

Study to look at selling water to Salem

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Trustees quarreled Tuesday over a feasibility study that will determine whether Plymouth Township can provide water and sewer service to a housing development planned for neighboring Salem Township.

But the bigger fight — if the study shows capacity exists — will likely be about whether Plymouth Township should indeed sell those services.

"You'll have to do a really good sell-

ing job afterward to get me to vote for it," said Trustee Mike Kelly, who voted for the feasibility study, but said the township shouldn't be in the business of selling utilities.

Kelly joined Supervisor Shannon Price, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Treasurer Ron Edwards at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting in voting for the study, with Trustees Bob Doroshewitz and Cuck Curmi voting no. Trustee Steve Mann abstained from the vote because his employer, the Miller Canfield law firm, represents Salem Town-

The study by the engineering firm Wade Trim, estimated at up to \$60,000, will be paid for by Salem Springs LLC, a company affiliated with Livonia-based developer Schostak Brothers & Co.

Doroshewitz argued against approv-

ing the study.

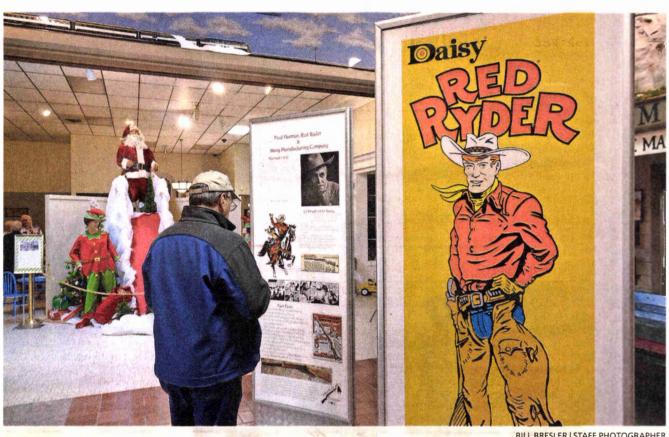
Once the feasibility study is done, the horse is out of the barn," he said. "They come to us and we're going to make it too easy for them to put additional housing stock on the market" that would affect residential property values on Plymouth Township's west side, he added.

In addition, the development would bring congestion to Powell Road. Providing water to it could affect water pressure on the west side, Doroshewitz

"I really don't think we should be in the business of providing water to Salem Township" for "very little benefit,"

Edwards answered the township

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Come see the new exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Exhibit is a tribute to both Daisy, 'A Christmas Story'

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Ralphie and the Red Ryder return for the holidays in the Plymouth Historical Museum exhibit based on A Christmas Story, the popular 1983 movie centered on a boy's longing for a BB rifle, that, in real life, had ties to Plymouth.

"A Red Ryder Christmas Story" is at the museum through Sunday, Jan. 17. The exhibit features new vignettes, clothing and household furnishings from the 1940s era in which the movie was set, and, of course, models of the guns made by Daisy Air Rifle, which was located

Plymouth from the 1890s until 1958. The museum stages a Red Ryder

exhibit during the holidays in oddnumbered years — this year's is the fifth such exhibit — but its popularity keeps increasing, said Liz Kerstens, museum director.

"It gets more popular every time we have it. The numbers keep going up each time we've done it," Ker-

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"We like to have those kind of details. I don't know if a lot of people will notice them, but those who have seen the movie 800 times will notice them."

LIZ KERSTENS museum director



Ralphie's dream.

BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mutchler to lead county police chiefs organization

Darrell Clem

Staff Writer

Amid strong support from his peers, Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler has been chosen as the new president of the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police.

"It's a great opportunity to further advance the profession of law enforcement in Wayne County as we work to build trust and legitimacy in our com-

munities," he said.

Mutchler already has drawn accolades for leading Canton as one of the few Michigan police departments accredited by an international agency, the

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He also has led efforts such as creating the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition, which pools a diverse group to support hate crime victims and to help the community heal from any such incidents.



John Anthony, a Canton Township trustee and former FBI special agent, said the Wayne County police chiefs made a sound decision appointing Mutchler to steer the association, call-

ing him a strong leader.
"It's a big deal," Anthony said. "These chiefs in the law-enforcement community in southeast Michigan are good guys and you can't fool them. With his education and his experience, Todd Mutchler is on the forefront of what a modern chief should be and he exudes the leadership qualities for what this organization wants.

"It's a win-win situation not just for Todd Mutchler and Wayne County, but also for Canton," Anthony added.

Mutchler's new role marks another leadership position in his 27-year Canton law-enforcement career, including the last three years as public safety director. He will continue his full-time job as he leads the chiefs association.

The group is a nonprofit organization with a common goal of trying to improve law-enforcement services while educating its members and empowering them to address local and regional issues such as trends in community concerns and legislation. The ultimate goal is to protect citizens.

"These (chiefs association) meetings open many doors for sharing of information with departments within Wayne County, including state, federal and local agencies who are focused on

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Blue sewage discharge prompts hearing for township firm

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Officials are calling out a Plymouth Township manufacturer over a bluish goo in the sewer outside its facility, but a company representative says steps have been taken to rectify the problem and that, with a waste water discharge permit for which its applying, it should be in the clear.

Versatrans, which makes screen-printing transfers used to decorate clothing, has been ordered to a hearing before the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, which processes sewage from the company's plant on Keel Street. The hearing, according to a letter from YCUA, will give the company a chance to argue why additional steps to clean its waste water should not be taken and to also argue against enforce-

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ment actions such as prosecution, fines or service termination.

YCUA is proposing, at a minimum, routine cleaning of the company's collection-system, video inspections and reporting requirements, the letter says.

The hearing was to be Thursday, Dec. 3, but scheduling conflicts arose and a new date has not been set, said Patrick Fellrath, the township's public services director. and Dan Dalton, an attorney representing Versatrans.

The township Board of Trustees discussed the Versatrans issue at its meeting Tuesday.

Fellrath told board members that the bluish substance becomes a solid that clogs the sewer and that an effort by the township to clean out the sewer was stopped because it was feared the substance would damage equipment. Officials also

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fear that the goo could damage sewer pumps if it reaches them, Fellrath

Fellrath said the problem was first discovered in July 2014 and that repeat sewer inspections in March and August of this year found the substance was still present.

But Dalton — who was

at Tuesday's meeting, but did not speak to the board later said that, since the July 2014 sewer inspection, equipment has been added at Versatrans to clean waste water before it is sent to the sewer and that a specialty environmental company, Safety Kleen, has been hired to properly dispose of the wastes that turn into solids.

Cease and desist

"We've been very, very compliant," Dalton said. "We want to follow whatever rules and letter of the law you have. We're not here to argue back and forth with the township.'

Versatrans was sent a cease and desist letter, ordering it to stop discharging waste from its manufacturing process because the waste posed a hazard to the township's sewage system, in September by township attorney Kevin Bennett.

Dalton answered a few days later, saying that YCUA, based on an Aug. 19 sewer inspection, found that no prohibited materials were being

discharged and asking the township for data if it had any evidence otherwise. Dalton said the township has not yet responded to his letter.

A letter to Versatrans from YCUA includes a list of substances for which the authority tested; most are listed at "ND," or non-detectable, levels. There were amounts of chromium, nickel, silver and zinc detected, but the report didn't say that any of those were found at prohibited levels.

The letter also says that because of the high oxygen demand from the discharge and its "high potential for solids deposition in the collection sewer resulting in ob-

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY AND ASSESSMENT A

struction of flow," Versatrans should apply for a waste water discharge permit by Dec. 14. Dalton said a permit application is in the works.

Township trustees Tuesday were also presented with an Oct. 22, 2014, letter from the Michigan Department of **Environmental Quality** detailing three violations made by Versatrans related to waste water discharge. However, the letter's author, James Day, an MDEQ environmental quality analyst, said Friday that Versatrans had documented steps taken to correct those issues and has been officially considered in compliance since Janu-

SALEM

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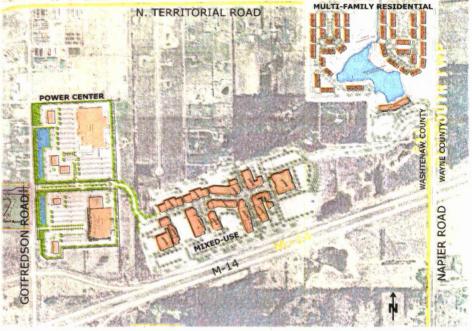
already sells water and sewer service to customers in Canton Township and Livonia.

558 homes OK'd

Salem Springs is planned as a mixed-use development in the area of M-14, between Gotfredson and Napier. The Salem Township board earlier this year rezoned about 370 acres on the site as a Planned Unit Development zone and, according to a media report, plans call for 56 townhouse-style condominiums, 207 detached condominiums and 295 singe-family lots, for a total of 558 units

Price said the feasibility study was just a first step and that, if providing water and sewer service to Salem Springs is possible, it would be better for the township to be involved in discussions order to have some say in the development and limit its scope. Price said township residents in the area had asked that the township get involved.

"There's no slamdunk," Price said. "This is



An aerial photo with an overlay of a site plan for Salem Springs, a mixed-use development planned for the area of M-14 between Gotfredson and Napier in Salem Township. The township engineering consultant will study whether Plymouth Township has the capacity to provide water and sewer service to the project.

just the first step, to give us the data. We're trying to look out for people."

Doroshewitz said providing water and sewer would pave the way for "a thousand new homes" on Salem Township's east side, but Price and Edwards said it was no"You are pushing this far too hard," Doroshewitz told Price.

"I'm not pushing it. Your facts are wrong," Price answered.

Curmi sided with Doroshewitz, saying providing the project with water and sewer "has major

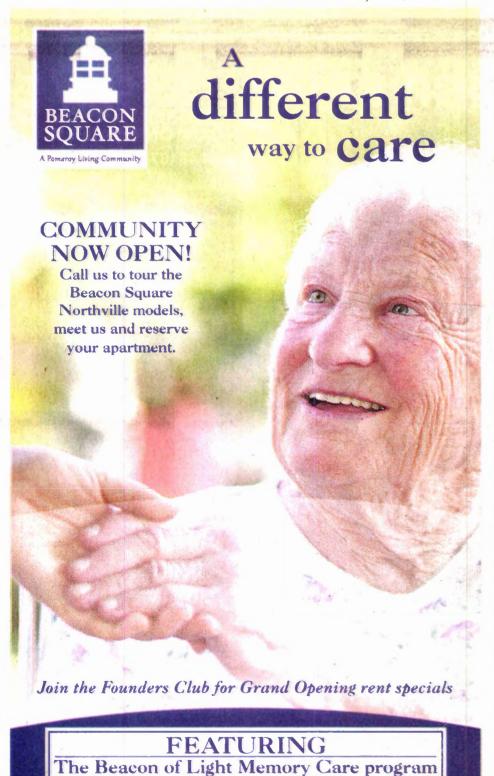
"I say don't do it. Don't step off the ledge. We don't know what the next step is," Curmi said.

Price said the feasibility study should be completed in about 90 days.

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Canton announces tree-lighting ceremony

the holiday season with its annual holiday treelighting celebration 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

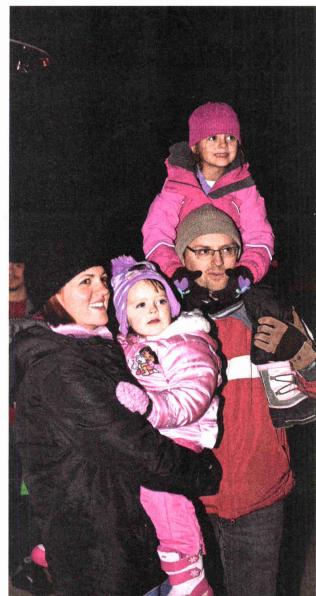
Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, along with Santa Claus and Bartlett the Beaver, light the Canton holiday tree at 6:30 p.m.

Special festivities will take place both indoors and outdoors with seasonal entertainment, crafts, activities, refreshments and visits with Santa. Festivities kick off at 6 p.m. outside the Summit, where visitors can enjoy holiday carols, watch Santa's arrival — courtesy of the Canton Fire Department - and count down to the official tree lighting at its new location outside the Summit banquet area entrance.

New this year, the Canton Chills Ice Carving Competition will be held outside the Summit, where individuals can vote for their favorites with donations that will benefit designated local charities.

Other annual favorites include face painting by D&M, caricature artists, the holiday marketplace, visits with Frosty the Snowman and Santa. There will be performances by Dancin' Feet, Spotlight of Youth, Richard Paul Interactive Children's Show, Sand Art, The Macombers and piano music at the Charlie Brown Christmas dis-

Additional activities for children include crafts sponsored by FLY Children's Art of Ypsilanti and Bartlett's Kids Club, with a special appearance by Bartlett the Beaver.



FILE PHOTO

The Budden family from Canton enjoys holiday music at a previous tree-lighting ceremony.

The \$3 charge per child for residents and \$4 per child for nonresidents covers indoor activities, including face painting, craft areas, cookie decorating and pictures with Santa. Family-friendly games, sponsored by the Canton Goodfellows, will also be available as part of a holiday donation drive and can be played for a

nominal donation. Attendees can shop for gifts and tasty treats for the holidays at the tree-lighting marketplace.

This year's event is sponsored in part by Atchinson Ford, Goddard School and Community Financial Credit Union. For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5485.

Police seek runaway teen girls

Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Canton and Plymouth Township police were trying Friday afternoon to locate two 15-year-old girls who are believed to have run away with an adult male.

Canton authorities released a photo of April Nicole Gee, described as 5-foot-1, 112 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes. She was last seen wearing black yoga pants and grey UGG boots.

Police also released a photo of Emily Janine Lominac, described as 5-foot-4, 110



April Gee

suspected.

pounds with brown hair and brown eyes.

Foul play is not

Lominac

'There is no indication that anyone is in any danger," Canton Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said. "There's no abduction or anything like that. These are runaways who left on their own free

Traylor said the two girls are last known to have been seen in Redford about 2 a.m. Friday. Police believe they may have been on their way to a cabin in Kalkaska County with a black male in his 20s with a thick beard and driving a

black SUV. Anyone who sees the girls is asked to check their well-being and to contact the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400.

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver 734-972-0919

CORRECTION

The amount of bread cubes needed for the Slow Cooker Cranberry Stuffing recipe, published Nov. 12, was left off the ingredient list.

The correct amount of day-old Italian or French bread cubes needed for the recipe is 8 cups.

Ask Dr. Stewart Dr. James Stewart offers treatment for sleep apnea and chronic snoring

from his practice in Livonia, MI. Today he answers a question about the link between sleep apnea and high blood pressure.

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Dr. Stewart: Yes. Sleep apnea causes a patient to stop breathing for brief periods during the night. Once you stop breathing, the brain becomes deprived of oxygen. In a desperate bid for more oxygen, the body begins moving blood as quickly as possible through your body to deliver oxygen to the brain. The sudden rush can raise blood pressure during the night and tends to carry over to the daytime when the patient is awake.

Also known as hypertension, elevated blood pressure can increase the risk of stroke and heart attack. There is evidence however that blood pressure can be lowered when sleep apnea is treated.

If you have questions about your sleep difficulties then contact Dr. Stewart's Sleep Better Michigan practice

Call 734.425.4400 or Visit www.sleepbettermichigan.com





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EDUCATION

JOANNE MALISZEWSKI, EDITOR JMALISZEW@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM TWITTER: @JMALISZEWS

'Engineer of the Year' goes to Lauren **Swicker**

Plymouth Christian Academy eighth-graders used their critical thinking and problem solving skills to build the annual Toothpick Bridge recently.

Using a technological design process, students' bridges were made of the standard-sized wood toothpicks and glue. The total mass of the bridge could not exceed 100 grams and had to hold a load of 5,000 grams (about 11 pounds) over a 30-centimeter span for 10 seconds

Every year, students are very skeptical that tooth-picks can hold that kind of load, yet every year students discover that the engineering or design of the bridge is what makes the difference. Every year students are amazed when their bridges are tested.

Lauren Swicker was the "Engineer of the Year" as her bridge held 172 pounds. The Plymouth Christian Academy school record is still held by Allie Kwang, whose bridge held 308 pounds.



Eight-grade Plymouth Christian Academy student Lauren Swicker won "Engineer of the Year" for her design of a toothpick bridge.

Congrats to P-CCS National Merit Scholars

Parents and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district officials celebrated Wednesday, Nov. 18, the the achievements of the district's National Merit Scholars at the Canton High School Little Theater.

It is a great honor," said Nick Brandon, district community relations director. "We honor the semifinalists and the commended.'

Students who have been named National Merit semifinalists in the Class of 2016

Canton High School Nathan Ewell; Sarah Kalasky; Jeffrey Lu; Stephanie E. Morgan; Jason J. Ren; and Derek J. Triebwasser

Plymouth High School Swetha Duraiswamy; Madeleine Y. Hoke; David Z. Li; Jordan S. Lu; and Sruthi Sun-

Salem High School Sierra M. Bowden; Cameron B. Kirchoff; Charles Y. Liu; Ravenna Mata; Shreya

Rao; Shailee P. Shah; Chelsea L. Yu; Andrew J. Zhou; and Deanna L. Endlein

Class of 2016 students named National Merit commended are:

Canton High School Sanjna S. Chokshi; Phillip R. Conrad; Rachel L. Doberstein; Alexander V. McCarthy; Sarah L. Whitehead; and

Howard Zhang Plymouth High School Abigail E. Bolterman; Amy H. Luo; Jasnoor Singh; Meghana G. Somsaale;



P-CCS MARKETING AND COMMUNITY

The P-CCS National Merit Scholars.

Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Michael Meissen and Board of **Education members greet National** Merit Scholars at an annual ceremony.

Madelyn L. Stoddard; Samuel J. Tufts; Joshua S. Undlin; and Ryan M. Wagner Salem High School

Matthew G. Croop; Emily Dinan; Keerthi K. Sajja; and Linda C. Zhang



Peace, Love & Planet is offering Go Green mini grants

Peace, Love & Planet is offering \$50 to \$400 Go Green mini grants to qualifying student-led "green" initiatives.

Student charged initiatives addressing environmental concerns enable young people to become part of the solution while contributing positively to the community. Additionally,

collaboration, implementation and project promotion will help develop valuable leadership skills. The deadline to apply is Dec. 5. Apply online at www.peaceloveandplanet.org.

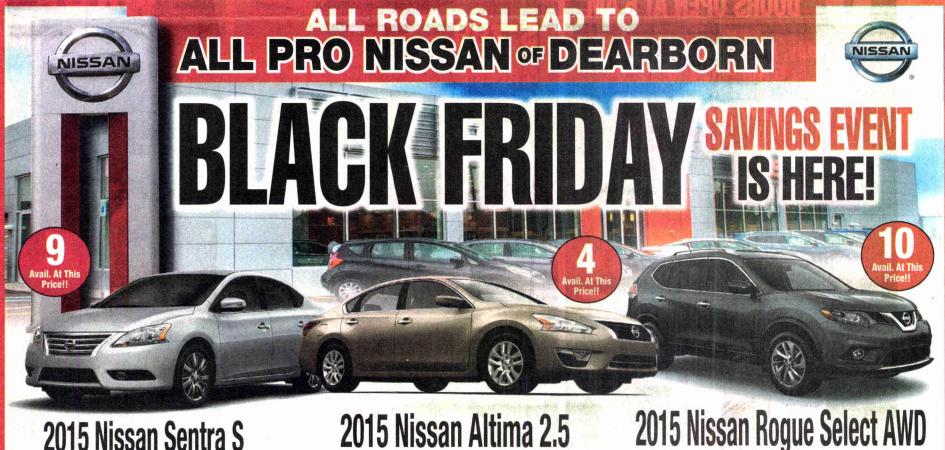
Northville-based Peace, Love & Planet's mission is to nurture appreciation for nature and promote environmentally

responsible choices resulting in healthy, sustainable communities. The nonprofit reaches more than 9,000 children annually by conducting engaging programs and partnering with schools and businesses to help implement sustainable waste reduction strategies.

The mini grants are made

possible by a matching grant from Farmington/Farmington Hills Foundation for Youth and Families, which promotes the growth of organized philanthropy that enriches the quality of life in those communities.

For more information, contact Gina Adams-Levy at 248-840-0248 or plp_gina@me.com.



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James Plakas, 35th District Court judge, conducts a swearing-in ceremony for the new board of the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police. They are (from left) Flat Rock Police Chief John Leader, Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid, Grosse Pointe Farms Police Chief Daniel Jansen and Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler.

MUTCHLER

Continued from Page A1

preserving and protecting the citizens of our communities in Wayne

County," Mutchler said. "I'm very honored to represent Canton on this group," he added.

Mutchler has a lawenforcement educational background that also includes a master's degree in interdisciplinary technology from Eastern Michigan University. He is a graduate of the 257th class of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., becom-

ing one of only three

officers in the Canton Police Department's history to receive the honor.

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver 734-972-0919

Lights to shine brightly for season



Plymouth Township resident Mike Zuccarini took advantage of last week's balmy temperatures to put up Christmas lights in his front yard. Look for more festive displays of holiday lights and decorations in coming weeks as the season ramps up.

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EXHIBIT

Continued from Page A1

stens said. In 2013, she said, 1,638 people saw the exhibit.

The museum hosted a reception Tuesday to open the 2015 Red Ryder exhibit.

The exhibit features Daisy Red Ryder air rifles, which were named after a popular comic-strip (and later film and television) cowboy. Included, Kerstens said, is one of the last Red Ryder rifles manufactured in Plymouth, with authentication from Daisy, lent by local attorney Cam Miller. The company moved to Rogers, Ark., in 1958.

There are also vignettes A Christmas Story fans will recognize, such as the character Flick getting his tongue frozen to a metal pole, Ralphie with his broken glasses and the "major award" won by Ralphie's dad - a lamp in the

shape of a woman's leg. Kerstens said sharpeyed museum-goers will also be able to spot movie details, such as an Orange Crush sign and a pink chenille bathrobe like the one worn by Ralphie's mom on Christ-

"We like to have those



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The famous lamp: it's a MAJOR award.

kind of details," Kerstens said. "I don't know if a lot of people will notice them, but those who have seen the movie 800 times will notice them."

For those who haven't seen the movie, downtown Plymouth's Penn Theatre will be showing A Christmas Story at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18.

The Plymouth Historical Museum, at 155 S. Main, is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Adult admission is \$5; children 6 to 17 are \$2 each. For a reservation for a group tour, call 734-455-8940.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Ralphie, the main character in "A Christmas Story," complete with busted



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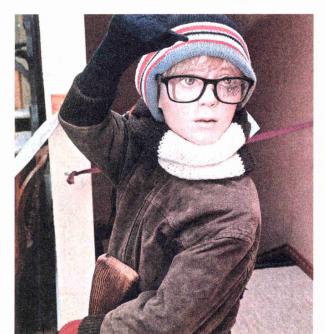
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The Bumpus dogs destroy the kitchen.

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Lincoln MKX: A sophisticated, luxury crossover

The 2016 Lincoln MKX is on sale now at Jack Demmer Lincoln, where customers benefit from the "Demmer Differ ence."

The all-new 2016 MKX is a larger, more sophisticated midsize luxury crossover than the one it replaces. It has a more refined interior, additional technology features and a unique premium sound system.

And it is hit with customers as this first-time buyer from Ontario can attest as he writes on Cars.com: "I love everything about this car, the ride, the interior, the looks it gets, the sound system with 19 speakers is incredible. Very quiet interior, very comfortable seating front and back. ... I give it a full 5 stars.'

Exterior

The MKX bears strong resemblance to the smaller MKC, but its greater size affords it some better proportions. The front features the now-familiar winged Lincoln grille appearing on every new model, along with some attractive detailing to the headlights. Prominent fenders front and rear stretch back to a full-width LED tail lamp assembly.

Interior

The upgraded interior features available 22-way adjustable front seats that can automatically shift position to help alleviate muscle fatigue by selectively inflating and deflating one of 11 air bladders. The optional seats also feature a power thigh extender and a four-way power head

restraint. The dashboard has a mix of buttons and switches, but most notable is the absence of a traditional shifter, Lincoln has fitted the MKX with a push-button gear



The 2016 Lincoln MKX is on sale now at Jack Demmer Lincoln.

rent MKX, there are no more touch-sensitive panels for any controls; everything gets dedicated buttons and knobs. The multimedia system's touch-screen resides in

the center console as

before and now features improved smartphone and Internet connectivity via the MyLincoln Mobile app, which allows the driver to start, lock, unlock, locate and remotestart the car.

The Black Label trim has been extended to the MKX as well, with four different themes available on the top-level interior package. These include two new designer interior packages: one based on a horse-racing theme, the other on 1920s Paris. The MKX also features two optional sound systems by highend home theater system maker Revel, a 13-speaker system and a top-line 19-speaker Ultima system standard in the top Black Label trim, and

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Lincoln has fitted the MKX with a push-button gear selector.

speaker system is available on the Reserve and

Select trims. The Revel

technology, offers three

system uses a propri-

etary surround-sound

listening modes and a

V-6 making 300 horsepower, mated to a sixspeed automatic transmission and driving the front wheels. All-wheel drive is optional. If you seek more power, a 330hp, 2.7-liter EcoBoost V-6 engine is available. Lincoln Drive Control is optional, allowing the

Normal, Comfort and Sport modes.

Safety

The new MKX features a host of electronic safety aids, including the usual list of an adaptive matic full-stop braking, lane-keeping assist, a

system, cross-traffic alert and a 360-degree camera that can be activated while parking. The front camera is actually mounted on an articulated mount that pops out from behind the Lincoln star badge in the grille. A full suite of sonar sensors provide front-, rearand side-vehicle sensing systems, automatic parallel and perpendicular parking, and a system that even pulls the crossover out of a parking spot as well.

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2016 Lincoln MKX



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2015 Lincoln MKT

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Waltonwood seniors collect items to help homeless veterans

Senior residents at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill in Canton are hosting a drive to collect supplies for men and women served by the Michigan Veterans Foundation, which serves the needs of homeless veterans in Detroit.

On any given night, it is estimated that 300,000 people are sleeping on the streets or in homeless shelters across the country and there are currently many homeless veterans in the Detroit area looking to end this cycle through job training, emotional support and assistance with their daily needs.

Michigan Veterans Foundation offers temporary housing, life skills training, counseling, health care services, meals and clothing, substance abuse intervention and many other

"Veterans served



Seniors at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill are collecting supplies to help homeless/eterans in Detroit.

their country, the country they love and the least we can do for them, especially those who are less fortunate, is give back to them and love them," said Ken Palmer, World War II Navy veteran and Waltonwood at Cherry Hill resident. "They gave so much to uphold the standards of

America and we should show our gratitude and appreciation.'

Items collected by seniors at Waltonwood will be used to make care packages for homeless veterans. Members of the public are asked to donate items, such as hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, toothbrushes,

toothpaste deodorant, packaged azors, shaving cream, Via gift cards or cards to stres like Meijer, Krogerand Walmart, socks, screen-printed T-shirts ofall sizes and personal cards and let-

Supplies may be dropped of at 42600 Cherry Hil Road in Can-

ton in the marked bins at either the independent or assisted living entrance. At 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, residents will come together to pack the individual care packages, which will be dropped off Thursday, Dec. 10, at MVF in Detroit.

"Our main project to help homeless veterans is the Detroit Veterans Center – a community effort that allows us to provide transitional housing and resources like skill training, needed for about 110 homeless veterans to break the cycle and return to independent living," said Tyrone Chatman, executive director of the Michigan Veterans Foundation.

"Care packages and supply donations from organizations like Waltonwood at Cherry Hill help us to provide a more normal, structured life and aid the veterans in getting back on their feet. We know that there are many veteran residents at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill who are donating supplies and time to help their fellow veterans, which is really special to us, and I know it will mean a lot to the local veterans who receive the packages.'

Proposed legislation would give some state workers police powers

Justin A. Hinkley Michigan.com

Critics say a bill giving new police powers to certain state workers would create "welfare police" to punish the poor, but supporters say it's a stride toward efficiency and protecting taxpayer dollars.

State Sen. Peter MacGregor's Senate Bill 384 would give arrest powers to employees of the Department of Health & Human Service's Office of Inspector General. That agency investigates welfare

fraud, such as when food stamps are sold for cash or used for ineligible items such as cigarettes.

Under the bill, which passed the state Senate 27-11 in September and is awaiting a committee vote in the House, OIG agents could arrest people for trafficking food stamps or if the agents have "probable cause" to believe a person committed a felony.

A companion bill from state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, would exempt those agents from certain firearm restrictions

In Michigan, the OIG found \$2.4 million in fraud from trafficking last year, according the office's annual report. The office claims every dollar invested in enforcement yields \$26 in taxpaver savings.

According the House Fiscal Agency, DHHS would spend about \$300,000 to arm and train eight agents in a Michigan State Police training program.

"A lot of people think we're going to give social workers guns," MacGregor said, "and that is not what's hap-

VAAL turns classroom into Holiday Shoppe

Anyone looking for a special gift this season won't want to miss what's happening at the Visual Arts Association of Livo-

VAAL's once again changing heir yearround classroom into an exciting and unique Holiday Shopte. Offered will be one-of-a-kind holiday gifts creaed by area artisans. This juried event feaures pottery, fiber, hand blown glass, jewelry and other accessories, wood items, clothing, ornanents, framed and unframed art and much more. There will be items n every price range.

The public is invited to a gala grand opening reception being held 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. Visitors can enjoy refreshmeits, meet some of the artists and be the first to see the selection of gifts for everyone on your list. There is no charge for this event.

The Holiday Shoppe



The VAAL Holiday Shoppe will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 13.

will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 13. The Holiday Shoppe is located in the VAĀL classroom at 37653 Five Mile Road, in the Village Shopping Center, behind Tim Hortons and next to UPS.

Formed as a nonprofit organization in 1983, VAAL offers a wide variety of art classes, workshops, monthly presentations and twice-yearly exhibits. Classes and workshops are taught year round by award winning, professional art instructors. The Winter Class Schedule will be available at the Holiday Shoppe.

For more information about VAAL or the Holiday Shoppe call 734-838-1204 or go to the VAAL website at www.vaalar-



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State Police: Prepare your home for winter's wrath

With winter weather rapidly approaching, the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division is encouraging Michiganders to make winter emergency preparedness a priority.

"Some Michigan citizens have already experienced their first snow of the season, reminding us that winter is coming," said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, deputy state director of **Emergency Management and** Homeland Security and commander of the MSP/EMHSD.

Severe winter weather poses health and safety concerns with extremely cold temperatures, freezing pipes, potential propane shortages

and power outages. Michiganders should consider the following actions to be prepared for the upcoming winter months.

To prepare your home for winter:

» Weatherproof your home by installing weather-stripping and caulking and insulating walls, doors and windows. » Insulate any water lines

that run along exterior walls so pipes are less likely to freeze. » Lock in a propane rate

now and have a backup heating plan, such as a generator, wood stove or fireplace.

» Have gas or oil furnaces inspected by a qualified professional and change the air

» Have your fireplace and chimney cleaned and inspected. Contact your local fire department for a referral or look for a local inspector on-

» Install battery-operated carbon monoxide (CO) detectors near every sleeping area. CO poisoning is most prevalent when furnaces are turned on to fight cold winter temperatures, but commonly occurs after winter storms and accompanying power outages, when people tend to rely on portable generators for elec-

» Clean gutters to prevent ice dams. Roof ice dams can cause water to build up, leading to interior damage.

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tions organization.
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problems and implement

solutions appropriate cor-

rective actions based on

Ensure compliance for all

corporate IT standards, poli-

on PMI project management

Direct and conduct control

design approvals, equip-

Manage local IT Infrastruc-ture life-cycle from design

through deployment and

decommissioning hardware.

9. Provide direction, coaching,

motivation, and perform ance reviews for staff mem

10. Coordinate desktop sup

11. Coordinate the implemen

floor applications.

Evaluate and opti-

on ITIL framework

Position requires Bachelors

degree, a 3 or 4 year bache-

lors degree is acceptable, in

Information Technology, Com-

puter Science or foreign equiv

alent education, and 2 years

experience in each of the fol-

1. Supervising local (T support

for a manufacturing facility. 2. Providing Level 1 support

MS Exchange and VM serv

4. Managing site Data Center

er environments

port and Customer Care Center operations.

tation and support of plant

and installation

software.

root cause analysis

cies and processes.

Manage IT projects based

» Clear storm drains along the curb to enable water to drain. If plugged, water has the potential to go into low-lying areas and flood basements.

» Have an emergency preparedness kit stored safely in your house that includes: water, nonperishable food, a first aid kit, extra batteries, a battery or hand-crank powered radio, emergency lighting or flashlights, extra blankets and warm clothing.

To prepare your vehicle for winter:

» Have your radiator system serviced before winter and make sure to replace windshield wipers and wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture that will not freeze.

» Replace any worn tires and check air pressure regular-

» Have your brakes, brake fluid, oil, car battery, heater and exhaust checked to make sure everything is running efficiently.

» Keep an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle stocked with batteries, battery powered or hand-crank radio, flashlight, windshield scraper, jumper cables, mobile phone charger, shovel, blankets, first aid kit, nonperishable food and bottled water in the event you get stranded or stuck.

For more tips, go to www.michigan.gov/miready or follow the MSP/EMHSD on Twitter at @MichEMHS.

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info@sogadocs.com

Stay safe and know the rules this hunting season

was asked to resubmit this by Tim in Howell. He sent me a message at the Brighton Post about this article and asked if it was possible to get a copy. With the hunting season underway, I thought why not? TNT does it every Christmas with the movie A Christmas Story.

So, back by popular demand.

'Twas the night before Nov. 15 and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The hunting gear was stowed by the door with such care, that I might get out early and spend the morning in cold air. Hunters all over were tucked in their beds, with visions of big game and camp dancing in their heads. Mama in her kerchief, and I in my hunter's orange cap, had just settled in for a quick night's nap.

When out in the yard arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a duck, tore open the shutter and



stared out like a buck! The hunter next door had cut through my lawn ranting, trudging and carrying on. He had no respect for boundaries or lines — this person was wrong but who would enforce hunting fines?

When suddenly, what to my wandering eye should appear, but a red shiny bubble with flashers so clear! He was a state trooper, as big as a moose. I have also been told his car's nickname is "blue goose."

He quickly dealt with the problem — he made the time — and told this hunter he was committing a crime. He enforced the laws well and arrested the same, and as he drove out of sight I heard him exclaim: "I hope you all do well on this day without fail, but if you break the law you will end up in jail.'

Be safe this deer sea-



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Just a reminder to all hunters these next few weeks to be mindful of Michigan's hunting laws.

son and remember a few things:

Safety zones around buildings when hunting are all areas within a 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No per-

son, including archery and crossbow hunters, may hunt or discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow in a safety zone, or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird within a safety zone, without the written permission of the owner or occupant of the

property.

The safety zone applies to hunting only. It does not apply to indoor or outdoor shooting ranges, target shooting, law enforcement activities or the discharge of firearms, crossbows or bows for any non-hunting

For all hunting seasons — including small game, bear, deer, birds, etc. — a person shall not take game during the established daylight shooting hours from Aug. 15 through April 30 of the next year, unless the person wears a cap, hat, vest, jacket or rain gear of hunter orange. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange. The garments that are hunter orange shall be the hunter's outermost garment and shall be visible from all sides of the hunter.

Just a reminder to all hunters these next few weeks to be mindful of the Michigan laws of hunting. You can also go online to at www.michigan.gov/dnr for further information regarding hunting laws and safety.

If you have questions or comments, email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com, or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan State Police-Brighton Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

Fire officials discourage use of outdoor turkey fryers

he Farmington Hills Fire Department wants to ensure that all residents understand the legitimate concerns regarding the practice of using a deep fryer to cook a turkev

Problems arise because typically most residents do not monitor the process the entire time that the turkey is cooking in the deep fryer. The overall prudent method is to place the turkey in the oven and set a timer to check on it when it is finished cooking

With that said, the Farmington Hills Fire Department, along with the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratory, are strongly discouraging the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that immerse a turkey in hot

Many people rave about the taste and time saved in the kitchen, but most people are sacrificing safety for good taste.

These fryers use a substantial amount of cooking oil at a high temperature and almost all units pose a significant safety risk, as hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. The use of these fryers has led to devastating burns, other injuries and homes completely

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destroyed by fire. The fire department urges those who prefer a fried turkey to consider a new type of "oil-less" turkey fryer.

Here are some hazards associated with the use of turkey fryers:

» Most units easily tip over, spilling the hot oil from the cooking pot. » If the pot is over-

filled with oil, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed into the pot. Oil may drain onto the unprotected burner or flames, causing a fire to enguil the entire unit and its surroundings.

» A partially frozen turkey can cause a spillover effect. This too may result in a devastating fire.

» Units may not have a thermostat; therefore they have the potential to overheat to the point of combustion.

» The lid and handles on the sides of the cooking pot get dangerously hot, and pose a severe burn hazard.

"If these concerns aren't enough to discourage you from using a turkey fryer, consider the following tips to prevent a fire or disaster while cooking your turkey," Gauthier said.

» Always use a turkey fryer outdoors, away from anything combustible or flammable

» Never use a turkey fryer in a garage, under a shed or on a wooden deck.

» Always place turkey fryers on a flat surface to reduce the possibility of tipping over.

» Never leave your fryer unattend-

» Never let children or pets near the frying unit.

» Do not overfill the pot. Follow manufacturer's guidelines.

» Be sure your turkey is thoroughly thawed before placing it into the hot oil. » Use oven mitts

to prevent burning your hands. » Have a portable

fire extinguisher handy or ready to use if needed. Dial 9-1-1 if there is a fire. » If the weather is

forecasting rain or snow, consider scrapping the entire frying option, as water and hot oil do not mix!

Finally, the hot oil inside the pot will remain hot for several hours after your turkey has been removed. Continue to follow the tips and recommendations for safe use until the oil has completely cooled.

Be safe and enjoy the upcoming holiday season with your family and friends!

Lt. Larry Gauthier is a fire and safety educator with the Farmington Hills Fire Department. He may be reached at 248-871-2820 or at LGauthier@fhgov.com. Some material re-printed with permission of the NFPA

Group sponsors pet food program

With the holidays fast approaching and some families struggling to provide a Christmas for their children, Tail Wagger's 1990 would like the community to know family pets can enjoy the holiday season by receiving help from its Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program.

The community is encouraged to help fill the pantry by dropping off food and/or supplies for both dogs and cats to the Tail Waggers office, 28402 Five Mile, in Livonia (between Middlebelt and Inkster).

The goal is to collect enough food so that dogs and cats in the community can have a little something special under the tree for them this holiday season. Tail Wagger's welcomes gift cards to Petsmart, Petco, Target, Meijer and Walmart.

The Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program gives temporary assistance to pet owners so their animals can stay with the family they have grown to love.

'The goal of the Pantry 4 Paws program is to help eliminate additional financial stress on a fam-

season and to ensure the animals of the community are being fed and not going to sleep hungry at night," founder Laura Zain said.

food assistance can confidentially contact the Tail Wagger's office at 734-855-4077 at tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HOW PRESIDENT IS

ELECTED

Time/Date: 7-8:45 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23 Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street,

Plymouth

Details: If you have ever wondered if the U.S. should change how it elects its president, you're invited to a Plymouth Community Forum for a discussion on the presidency. The discussion will include speaker Saul Anuzis, former chairman of the Republican Party and managing partner of Coast to Coast Strategies, LLC. Also on tap will be political analyst Adam Raezler, former public policy adviser to Oliver North. The speakers will discuss the electoral college vs. the national popular vote.

'The Nutcracker' on

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov.

Details: Northville Ballet Theatre presents its annual production of The Nutcracker, along with contemporary Christmas dances. Performances to be held at Northville High School. Program to benefit Northville Civic Concern. For reserved seating and tickets, call Timberlane Dance at 248-924-8357. Adult tickets are \$15 or \$10 for seniors and children. The company is under the direction of artistic director Kathy Cooke. Go to www.timberlanedance.com.

SANTA ARRIVES Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Joel

Tracey entertains; 6 p.m., Santa arrives, Friday, Nov. 27 Location: Kellogg Park, Ply-

Details: Santa makes his arrival in downtown Plymouth on a fire truck. Performances by the PCEP choice and lighting of holiday

TOYS FOR TOTS Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec.

Location: Western Wayne

County Conservation Association, 6700 Napier Road, Plymouth

Details: The Western Wayne County Conservation Association, Inc., will hold its annual 3-D archery shoot to collect new, unwrapped toys as part of the U.S. Marines Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Cost: Participants can either bring a new, unwrapped toy or make a \$10 donation to the Toys for Tots Program. Donations can also be dropped off until Dec. 6 at the WWCCA in Plymouth Contact: The Western Wayne

Location: The Village Theater's Biltmore Studio, an intimate

'ALMOST MAINE' Time/Date: Nov. 22

at 734-453-9843

Black Box theater, at Cherry Hill and Ridge roads

Details: The Spotlight Players return to perform six performances of Almost, Maine, a show that features residents of Almost, Maine, who find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways

Cost: \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors and students

www.cantonvillagetheater.org. Tickets also are available for purchase at the box office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and one hour prior to show time

HARVEST MARKET

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22

Location: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton Details: The harvest market presents a perfect panoply of fall harvest offerings just in time for your Thanksgiving menu. The event will feature 20 vendors selling everything from winter harvest vegetables, such as squash and potatoes, to local pasture-raised meats and fresh local honey

CANCER SUPPORT

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. third Monday of each month **Details: November is Lung** Cancer Awareness Month. Connecting with others who know what it is to have lung cancer can help during this difficult time. To start, join the Lung Cancer Support Group at the Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, located at 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon Dr. David Sternberg leads the group. The group is open to anyone living with lung cancer and their loved ones. Meetings are free the third Monday each month. For more information, call 248-473-

COMPASSIONATE CARE Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. first and

third Thursday of each month **Location:** Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road, Canton

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. Cost: Free, but drink purchase is

required for use of space

Contact: Ann Kozma, Compas-

ily during the holiday

Families in need of pet

Financial contributions can be made through the website at www.tailwaggers1990. org or by mail to: 28402 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. All contributions are tax-deductible.

County Conservation Association sionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at 888-983-

9050, or email achristen-

sen@cchnet.net. **GRIEF MATTERS**

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

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday,

Details: To help individuals coping with grief, Arbor Hospice & Palliative Care offers a supportive caring environment to work through the loss. This special workshop will give you helpful tips for coping with the upcoming holidays. Support groups and events are open to everyone, regardless of whether their loved one received services from Arbor Hospice & Palliative Care. All programs are limited to 12 participants and registration is required at least one week in

advance. Cost: Free

Contact: Sara Swanson at 734-794-5469 or sswanson@arborhospice.org;

http://www.arborhospice.org

PUCKS FOR PASADENA

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. Location: USA Hockey Arena,

14900 Beck, Plymouth Township Details: Plymouth Township, Plymouth, Canton Township and Wayne County are joining forces to help raise money to send the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band to Pasadena to perform in the Tournament of Roses Parade in January. The Red Wings Alumni will play against the USA Hockey's National Development Program in a game, with all proceeds to support the march-

Cost: \$10 per person Contact: Committee chair Jim Harb at 734-502-0645 or jharb@gsfmail.com. For sponsorship, contact Chris Zygmunt at chriszygmunt@wowway.com.

ANTIQUE MARKET Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 22 and Dec. 6 Location: Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor/Saline Road, Ann Arbor

Details: The Saline Antiques & Vintage Market is open. The event is pet-friendly, but pets must be leashed. The event continues rain or shine. Every thing is under cover with food and refreshments.

Cost: Admission is \$6. Parking is

Contact: www.salineantiquesmarket.com. To become an exhibitor, contact Doug Supinger, manager, at 937-875-0808 or email salinemarket@gmail.com

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State program targets veteran-friendly employers

paying jobs are ready to be filled by veterans at companies throughout Michigan that recognize and respect their military skills, training and

Gov. Rick Snyder joined Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Jeff Barnes during MVAA's Veteran-Friendly Employer Awards and Recognition Breakfast, held at Michigan State University. Together, they announced the 2015 Veteran-Friendly Employer rankings and recognized the state's top companies dedicated to veteran employment.

"I applaud those companies committed to helping our veterans build long-lasting careers," Snyder said. "Veterans are an important source of untapped talent in our state, they bring valuable skills to the workforce and are an integral part of Michigan's continued reinven-

Through MVAA's Veteran-Friendly Employer program, veterans can choose from job opportunities in a variety of industries and can more easily identify the state's 37 veteran-friendly employers committed to hiring and supporting veteran talent in their workforces. The pro-

gram also recognizes organizations for their dedication to recruiting, hiring, training and maintaining veteran talent.

"Veterans are strong leaders, quick thinkers and motivated employees and each of MVAA's Veteran-Friendly Employers understands the value of including those skills and experience in their workforce," MVAA Director Jeff Barnes said. "The goal of the Veteran-Friendly Employer program is to connect veterans with employers who understand the value of their military training and discipline, so that more and more veterans can become a part of Michigan's continued economic recovery."

Thirty-seven organizations earned either bronze-, silver- or goldlevel status as determined by their commitment to connect with and hire veteran talent. The full list is now available on MichiganVeterans.com/certifiedvetfriendlyemployers.

For the first time in the program's history, three organizations were certified gold-level Veteran-Friendly employers. General Motors, the first organization to earn the gold-level certification, knows its ongoing efforts to hire and train veterans



Gov. Rick Snyder and MVAA Director Jeff Barnes congratulate gold-level Veteran-Friendly Employers General Motors, Quicken Loans and Whirlpool Corp. on their commitment to hiring and supporting veteran talent in their workforces. Thirty-seven organizations were recognized during the Veteran-Friendly Employer Awards and Recognition Breakfast for their dedication to veteran employment.

are just one way the company can say "thank you" to Michigan's veter-

"We're honored to receive this recognition, but the true credit goes to the veterans that chose to serve their country," said Ken Bar-rett, GM chief diversity officer and a former U.S. Navy captain. "As we continue to work with great partners like MVAA and Hiring Our Heroes, we hope to do even more to help and hire these brave men and women.'

Quicken Loans and Whirlpool Corp. were also honored as 2015 gold-level VeteranFriendly Employers.

To be recognized as gold, employers must retain at least 75 percent of veteran hires over the past 12 months, implement internal veteran support networks and create either a hiring rotation or leadership development program within their organization, in addition to meeting all other requirements under the Veteran-Friendly Employer program. For Quicken Loans, the decision to create the programs and share their successes with other companies was an easy

"Helping veterans receive the career training and opportunities they deserve is a calling that all businesses can unite around," said 22year U.S. Army veteran Rob Ells, Quicken Loans director of Veteran Recruiting. "We've seen great success with our Tour of Duty program, which helps veterans who are transitioning from active-duty service gain corporate experience, and would love to see more companies implement similar programs. The benefits and leadership an organization gains from our military veterans is immea-

It's a sentiment echoed by Whirlpool.

surable."

"Hiring veterans is a great business strategy. They are not only extremely talented individuals, they are also proven leaders who have stepped forward and defended our country,' said Jeff Noel, corporate vice president of Communications & Public Affairs at Whirlpool Corp. "We're proud to be recognized as a militaryfriendly employer. Whirlpool Corporation was established 104 years ago this week and throughout our history, from shifting production to aid the war effort in 1942 to our Veterans Association today, we have supported the service of our men and women in uniform. The skills these men and women learn in quick decision-making, teamwork and leadership are vital to creating a strong and talented workforce representative of the values the United States and our company are founded on.

Six organizations were honored as 2015 silver-level employers for meeting or exceeding their veteran hiring goals and implementing internship and on-the-job training programs for veterans, including Cooper Standard, DTE Energy, Michigan Department of Transportation, Prestige Group, Roush Enterprises and Verizon.

Novi Pet Expo still in town Sunday at Suburban Collection Showplace

The Suburban Collection Showplace presents the 12th annual Novi Pet Expo Nov. 20-22.

This fun family event is a celebration of all furry, feathered and finned family members, featuring a wide variety of pet rescues with adoptable pets from across the region.

The expo features "America^îs Veterinarian" Dr. Marty Becker, resident veterinary contrib-

America for 17 years, member of the Board of Directors of the American Humane Association as well as its chief veterinary correspondent, a founding member of Core Team Oz for The Dr. Oz Show and a member of the Dr. Oz Medical Advisory Panel. Becker has written or contributed to 22 books that have sold more than 7 million copies, including three New York Times best-

the fastest-selling pet book of all time, Chicken Soup for the Pet-Lovers Soul. He has been a contributor to Parade magazine, Reader's Digest and

The Michigan Humane Society will be on site during the pet expo and a pet food or supplies donation can knock \$2 off a full-price entry fee. Clinicians will be presenting forums about their fully supported, in-home pet foster programs and

other volunteer programs that support the southeast Michigan animal welfare community.

"Shelters and rescues across our entire region are exploring new ways to work together to care for homeless animals in need," MHS coordinator Ryan McTigue said. "As our collective network of support for them becomes stronger, it also creates more need and opportunity for volunteers and also for homes that can foster pets for finite periods of time. The Michigan Humane Society provides all food, care advice and veterinary support and we are spreading the word about how easy and rewarding it can be to help animals

along the way to their eventual forever homes."

The Novi Pet Expo is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday Nov. 22. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5-11. The Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi. Call 248-348-5600 or go to www.novipetexpo.com.





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

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall. 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

196 W. Liberty 1. Z 15-23 Non-Use Variance Requested

SALINE

Zoned: B-1, Local Business Applicant: Kamie & Matthew Mai

1380 Palmer 2. Z 15-24 Non-Use Variance Requested Rear Yard Setback Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential Applicant: Brian & Joyce Nemes

302 Maple 3. Z 15-25 Non-Use Variance Requested To Allow a Lot Split into Two- Fifty Ft Lots. Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential

Applicant: Marda Benson 359 McKinley Z 15-26

Non-Use Variance Requested Rear Yard Setback Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential Applicant: Brendan Ronayne & Donna MacDonald All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

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

Camton, 101 48187 Farmington Hills, MI 48331

P. Mark Accettura, Esq.

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Canton Office:

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SECTION B (CP)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-469-4128

BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW

Salem veterans to carry the load

Tim Smith Staff Writer

Ryan Ossenmacher is optimistic about the chances of the 2015-16 Salem varsity boys hockey team.

After all, several key performers from last winter's Division 1 regional title team are back in hopes of leading a successful encore for the Rocks.

But there are spots in the lineup where youth will be served, so Ossenmacher wouldn't be surprised if it takes this year's squad a little bit of time to

"We return five of our top eight goal scorers from last year," Ossenmacher said. "We are, however, still a young

team with only six seniors."

Those returnees will need to carry the load in order for Salem to match or improve upon last year's 14-11-4 record. One change is the Rocks are now in D2, as are the other Park teams.

The graduation of high-scoring forward Noah Willer (25 goals last season) puts a hole at the top of the roster.

Still, Ossenmacher expects a handful of key returning players to help fill the

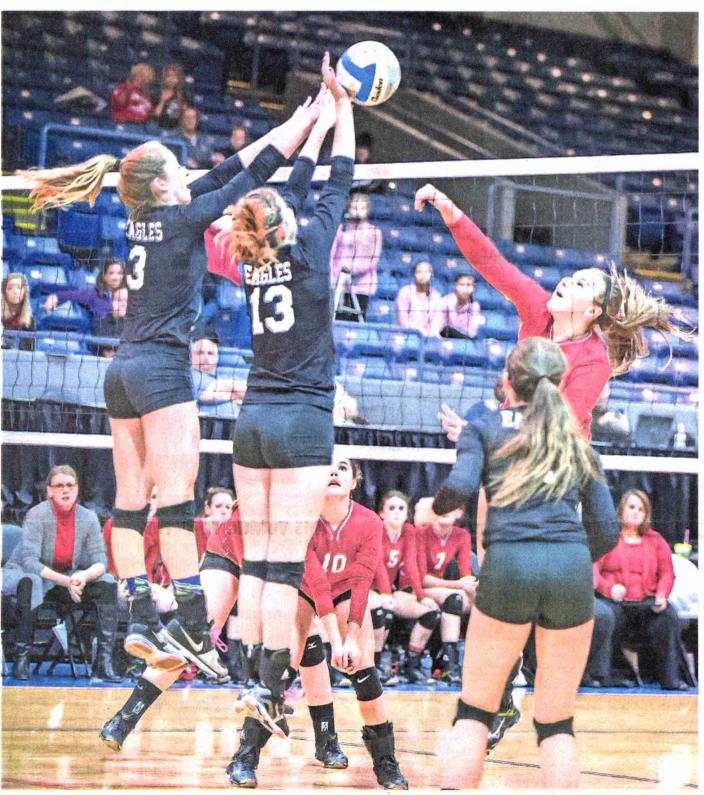
Back are senior forwards Evan New el (10 goals, 12 assists, 22 points), Zach Goleniak (18-14-32) and junior forward Matt Schaumburger (11-19-30).

See SALEM, Page B2



One of Salem's returnees is forward Joey Driscoll (left), shown from a 2014-15 game.

CLASS D VOLLEYBALL SEMIFINAL



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PCA players (from left) Grace Kellogg and Melissa Paige Perkey go up for the block Thursday against a Battle Creek St. Philip player.

THE END OF THE LINE

PCA Eagles start match strong, but can't fend off more-experienced Tigers.

Tim Smith Staff Writer

Five years ago, Plymouth Christian Academy's championship hopes were crushed by Battle Creek St. Philip.

It was deja vu Thursday at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, as the hometown Tigers roared back from an early deficit to defeat the Eagles 3-1 in a Class D semifinal volleyball thriller.

St. Philip bounced back after PCA won 26-24 in the opening set; the Tigers grabbed 25-23, 25-16 and 28-26 victories the rest of the way to advance to Saturday's title tilt.

The "been here, done that" experience is something PCA junior setter

Jessica Paulson said might have been

a factor to the outcome. "I just think they know how to push it mentally, they've been here so many years in a row," Paulson said, referring to the Tigers winning nine straight titles. "I think that's a huge push behind them that we have not

experienced.' Tough to stop

PCA head coach D.J. Kellogg con-

"They have a lot of experience, obviously they've been in this arena before," Kellogg said. "They're a great defensive team. Abby (McKinzie) is a good hitter and tough to de-

fend.
"We weren't quite getting the blocks up where we wanted them to

McKinzie was a major thorn in PCA's side with 25 kills and 17 digs. Also a St. Philip standout was senior outside hitter Morgan Luoma, with 14

kills and 27 digs. 'They're a good serve receive team, obviously, so we weren't able to keep them out of system as we would have liked," Kellogg said. "Tough match; the girls fought hard."

Kellogg, whose first season at the PCA helm ended with a stellar 35-6-1

See EAGLES, Page B3

BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW

These 'Cats will be quick

Plymouth opens season with 7-0 victory over Divine Child

Tim Smith

Some of Gerry Vento's boys hockey teams at Plymouth High School have had plenty of success, twice making it to the Division 1 quarterfinals at Yost

And the Wildcats — 15-8-3 last year, falling to campus rival Salem in the regional final and now in D2 - boast what Vento calls the swiftest team on blades he's had in a handful of seasons at Plymouth. "We will be a balanced team," Vento

said. "While we may not have the standout 'superstar,' we have a balanced team from top to bottom and I would say the best skating team I have had since I have been at the Park.

"What I like most about this group is that they all came from the prep (junior varsity level) team, which makes for great team unity and instant familiarity with one another.'

The early returns certainly back up his claims. Wednesday night, Plymouth routed Dearborn Divine Child, 7-0, behind three goals on the power play and a shutout by returning senior goalie Trevor McManus.

"I was very happy with the way our returners lead the way and our firstyear players followed along," Vento said. "We played with a lot of energy and pace, so we didn't wait for Divine Child to set the tempo."

McManus brings a calming stability to the goalkeeper position and is expected to have a strong season, Vento said. But he noted that sophomore Brendan Olepa also has shown plenty

Leading the offense will be return-ing senior forwards Alex Bump (assistant captain), Jake Silvester, James Baldwin, Ricky Covault (assistant captain) and Max Chumley.

See WILDCATS, Page B2



The Plymouth Wildcats will be looking for more celebrations like this during 2015-16.

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WSJFL CHEER RALLY

Firsts across the board for Lions cheer teams

The Canton Lions Junior Football Club cheerleaders set their sights high as they competed among other local cheer organizations at the annual Western Suburban Junior Football League Keith Demolay Cheer Rally.

The cheer and dance competition took place Nov. 14 at Wayne Memorial High School.

For the first time in the WSJFL's 50 years, one organization - the Lions — struck gold among all of its teams in both the dance and cheer categories.

The success caps off the career of Lions cheer director Rosie Beadle, retiring this season after a three-year

Beadle leaves on an extra high note, adding a WSJFL gold-sweep record to her overall hardware count of one bronze, four silver and 11 gold medals. Tamika Banks will take the Lions cheer director reigns beginning with the 2016 season.

Following is a recap of the cheer and dance competition.

Varsity: The varsity cheer squad defended its double-gold title with flawless and precise routines. Walking away champions again this year were Takima Banks, Sophia Baugh, Alaina Beadle, Kaylee Beaudoin, Ellie Borke, Emilie Borke, Rose Correa, Kylie Dunn, Christina Farmer, Abby Gallagher, Morgan Johns. Annie LaPlante, Morgan



CANTON LIONS Canton Lions cheer director Rosie Beadle and daughter Alaina. Rosie is retiring from the position.



Canton Lions junior freshman cheerleaders are ready to begin their dance routine.



CANTON LIONS

Members of the Canton Lions varsity cheer squad anxiously awaits the judges' decision.

Meredith, Brianna Minghine, Julia Quigley, Aubrey Sager, Lauren Sanders, Melanie Slater, Amalia Stasa and Alyssa Strong. The varsity squad is coached by Tamika Banks, Kathy Correa and Tori Strong.

JV: The junior varsity's gold medal dance routine had a patriotic/ hero's welcome theme and a cheer portion that was packed with power. The winning performances came from Alexis Bosanko, Madison



Waiting to take the floor are members of the Canton Lions freshman cheer team.

Buxton, Reagan Gallagher, Angelina Gusler, Madelyn Harrigan, Dakota Miller and Morgan Miller. The JV Lions are coached by Krysti Harrigan and Kaitlin Hoeft.

Freshman: The Lions freshman squad received acclaim from the judges, earning gold for ambitious cheer and dance performances. Freshman cheerleaders are Ivonna Davis, Makayla Herron-Mosby,

Jenna Kuzara, Addison Lockhart, Claire Martin, Morgan Matusik, Madison Ramirez, Alycia Strong and Haliona Vendlands. The Lions freshman squad is coached by Jennie Estes and Katie McMillan.

Junior freshman: The cheer and dance routines by the youngest athletes, the junior freshman cheerleaders, were anything but routine, garnering awes and

applause. Junior freshman cheerleaders are Tamia Banks, Amya Bosanko, Evelyn Bosanko, Addison Estes, Brenda Hernandez-Ramirez, Brielle Jonca, Madison Kuzara, Jaelyn Langlois, Jordyn Langlois, Logan Matusik, Kaylee Modelski and Brooklyn Snell. The Lions junior freshman squad is coached by Lanaya Willis and Katie Modelski.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Ocelots fall

Schoolcraft College's men's soccer team suffered the same fate as the women's team, losing both pool play contests to be ousted from the

NJCAA tournament. On Wednesday, against Tyler at Smith River Sports Complex in Axton, Va., the Ocelots lost 4-1.

Jon Quintana scored the Schoolcraft goal.

Canton softball

Canton Chiefs softball coach Al White said a meeting is scheduled 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2 in the Canton High

School media center. He noted that the meeting is for all returning players and "any new girls that are interested in coming out for the team.'

PCA coach steps down

Good luck to Jennifer Lemieux, who said she resigned from her position as cross country and track coach at Plymouth Christian Academy following a nine-year stint.

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

Yet Vento is looking for contributions from newcomers up front, such as juniors Jack Balch, Colton Bork, Jack Chumley, Alex Chartrand, C.J. Mullenax and Nick Yankee and sophomore Josh Weber.

"All of our newcom-

ers are promising, because we need them to contribute in order for us to succeed," Vento

Three senior blueliners are back to continue the Plymouth tradition of being sturdy in the defensive zone.

At the top of that list is senior defenseman and captain Kyle Kozler. Also set to spearhead the Wildcats' defense are

seniors Derek Szczepanik and Zach Wiener.

Juniors Keaton Courtney, Joe Fontana and Zach Gallaher round out the defense.

Plymouth will square off at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday against Canton at Arctic Edge Arena on

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Michigan Avenue.



FILE PHOTO Plymouth hockey coach Gerry Vento is optimistic about the season.

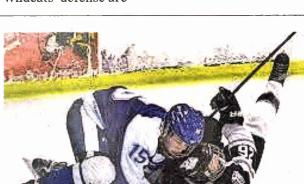
Continued from Page B1

Other returning forwards include seniors Nick Callegari (4-4-8), Miles Dougherty and juniors Joey Driscoll (2-5-7) and Shawn Weldon.

Joining those players will be varsity newbies such as senior Nathan Homrich, juniors Robbie Hermes, Jake Saunders and freshman Colin Goleniak

With the Rocks featuring a "totally new" goalie contingent of juniors Tristan Rehling, Matt Visel and freshman Austin Goleniak, Ossenmacher will be relying on consistent play in front of them by the defense.

"We return three of our top six (defensemen)



FILE PHOTO

Salem's Austin Marthaler (left) lays a big hit on Plymouth's Ricky Covault during a 2014-15 contest.

from last year's team," said Ossenmacher, referring to senior Bailey Thompson, juniors Marty Mills (6-7-13) and Austin Marthaler.

Another junior with plenty of experience on the blue line is Dan Sealy. Augmenting them will be sophomores Chase Kee and Sean McCormack.

Ossenmacher's team will need to wade through a schedule he called "one of the toughest in the state. We understand that there may

be some tough nights during the season, but it should help us prepare for the state playoffs in March."

Opening night

And the season's first game might be the toughest. Salem opened up Friday night against top-ranked Trenton at Kennedy Ice Center, falling 7-2.

Salem got off to a quick start, with Saunders scoring at 7:28 on a goal assisted by Callegari and Dougherty.

Trenton actually carried the play, outshooting the Rocks 10-3, but Salem starting goalie Visel made some big stops to keep his team in front going into the intermis-

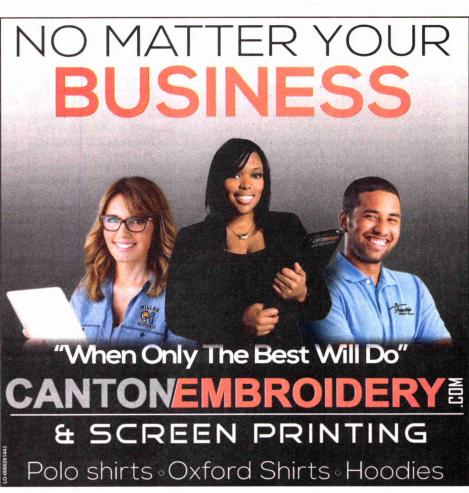
Things changed fast early in the second, when high-powered Trenton

scored six times in 12 minutes to chase Visel in favor of freshman Austin Goleniak.

"I think of the five goals (Visel) let in, the reality is I don't think he actually saw one of them," Ossenmacher said. "They have some high-end players."

Salem outplayed Trenton in the third, holding an 11-7 edge in shots (each team ended with 26 shots) and cutting the lead to 6-2 on a goal by Homrich (from Saunders

and Driscoll). The veteran coach said his team played well other than the stretch of the second where the wheels fell off. "Obviously there's no such thing as moral victories; a loss is a loss," he said. "But we tell our guys this is a quiz, this isn't the final exam."





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GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW — PART 1

Rocks reload after losing five from district title team

Tim Smith Staff Writer

Gone from last season's Salem varsity girls basketball team are the seniors who carried it all the way to the regional final.

But Rocks head coach Lindsay Klemmer isn't worried about turning the page, not with a "very solid junior class" along with not one, not two, but three talented Petree sisters to choose from

Salem opens the 2015-16 season with two home games. On Tuesday, Dec. 1, the Rocks face campus rival Plymouth. Two nights after that will be another solid opponent in Farmington Hills Mercy.

"We are going to look a lot different than this year, but I am excited about our speed, quickness and athleticism this season," said Klemmer, whose 2014-15 team went 20-5. "Our defense will be up-tempo and tenacious and we will have a variety of scorers on the floor at all times.'

There are three returning seniors who will be counted on to provide leadership on and off the floor, in guards Zoe Talley, Leah Moss and Marisa Martin.

"All three of them bring us a lot of energy on the defensive end and understand what we are trying to do," Klemmer said. "Zoe can also get to the rim offensively and Marisa has shot the ball extremely well during the summer and preseason."

Sister act

Sophomore sisters Lasha (5-11) and Jala Petree (5-8) also are back and they will have increased minutes and

"We are going to look a lot different than this year, but I am excited about our speed, quickness and athleticism this season."

LINDSAY KLEMMER Salem girls basketball coach

responsibilities as wing players (guard/forward) this sea-

"Lasha was the first off the bench for us last year and second leading scorers as a freshman with 11 points per game," Klemmer said. "She is easily one of the top shooters in the state with a great outside shot, as well as mid-

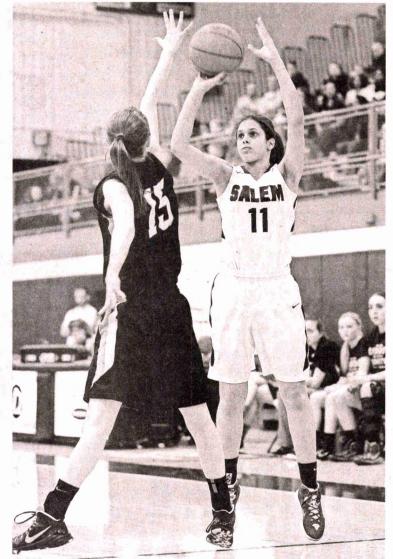
"Over the summer she has worked on getting to the rim and is finishing well right now. Lasha is a tough guard because she is 5-11, but (she) can shoot and drive and also

Jala Petree is another Salem triple threat with skills to go to the rim or launch from the perimeter.

"Her range is getting deeper every day," Klemmer said. "But her defense is where she has excelled over the summer. Her strength and athleticism allows her to be tenacious in defense.'

For good measure, the Rocks also have a third Petree in 5-9 freshman guard Mahrianna Petree.

'Mahrianna is one of the hardest workers on the team," Klemmer said. "Mahrianna



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem's Lasha Petree will be a key component to the 2015-16 team, even though she's only a sophomore.

brings a little bit of everything to the table. A great attitude, hard work, tough defense, ability to get to the basket at will and also is developing her outside shot."

Energetic group

Junior guards Emily Stewart, Jayna Lenders, Darby

Scott and Cece McIntosh comprise a solid group that Klemmer said never quits working.

"Emily has worked tremendously on her game this summer and it has paid off," Klemmer said. "She has become more confident and strong with the ball and her shot is as good as it's ever looked. She will play a big role for us being able to hit open shots.

'Jayna is also looking very good right now. Her length and tenacity on defense is contagious. But she is also starting to attack and drive to the basket with confidence.'

Scott and McIntosh "are two of the hardest workers we have on the team. They are scrappy and fight for every loose ball on the floor. Their hustle and energy is contagious and definitely plays a huge role on our team."

Another freshman who Klemmer is excited to watch this year is 5-8 forward/center Lyniah Wilson, younger daughter of 2015 Salem alum (and current Schoolcraft women's basketball player) Jamyra Wilson.

"Lyniah worked her way to a varsity spot," Klemmer said. "She still has a lot to learn, but her strength and hustle earned her a spot. She is strong in the post offensively and defensively and she rebounds better than anyone on our team right now.

'She is a young Shara Long (another 2015 grad) and we can't wait to see her growth over the next year.'

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EAGLES

Continued from Page B1

record, said the loss was disappointing, but he "thought there was a chance to get this far. I knew we had the girls to do it. It was more about taking each game as it comes and each point as it comes. Let the result speak for itself. This is the first game, the first set, we've even lost in the postsea-

His coaching counterpart, Vicky Groat praised the Eagles for making it a touchand-go match pretty much throughout. Only the third set did not go to the wire.

"That's the beauty of the game; you got to play," Groat said. "We could be in the other room, a play here or there.

"But PCA is an amazing team and we're fortunate enough to be moving forward. We've been surviving a lot in the playoffs and we survived another one.

Groat was talking about how, at Kellogg Arena, postgame interviews are conducted in adjacent rooms — with the winning team in one room and the losing squad next

PCA showed the fans in "Cereal City" that St. Philip (46-16-2) would have to scrap to get to another Class D final by taking the opening set, 26-24.

The Tigers led 24-23, but the Eagles tied the set on a trademark PCA play — junior setter Jessica Paulson to junior outside hitter Olivia Mady for the spike.

Paulson then served two points to close the win.

Unable to close

PCA nearly pulled out the second set, taking a 23-21 lead late with Mady serving. But the Tigers garnered the point and then Haley McKenna sealed the victory with three service points.

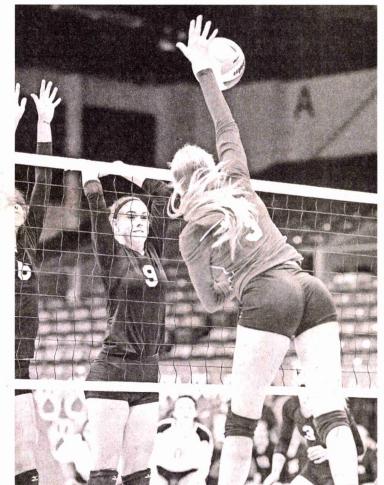
'We maybe weren't as aggressive as we needed to be" in closing out the set, Kellogg said. "I think if we're giving them easy balls, it's a tough team to do that against because they're going to send them back at us.

That rally stunned the Eagles, who struggled early in the third set, falling behind 10-4 following three successive aces by Kameron Haley.

"Yeah, it was a rough start (to the third set)," Kellogg said. "I think the energy was down. They just couldn't seem to find that rhythm that we've kind of kept all season.

'(The Tigers) did a good job of serving and getting us out of that rhythm. We started making a run at the end, but at that point the gap was too

Several points were given



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Plymouth Christian's Aliyah Pries (left) attempts to block a kill shot by Battle Creek St. Philip's Abby McKinzie.

"It was more about taking each game as it comes and each point as it comes. Let the result speak for itself."

D.J. KELLOGG PCA volleyball coach

away by off-the-mark PCA sets or hits and the Tigers eventually built an insurmountable 21-9 edge.

"They're a great serve receive team," Mady said. "But at the same time, we weren't hitting the correct spots.'

Yet PCA showed its mettle in the fourth set, going up 16-10 and later having a 24-23 lead with a chance to extend the match to a tiebreaker.

Unfortunately, McKinzie evened the set with a spike and the game continued backand-forth until a tip by Luoma closed out the match.

Future is bright

Despite the defeat, several PCA players said they plan on a 2016 return to Kellogg Arena. The team's lone senior is middle blocker Melissa Paige Perkey.

"For sure, I definitely think we'll come back here next year and hopefully win," said Paulson, who had 41 assists many to hard-hitting outside hitters Mady (23 kills, 11 digs)

and sophomore Grace Kellogg (nine kills, 27 digs).

Other PCA contributors included sophomore rightside hitter Robin Albert (five kills, 11 digs), junior middle blocker Aliyah Pries (three digs, two blocks), junior libero Divna Roi (16 digs) and Perkey (three kills, two digs).

"I think we did a really good job and we played as hard as we could," Roi said. "And with a young team, only one senior, I think we did a really good job keeping our emotions in check. Pushing until the end and not playing

selfishly. Meanwhile, Perkey said being part of a team that made it to the final four "was amazing, I knew we were going to be good this season, but I wasn't really expecting to come this far. We had so much fight in us. I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls to finish out my career with.'

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VOLLEYBALL CLASS B QUARTERFINALS

Martians sideline Ladywood in three

Mike Rosenbaum

With two never-say-die teams squaring off on the volleyball court Tuesday night, it wasn't surprising that the Livonia Ladywood-Goodrich match was competitive down to the last point. In the end, Ladywood battled Goodrich through four tough sets before falling to the seventh-ranked Mar-

contest, played at Clawson. The first three sets were almost as close as possible, with Goodrich taking the first two, 25-23 and 25-22, before the Blazers rallied to win the third, 27-25. Ladywood trailed late in the final set, 20-19, but couldn't score again, as the Martians punched their ticket to the state semifinals with a 25-19

tians in a Class B quarterfinal

"Every set was tight and could've gone either way, especially the first two," Ladywood coach Peter Lau said. "What I think I'm the most proud of is, after dropping the first two, we didn't give up, and came back and won the third set. And if we could've forced a game five - who knows? At that point it's a race to 15. It boiled down to one or two

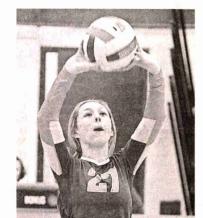
points every single set.' Both of the first two sets featured numerous lead changes, but the second set was more disappointing for Ladywood, which led by two to five points much of the way. The Blazers expanded their lead to 16-9 with a three-point run featuring a Kayla March kill and two service points from Abbi Laurentius, but Goodrich went on a 13-3 run to establish just its second lead of the game, 22-19.

Haley Moores then brought the Blazers back to within 22-21 on consecutive kills. Goodrich's Madison Becker and March exchanged spikes, leaving the Martians with a 23-22 edge. At that point, however, a Moores serve went long and then Abby Francis ended the game with a kill for Good-

The third set mainly involved Ladywood punching and Goodrich counter-punching. The Blazers rolled to an 11-5 lead, led by co-captains Moores (two kills plus and ace) and March (one kill, three service points).

The Martians then rallied with a 9-2 run to take a 14-13 edge. The set swung back and forth until a four-point Lady-wood run – including two kills by Moores, one by March and a block-kill by Natasha Stzelewicz - gave the Blazers a 21-18

advantage. Ladywood moved to the



Ladywood's Sophia Dunn puts up a soft set during a match earlier this

brink of victory when a March spike made it 24-21, but Goodrich rallied to tie the set at 24-24. Kills by March and Goodrich's Bethany Schultz left the game knotted at 25-25. Goodrich then mishandled a March tip and then knocked a ball into the net to give the

Blazers a two-point victory. Ladywood took a 4-3 lead in the fourth set before an 11-4 run gave the Martians a 14-8 advantage. But the Blazers had one final run left. Moores scored on a kill and then she won six consecutive service points, including two service winners. March had two kills during the run, while Stzelewicz added a pair of key blocks, helping the Blazers take a 15-14

Goodrich moved back on top and led 20-17 before a Madeline Hudson kill and a service point win for March trimmed the gap to 20-19. The Martians then scored the set's final five points to wrap up the match.

Despite giving favored Goodrich all it could handle, Lau wasn't claiming any moral victories after the match.

'All these girls are natural competitors," he said. "This loss is going to be hard on them because of how competitive they are. But I know overall, they left it on the court ... just a little bit too short at the

Entering Tuesday's contest, Ladywood had won five consecutive tournament matches, all by 3-0 scores, to gain district and regional titles.

"The momentum was there" throughout Ladywood's tournament run, Lau said. "What I was proud of was the overall camaraderie and support that all the girls had on the court, as well as off the court. And that's probably the most important part of being a team, is being supportive, regardless of how much playing time you're seeing on the court."

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Romeo eludes Churchill upset bid in five sets

errors, we made dumb plays,

In the fourth set, Romeo

before closing it out on a Mila-

na kill, one of her 12 during the

"They were a good team,

but nothing we haven't seen all

year," Milana said of the Char-

much confidence, so we took

Milana, who also led the

Bulldogs with 18 digs, added

three more kills along with

Kelly in the fifth set to help

"We've had a lot of five-

setters this season," Williams

gers. "We came in with too

them a little too lightly.

close out the match.

regained the momentum and

but once we got in a flow, it

was a lot easier to pull out.'

took control from the start

Brad Emons Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill nearly turned Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena on its ear Thursday night in its MHSAA Class A volleyball semifinal against defending champion Romeo.

The underdog Chargers certainly brought their 'A' game, but ultimately succumbed to Miss Volleyball Gia Milana's 'A-plus' effort as the Bulldogs survived in five sets,

23-25, 25-13, 20-25, 25-16, 15-10. Milana, a 6-foot-2 senior headed to Maryland, finished the night with an astounding 43 kills to offset the gritty performance of the Chargers, who bowed out with a 35-20 record.

Churchill trailed early in the fifth and deciding set, but pulled even at 8-8 on a rare Milana miss-hit into the net. But the Chargers missed a serve and then followed with an attacking error and never got closer than two the rest of the set as Romeo pulled out the one-hour, 42-minute match.

"I played her in club. I know Gia, she's a great player, but that didn't mean anything to us," said Churchill's 5-8 senior outside hitter and setter Rayna Yetts, who starred with 24 kills and 12 assists. "We were going to fight no matter what. And I'm really proud of my team. I thought we really fought back.

Milana, who hit at a .373 clip, got support from 5-10 junior Jodie Kelly, who added 14 kills with a .464 hitting percentage.

to hold their own defensively, getting double-digits digs from Yetts (14), Alyssa Facione (14) and Megan Gendjar (11).

"That's kind of our blue-collar approach," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "We just go out and play and compete on every point and we just give ourselves a chance.

Churchill let the Milana get her fair share of attempts, but it concentrated on stopping Romeo's five players.

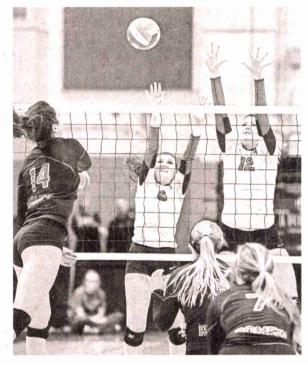
'Our game plan was when Gia was in the back row, that's when we score the most, Yetts said. "Yes, she's still an offensive option while she's in back row, but we have a greater chance to score. When she's in the front row, we side-out fast and we make it happen."

Yetts set the tone during the first set with eight kills, a block and an ace serve.

Anybody who comes into the season this far is going to play with everything they have," Romeo coach Stacy Williams said. "We knew (Yetts) was going to hit the ball. I would have liked us to respond a little bit better to the way that she hit the ball. It wasn't anything we hadn't seen all season. I think we were just playing timid and didn't respond the way we needed to."

Romeo, however, rebounded in the second set, but Churchill answered in the third as Annie Yost, the 6-2 middle hitter, had four of her 11 kills to put the Bulldogs on the brink of elim-

"They did a good job putting up a defense against us and their libero (Facione) was really, really good," Milana said. "Once we got in a rhythm, it was just us playing against ourselves. We had too many



Churchill's **Brianna** Fulton (middle) and Annie Yost (right) team up for the Milana.

said. "We've been on the good

side of the five sets, so that's a

good thing. We just had a hard

and playing together. They got

a little fire in them and started

believing they could win. For

playing not to lose. You can't

do that. Once we started play-

ing to win and started scoring

some more points ... thankful-

Setter Brianna Fulton con-

tributed a team-high 22 assists,

while Samantha Zonca added

10 kills for the Bulldogs, who

match against Novi, which

tian in three sets.

advanced to the championship

defeated Grand Rapids Chris-

ly, we came out on the good

most of the match, we were

time getting our flow going

AL LASSEN | MICHIGAN.COM block against Romeo's Miss Volleyball Gia

"We had moments when we played very well and there were moments where we just didn't," Grenier said. "You wish you string some better runs there, it just didn't happen. Give Romeo some credit. I'm sure they pushed that issue as well."

Grenier, the school's alltime winningest coach in his 20th season, couldn't have been more pleased with his team's showing.

"It's their togetherness and they're a great team, just a bunch of hard-working kids," he said. "Real proud of them." But in the end, Milana's

thunderous attacks were just too much to overcome for the Chargers.

"She was Miss Volleyball for a reason," Williams said.
"She's a go-to player when we need her, gets kills when we need them. You got to go with your big gun when you're down and have to win the

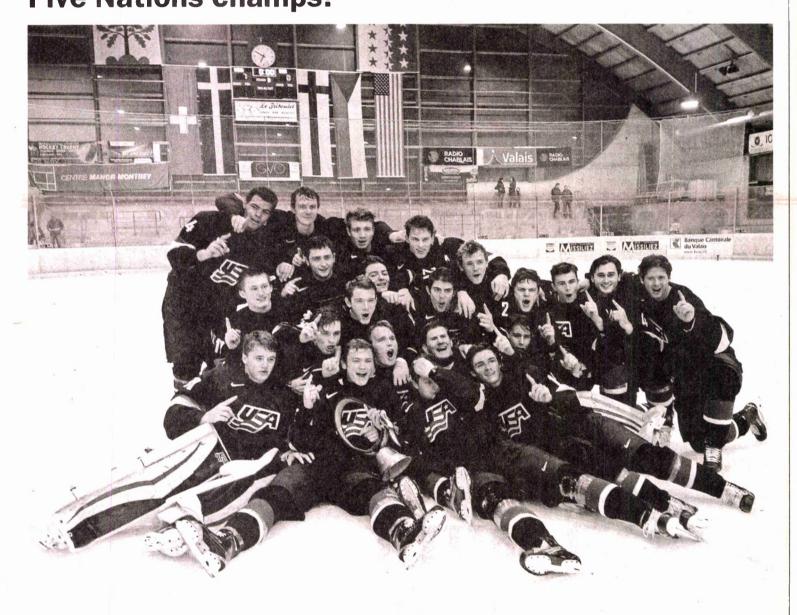
match.' Yetts, the team's lone senior, will be missed. But she will miss her teammates as well.

'We were the Cinderella team," the senior said. "No one thought we could do it. We didn't even believe in ourselves in the beginning of the season. We didn't even think we'd be here. But we kind of pushed that aside and we just played. We played for each other, we didn't play for anything else. We didn't play to prove ourselves. We just played. We went out there and played like we always played. We just played our hardest."

bemons@hometownlife.com

Yet the Chargers were able

Five Nations champs!



USA HOCKEY NTDP

The U.S. National Under-18 Team celebrates after defeating Switzerland 7-0 earlier this month to claim the 2015 Five Nations Tournament championship.

COLLEGE RECRUITING

Sweet six: Plymouth athletes sign early

Recently, six Plymouth High School student-athletes officially committed to colleges during the NCAA's early signing period. These athletes were seniors Natalie Nowicki, Allison Lennig, Rachel Zerona, Josh Sulak, Jewel Davis and Trevor McMa-

Nowicki, who plays attacker on the Plymouth girls lacrosse team and the P-CEP Penguins girls ice hockey team, signed Nov. 11 to attend Ursuline (Ohio) University and play women's lacrosse. She is a three-year letter winner on the girls lacrosse team, an all-KLAA selection in 2015, has led the Plymouth team in points the last two years and has been named a captain for the 2016 squad. Nowicki holds a 3.57 gradepoint average at Plymouth.

Lennig, a four-year varsity

letter winner on the girls swim team, also signed Nov. 11. Lennig will attend Youngstown (Ohio) State, where she will compete with the women's swim team. Lennig's career at Plymouth includes serving as a captain in 2015, winning the Wayne County and KLAA Kensington championships in the 100 freestyle in 2015, holding the KLAA South Division and Plymouth High School record in the 100 free and qualifying three years in a row for the MHSAA state finals. Lennig holds a 3.67 grade-point average at Plymouth.

Zerona is a four-year varsity softball player for the 'Cats. Zerona plays mainly outfield, but is also able to play infield and bats lead-off with a great on-base percentage. Zerona was honored with all-KLAA and all-regional

accolades last year. She signed Nov. 16 to attend Oakland University and play softball. Zerona holds a fantastic GPA at Plymouth.

Sulak, a three-year varsity baseball player, signed Nov. 18 to attend Northwood University and play baseball. Sulak pitches and plays infield for the Wildcats and also provides quality hitting (.310 average as a junior) and leadership on and off the field. Sulak holds a 3.00 grade-point average at Plymouth.

Davis, an all-state track and field athlete, signed Nov. 18 to attend Central Michigan University and compete on the women's track and field team. Davis qualified for the MHSAA state finals in 2014 and 2015 in sprints and sprint relay events, earning all-state honors in the 200-meter dash (eighth) and 800-meter relay

(fourth) in 2015. Davis is also the Plymouth record holder in the 200 dash and 800 relay and the P-CEP record holder in the 800 relay. Davis holds an outstanding GPA at Ply-

McManus, who competes on the Wildcats hockey and boys lacrosse teams, signed Nov. 18 to attend Albion College and compete in men's lacrosse. McManus is a fouryear letter winner in lacrosse, has won second and third team all-state honors, as well as all-KLAA accolades. McManus plays goaltender for both the hockey and lacrosse teams and holds a 3.33 grade-point average at Plymouth.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Encore title for varsity **P-C Steelers**

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity youth football squad successfully defended its MYFCC Super Bowl crown winning 42-34 against the pre-viously unbeaten Macomb Mustangs.

The Mustangs would take the opening kickoff and draw first blood taking the lead on a cessful PAT kick.

But the champs would answer on their first possession of the game, marching down the field 70 yards in six plays to score on a 15-yard quarterback keeper, with Kameron Arnold running in untouched around a completely fooled Mustang defense. The PAT kick was off target and the score was cut to

The blow-for-blow title fight would continue with the Mustangs scoring quickly on their next possession to again take a 14-6 lead.

Not to be outdone, the Steelers would score on the ground with a 58-yard scamper by Mike Mathias and the Gold offense. Leading the way with a flawless double team block on the play were Blaine Marks and Sean Mullen. The score was knotted at 14-14.

Macomb returned the ensuing Steeler kickoff 70 yards to go up 20-14.

The champs wouldn't yield as they then mounted a 48-yard TD drive on their next possession, capped by an 8-yard run by Mathias. Nathan Janke and Cooper Donlin plowed the way and the score was deadlocked 20-20.

The next Macomb series would end with the Mustangs turning over the ball on downs. The unstoppable Black offense again marched down the field with Logan Walkley scoring from 4 yards out. Jackson King, Tyler Overiatis and Donlin delivered key blocks.

The back-and-forth first half would end with the Steelers on top 28-20.

After Macomb scored to make it 28-28, the Steelers scored to take the lead for good. Walkley scored on a quick

73-yard strike, behind blocks by Gabriel Fifer, Zach Kubacki and Brenden Jankowski.

P-C found the end zone for the last time on another keeper by Arnold. This one went for 83 yards with Nick Downs' block springing the play.

Macomb cut the Steelers' lead to 42-34, but the Mustangs were thwarted by a pair of picks. Coming up with the key interceptions for the Steelers were Arnold and Drew Poet.



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10:30 a.m. – Nankin Hardware

10:50 a.m. – Ken's Country Produce

36595 Warren Rd, Westland, MI 48185 9:35 a.m. – Jonna's Market 8631 N. Newburgh Rd, Westland, MI 48185

10:10 a.m. - Firing Line 33000 Ford Rd, Westland, MI 48185

35101 Ford Rd, Westland, MI 48185

37182 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185

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11:35 a.m. - Warm Tidings

11:10 a.m. – Layers

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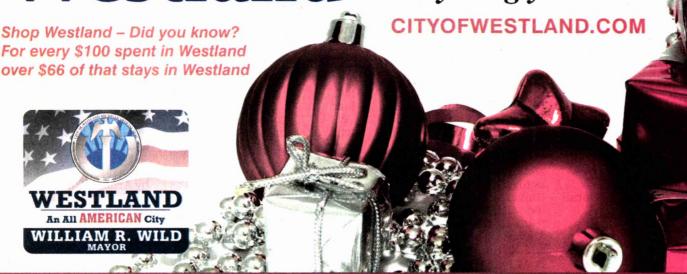


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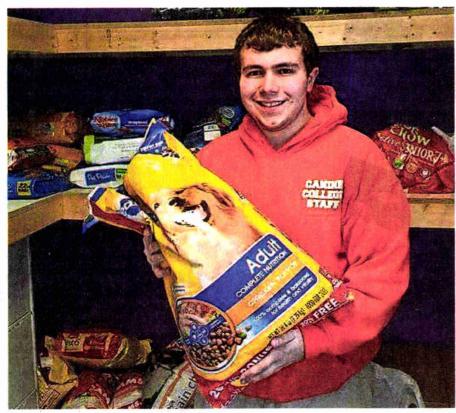






COMMUNITY LIFE

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA NWOT3MCH



SUBMITTED

A Tail Wagger's 1990 volunteer helps load the Pantry 4 Paws shelves with donated pet

Tail Wagger's 1990 volunteers unload a delivery from a distributor. The food bags inside are damaged or partially used. They are taped and added to the pantry.

Wish hungry pets a 'happy holiday' with pantry donation

Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Make sure to remember your furry friends when donating food for hungry families this holiday season.

'We are feeding in excess of 100 animals a month. One family might have three or four. Some people are taking care of outdoor strays and they'll reach out to us. We help them, too," said Laura Zain, founder of Tail Wagger's 1990 in Livonia. "We have people drive in from Macomb County. People come from Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Livingston counties."

Pantry 4 Paws is different from most other area pet food programs because it doesn't require proof of low income.

The organization has kicked off its holiday collection for Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance, its year-round food distribution program that helps pet owners in financial need continue to feed and care for their animals at home. Zain is collecting food and supplies for dogs and cats, and gift cards that can be used at Petco, PetSmart, Target, Meijer and Walmart, at the Tail Wagger's office, 28402 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road. Zain also encourages local churches, schools and Scout groups to consider holding pet food drives and offers businesses the bins, fliers, and signs needed to become a Tail Wagger's pet food collection

"We just had a donation come in from Purina - cases of dog collars. We want to make sure everyone has a collar on their animal. When we get stuff like that, we love handing it out," she said. "We do Christmas stockings and will start making them up to give to people for their pets. We try to make the holiday special, especially if they have kids. Kids like to give presents to their pets.'

All income levels

Pantry 4 Paws is different from most other area pet food programs because it doesn't require proof of low income.

'If a family with an animal is challenged, it doesn't matter what the challenge is. They can come in and get pet food. Let's say someone in the \$100,000 salary range becomes unemployed. That doesn't mean they can't come in to take the edge off.'

She said higher income earners likely would not qualify for food at other area pet food programs, even if they suddenly became unemployed or went on disability.

"Because of whatever happens in their daily life, that doesn't mean a dog should go hungry. When people come to us from more affluent areas they appreciate the fact that they don't have to qualify. We're not income-

Zain said Pantry 4 Paws is a means of promoting good pet ownership, in addition to distributing food. It gives Tail Wagger's a chance to educate pantry participants about the importance of vaccinating and spay and neutering pets. Zain encourages pantry clients to set goals for pet wellness and offers low-cost vaccination and spay/neuter services.

Their pet health care and wellness starts because they walked into the door to get pet food. We'll talk with them about when was the last time their animal had vaccinations.

Keeping pets healthy

She expects clients to make an effort in vaccinating their pets if they want to continue to receive pet food. She has dropped some clients or given them "a strong talking to" when they fail to keep their animals healthy. Or if she discovers they are breeding animals, selling dogs or pantry food.

Pantry 4 Paws volunteers keep detailed notes on each animal, including the pet food brand it receives. They try to offer it the same brand each pickup and accommodate special dietary needs and allergies. Zain said financially-strapped pet owners tend to feed their animals hot dogs, bread soaked in chicken broth, table scraps and dollar store pet foods if they can't afford higher

quality kibble or canned goods. 'We tend to get them on a more consistent diet ... on good food," she said. "The biggest thing is to treat people with respect and dignity and not judge them based on their hardship. We load them up with food so they don't need to come back every

To learn more about and spay/neuter wellness programs, and upcoming Santa photo events, visit tailwaggers1990.org or



MORE PET FOOD PANTRIES

» Michigan Humane Society Pet Food Bank: A valid driver's license and proof of low income, such as a Bridge Card, WIC, Social Security Disability, Medicaid card, or Family Independence Program is required to join the program. Food is distributed noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at MHS's three shelters, 900 N. Newburgh in Westland, 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit, and 3600 W. Auburn, Rochester Hills. Clients may pick up food weekly. » Humane Society of Huron Valley Bountiful Bowls: Must be a Washtenaw County or Plymouth resident. Proof of unemployment, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Benefits, WIC, food assistance, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, is required. Clients can't acquire more animals while participating in Bountiful Bowls. HSHV will feed up to five animals per client. The food, which is distributed via buckets, is intended to be temporary and supplemental. Monthly food pickup is noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, at the shelter, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor.

» Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue, Inc., Full Bowls, Full Bellies Pet Food Program: Potential clients fill out an application and must agree not to breed their pets nor tether and chain their dog 24/7. They also agree to maintain healthy living conditions for their pets and provide fresh water. If accepted, a Waggin' Tails representative contacts them about pickup location and time. The organization, which is based in Northville, has pet food collection bins at Petco, 43465 Ford Road, Canton, and While Foods, 3135 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Visit waggintailsdogrescue.org to download an application or email questions to FullBowlsFullBellies@ya-

» New Beginnings Animal Rescue Pet Food Pantry: The Royal Oak-based cat shelter offers food for both cats and dogs as temporary, supplemental assistance. It runs a bucketstyle program that feeds up to five pets per participating household on a monthly basis. Recipients agree not to breed animals while on the program. Potential clients can download an application from nbarmichigan.org or fill one out in person during food distribution hours, noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, except holidays and holiday weekends. The shelter is located at 2502 Rochester Road, Royal Oak. Check its Facebook page for locations of "snow cat" food collection bins at area businesses.

Heed safety: Halloween is over but a monster remains in your home

n the days preceding Halloween the little children stop by my house to hear stories about my childhood growing up in the forest of northern Canada, and the tales of Pudgy the Bear, and about living in the belly of a large moose for a month during a huge winter storm.

I love to tell them to keep an eye out for the man with no head who comes around on Halloween night. He usually hides behind a large tree in the neighborhood. On that special night they gladly receive a handful of candy and some will tell me that they had seen this man with no head and didn't bother him. Others don't want to talk anymore about him. It turns out to be a night that no child ever forgets. We all remember Halloween.

For you adults I want to talk about a monster by the name "Carbon Monoxide" who makes his appearance at this



time of year. This guy is invisible and you can't smell him. He's around when you purchase a barbecue or portable gas generator and other products and his appearance can prove to be deadly. I do believe he is cuddled up in the corner of your furnace right now just waiting to come out at the proper time. It is estimated that some 2,500 people die each year and those all are needless deaths, all caused by "Mr. Carbon Monoxide."

A few years ago, a lady in Ann Arbor named Trudy Ritter was listening to a talk show and followed the advice on purchasing some carbon monoxide detectors and installed as per the directions. A few

days later, she called a heating company to check her furnaces because these detectors all were screaming throughout the house. She had holes in the heat exchangers of both furnaces which were quickly replaced with new furnaces. She tells everyone this story today and claims that the talk show saved her life. And my dear reader, I do hope that this column might do just that for you, SAVE YOUR LIFE.

After five years

I am going to give you hard facts in hopes of waking up that brain in your head to the point of taking action instead of just thinking about it. If your furnace is more than five years old, your furnace should be checked for appearance of Mr. Carbon Monoxide. It is quite possible he will take you away and he usually sneaks up on you while you are sound asleep. You could prevent this

happening with the purchase of a carbon monoxide detector. Every time you get into your vehicle and you snap on your seat belt, think about a detector. I know the message will eventually get through. From five years on, get the furnace checked every year and ask for verification from the heating company.

Some of the furnace manufactures simply do give you the quality you deserve but that's not new in this world we live in today. An example of this theory recently exposed itself. The big name Carrier settled a class action lawsuit on furnaces. Since 1989, they produced more than three million furnaces with an inferior material in the heat exchanger. The furnaces had several different names, such as Bryant, Payne, and Day & Night. This settlement reached all the way into Canada as well. They are not the only manu-

facturer to make a cheap heat exchanger for a furnace and hence we now are aware why a furnace should be checked annually after that five-year mark.

I hear many talk show hosts telling people they don't want to scare them and I don't like that statement. I want to scare you, not joke around like I do with the kids. I would love to have you cut out this column and send it every loved one in your family. Tell others about it and you also may play a role in saving the life of someone else. Remember that Mr. Carbon Monoxide can't be seen and it's just not your time to go because you didn't take action now. 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.

Save family photos in archival albums, digital files

Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Thanksgiving Day is the perfect time to reminisce over photo albums, slides and videos - and to assess the wear and tear of those family artifacts.

"Color pictures will lose their color over time because they deteriorate with light and heat. The whole picture fades,' said Derek Blount, vice president and program director of the Birmingham-based Oakland County Genealogy Society. "The emulsion is organic material and deteriorates with time. Unfortunately most people don't think about it until it's too late. And then it's lost."

Disappearing color on old photos is just one of the problems do-it-yourself family historians face as they preserve treasured mementos. Rob Hoffman, owner of Priceless Photo Preservation in Ann Arbor, will talk about the top 10 preservation mistakes and how to avoid them, when he addresses the group, 7-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 5500 N. Adams, Troy. He'll also explain where to begin organizing and archiving. The presentation is free.

"He'll talk about the things you can do by yourself and about the things his company can do. It involves slides, videos, DVD types and VHS tapes and how to archive things that are analog into digital," Blount said. "You can also put them on the hard drive of your computer, too. We'll talk about the different formats for photographs, jpg and

Blount has preserved a lot of his own photos and recommends that do-it-yourselfers



Preserve photos and slides by converting them to digital files. If storing prints, use archival boxes or albums.

SUBMITTED

get a computer printer that incorporates a scanner that can adjust sharpness, color and for photo size.

A lot of the pictures are not the same size. Remember we had 3-by-5s and then they went to 4-by-6? If you go back to the 1950s and '60s there were 3by-3." Changing family photos to a digital format can be time consuming because each is scanned separately.

'I've got four to five boxes of pictures my family sends me. I've got to go through them and figure out who the people

are. I'll put them on CD-ROM and distribute them to the family.'

Blount said slides, videos and film can be more challenging to convert to digital files at home. He suggests taking Super 8 film and videos, no matter what size, to professionals, although dual DVD-VHS recorders can copy VHS tapes onto DVD.

Slide scanners cost less than \$100 and up, but slides must be

scanned one at a time. 'If you have to do it in a bulk fashion, it's going to cost you," Blount said, adding that equipment capable of scanning several slides at once can cost from \$500-\$1,000.

His other preservation tips: » Don't glue photos into scrapbooks

» Don't use albums that contain vinyl

» Don't store photos in an area that's too hot or humid

» Scan documents, such as marriage licenses and birth certificates into a computer and download to a CD-ROM. Send a copy to another family member, just in case the original disc is lost or destroyed » Use albums and contain-

ers made for archiving » If you're feeling overwhelmed by the amount of photos, sides, videos and films that must be saved as digital files, start with the most

fragile items first For more about the Oakland County Genealogy Society, visit ocgsmi.org or email Blount at djblount@sbcglobal.net.

Visit Western Wayne County Genealogical Society at wwcgs.org.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Holiday Boutique

The Livonia Garden Club holds its holiday boutique 9:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 5 at the Civic Park Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information, visit livoniagardenclub.org or email lgcpresident@ya-

Wreaths

Create a grapevine wreath or holiday gifts using materials found in nature. 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Nature Center in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, between 11 Mile and 10 Mile, Farmington Hills. The program is open to all ages and costs \$10 per person or \$30 per family of four. Children's nature crafts also will be available. Register online at https://recreg.fhgov.gov or at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call Ashlie Smith at 248-477-1135 or email asmith@fhgov.com.

English Gardens

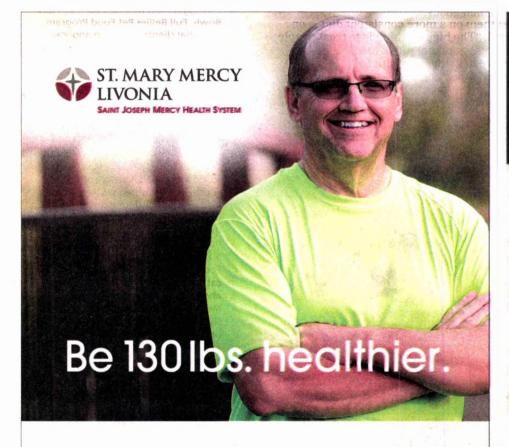
» Make a holiday porch pot, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 3. The fee is \$5 in addition to the cost of materials purchased at the store. Participants leave with the porch pot they've created.

» Make a candle centerpiece, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. Cost is \$24.99 and includes all materials.

» Make a terrarium snow scene, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$24.99.

Pre-registration is required for all workshops. Visit EnglishGardens.com. Classes are held at all locations, including these local stores: 155 Maple at Jackson, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

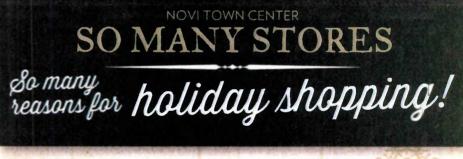


Mark

As Mark Layton spent more time at his desk and his activity level decreased, his weight accumulated. Mark was diagnosed with type two diabetes and had high cholesterol and blood pressure. That's when his doctor recommended surgical weight loss surgery at St. Mary Mercy Livonia's Michigan Bariatric Institute. Now, he's committed to a healthier lifestyle - he's a runner and has competed in marathons. His diabetes is resolved and Mark is 130 pounds healthler.

Be a 130lbs. healthier. Be Remarkable.

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Check out the well-equipped 2015 Nissan Sentra

cars.com

The Nissan Sentra compact sedan comes with four-cylinder power and a choice of a manual or automatic transmission. It is available at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave. Competitors include the Chevrolet Cruze, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra and Toyota Corol-

New for 2015

New standard features include automatic headlights, a USB port, cruise control, Bluetooth connectivity and steering-wheel audio controls. **Exterior highlights**

- » 16-inch wheels; 16or 17-inch alloy wheels available
 - » Available fog lights
- » Available spoiler » Available power

moonroof **Interior highlights**

- » Seats five
- » Fabric upholstery; leather with front seat heaters available » 60/40-split folding
- rear seat » Tilt/telescoping
- steering wheel
- » Two 12-volt power outlets
- » Remote keyless
- » Bluetooth connectivity
- » Available Nissan-Connect multimedia system with 5-inch screen
- » Available navigation system
- » Available Easy-Fill Tire Alert system that honks the horn when tire is filled to correct pressure
- » Available Bose premium stereo
- » Available dual-zone automatic climate control
- **Under the hood** » 130-horsepower,
- 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine
- » Six-speed manual transmission



The Nissan Sentra is available at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave.

The Nissan Sentra features a tilt/telescoping steering wheel.

» Available continu-

ously variable automatic

» Front-wheel drive

transmission

Safety features





electronic stability sys-

COURTESY OF NISSAN OF CANTON

- » Required in every » Six airbags new car: front airbags, » Available backup anti-lock brakes and an camera



COURTESY OF NISSAN OF CANTON

The Nissan Sentra has six airbags and an available backup



COURTESY OF NISSAN OF CANTON

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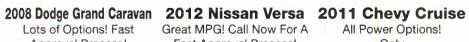








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KEATON LAWRENCE

Keaton Lawrence North was born Oct. 17, 2015, at Beaumont Hospital - Farmington Hills.

He joins his parents, Karl and Andrea North, and his sister, Elyse, 2, at home in Plymouth.

Proud grandparents are Karl and Nilda North of Westland, Larry and Cynda Clark of Kennewick, Wash., and Suzann Magers of Plymouth.



SUBMITTED

Keaton Lawrence North

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Russell and Marcella (McKenzie) Wellday of Westland marked their 50th wedding anniversary Oct 2. They were married in 1965 at Ss. Simon & Jude Catholic Church in Westland.

The couple has five children, Bernadine (Steve Seder) Wellday, Kristine (Russell) Brothers, Russ II (Beth) Wellday, Kathleen (Pat) Avery, and Hugh (Terri) Wellday. They also have 24 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, with another greatgrandchild on the way.

Russell retired from Chrysler in 2001 after more than 33 years with the company. Marcella

ANNIVERSARY

BIRTH



SUBMITTED

Marcella and Russell Wellday of Westland

was the organist at Ss. Simon & Jude Catholic Church for many years.

One of their favorite activities is viewing fall color changes in northern Michigan, while stopping at casinos along the

The Welldays celebrated their milestone anniversary by renewing their vows in a ceremony attended by their loved

ENGAGEMENT



SUBMITTED

Anthony Crowley II and Jamie Pickard

PICKARD-CROWLEY

Jamie Marissa Pickard and Anthony Frank Crowley II announce

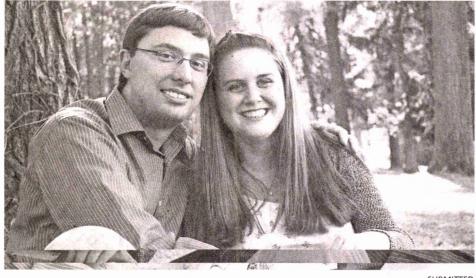
their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Christopher and Pamela Pickard of Livonia. Her fiance's

parents are Julieta and Tony Crowley of Taylor.

A September 2016 wedding is planned in Traverse City.

ENGAGEMENT



SUBMITTED

SUBMITTED

Kevin List and Katherine Demyan

DEMYAN-LIST

Katherine Demyan and Kevin List announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael and Mary Demyan of Linthicum, Md., graduated from Anne Arundel Community College in 2012

with an associate degree in nursing. She is employed as a registered school nurse.

Her fiance, son of Bradley and Diane List of Farmington Hills, graduated in 2005 from North Farmington High School, and in 2010 from Western Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in special education. He is employed as a special education teacher with Carroll County Public Schools in Maryland.

A July 2016 wedding is planned in Towson, Md.

ENGAGEMENT

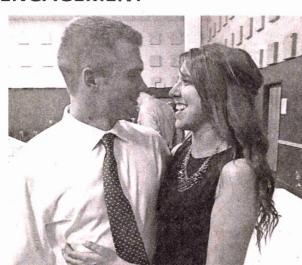
BUTTERMORE-CHRISTENBERRY

Carissa Jean Buttermore and Aaron Michael Christenberry announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Cliff and Denise Buttermore of Canton, attended Grace College in Winona Lake, Ind. She teaches first grade in Warsaw Community Schools.

Her fiance, son of Wayne and Sharon Christenberry of Warsaw, Ind., also attended Grace Col-

A June 2016 wedding is planned in Livonia.



Aaron Christenberry and Carissa Buttermore

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Tony and Mary Ann (Horton) Shaieb of Farmington Hills will mark their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 24. The couple married in 1965 at Our Lady of Redemption Church.

Their children are Katie (Rob) Bovitz of Canton, Sharon (Doug) La Gore of Brighton. Tony (Kim) Shaieb of South Lyon, Steve (Jessica) Shaieb of Ann Arbor, and Nick (Elizabeth) Shaieb of South Lyon. They also have 11 grandchildren.

Tony retired from the automotive supply industry six years ago. Mary Ann is employed by Modern OBGYN.

The Shaiebs enjoy boating, golfing, swimming, walking, cross-

ANNIVERSARY



SUBMITTED

Mary Ann and Tony Shaieb of Farmington Hills

word puzzles and spending time with their children and grandchildren.

They plan to celebrate their anniversary with family and friends.

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BLOKER BETTY JUNE KERNS

Betty was born March 15, 1926 in Greenfield, Ohio to Bonnie Lavon (Ballentine) Kerns and George Howard Kerns. She was raised in southern Ohio and attended the Ohio State University where she graduated in 1947 with a degree in Home Economics. In June 1947 she married Raymond E Bloker of Lindsay Ohio and they settled in Detroit Michigan. Betty taught Home Economics in the Grosse Pointe Ml school system until she became a full-time homemaker with her first child in 1950.A mother of three, Betty raised her children in Bay Village, OH, Olmstead Falls OH and finally in Birmingham MI where Betty and Ray lived for 40 years. During that time Betty was active in Alpha Chi Omega and other volunteer work and in the late 1960s/early 1970s she returned to school to earn her Master's in Guidance and Degree Counseling. Betty taught Assertiveness Training at the Birmingham Community Center and conducted therapy groups out of her home in the 1970s. In 1992 Betty and Ray bought a condominium in Naples Florida where they enjoyed golf, and Betty enjoyed tennis as well. They loved socializing with their friends and had 20 years of great times in Naples. Betty was a hole-in-one golfer and both she and Ray were avid bridge playeving the rank Master from the ACBL organization. They enjoyed traveling to bridge tournaments as well as traveling to Europe and the Northwest and California to visit their children. Betty learned to downhill ski as an adult, and continued until her mid-70s, enjoying family ski trips with her children and grandchildren. She was an avid investor and loved to read her WSJ everyday. In 2012 Betty and Ray moved to Gainesville, FL where they lived at The Village. Subsequent to Ray's passing in 2012, Betty moved to the Memory Unit at Harbor Chase where she was a beloved resident, always notable for her sweet demeanor and beautiful smile. She enjoyed dancing until near the very end of her life and could not hear music without moving to the beat. Betty is survived by daughter Sherry Bloker, daughter Sue Kelman (Mark), son Ray E Bloker III (Judy), and grandsons Brett Kelman and David Friedlander and granddaughter Lane Kelman. Memorial services will be held on Christmas Eve at the National Cemetery in Bushnell FL, where Betty will be laid to rest with Ray, a distinguished veteran of WWII. In lieu of flowers please send donations in Betty's name to the Alzheimer's Association



at alz.org. Arrangements by For-

est Meadows Funeral Home, Gainesville, FL 352-378-2528



CLARK, JOHN W. 89, slipped away peacefully Monday, November 2, 2015, at his home in Redwood City, California. Born and raised in Detroit, MI, John was a longtime resident of Birmingham and Troy, Ml, retiring to Hilton Head, South Carolina and Sebring, Florida, with summer residency in Desbarats. Ontario, Canada. He recently ter, after his wife of 58 years, daughters, Deborah, and Wesley; and five great-Possessed of a great sense of humor that tended

moved to California to be closer to his daughters and granddaugh-Marjorie, passed away. He is survived by his brother, James; three Rebecca, and Jennifer; three grandchildren, Jeremy, Sophia, grandchildren. more towards silliness than sarcasm, he loved Laurel and Hardy, Mr. Magoo, and Peanuts. Quiet and intense, a man of few words, he was the quintessential do-it-yourself guy. John believed strongly in giving back to the He dedicated community. thousands of volunteer hours to the Troy School District Board of Education, the Troy Parks and Recreation Department, the Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement Hospital, among many others. John served proudly in the U.S Navy during WWII, then, completed his education at the University of Michigan (BSME 1949 & MSE 1950). A mechanical engineer, John held multiple positions at Chevrolet and GM, even working on an early prototype of the electric car in the late 70s/early 80s! Educator, master craftsman and builder, private pilot, prodigious reader, crossword puzzle aficionado. golfer, naturalist, American Civil War buff, card shark, dedicated walker, world traveler, lover of ice cream and life-with profound gratitude and the deepest admiration, respect, and love, fare thee well...dad, grandpa, John. You will be missed. The family will hold a memorial next summer in Desbarats. Suggested



donations to Doctors Without

Borders or the Wounded Warrior



EVANS, ROOSEVELT On November 16, Roosevelt Evans of Detroit, joined his wife

of fifty-three years, Calante Felder-Evans, who preceded him in

death one year and one month prior. An alumni from Northwestern High School, pro ball player and wartime veteran, he was best known as Mr. Evans of Evans Brothers Market, a neighborhood favorite in the 6 mile/Livernois business district for more than three decades. Mr. Evans will be missed by many, especially his children Michael, Jeffery, Dorian and Rhonda. Funeral arrangements will be handled by Swanson's Funeral Home with services to be held at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church on November 23

Photo Mr & Mrs Evans 1994

daughter's wedding. Photo 1951

Roosevelt Evans Northwestern

Yearbook- Spade Recipient.

KEENER, BARRY E. Age 53, of Novi, formerly of Livonia. Passed away November 16, 2015. Share condolences at casterlinefuneralhome.com.



LOEFFLER, GEORGE

Age 96 of Plymouth passed away on November 19, 2015. Beloved husband of the late Elaine. Loving father of Marcia Ridings, Donald (Janice), Lynn (Lynn) Gregg, and Nancy (Robert) Sornson. Proud grandfather of Karen (Brad) Brunner, Allison (Kurt) Thompson, Christopher and Kelly Gregg, Rebecca, Matthew, Alicia and Molly Sornson. Great grandfather of Mark, George and Thomas Brunner, Caroline, Leah and Sydney Thompson. George a graduate of Detroit University, Technical Army Air Corp Veteran and owner of George Loeffler Hardware in Livonia for over 40 years. Funeral Service Sunday 4 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. The family will gather for visitation with friends Sunday 2-4 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Lutheran Church, 25630 Grand River Ave., Redford, MI 48240. To share a

memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

ROWLANDS, MORRIS J. "DUKE"

92 of Cambria Wisconsin, died October 27, 2015 in his home in Palm Harbor, Florida. Duke was born on June 4, 1923, the son of Morris J. and Marjorie Morris Rowlands. He was the greatgreat grandson of one of the first Welsh settlers of Cambria, John R. Rowlands. Duke attended the University of Wisconsin and graduated from the College of Engineering in May of 1945 with honors. Duke started his 37 year career at Ford Motor Company in October 1945, where he met and soon married Pat. Duke's success with Ford kept them moving around the country resulting in 11 transfers between 1952 and 1968. The final move was to Detroit where he finished his career as National Sales Manager for Ford Motor Company Parts and Service Division. Upon retirement he and Pat spent their winters at Innisbrook, Florida and summers in Michigan enjoying Orchard Lake Country Club. This meant year round golf for Duke ... along with some boisterous gin games with friends ... nothing could be better. As a good friend from Ford put it, he was an incredible friend to so many, a valued Ford associate and an inspiration to a very large fan club! His even bigger accomplishment was his devotion and love for his family, particularly his wife, Pat. Throughout his entire life he was an incredibly strong determined man with and great integrity, profound sound judg-ment and a high personal and business moral ethic that inspired all that knew him. Duke was known for his great sense of humor, great wit and ability to light up a room. He was "a character" but he was also 'a man of great character". Duke is survived by his loving wife Pat, his children Marcie (Peter) Hill, Mark (Phyllis) Rowlands, grand children, a great grand daughter, three half sisters Pat Beske, Sue (James) Mohr and Catherine Mitchell, nieces, nephews and other near relatives and very dear friends. Duke is preceded in death by his parents,

sister, Phyllis Williams and brother-in-law Tom Williams,

to The Michael J. Fox Founda-

tion for Parkinson's Research.

Shirley Rowlands. Memorial donations can be made

HEALANT

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR

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New Area Agency on Aging program helps seniors at home

Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

If you're visiting an elderly loved over Thanksgiving weekend, Area Agency on Aging 1-B suggests you keep in mind these "red flags" that may indicate they need help at home.

» Notable changes in person's weight, appearance, odor or other personal grooming

» Abundance of expired/ spoiled foods in the refriger-

» Numerous duplicate food items in the pantry or freezer

» Dead or dying plants and/ or unkempt pets » Nicks, dents, dings and

scratches on the car » Piles of unopened mail

and/or unclaimed newspaper deliveries » Excessive overdue bill

notices in the mail » Neglected lawn care and/ or exterior home maintenance » Cluttered, dirty living

"I think these 10 flags are

» Changes in mood, behavior or personality common indicators that something is changing. These are some things to look out for, said Tina Abbate Marzolf, CEO of Area Agency on Aging-1B. "If you're coming to see mom once or twice a year, you may think mom is fine. This (red flag list) may open your eyes to new information.

She suggests taking the list along as a reminder when visiting an elderly loved one.

'At least know it well enough to know if something is changing at mom's house," she said, adding that it may be time to hire help for the senior citizen at home.

A new program launched in July by the nonprofit AAA 1-B may help address many of those needs. SameAddress, a social enterprise program, offers seniors a range of assistance, including personal care, home safety improvements, medical monitoring, emergency response, transportation, household tasks, help with tax forms and bill paying, estate planning, social visits, meals and more. As a social enterprise, all of its profits are returned to AAA-1B to help senior citizens in financial need.



When gathering for the holidays, take note of any changes in an elderly loved one's health and household.

Under one umbrella

"Our clients are in the private pay sector," said Garry Cole, SameAddress spokesman. "There are a lot of services available to seniors, but the marketplace can be difficult to navigate. SameAddress is a one-source solutions for seniors to stay safe and independent at home."

Cole said seniors or their caregivers can place one call to SameAddress to line up assessments, care plans and the services. The more than 30 services are priced separately and clients select the services they need.

'We have some clients that just need their lawn mowed. It depends on the level of service and type they need."

A senior concierge service is available for \$49.50 monthly. It enables the client to talk with a SameAddress representative 24/7.

Marzolf said AAA-1B has taken more than 600 phone inquiries about the program since it started. It has conducted 95 assessments and is working with 50 clients in their homes.

"Often people will say mom needs to leave home so she can go where she can get everything she needs. Let us give mom that same assistance in her home," Marzolf said. "At Area Agency on Aging we really do work to maintain senior independence and dignity in spite of the aging proc-

She hopes SameAddress will expand to other federally and state-supported Area Agency on Aging programs across the country.

For more information, visit sameaddress.com or call 866-736-4671. Area Agency on Aging 1-B, based in Southfield, services residents, age 60 and over, in Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties.

Seeks volunteers

spaces

Huron Valley Ambulance, a member of Emergent Health Partners, is recruiting for its volunteer team. Individuals can train for a variety of volunteer positions, including emergency medical responder at special events or to assist with community education, awareness programs, or administrative tasks. Volunteers may serve, in Washtenaw, western Wayne or southwest Oakland counties, as well as volunteer at University of Michigan football games and other large events in southeast and south central Michigan. An information meeting is set for 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016, at Emergent Health Partners/Huron Valley Ambulance Headquarters, 1200 State Circle, Ann Arbor. 734-477-6782

Turner Town Project

Jennifer Wakenell of Livonia displays her Turner Town Project, a collection of dollhouses with accompanying story

boards that depict the day-to-day challenges of a girl with Turner syndrome and nonverbal learning disorders, through November at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. The project offers suggestions for dealing with both medical and academic obstacles and aims to raise awareness of the disease, which can impact kidneys, thyroid and cardiac functioning and cause learning disorders. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday. 734-466-2491

Ongoing

Ab-Anon

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, 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.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Amputee support

The Amputee Support Group meets 2-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month in Classroom #1 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital., 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-2837 for more information.

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, lipid panel (\$15) testing, 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 2, in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. 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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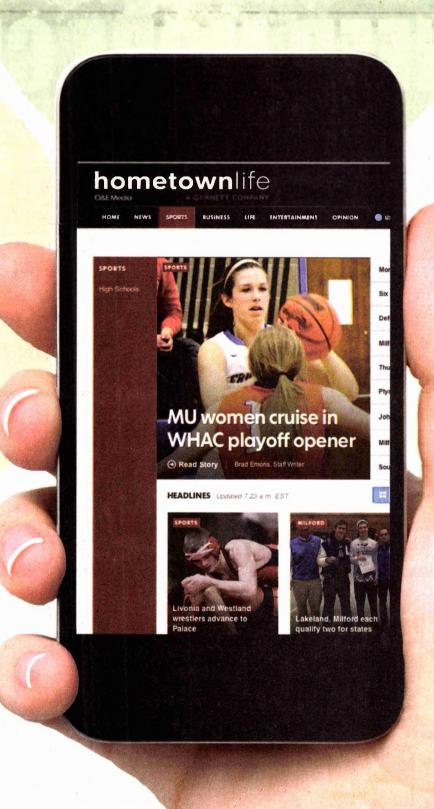
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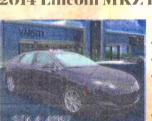
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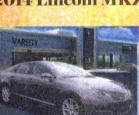
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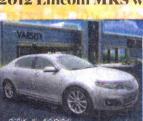
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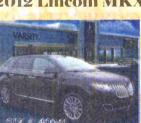
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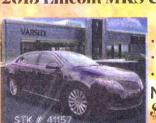
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The key to job interviews: Don't be annoying

BY DEANNA HARTLEY CAREERBUILDER

ailing the job interview is arguably one of the most crucial components of securing a job, yet some job seekers take it more lightly than others. They may appear oblivious to the importance of a good impression and the fact that a seemingly trivial gaffe could sway a hiring manager's decision.

Don't make that mistake. Here are some kinds of applicants who annoy interviewers.

Those who show up late or don't respect the process.

Mike Smith, founder of Sales-Coaching1, says that being late to a job interview is a deal killer. "No excuse is a good one, unless there has been a wreck," he says.

Steven J. Lindner, a partner at the WorkPlace Group, agrees that arriving late is a no-no, but he also recommends that candidates do not arrive more than 30 minutes early.

Preparing for a delay is the best course of action when calculating travel time, says Mari Corella, a director of merchandising in the fashion and beauty industry who has interviewed hundreds of candidates over the course of her career.

"If you're early, find a cafe to calm your mind and give yourself one final check in the mirror. (Then) check in at the reception desk five to 10 minutes prior to your interview time," she recommends.

Once the interview begins, it's irritating when candidates think they're



THINKSTOCK

above basic screening requirements, says Ashlyn Walker, an office administrator at J - I.T. Outsource. "One of the most annoying things about candidates for our IT positions is that they don't want to demonstrate their skills or intelligence," she says. "It's like they think they're above proving that they're smart."

Those who appear to be too casual or informal.

There's a difference between appearing relaxed during a job interview and feeling so at home that your behavior seems sloppy or rude. For instance, chewing gum or eating food is a don't, Lindner says.

A lack of self-awareness can be a huge turnoff for Juli Smith, president

MICHIGAN .

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of the Smith Consulting Group. "Do not check your cellphone during an interview — should I really have to even say this?"

Another red flag: using curse words. It's important to appear professional, and inappropriate language sends the wrong impression, she says.

Those who don't do their homework.

An uninformed applicant — one who hasn't researched the company and its market — translates to a poor applicant, Mike Smith says. "Know the job category when asked about what you are looking for. Don't say, 'Whatever you have open.' It sounds like you are not focused and have not done preparation," he says.

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Also, he says it's a strike against a candidate when he or she does not have questions for the interviewer, because it suggests a lack of prepa-

"If you don't have questions, it gives the sense that you either haven't done research on the company or that you're not interested in the role. Prepare five questions in advance, and also think of questions during the interview that tie back to the conversation," Corella says.

Those who go beyond the scope of the interview or fail to pick up on cues.

Mike Smith advises candidates to stick to discussions related to the job and performance requirements instead of taking up interview time to ask about vacations, sick time, breaks, etc.

In general, hiring is a stressful period for hiring managers, and going over your time with long-winded responses doesn't help, Corella says. "Many are interviewing candidates back to back, in addition to their other duties, (so) show consideration for this by sticking to the allotted time," she says. "If you're going over, ask if they have the time to do so. If they don't and the conversation is going well, offer to come back or continue the conversation over the phone."

Deanna Hartley is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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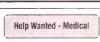
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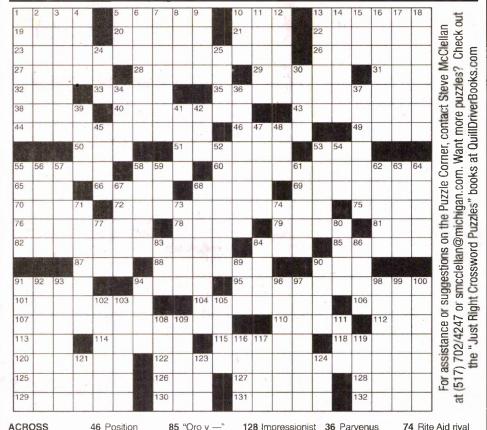
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10 Dems' rival political gp. 13 B flat's equivalent 19 Portent

20 Diarist Nin 21 "No --, ands or buts! 22 Person

ogling 23 Escorted one's rival? 26 Lemon-lime

27 Wipe the slate clean 28 Stand in an art studio 29 Saint -(Caribbean

island)

31 Ending for dull or drunk 32 Border 33 Dress in Goa 35 Weekend time spent

with pals? 38 Luau strings for short 40 Large, red apple variety 43 "Be quiet!"

church

ministers?

the ring 79 — cava Seoul 44 Actors in a

Montana) cyclist

53 Moray, say 55 One-named 90 "flamenco entertainer

60 Cry to comic Sales when he's losing his grip?

49 Ticked (off)

50 "- takers?

drudge's routine 66 See 65-Across

70 "- ask is that ...' 72 Laryngitic pigeon's comment?

76 Sir Walter Scott novel 78 Muhammad and Laila of

81 Soldier of 82 Situation when a fuel gauge is at 50%? film featuring

51 Nasal partition

58 Rowdydow

Across,

84 Balking beast

(motto of 87 Prefix with

88 Got old due

94 1976-81 65 With 66-

68 Army post 110 Tax doc. 69 More audacious whizzes 112 Plains tribe

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Pieces" 118 Loft 120 Speciescrossing 122 Things that a drum-playing

lush has? 125 Like sweethearts 127 Like many

shiny floors

128 Impressionist 129 Seesaw 130 Quit delaying 131 Veil wearer

132 Contradict

3 Dubs

37 Bottom-line

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39 With 57-

41 Old filling

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17 Outline again 18 Chemically colored in advance 24 Actor Studi

25 Exile isle 126 Stooge name 30 Saclike body growth 34 Out of whack 73 Bank safe 74 Rite Aid rival – Solo 80 Lhasa -

83 TV watchdog 84 1998 Sarah Down, map McLachlan sona Stead 89 911 gp. 90 "— -Castation name

42 Beatified Fr. Dabra" (1974 song) 91 Blockbuster del Este, 92 Pain reliever

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94 Try to find "Holy cow!" 96 Big Apple 52 In a fake way cab words 97 Testified bankruptcy under oath old-style

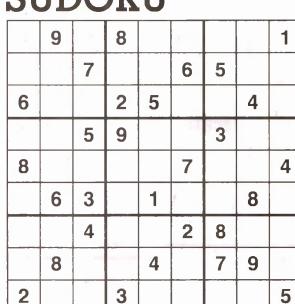
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Down 58 Emeril e.g. 105 Short parody Lagasse's 108 Skin: Prefix 'There's — My Soup!" 109 - committee 111 Religious day 59 Narc hirer

Clarinets' kin of rest: Abbr. 116 41st U.S. 62 "Star Trek" lieutenant pres.
63 Politico Ross 117 Actor Epps 64 California city 119 Frog cousin

on I-5 121 Go to seed 67 Garlic mayo 123 To this 68 Toppled

point 124 34th U.S. pres.



Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the

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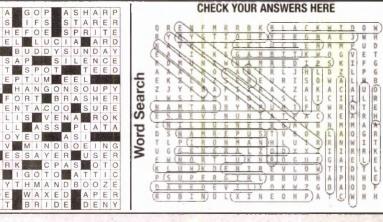
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- Mahatma Gandhi

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Car Report

With New Metris Van, Mercedes-Benz Charges **Into One of America's Hottest Segments**



mid-size SUVs, one of the hottest vehicle segments in the US market is business vans. That's right, the rolling boxes that florists, big

Besides

energy utilities, airport-shuttle services, caterers, industrial-repair services, limo fleets, and weekend craft-show denizens alike use to schlepp their wares and haul their fares where they're doing business.

And last month, Mercedes-Benz became the latest automaker to

personal -- demands.

Its new Metris van, based on a European model and accompanied by a new TV commercial [https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=kUIcrl3wFyk], debuted in the US, at prices starting under

"For the longest time, 30 to 40 years, there were just two or three choices, and vans were just a business tool," Paul Butler, Mercedes-Benz department manager for marketing services for vans, told brandchannel. "What we've seen since the recovery from the recession is that the economy as a whole has seen a big upsurge in small business and a

when it came out two years ago with its Transit Connect van, one that was small enough to be fuelefficient and garageable for most small businesses and yet big and flexible enough to carry the load for the company. It has become a huge sales success for Ford, available both as a cargo and a passenger van, and was followed by the somewhat larger Transit Connect van last year, which also has boosted Ford's fortunes with the business set.

Nissan also came out with a similarly sized NV200 van, and Chevrolet launched its City Express, which is built by Nissan for Chevy. Meanwhile, Ram brought its somewhat larger Pro Master City van to the United States. All of these were based on preceding European versions, and Mercedes-Benz had plenty of those as well, including the larger Sprinter van that already was a success in the US.

"So there was an area of untapped potential kind of sitting between small vans and the big commercial vans that have been around forever," Butler said. "And Metris, which is called Vito in Europe, fits into this white space perfectly. Its payload and big-box space are much closer to a fullsize van" than that of the smaller Transit Connect or NV200.

"Plus what's crucial, and what Metris has, is the ability to carry a 48-inch piece of plywood or sheet rock flat on the floor; we have 49 inches available between the wheel wells of Metris, and none of the



Interior cargo room is hugely important for commercial vans

smaller vans have that."

Butler said that the Metris Goldilocks size means it also can draw from large-van owners who never wanted to buy such a big vehicle. "They didn't necessarily need large vans, but they didn't have a choice because there was nothing else available," he said. "Metris is a no-compromise van that, for instance, fits in parking garages, and large vans don't. It also offers the urban maneuverability that large commercial vans don't."

Metris's relevance to American audiences is boosted by a TV commercial [https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=kUIcrl3wFyk] for launch, which displays the versatility of Metris to carry cargo, people, tools and goods, and endless combinations thereof, in a series of rapid-fire images that show "Smallability. Bigability. Towingability. Storingability. Rackability. HVACability. Cupcakeability.

Entourageability. Garageability." And "Affordability." The tag line is, "Mercedes-Benz vans. Born to

Mercedes-Benz also is giving Metris social-media treatment and product placement, such as when Todd Carmichael, host of Dangerous Grounds on the Travel Channel, used Metris as his platform for a day in the life of his coffee-bean empire in Philadelphia.

Also, the German luxury brand took the occasion right before the nameplate's official launch to leverage its long-time sponsorship of the US Open tennis tournament in New York City. And in a guerrilla tour, Mercedes-Benz put Metris inside a glass-sided trailer, hauled by a larger Sprint van, that made nine stops at major markets around the Eastern US, ranging from a home Washington Redskins game to a University of Florida college-football game to a Chicago Bears home game.

The 2016 Mercedes-Benz Metris van

recognize that there's money to be made in this quickly growing segment that leverages both the growth of the US economy and the business recovery in general, and the incessant demand by new types of businesses for new types of vehicles that meet their entrepreneurial -- and, sometimes,

change in their thought process -- an openness to look at the whole landscape from a customer standpoint and choose the vehicle that best fits their needs, rather than buying the same vehicle they've always bought.'

Arguably, Ford kicked off the new frothiness in this segment

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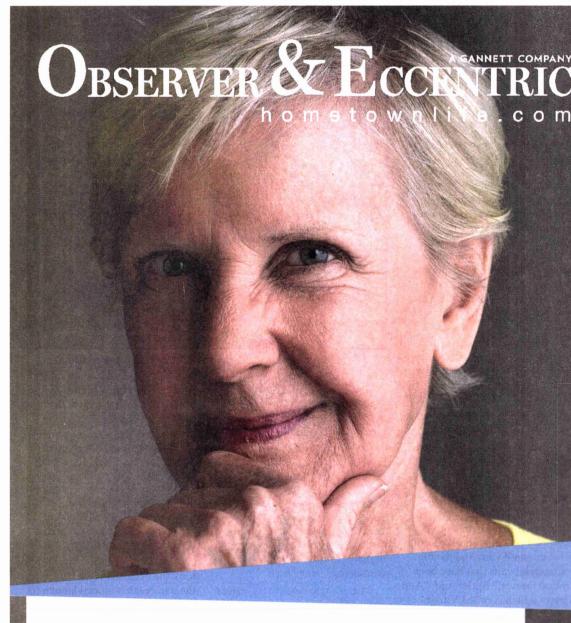


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