalie Jared Maddock made 19 saves to earn his first shutout and third win of the season.

"It was nice to get going offensively, but even better that we didn't sacrifice the defensive side of our game in doing that," head coach Gerry Vento said. "We had a balanced attack with 12 players registering a point. It wasn't a one-line or one-man show that got it done."

The win improved the Wildcats' record to 4-2 overall, 4-0 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

Plymouth's next game is at 7:30 p.m. Monday against Northville at the Novi Ice Arena.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Pushing the ball up the floor Friday night is Salem senior Hayley Rogers.

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

It was a see-saw battle throughout the first half. Salem led 9-8 after the opening quarter, thanks to a running bank-shot through the lane by Wilson at the buzzer.

Halftime lead

Salem then built a 20-17 halftime advantage, with Rogers coming up big.

With about 2:30 to play in the half, Rogers connected on a trey from the left flank to put the Rocks in front 18-16.

She then scored a nifty layup through the paint to make it 20-17 with 1:05 left.

A triple try by Kinder went in and out to enable the Rocks to stay in front at the intermission.

After Divine Child

took a 21-20 lead early in the third, Salem went on an 8-1 run to go up 28-22 midway through the quarter.

Senior forward Maranda Armstead (six points) converted a layup and freshman guard Lasha Petree dished the ball outside to Rogers for yet another trey, making it 26-21.

Salem enjoyed a six-point lead until Case started to heat up, sinking back-to-back triples to even things at 28-28 with 2:12 to play in the third.

A put-back by Armstead put Salem back in front and hard-nosed defense by junior guard Marisa Martin and Wilson helped the Rocks come away with loose balls and rebounds to keep the Falcons from tying it up before the quarter ended.

Then came the tell-tale fourth, which opened with Case hitting a jumper from the left wing and Kinder scoring on a layup, putting Divine Child up 32-30.

Long kept the Rocks afloat with game-tying buckets to make it 32-32 and 34-34, the latter with 3:25 remaining.

Then came yet another hot shot by Case, again finding the range from beyond the 3-point arc, giving the Falcons a 37-34 edge they would not relinquish.

Divine Child closed out with a 7-3 run, including layups by Hannah Brefeld and Kinder.

Despite the disappointing finish, Klemmer said her team is learning and hopefully will figure out how to change gears when opponents do the same.

"We got to learn how to fight through adversity right now," Klemmer said. "And that's what we talked about, is not mentally getting ourselves out of games when people go on runs or people's intensity picks up. We need to be able to match that."

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BOYS BASKETBALL OPENER

Chiefs bounce back, win in double OT

Williams, Ryan help lead Canton past Ann Arbor Pioneer

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Canton boys basketball coach Jimmy Reddy mapped out his team's early season schedule, it was with the idea of finding out how the Chiefs measured up against tough, non-conference opponents.

Reddy got the answer he was looking for as Canton needed two overtime sessions to get past visiting Ann Arbor Pioneer 71-63 in Wednesday's season opener.

"I'm proud of our effort and they way we competed, especially after Pioneer hit a three at the buzzer to send it into overtime," Reddy said.

The Pioneer trey made it 51-51 after four quarters.

The teams were deadlocked at 58-58 entering the second OT thanks to two clutch free throws by Jalen Cochran with 11 seconds remaining.

Scoring 26 points on just 10 shots was senior guard Greg Williams, who Reddy said "played one of the most efficient games we have seen here in the last few years. He was outstanding, along with Logan Ryan."

Williams connected on 8-of-10 from the floor, including 2-of-3 from beyond the 3-point line. Meanwhile, Ryan tallied 25 points, burying three triples in four attempts.

Chipping in eight points and 10 rebounds was Cochran, while Nick Wendel (nine points) and Ryan (six boards) also helped the Canton cause.

PLYMOUTH 66, S'GATE ANDERSON 62: Josh Reynolds scored 22 points Thursday to pace the Wildcats (2-0).

Adding 15 points was Randall Aikins, while Deji Adebiji tallied 10 points and eight rebounds.

Southgate Anderson (0-2) tried to rally in the fourth, cutting a double-digit deficit to three points with about a minute to play. But Plymouth made sure their opponent didn't get any closer than that.

"I'm happy that when we faced a little bit of adversity we were able to overcome that," coach Mike Soukup said.

Plymouth will host South Lyon East at 7 p.m. Tuesday. All Park students (with valid ID) will be admitted free into the game.

SKYLINE 62, SALEM 56 (OT): The Rocks dropped their season opener Tuesday in overtime against Ann Arbor Skyline, despite 25 points by Jakob Lenders and 15 points by Allante Wheeler. Tyler Brooks scored eight.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS HOCKEY	BOYS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 15 8'ton vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 a.m. Plymouth at Northville, 7:30 p.m.	Salem at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16 S.L. East at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Novi at Canton, 7 p.m. Salem at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17 Romeo vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 Plymouth vs. Salem at PCC, 8:30 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 18 Plymouth at South Lyon, 7 p.m. Canton at Stevenson, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL	WRESTLING
Tuesday, Dec. 16 Plymouth at S.L. East, 7 p.m. Canton at Novi, 7 p.m. Wayne at Salem, 7 p.m. N. Farmington at Ladywood, 7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 17 Harrison at S.C.S. Lake Shore, 6 p.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 18 South Lyon at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Stevenson at Canton, 7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 17 Ply. Whalers at Owen Sound, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 Ply. Whalers at Barrie, 7:30 p.m.

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PCA

Continued from Page B1

Discovery Middle School.

"They hired a great coach in Mattei," Washington said. "I've known coach Mattei for six or seven years. I coached his son in middle school. "That was a great hire for them. But at the end of the day, it worked out for both parties."

According to Mattei, he and Dennard will bring to PCA "a proven winning system and are committed to developing it into one of the most successful, premier basketball programs in Michigan for a long time.

"I told the players and their parents that these young men are going to learn more about the game of basketball this season than they have in their entire life," Mattei added, "and that they are going to be pleasantly surprised at how much they will accomplish as a team."

Roster has promise

The Eagles opened the 2014-15 season Saturday and have a promising roster that could make some noise in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Starting at point guard will be senior Evan Horne, who Mattei said "is our floor general. Evan is a competitor and has good court awareness."

Also starting in the back court will be junior guard Luke Yakuber. "He is a tenacious on-the-ball defender and will get steals and easy buckets using his quickness," Mattei said.

Coming off the bench to back up Horne and Yakuber is senior point guard Lucas Albrecht, described by Mattei as a "smart, scrappy, tough player."

Starting up front will be senior forward/center Michael Slater and senior forward Isaac Middleton. "We look to (Slater) to control the lane on defense and he is a threat to

score inside or outside," Mattei said. "(Middleton) did not play last year, but he will help on both ends of the floor, especially on defense with his athleticism."

Plenty of depth

The Eagles have a lot of reserve forwards upon whom Mattei can call for duty.

At the top of the list is senior Joey Fanelli, who "is a smart, hard-working competitor that can run forever."

Senior center Tanner Hay "gives us a bigger body to help control the middle and the boards on both ends of the floor."

Another senior center who might be able to help the cause is Jake Shook.

Juniors Ian Hay and Josh Slater and freshman Matt Malcolm are others in the mix.

Hay "is a pleasant surprise bringing a nice outside shot to help spread the defense," the coach said.

Josh Slater will "add toughness to the middle and give us interior de-

fense and rebounding," while Malcolm, for a ninth-grader, is "smooth, talented and — best of all — he is committed.

"As Matt gains confidence and experience over the next couple years, he is a good bet to become the entire package."

Further depth will be provided by junior forward Will Crecelius, senior forward Jordan Talbott and senior guard/forward Mark Wrozek (back in January after recovering from a foot injury).

"These young men are a tight-knit group," Mattei said. "I appreciate that they encourage and push each other to excel, learn, work hard and compete."

"They are beginning to believe that the tough, smart player is the best player. I think we are going to surprise a lot of teams who recently haven't paid much attention to PCA."

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Time for reflection: Winter solstice event marks longest night, sun's return

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi and her Farmington Hills congregation will celebrate the season on Dec. 20 — and you're invited to the festivities.

Just one word of advice if you plan to attend: Leave the green and red trappings, the Santa Claus decorations, the Hanukkah dreidels at home.

The "A Celtic Solstice" event at Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington will focus on nature's reason for the season in a "noncommercial" observance.

"It's a seasonal approach to Earth's changes. We keep it reflective. This is different than a Sunday service. It's more participatory. The guests are part of the service. They're not coming to be preached to, or given a message," Bugleisi said.

"We're symbolically going through what is happening in nature ... that this is the longest night of the year and the days start getting longer after the 21st."

The celebration will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the church, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills. Guests are invited to wear gold, silver or black to symbolize the sun, stars and night sky.

"If people want to show up in blue jeans and a sweat shirt, that is fine, too," Bugleisi noted. "We do responsive readings, meditation. This year, we'll have messages of peace and there will be a memento of the day."

Musical soloists, stories, drumming, chanting and guitar music will round out the celebration that recognizes the change of season on Dec. 21.

Music, dancing

Although Bugleisi is fairly new to the congregation — she became its minister in April — she has led the winter solstice at churches locally in Roches-



ter, as well as Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota over the past 24 years.

Her husband, Michael Murphy, has attended all of the solstice services since they married 20 years ago.

"Sometimes I'll play music. I play tin whistle and guitar. If she does theater, I'll do various roles. Over the last several years I've done readings and such," Murphy said. "It's a nice celebration of traditions from around the world. It's con-

templative and often at the end of the service we have people up and dancing which is cool.

"I think people walk away feeling good. It's spiritually uplifting."

The changing season compels some celebrants to review the past year and set goals for the next. The folk tales, myths, and science that are woven together in the ritual help participants meditate on the cycles of death and rebirth, shadow and light, joy and sorrow.

Many of the solstice stories and practices pre-date Christianity. Monuments at both Stonehenge and a cave at Newgrange in Ireland were built so that they aligned with the solstice. At Newgrange, for example, a shaft of sunlight penetrates the cave's central chamber at dawn on the winter solstice.

Light over darkness

Bugleisi said the winter solstice is universally cele-

brated in all cultures because it signifies the start of gradually lengthening days and the return of the sun.

"The upshot of the songs and reveling is that the more noise we make and happiness we have, the sun will come back."

She said the symbolism of the sunlight emerging after the longest, dark night, helps remind individuals that "we affirm each other by the light carried in each of us."

"It's reflective of the light that Jesus carried to the world. We're taking a meditative pause to see how nature promised that the light will come back. It engages us to choose light over darkness."

"For me, there is power there, especially in these times we live in. The weather almost forces us to come inside and reflect and slow down. It gives you time to pause and you know the hope of the universe is that the world will shift and change and the light will come back."

"It's interesting that one of the songs incorporated into a lot of church services today is the song from *Frozen* — *Let it go*. That is what we're trying to do — let go of negativity and bring in the light."

Bugleisi calls the winter solstice celebration "interfaith and poetic." She stresses that it is not meant to supplant other religious celebrations, such as Hanukkah and Christmas.

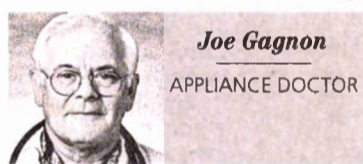
"As Unitarian Universalists, we acknowledge Hanukkah and light the menorah. We read the story of Jesus and bring in the nativity scene," she said. "We're not saying the solstice is more important. It's giving us additional time for reflection."

For more about the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, visit uufarmington.org.

Induction cooktops becoming hot sellers, but still pricey

I woke up one night at 2 a.m., picked up my book and turned on the television and this infomercial jumped out of the screen. They were taking orders by having you call a toll-free number and the deal sounded too good to be true. So, in my sleepy mode, I made the call.

I received two NuWave burners and some pans and pots as part of this fabulous offer and for the next three months my darling Valerie kept asking me why she was receiving an invoice from this company. We kept getting these bills because the shipping charges were out of sight. A few weeks after my stupidity subsided I watched a consumer alert on television that called this whole thing a rip-off. Needless to say, I won't be doing this again. We now have two burner assemblies, one for the cottage and one here at home. We have used them only



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

a few times and it is very different from our electric kitchen range. We have these special pans we must use and the food comes out terrific. A real difference is that the burners do not get hot. All of this reminds me of when the microwave oven first hit the market in the early '70s. It was tough to explain that this product would revolutionize the way we cook food and look at what happened. Is this the course of a new way to cook using magnets?

Heating cookware

This induction way of cooking is very popular in Europe but has been almost unknown in the U.S. It looks like con-

sumer awareness, ever so slow, may be causing this superior technology to finally catch hold. Induction is different because it uses electromagnetic energy to directly heat pots and pans. Induction uses a series of magnets that excite the iron atoms in a pan to generate heat. Gas converts a mere 38 percent of its energy to the food and electric converts roughly 70 percent. Induction converts from 80 to 90 percent and is proving to be an energy saver when cooking any meal. It can prevent burns from a cooling surface burner and you can place a paper towel between a hot frying pan and the induction burner to keep oil from spattering on the cooktop. The facts are that induction is faster, safer, easier, and more efficient than either gas or electric and it's being sold at some appliance retail stores.

Easy to clean

I spoke with an appliance dealer the other day who told me these induction cooktops are becoming a hot sales item. He told me that the kitchen chef who really wants perfection is a prime customer. You can melt butter and chocolate and the heat can reach up to 665.5 degrees whereas gas only goes up to 428 degrees. Cleaning the cooktop is an easy task because the burners don't get hot enough to bake in food particles. As for the thought of having to purchase all new pots and pans, it may not be the case with you. If a magnet will stick to the bottom of your cookware, you can use those products with induction cooking.

Today, Sweden leads in sales with a 75 percent market share for induction. I'm sure this is due to the extremely high cost of electricity which someday

may cause all of the U.S. to take a second look at induction cooking. The retail prices for these products have been very high but as the prices continue to climb on the new range you will purchase one day, the gap will not be out of sight. They even make these products with a regular oven and the same size as your current gas or electric range. When I spent all those years with the Amana Company and microwaves were invented for home use, we had cooking schools at no charge for any consumer who purchased an Amana Radar-Range. That's my next suggestion to the manufacturers of these induction cooktops. Start a cooking school. Stay tuned.

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

Shop & Champagne party



JULIE YOLLES, SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST

Redford resident Louise Malinowski is a metalsmith artist at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) where her hand-etched hair accessories are available for

purchase at the BBAC Holiday Shop through Dec. 20. She was on hand at the center's holiday kick-off, the annual Shop & Champagne event.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

ART

VAAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, through Dec. 14

Location: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), 37653 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: One-of-a-kind holiday gifts created by area artisans. Items in every price range

Contact: 734-838-1204; vaalart.org

DANCE

CENTRAL CITY DANCE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Dec. 18-19, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 20, noon and 4 p.m. Dec. 21

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

Details: Central City Dance's Christmas Spectacular. Tickets are \$23

Contact: 734-459-0400; centralcitydance.com

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: Weekends through De-

ember

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Christmas Vacation*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; *The Polar Express*, 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21. All seats \$3

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 19 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 20

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: *White Christmas*, \$5; Santa visits the theater — bring your camera

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit runs through Jan. 11, 2015. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Crafty Elves Workshop: Children, ages 5-11, can make gifts and decorations at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. \$10 per child. Sign up online or by calling the museum

Contact: 734-455-8940

LIGHTS

LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along four miles of Hines Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between Warren road and Ann Arbor Trail in Westland

Details: Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car

Contact: 734-261-1990; parks.waynecounty.com

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 14, 18-23 and 26-31

Location: The Detroit Zoo, located on the I-696 service drive at Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak

Details: More than five million lights

Program at St. Mary Mercy Hospital helps pre-diabetics change their lifestyle

Individuals at risk for type 2 diabetes who are struggling to make lifestyle changes can get back on track to good health through the National Diabetes Prevention Program.

The National Kidney Foundation administers the program, which will return to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia next month. Participants will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, beginning Jan. 5, 2015, for 16 weeks, at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Samantha L. Fletcher-Garbutt, media relations specialist for the hospital, said previous sessions have resulted in several "success stories" for participants.

The program is free, but participants must qualify. They must be overweight and at a high risk for developing diabetes or overweight and diagnosed by a physician as having pre-diabetes. The program is not for individuals who have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Pre-diabetes is determined by a blood test, which can include:

- » Fasting plasma glucose between 100-125 mg/d
- » Two-hour plasma glucose between 140 to 199 mg/dl

A combination of risk factors, such as family history, being overweight, gestational diabetes and inactivity also may determine eligibility for the program.

One out of three adults lives with pre-diabetes and most are unaware of their condition. But the disease can be prevented or delayed with a healthy lifestyle.

Weight loss, healthy eating and exercise all are components of the National Diabetes Prevention Program.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO
 A blood sugar meter helps diabetics monitor glucose levels. Pre-diabetics can reduce their risk for the disease by maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Participants track of everything they eat and drink for a lifestyle coach who comments weekly on their progress. They aim for 150 minutes of physical activity per week, which at the start of the program might include brisk walking and housework.

In a classroom setting, the lifestyle coach facilitates a small group of participants in learning about behavior changes over 16 one-hour sessions. Topics include healthier eating, getting started with physical activity, overcoming stress, and staying motivated. Group members help each other stay motivated. After the initial 16 core sessions, participants meet monthly for additional support to help maintain their progress.

To register or learn more about the program, call St. Mary Mercy Community Outreach at 734-655-8947 or register online at www.stmarymercy.org under "Classes and Events."

ACA learning session

Botsford Hospital presents a learning session on the Affordable Care Act, 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, at the hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The ACA marketplace open enrollment period closes Feb. 15, 2015. The session, which is free, will help people learn about their options under the ACA; 248-442-1633

Blood drive

An American Red Cross blood drive will run 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Dec. 18, in the lower level classrooms at the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building, located on the Garden City Hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Call 734-458-4259 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

Breast cancer support

A free breast cancer support group will be held from 9-11 a.m. Dec. 20 at the Oakwood Breast Care Center - Dearborn, 18100 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn. For questions, call Nancy Madro, R.N., at 313-438-7749.

Hearing Loss

Mike Robinette, Au.D., CCC-A, talks about the latest hearing aid features, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297; afe-rack@comcast.net.

Nutrition class

Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron and a Botsford Hospital dietician will demonstrate the differences in tastes and benefits of whole grains as well as winter greens and vegetables. 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Busch's Fresh Foods Market, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Cost: \$10 and includes a \$5 coupon, giveaways, recipes, samples, and more. Registration required. Class is limited to 30. Register at the Guest Services Counter at the store;

MEDICAL DATEBOOK



SUBMITTED
 The American Red Cross will collect blood donations Dec. 18 at Garden City Hospital.

734-779-6100

Ongoing

Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. Meetings

open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

Blood pressure

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (\$5), and lipid panel (\$10) testing, 10 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of each month in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, at Wayne Road in Westland; 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City; and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Choir therapy

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.therapychoirs.org for additional information.

CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.

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The **myth** of the passive job seeker

By **Mary Lorenz**
CareerBuilder Writer

"We need to get rid of the words 'active' versus 'passive,'" says Cassandra Barnes, research and content manager at CareerBuilder. "They just aren't relevant words in the job-search landscape anymore." Barnes is referring to the findings of CareerBuilder's and Inavero's 2012 Candidate Behavior Study, which highlights the behaviors and perceptions of today's job seekers.

One of the survey's major findings was that, employed or unemployed, the vast majority of workers are almost always seeking new opportunities. Of the 1,291 workers nationwide who participated in the survey, 77 percent said they were either actively searching for a new job or open to new opportunities, and 35 percent said they begin preparing for their next job within weeks of starting a new one. When it comes to frequency, 71 percent of workers said that searching for new opportunities is part of their regular routine, whether or not they're employed, with 27 percent searching as frequently as once a week.

These findings weren't unique to any particular demographic segment. Workers of both genders and across various income levels, generations and backgrounds reported similar attitudes and behaviors.

How employers should treat all job candidates

Given these findings, employers should stop thinking of job seekers in terms like "passive"

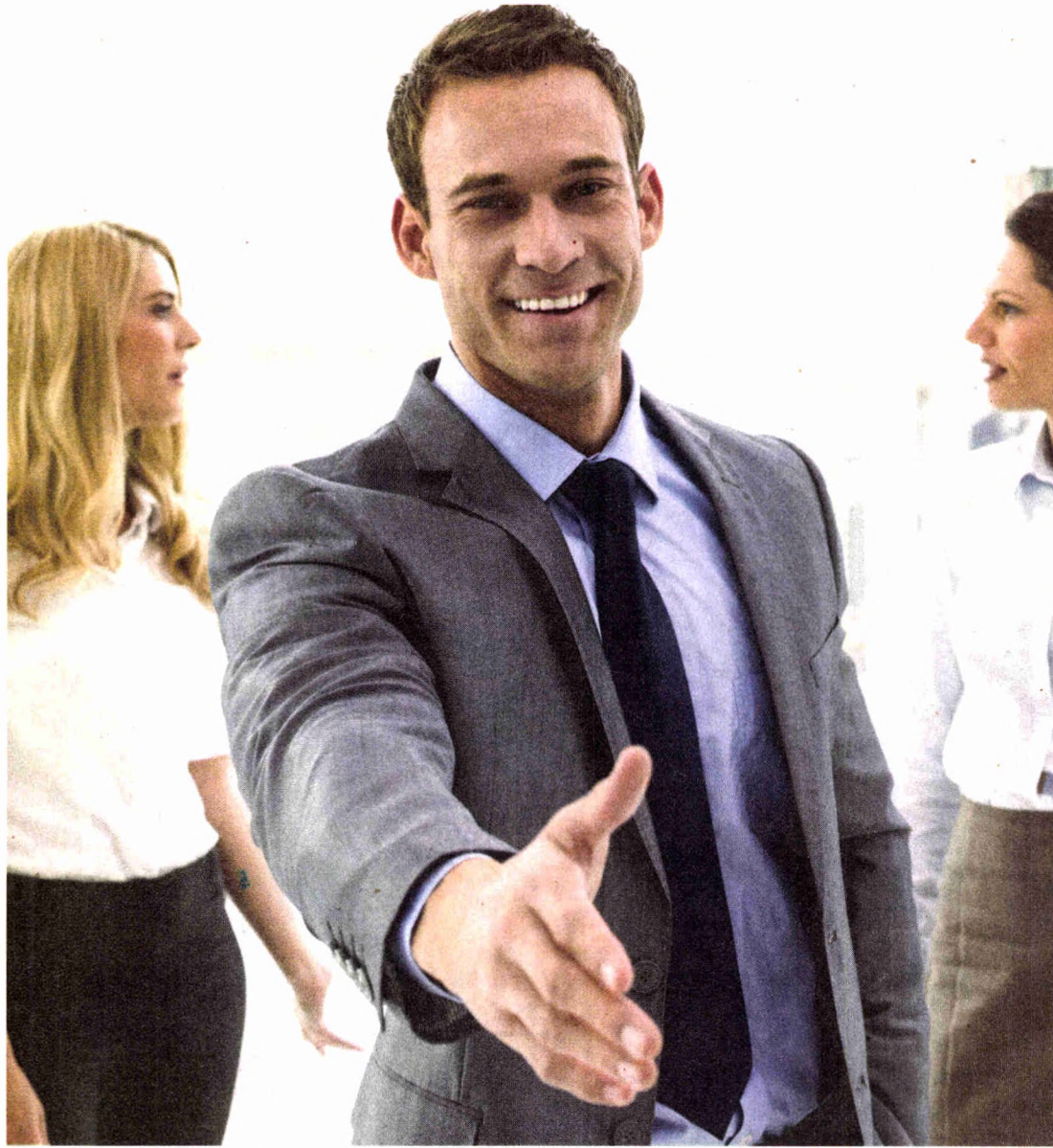
and "active," since a majority of workers are constantly on alert for new job opportunities. Instead, employers who want to hire more effectively should focus less on finding passive job seekers, since most workers are casually browsing opportunities and employers at any given time.

Why employers run into hiring roadblocks

The other danger in using these labels is that it can inadvertently derail the employee search, causing employers to miss out on perfectly qualified workers. "Employers tend to think of active and passive candidates in terms of bad and good," Barnes says. "Yet passive candidates are not necessarily better than active candidates. If anything, they might even be less ambitious or willing to leave their current company." Employers do themselves a disservice by ignoring the active candidates who have shown interest in their companies.


"Think of recruitment in terms of running for political office," Barnes says. "Why would you try to sway a Republican to be a Democrat -- or vice versa -- when you should really focus on re-energizing your base population?" For hiring managers, their base is active job seekers, so it only works against them to ignore or discredit this group.

Mary Lorenz writes for The Hiring Site, CareerBuilder.com's community for hiring professionals and other curious-minded individuals to discuss the attraction, engagement and retention of their #1 asset, their people.



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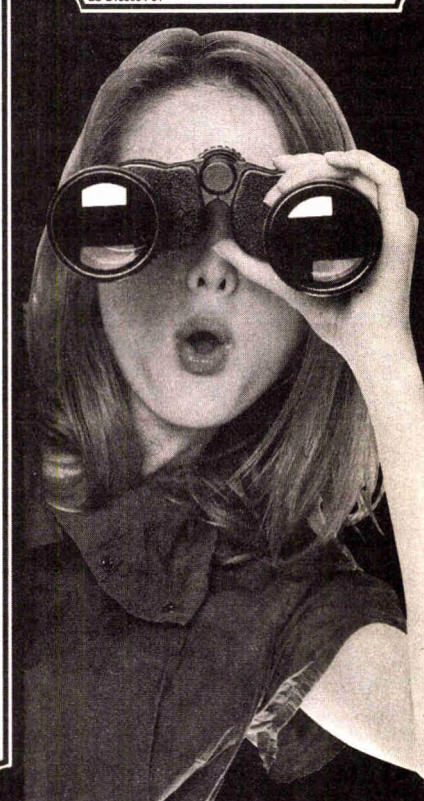
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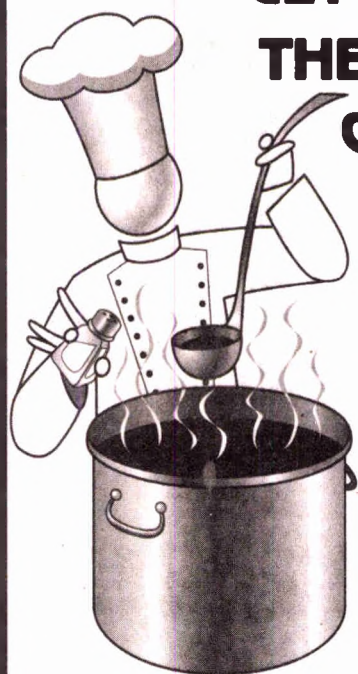
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