

Ice Festival gliding into Plymouth

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

With new features and a new major sponsor, the Plymouth Ice Festival re-

turns for its 2016 edition beginning Friday, Jan. 8.

The three-day festival — the 34th annual — in Kellogg Park and nearby downtown streets will feature more than 100 ice sculptures, interactive features like a playscape and cross country skiing, plus live entertainment and chances to help the larger community.

The festival, inspired by a similar event in Japan, is billed as the oldest continually operating ice festival in

America. Begun to draw people downtown, especially during the post-holiday lull, the festival has evolved into a celebration that's one of the city's signature

"The most impressive thing about Plymouth is the longevity," veteran sculptor Aaron Costic said. "There are very few festivals of any kind that go 30 years.'

"It really has turned from just bringing people downtown to part of what makes the community so unique," said organizer James Gietzen of JAG Entertainment.

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A fire and ice tower lights up the sky at Kellogg Park during last year's Plymouth Ice Festival. This year's event, the 34th annual, begins Friday, Jan. 8.

In the Tournament of Roses



Plymouth-Canton Marching Band members have a blast at the famed farmers market.

Marching band begins five-mile procession at 8 a.m. New Year's Day

Joanne Maliszewski Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Marching Band members - approximately 176 of them - and families had a bumpy flight Sunday, but arrived in California to sun and warmer weather as they prepare to perform Thursday in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

"They already had a tour of Hollywood and the Hollywood Bowl and were going to the farmers market," Chris Zygmunt, president of the marching band boosters club, said Monday. The farmers market is famous for the potential of seeing movie

"It was a long day (Sunday)," he added. "They had to get up at 3 a.m.

But (Monday) has been easier." Band and booster members and parents have raised funds since the award-winning band was invited to perform in the Tournament of Roses Parade earlier this year. In the end, about \$100,000 was raised to help defray the approximate \$500,000 cost of sending band members and equipment to Pasadena. The equipment was hauled by truck to Pasadena.

When the 126th Tournament of Ros-



KRISTAN RODWELL The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band readies Sunday for a takeoff to California.

es Parade begins at 8 a.m. (PST) New Year's Day, the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band will be in the 34th place in the procession. Band members are gearing up for the five-mile

"No one is sugar coating this," Zygmunt said about the length of the walk. "But they changed the marching style to accommodate the walk.'

After their arrival in California Sunday, band members practiced and then were off to see the sights, including the Santa Monica Pier. "The kids are in good spirits," Zygmunt

The marching band was scheduled to participate Wednesday in a competitive band festival. The plan was also to perform at Disneyland.

The Tournament of Roses Parade this year sports the theme "Find Your Adventure." So the band will perform the theme of the Back to the Future film, just as the parade makes a turn and heads toward the TV cameras. Back to the Future will also be in the band's performance at Disneyland. But it will perform its 2015 show, "E.X.O.," described as a musical journey into alien worlds, during the band

The band will also perform America the Beautiful during the parade.

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Developer lived the **American** Dream

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Marcello Scappaticci, an immigrant from Italy who personified the American Dream while developing residential and commercial projects in western Wayne County over a long career, died Saturday at the age of 80.

Mr. Scappaticci, who lived in Plymouth Township, founded what is now known as S&S Services Management Co., which owns and manages apartment, office and retail properties.

"This is the vision of the American Dream," Scappaticci said a daughter, Diana Scappaticci. "He came here at 16 with

\$300 in his pocket."

It was 1951, according to a company history on the S&S website, and young Marcello arrived with the money his mother had borrowed. He started out Detroit in the cement business, family

members said, and moved on to build-

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Fran Loiselle, 70, touched many with music

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Frances Loiselle, who touched thousands of lives with her love of music and an ever-present smile, died Dec. 19 following a long illness. She was 70.

Mrs. Loiselle, who was called Fran, was the wife of Ron Loiselle, a longtime Plymouth City Commission member, for 47 years.

She taught music for many years, beginning in Fort Knox, Ky., when her husband was in the U.S. Army, and later at the Warren Consolidated Schools and then at the

Mrs. Loiselle

Wayne-Westland Community Schools, from which she retired eight years ago.

Mrs. Loiselle also was active in music at her church, Plymouth First United Methodist, where she sang, directed

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FESTIVAL

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"With tens of thousands of people attending the ice festival, it certainly has become one of the biggest and most anticipated events of the year," said Tony Bruscato, director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority

Costic, of Broadview Heights, Ohio, is owner of Elegant Ice Creations. He has carved at the Plymouth festival off and on since 1990, competed as both an amateur and professional carver and for the past few years has done a lot of the major carving that's showcased at the festival.

This time, Costic and his crew will be creating an ice playscape, with nine different activities, sponsored by Kroger.

Skiing and more

The playscape, plus the returning Lou LaRiche Chevrolet "ice throne" and the cross country skiing course, sponsored by Sun & Snow Sports and Blue Care Network, will be among the festival's interactive features.

"We're hoping for some snow so we can make it (the trail) a little bit bigger, but if there's is no snow, we'll start



Sculptor Aaron Whitten with one of his works at the 2012 ice

making it," Gietzen said. For this festival, Gietzen picked up a major sponsor, Ford Motor Co., which will have the show's largest sculpture,

with Ford's GT sports car

as its theme.

In addition, the company will give festivalgoers the opportunity make a donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank via a text message and have the Ford Motor Co. Fund



Ice sculptures are typically on view around the clock during the festival, weather permitting.



Cameras are must-haves for festival-goers, for photographing memorable sculptures as well as for taking "selfies" on some of the interactive sculptures, such as the "ice throne." The 2016 festival begins Friday, Jan 8.

match each donation. Festival favorites returning for 2016 at Kellogg Park include the opening ceremony, 7 p.m. Jan. 8; collegiate icecarving, Jan. 9-10 (winners announced at 1 p.m.

both days), with students from Henry Ford Community College, Oakland Community College, the University of Michigan and the Art Institute of Michigan competing; the dueling chainsaws competition at 7 p.m. Jan. 9; the fire and ice towers, which will be lighted at approximately 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8-9; and the Hot Spot warming station, at The Gathering, across from the park, with area vendors, product demonstrations and a sitting area, during all festival hours. There will be about 50

ice sculptures in Kellogg Park and more than 100 total in the park and in front of downtown businesses, Gietzen said.

Gietzen, who is producing his third festival but has been involved with it since the 2010 event, said sponsorships are picking up and a rebuilding effort is paying off.

'We're trying to rebuild the festival and put it in a good direction so it can continue to grow," he said. "I think we're setting ourselves up for some really awesome stuff.'

The 2016 Plymouth Ice Festival Hours are 3-10 p.m. Friday, Jan 8; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10. Sculptures will be on display around the clock weather permitting.

For more information and an expanded listing of festival events, go to plymouthicefestival.com.

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SCAPPATICCI

Continued from Page A1

ing garages and home additions and then to larger projects, such as the Carriage House Apartments, the Atrium office building and Suburban Cadillac of Plymouth (formerly Don Massey Cadillac).

Early on, Mr. Scappaticci was able to bring over family members from Italy, including a brother, Silvio, who joined his business.

Diana Scappaticci said her father "knew everybody" and treated everyone with respect, from public officials to the clerk at the building department. He was community minded, she said, and saw himself as playing a role in improving the community.

"He had a vision of seeing what a piece of land needed, what the community needed, what the town needed," she said.

Some of his projects involved restoring local treasures, such as work on the Wilcox House in Plymouth and a one-room schoolhouse in Westland. "He was very giving to

the community," Diana Scappaticci said.

Generous spirit

A niece, Gina Scappaticci, said her uncle was "generous to a fault" and liked to reach out to those in need.

She recalled that when someone once asked Mr. Scappaticci for 20 cents to make a call from a pay phone, he handed over \$20 in change, emptying his pockets. He liked to treat people, she said, whether it was buying coffee or picking up the tab for someone he happened to meet while out for breakfast.

Mr. Scappaticci never retired, Gina Scappaticci said, and had a strong work ethic.

"He was one of those that worked all the time. Work was his pleasure," she said. "He never vacationed."

Mr. Scappaticci recently celebrated his 80th birthday, Diana Scappaticci said, but insisted the large party was for anyone there who had marked a milestone in 2015.

"That's how he was," she said. "It wasn't just

Mr. Scappaticci is also survived by his wife of

59 years, Nancy; by son Marco Scappaticci and his wife Helena; by daughter Lori Scappaticci; and by daughter Linda Zorney and her husband Peter. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and by brother Silvio and his wife Georgia.

He was preceded in death by a son, Carlo Scappaticci.

Visitation began Monday and will continue 1-9 p.m. Tuesday at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road. A rosary will be said at the funeral

home at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 North Territorial. Visitors can call at the church beginning at 9 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made the the Marcello Scappaticci Family in care of Nancy Scappaticci. The money will be distributed to various charities.

Entombment will be at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi, at 11 a.m. Thursday.

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the children's choir and four different hand bell ensemble and sang with

Loiselle said he knew Fran while they attended Detroit's Cooley High School and that they became friends while studying at Wayne State University long before

they started dating.
"We didn't date very long. ... That's probably why the marriage was so

"We didn't date very long. ... That's probably why the marriage was so good, because we were friends." **RON LOISELLE**

husband of the late

friends," Loiselle said. "She was my best friend," he added later. "She always had a smile."

Their careers — Ron Loiselle was a stockbroker and accountant their community involvement, she in music and he in local government (he was a 28-year city commission member)

and their three sons kept them busy, but the Loiselles began traveling more extensively after Fran was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease a few years ago.

was fortun had a lot of time with her," Loiselle said. He recalled two spe-

cial trips, one to New Zealand, where they were treated to a champagne reception in the city of New Plymouth, and another to Antarctica, where they got to see penguins in their natural habitat and once shared a beach with more than a million of them.

Fran Loiselle was drawn to penguins; people have been giving the couple figurines of them for years, Ron Loiselle said.

"We have literally hundreds of penguins in our house," he said. Loiselle said that com-

munity support since his wife's death has been "awesome," with several former city commission colleagues taking key roles.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Loiselle is 🥻 survived by son Lance and his wife Anna; son Jason and his wife Stephanie; and son Zachary and his wife Susann; and by three grandchildren, Evan, Miles and Josiah.

A memorial service is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday at Plymouth First **United Methodist** Church, 452091 North Territorial. Friends may visit beginning at 2 p.m. and a musical celebration is set to begin at 2:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Fran Loiselle Music Scholarship Fund. Make checks payable to Plymouth First United Methodist Church and note the scholarship fund on the memo line.

Contributions can also be made online at http://www.pfumc.org/.

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LOISELLE

Continued from Page A1

hand bells with a local the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

"Her life was dedicated to music," Ron Loiselle said Monday.

good, because we were

CORRECTION

Schoolcraft men's hockey coach Rob Lindsay never was hockey coach at Trenton High School, as noted in an article in the Thursday, Dec. 24, Ob-

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server. He is a teacher at Trenton. The longtime

Trenton coach was Bob Turner.

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SHARING THE JOY

Little Stars spread holiday cheer to seniors

Before Christmas ·2006, three siblings -Amy, 13, Alan, 8, and Anna Sun, 5 — from Canton walked into a nursing home, the Four Season Nursing Center in Westland, for the first time to perform violin music for the seniors.

They noticed that most seniors were in wheelchairs and could not move easily without help. Many of them were waiting in the hallway next to their room, hoping someone would visit them. The Sun siblings realized that the holidays are not just about families feeling joyful and exchanging gifts, but they are also about sharing and caring for others, including those who are less fortu-

A year later, the siblings founded the Little Stars and they've invited friends to visit local nursing homes and senior centers with free concerts ever since.

'While many lucky children and their relatives think of the holidays as a warm, happy time, countless others around the world are struggling to cope with illness, loneliness or

other serious difficulties," said Alan Sun, director of the Little Stars Foundation.

This year marked their 10th year to visit the seniors. This year before Christmas, the group visited six nursing homes and senior centers and performed seven holiday concerts. Centers visited included Hope Health Care Center in Westland, Four Season Nursing Center in Westland, Waltonwood at Carriage Park Assisted Living in Canton, Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent Living in Canton, Halsted Place Senior Residences in Farmington Hills and Fleischman Resident in West Bloomfield.

They raised the funds through fundraiser activities and brought fleece blankets and fuzzy socks to the seniors as this year's Christmas gifts.

"The Little Stars' visits continue to bring joy to hundreds of local seniors during this holiday season," Sun said. "Many residents have expressed their wishes for the young musicians to come back soon.'



Anna Sun and other Little Stars distributed red fleece blankets to seniors at Four Season Nursing Center in Westland.



Alan Sun and Little Stars distributed fuzzy socks at Waltonwood at Carriage Park Assisted Living in Canton.



Little Stars with seniors at Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent Living in Canton.



California at last! Plymouth-Canton Marching Band members on the beach in Santa Monica.

KRISTAN RODWELL

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band practices at Veterans Memorial Stadium

BAND

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As of Monday, Zygmunt said, everything was going smoothly although some parents who were traveling to Pasadena had their flights canceled Sunday because of the weather. Unfortunately, not all of the band's members are able to participate because of the costs. The

average cost for each person is \$2,200. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district does not financially support the marching band's involvement in the Tournament of Roses Parade. But while there, the

students and families are making a vacation of it. seeing the sights of the Los Angeles area, including Universal Studios, the famed Rodeo Drive shopping area, Beverly Hills and Bel-Air, as well as a feast at Medieval Times, dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe, a dinner/dance cruise on



The clarinetists march at Veterans Memorial Stadium as they practice the show "E.X.O." for the festival at Pasadena City College Stadium.

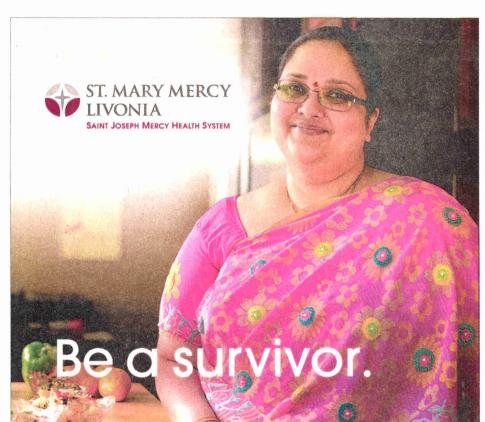
the Pacific Ocean and, finally, a New Year's Eve

party. And New Year's Day, the temperature in Pasadena is expected to be 70 degrees.

The band's performance of "E.X.O." in November earned the musicians top scores as Flight I state champions at the Michigan Competing Band Association

competition at Ford Field in Detroit. With a score of 94.975, the band also swept the special awards: **Outstanding Musical** Performance, Outstanding Visual Performance and Outstanding General Effect.

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Praveena

Praveena Vellanki sensed something was wrong but she didn't say anything - it was too difficult to open up about such a private matter. She held in her fears and silently worried. In time, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and quickly began treatment at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. Four years later, after eight cycles of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation - a treatment plan spanning 16 months - Praveena is cancer-free. She is once again volunteering at her Temple and cooking for family and friends. She credits the care team who stood by her during her toughest days.

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OBSERVER &

HOMETOWN

Three-car crash sends woman to hospital

Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Canton police are investigating a three-vehicle accident that occurred Sunday evening on Beck Road, north of Michigan Avenue, sending a Canton woman to the hospital and snarling traffic near the

crash scene. Police say a 52-year-old Canton man driving northbound on Beck in a Ford F-150 pickup truck crossed the center line and struck two southbound vehicles head-on.

A 43-year-old Canton woman driving a 2014 Chrysler Town & Country was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, but police Lt. Pat Sullivan issued a statement saying her injuries didn't appear to be life-threatening. Police reported no other injuries and said the other

southbound vehicle was a 2006 GMC Yukon driven by a 34year-old New Boston woman.

Police are investigating whether the driver of the Ford F-150 may have been experiencing a medical condition when the accident occurred.

"We're waiting for the hos-

pital to help us out with that," police Sgt. Joseph Bialy said.

Sullivan's statement also said police are investigating whether distracted driving may have been a factor in the crash.

Police say speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the crash.

The Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team was called in to investigate the crash.

"It's still under investigation," Bialy said.

Police haven't released the

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

names of the drivers.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Woman fakes claim of robbery outside Walmart

A 41-year-old woman who claimed she was robbed at gunpoint outside a Canton retail store has admitted she lied, a police report said.

The 41-year-old Westland woman confessed she was actually robbed of \$600 on Detroit's east side after going someplace she shouldn't have gone. She said she made up the lie because her brother was questioning her.

Canton police went to the Walmart store on Ford Road, near Lotz, after receiving a call about 6:30 a.m. Dec. 22 that a woman supposedly had been robbed in the parking lot. She initially claimed she was in her car when a white male tapped on her window, pointed a handgun at her, demanded money and fled on foot.

She even went so far as to tell police she urinated in her car because she was so fright-

She reported the incident to Walmart and called police, who reviewed surveillance video and saw no robbery in the parking lot - a move that led to the woman's confession.

It wasn't immediately known whether she would face charges for filing a false police

House party busted

Canton police broke up a loud house party hosted by a teen who was celebrating his 18th birthday while his parents were away, a police report said.

Police went to the 41800 block of Larimore, near Haggerty and Cherry Hill, after receiving reports of a loud party about 12:30 a.m. Sunday. Police detected the odor of marijuana when arriving.

Party-goers fled in all directions, the police report said, but one young woman invited officers inside and said she would try to find the teen who was having the party. Police saw numerous bottles of alcohol and containers of suspected marijuana.

The party host had left momentarily, but returned to find police there. He said he had invited a few friends and said they, in turn, invited others he didn't know. He was cited for causing a disturbance by having an open house party. Another male, 17, was ticketed for obstructing police because he had refused to cooperate during the investigation.

Shed break-in

An intruder broke into a construction-site storage shed on Lotz Road, north of Cherry Hill, and stole two trash pumps.

The incident happened sometime between 10 a.m. Dec. 18 and 1:20 p.m. Dec. 22.

The construction company notified police that someone had broken a lock to access the storage shed. Police found the door jamb had been pried open and they saw muddy footprints inside the shed.

Car vandalism

A 56-year-old Canton man notified police after someone poked two holes in the rear window of his 2013 Chevrolet Malibu, leaving shards of glass in the back seat.

The man told police he awoke after hearing a loud noise about 4:15 a.m. Dec. 23 and realized the damage had been done outside his residence in the 6690 block of Helmsford Court, near Ridge and Hanford. He heard a vehicle speeding away.

The man said he had heard what appeared to be two teens laughing before the car sped away.

Disorderly arrest

Police arrested a 43-yearold Canton man following a domestic dispute that ended with him walking in the street on Terrell Court, near Lilley and Saltz.

Police went to the residence about 9:30 p.m. Dec. 27 after the man's mother called to report a domestic dispute after the man drank too much vodka and became upset, a police report said.

Police left after the man calmed down but received another call 45 minutes later that the man had gone outside and was walking in the middle of Terrell Court, wearing dark clothing at night. He was arrested for disorderly conduct.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Shoplifting suspect had plenty of cash

A 31-year-old woman was arrested Dec. 23 after admitting she had stolen about \$82 worth of merchandise from the Kroger supermarket at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon.

The items taken included candles, Gummy Bears and fabric softener and the suspect told a responding officer she didn't know why she had taken the merchandise, as she had about \$250 in cash with her, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

Police were alerted shortly after 5 p.m. A store security guard reported that he had seen a woman strolling the aisles and putting merchandise in a purse, the police report said. Then, the guard told police, the woman went into a restroom and emerged with a Kroger bag of merchandise that she was not carrying when she went in.

The woman walked past the checkout lines without paying the guard confronted her, he told police.

Party goods

In an earlier shoplifting at Kroger on the same day, a woman exited the store with about \$205 worth of merchandise - including vodka, beer and Pepsi - for which she hadn't paid, a police report said. A security guard con-

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website?

fronted her outside.

The guard told police he had seen the woman put the drinks into a cart, along with packages of chocolates, a throw blanket and a pet bed, and push it past the checkout counters and leave the store. The incident occurred shortly before 3 p.m.

Minor in possession

A 19-year-old man was cited for being a minor in possession of alcohol Saturday night after admitting to a police officer that he had been drinking.

The man was a passenger in a Ford Explorer driven by another 19-year-old man, who had been pulled over by the officer after making an illegal left turn at Schoolcraft Road and Haggerty, a police report

The officer pulled the driver over near Haggerty and Concept Drive, the report said, and smelled alcohol upon speaking to him. The driver denied that he had been drinking, but the passenger spoke up and said that he had, police

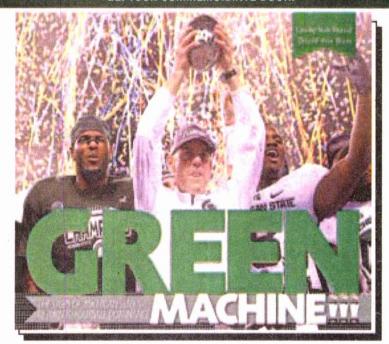
A preliminary breath test showed the teen had a bloodalcohol content of 0.14 percent, police said. The driver, however, had a suspended license and was cited for that, police

The parents of one of the teens were able to pick up both of them, police said.

- By Matt Jachman

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Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey (with scissors) was a frequent ribbon-cutter for grand-opening ceremonies. Here he's cutting the ribbon that officially puts the Awery bakery back in business. Also on hand were (from left) city council member Brandon Kritzman, bakery business partner Ron Beebe and business partner Jim McColgan.

Outgoing Mayor Jack Kirksey reflects on long public service career

David Veselenak Staff Writer

ivonia Mayor Jack Kirksey always seems to be able to find the humor in most situations.

Be it a grand opening of la Livonia business, a city council meeting or the annual State of the City address, Kirksey's humor is one aspect most Livonians

can recognize. 'I think if you can interlace it, salt in a little humor, people seem to enjoy it," said Kirksey, 87.
"When I do the State of the City or whatever it is, I try to put some

Kirksey, the city's mayor for 16 of the last 20 years, will have more terial beginning this week: His time as mayor wraps up Thursday. the last day of his most recent fouryear term. He'll vacate the mayor's office in city hall this week for city Treasurer Dennis Wright, who won the mayor's race earlier this fall.

Even if he could have run again the city charter doesn't allow for mayors to serve a third consecutive term — Kirksey said he wouldn't have been out campaign-

ing for another four years. 'Even if there hadn't been term limits at this end of the last two four-year (terms), I would be leaving. I have no plans to come back,' he said. "I thought 16 years was a good amount of time to do the job

as best you could.' And it doesn't only wrap up his time as mayor, but as a Livonia public servant. Kirksev and his wife Patt moved to their current Livonia home more than 50 years ago. During that time, he's served in a plethora of positions, including director of probation at the 16th District Court, an elementary school principal, a state representative in Lansing and a trustee at Schoolcraft College. He also served in the U.S. Air Force, both

in active duty and as a reservist. Kirksey grew up on Detroit's east side and attended Wayne State University, where he met his nowwife of more than 60 years. He said his leadership style developed at an early age, after he began working as an aquatics director at the YMCA and as a lifeguard on Belle

Isle during the summer. He said when the island used to house docks for swimming, he and other lifeguards would have dozens of rescues during the summer because of the strong current of the Detroit River.

The time at Belle Isle probably had the greatest influence in terms of giving me experience in how to manage personnel and how to manage logistics and crowd control," he said. "I did that for eight sum-

That wide range of experience comes through during typical days in city hall, said Dave Varga, director of administrative services who works closely with Kirksey. Varga began working in the mayor's office in his first term back and has seen Kirksey face several challenges, bringing a unique take on

LIVONIA'S MAYORS

Jesse Ziegler, 1950-54 Elbert M. Hartom, 1954-56 William W. Brashear, 1956-61 Harvey W. Moelke, 1962-70 Edward H. McNamara, 1970-86 Robert McCann, 1986-87 Robert D. Bennett, 1988-95 Jack E. Kirksey, 1996-2003 Jack Engebretson, 2004-07 Jack E. Kirksey, 2008-15 *Dennis Wright, 2016-*Will take office Friday



Mayor Jack Kirksey got some help from the kids from Jackson Center in opening his annual State of the City address one year.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Jack Kirksey has put in a lot of miles campaigning through the streets of

Livonia in his long career.

them.

"He brings a perspective from so many different walks of life and careers," Varga said. "It's been an education, because there are things I would look at from one perspective. He's got so many years of experience to fall back on.'

Family influence

One of the most influential people in Kirksey's life was his brother, Robert Kirksey, a vice admiral who served in the U.S. Navy for more than 30 years. The two were extremely close, even trying to coordinate leave so they could marry their fiances at the same ceremony, a plan that didn't work out, Kirksey said. They would fly together and Kirksey would go out and visit him at various locations, including the Pentagon, where his brother's office was later in his military career.

He still talks fondly of the stories the two of them shared, including several times he and his family would visit his brother aboard the ships Robert was on. Kirksey recalled traveling to Pearl Harbor to meet with his brother and ride back on the USS Kitty Hawk, the carrier his brother was commanding at the time.

"That was a great adventure," Kirksey said. "I had great admiration for him.'

Robert died in 2006 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. A plaque bearing Robert Kirksey's picture hung in Kirksey's office on the back wall.

Family has been key to Kirksey's life. After retiring, he and Patt plan on traveling west to visit their sons and their families, who live in Colorado and Utah. He anticipates there will be some home improvement projects he'll help



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER U.S. Army Col. Miles Davis and Mayor Jack Kirksey place a wreath at the memorial in Nehasil Park, which Kirksey helped get built as a monument to first responders

them with on the first trip there post-retirement: Kirksey has spent a great deal of his free time working on his family's and his children's homes over the years.

"There could be," he joked. "I don't want to suggest anything to them.

And after all those years of hard work and many days and nights away from home, spending more time with his wife is on the top of his list.

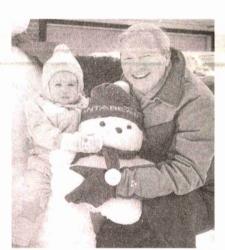
"I obviously do everything a husband is supposed to do. It's hard for people to believe," he said. "We still have a good laugh at the dinner table, just the two of us.'

'Hard to fill his shoes'

Lots has changed in Livonia since Kirksey was first elected as mayor in 1995. Since then, the city has taken down two malls and built large shopping centers in their place, I-96 has been reconstructed, the Middlebelt corridor has transformed into a major retail destination. Nehasil Park was built to honor the city's fallen first responders and the Livonia Community Recreation Center was built on the site of the former Bentley High School.

That rec center will soon bear his name, as the Livonia City Council recently approved a name change for the building in honor of the work Kirksey has done. He shared a story after it was built of a woman who approached him and his wife at the rec center after it

was built. "She said, 'You know, when you were getting ready and doing the big push to get the rec center started, I voted against it,' she said. I thought, 'Here comes the lecture," he said. "She said, 'You were right and I was wrong.' I thought it was like a magic moment.'



Jack and Patt Kirksey have raised their children, grandchildren and even a great-grandson in Livonia.

Having that knowledge of what to do, sometimes in a pinch, will be one of the qualities former city Councilman Jim McCann said will be missed about Kirksey.

McCann, a longtime friend of Kirksev's, referenced the development along Middlebelt south of Schoolcraft, which has boomed in the last two years. He said the addition of Menards catalyzed the development in that whole area and it was something that came together quick. Menards originally planned on coming to Canton, but decided to meet with Livonia that day. Shortly after, a deal was struck to bring Menards to Livonia.

That happened in four hours," he said. "That's the dynamic part of Jack that's going to be hard to fill his shoes.

The drive to try to do projects that the community backs has been something, Kirksey said, he's kept in the forefront. He's proud of his city and plans on staying in town after retirement, though just as a regular citizen.

He said it's important to respect what the community desires, something that shows through the city's

low tax rate. "I think if you say to the citizens, 'Here's how it will change your life, here's what you get when you put your dollars on the table' and that promise is fulfilled, it's a system that works extremely well," he said

"I truly love Livonia. I'm very proud of this city."

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BUSINESS

JOANNE MALISZEWSKI, EDITOR

JMALISZEW@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 248-396-6620 TWITTER: @JMALISZEWS

Berkshire Hathaway enters Plymouth market

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices has entered the Plymouth real estate market.

With real estate offices in 45 communities across Michigan and northern Indiana, Steve Fase, broker owner and CEO, has had his eye on entering Plymouth for some time.

"Since we had our first opportunity to develop our company in eastern Michigan, we've looked for the right time and opportunity to join the Plymouth community," Fase said. "We are in great cities across Michigan; of course we would want to be in Plymouth. It's one of the best cities in the area. It's dynamic, growing and fits perfectly with the Berkshire Hathaway brand."

Finding the right leadership in John Janosik and Harry Lee, longtime Plymouth real estate leaders, the company had its ribbon-cutting Dec. 9 at the new location at 843 Penniman

Built by Warren Buffet, the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices brokerage network is among the few organizations

entrusted to use the world-renowned Berkshire Hathaway name. With its reputation, leadership and financial strength, it brings a new level of professionalism to real estate.

"The Berkshire Hathaway name stands for financial prowess and is respected worldwide," Fase said. "We believe our clients and sales professionals will be proud to represent this revolutionary brand in Plymouth."

Coming to Plymouth is an opportunity to bring a new level of quality and innovation to real estate, explained Janosik, who is spearheading the office opening in the communi-

Janosik has lived and worked in the Plymouth community for more than 10 years and is excited for the opportunity Berkshire Hathaway will offer. When he joined the organization, it was with the intent to bring a strong and growing real estate company to Plymouth and provide superior real estate services to all of the surrounding southeast communities.

"Berkshire Hathaway



Berkshire Hathaway officials and employees hosted a ribbon-cutting on their offices on Penniman in early December.

is a brand like no other. In terms of name recognition and value, people recognize the brand and trust it. It's a matter of trust in real estate and who you choose to handle one of the most valuable assets of your portfolio is crucially important," Janosik said.

"We are excited to be

growing into Plymouth. The downtown embodies the essence of a model community and, in the real estate industry, this creates continuous demand," he added. "The coveted downtown lifestyle is highly valued. It's not uncommon to see bidding wars for many properties that get list-

ed." For properties priced right the first time, multiple offers scenarios are frequent and the properties can sell for over asking price shortly after hitting the market.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Michigan Real Estate has invested significantly to equip its agents with cutting edge technology to distinguish themselves in the industry statewide, Fase said.

'We've seen growth in the markets all over Michigan and Indiana where we're located, but the growth and vitality of the southeast Michigan area certainly got our attention," he said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Earns certified status

Daniel Dumas of of AspenTech Consulting Group in Plymouth has earned the Act! Certified Consultant status. This achievement for Dumas will offer the opportunity to apply his knowledge of Act! CRM system applications to better serve his clientele.

Dumas has been a member of the Aspen-Tech team since April 2015. Prior to working with AspenTech, Dumas supported electronic medical records and automotive estimating software. He has always enjoyed helping others to achieve their goals.

Aspen tech, founded in 1994, provides resultsdriven CRM solutions for small to medium sized businesses.

Recognized

Mike Tabaka of B&F Auto Supply at 1100 Starkweather, Plymouth, is a member of the Michigan Automotive Parts Association and has been a member of MAPA's Board of Directors for the past seven years. He received spe-

cial recognition for his outstanding service during MAPA's board of director's quarterly meeting Dec. 8 in Mt. Pleasant.

Opening soon

Dance New York is opening on Forest Avenue in Plymouth within the next month.

The two dancers who will teach ballroom dancing are Clive and Suzanne Phillips. Clive has competed against and knows the pro dancers on Dancing with the Stars and still travels to New York to teach highend clients. Suzanne has her own qualifications. For more information, go to http://www. dancenewyork.com/ About_Us.ntm.

Author at Barnes & Noble

Rebecca Lund Belliston is the bestselling author of the Citizens of Logan Pond dystopian trilogy and the LDS romantic suspense novels, Sadie and Augusti-

She and her husband live in Michigan with their five kids.

Belliston visits Barnes & Noble at 2 p.m.

SEND US YOUR BUSINESS NEWS

The Observer accepts news items for our Business Briefs column. Email information to editor Joanne Maliszewski at jmaliszews@hometownlife.com. Include contact information. Photos are welcome.

Saturday, Feb. 6, for a discussion and signing. Books will be available at the store prior to the event.

Leases signed

Principal Tony Schmitt, Vice President Adam Goodman and Sales Associate Karen Mullane of Mid-America represented the landlord. Canton Corners LLC, in the signing of two leases in Canton Corners shopping center, at the northwest corner of Ford and Lilley roads in Canton.

2,600-square-foot lease, represented by Schmitt, Principal Jack Uhazie and Associate Broker Susan Acciaioli of Mid-America. Chipotle signed a 2,309-squarefoot lease, represented by Schmitt.

Visionworks signed a

Canton man earns ARCA Racing Series award

When Canton resident Dave Dixon was forming his passion for auto racing, it was Formula One cars that got him excited. How times have changed. Dixon, winner of the Spirit Award recently at the annual AR-CA Racing Series postseason banquet, is now a major fan of stock car racing, too.

When I came to this country, I didn't know much about stock car racing," Dixon said after accepting the honor. "I was a Formula One guy. But I've grown a complete lust for it, quite frankly. It's awesome to go to a short track and see you guys banging on each other, coming home and bringing great victories and great stories to

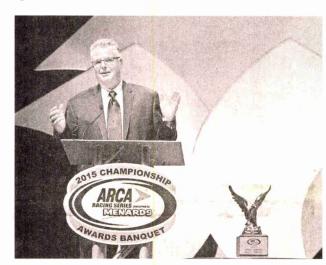
"All I can say is please keep it up. Ilmor will be providing engines and we will do the best we can always.

Dixon, who is retiring at the end of the year, is director of assembly operations at Ilmor Engineering Inc. in Plymouth. He joined the company 17 years ago and has played a role in all sorts of engine building, from NASCAR to IndyCar to off-shore power boat racing. He has been a major part of the ARCA Ilmor 396, the engine that debuted in the ARCA Racing Series a year ago.

"It's been a wonderful ride," Dixon said of his time at Ilmor.

Jeff Brehmer, ARCA's executive vice President and chief financial officer, presented Dixon with the Spirit Award, one of two surprise awards handed out by ARCA officials at the banquet in downtown Indianapolis.

Brehmer detailed



Dave Dixon won the Spirit Award at the annual ARCA Racing Series postseason banquet.

Dixon's career path, saying he had an interest in cars and racing at a young age, moved to the United States in the late 1970s and set up a shop in California, building highperformance sports car engines.

Dixon was at a racing event when a factory-supported Ford team had three cars entered. "By the end of practice, all three were sidelined with engine trouble," Brehmer said.

Recognizing an opportunity, Dixon opened his shop to those three teams, pulling an "allnighter" to get those three teams back to the track.

"He didn't win, but finished a close second, which was a significant improvement over the previous day's performance," Brehmer said.

Soon after, Dixon received a call to move his shop to Detroit.

"As fate would have it, that all-nighter turned out to be a worthwhile sleepless night," Brehmer said. "He became a highly successful and

respected engine builder, eventually closed his shop and joined the team at Ilmor Engineering.'

The Spirit Award comes after a highly successful debut season for the ARCA Ilmor 396.

"The ARCA Spirit Award is presented to an individual who is dedicated to the teams, officials and fans of ARCA that are uplifting to those who come in contact with them, both with the words they say and the examples the set with their actions," Brehmer said. "Finally, they demonstrate that same positive attitude even when faced with adversity."

Dixon thanked the team at Ilmor, plus participating sponsors like Holley and Valvoline, and said ARCA Ilmor 396 was a great benefit for the series last season and will continue to impact the series for years to

"We told you we would save you money. You didn't believe it at first, but I think the results will speak for themselves," he said.

PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

SECTION 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID EXTENSION **Plymouth Canton Community Schools**

Bid Package #6 - District Wide Remodeling Projects

Post Bid Addendum #1 - Bid Extension

Sealed bids for the following Divisions of Work pertainting to Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 6, consisting of District-Wide Remodeling Projects, are being extended and will be received at the office of Ms. Pamela Anstey, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

The Bid Division of work in which the bids are being extended are as listed below:

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 via

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any faminial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance, Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the

Published: December 27 & 31, 2015

END OF SECTION

Grant helps with health insurance enrollment

Professionally trained HealthCare.gov specialists will host two health insurance enrollment events to help people enroll in affordable health plans.

A federal Navigator grant is supporting the effort, which involves several area communi-

There are a lot of choices when it comes to selecting a health insurance plan, organizers note. They are organizing this event to provide people with an opportunity to get their questions

answered. At the event, individuals and families can meet for free with trained enrollment specialists to review coverage options, find out if they qualify for financial assistance and sign up or re-enroll in a plan that meets their needs.

There will be a session from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood St., Garden City (734-793-1849).

A session will also be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the

Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, 32150 Dorsey Road, Westland (734-679-7788).

Participants should bring a valid photo ID, household income information and household Social Security numbers.

Walk-ins are welcome; there is no need to make an appointment for this event. The service is free

For more information about signing up or to talk about your options with a trained professional, go to www.healthcare.gov or call 800-318-2596.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Newspaper staffer hopes for 2016 run gamut

Staffers of this newspaper put in long hours in the communities and have great insight on what goes on. Here's a few thoughts on their hopes for the communities, as well as our region, for 2016.

Plymouth:

That city officials find a way to address the downtown "parking problem" in a way that does not adversely affect the charming historic buildings or adjacent residential areas.

Plymouth Township:

That Board of Trustees members stop the drama and bickering and regain the trust of the public, and that meetinggoers make their arguments with facts and respect instead of angry catcalls.

Canton:

That Canton continues to set an example of racial, cultural and religious tolerance and harmony. Canton has become increasingly diverse in recent years, and civic leaders, including those of the faith community, have stepped up to see that all voices are heard and respected. Public safety officials also have reached out to build relations within the community.

Also, that Canton's 2016 election season brings a civil tone that focuses on issues rather than political squabbling.

Lyon Township:

Lyon Township needs to start recording its meetings and make available online. It's the fastest growing community in Oakland County and it needs to step into the 21st century in an effort to be transparent.

As the fastest growing community, elected officials and its appointed ones need to listen to the residents clamoring for adherence to the master

plan in developing vacant land in the township. They must find a balance between what is best for the township and its current residents with the rights in owning property in the community.

South Lyon:

We need more businesses to fill vacant, or soon to be vacant, storefronts in downtown South

To see the vision of the recently-elected city council begin to come to fruition.

That relatively low crime rates continue in the community.

Livonia:

The pool reopening at Clements Circle Park.

Livonia's population seeing an estimated increase, compared to the recent years of population loss.

Northville:

Northville's downtown

Continued success in

and commercial and business centers in the city and township.

A viable plan for road improvements with support of the city of Northville residents.

Novi:

To see the city continue building a sense of community for those who live, work and play here.

The city must think long and hard before deciding if a universal trash hauler is in the best interests of its residents. Refuse issues are a hot topic in communities where residents have the freedom to contract services on their own instead of having government make that decision for them

Bloomfield Township:

Wouldn't it be nice if the supervisor and treasurer found a way to work out their differences and focus on running the government? We think so.

Ahead in 2016

Other staff hopes are more regional:

People taking the time to really become informed about the presidential candidates before casting their votes in the primary and general elections.

That we have meaningful local races for leaders of our township, school, county and state governments. While most of the attention will be placed on the U.S. presidential election, it's the decisions made at the local level that have the greatest impact on the taxes we pay and our property values. Qualified candidates means that those seeking office have to address the issues we face, as well how they plan to address the issues facing us on the local level. And hopefully the candidates will focus on real solutions instead of sound-bytes focused

on generic talking points.

That our legislators in Lansing will begin to focus less on the 'R' or 'D' next to someone's name and focus solely on issues that make the lives of Michigan residents better. Gone are the days when members of different political parties work together to craft compromises so everyone can benefit from decisions. That cooperation has given way to absolutism, which simply disenfran-

chises citizens. That bullies in school are truly held account-

A greater respect for people dealing with mental illness, as well as physical and cognitive challenges.

Hope for those who've lost hope.

Regionally, we need our roads repaired ASAP.

Continued and growing support of local media.

Campaign's message bears repeating: Don't drink and drive

Area police are stepping up patrols this holiday season to combat drinking and driving. Their basic recommendation? Make it none for the road.

While the holiday season brings celebrations with family and friends, it also brings an increased number of festivities that may include alcohol. Leaders of **Mothers Against Drunk** Driving want to make sure everyone's holiday ends in cheerfulness, not tragedy.

As MADD's longestrunning public awareness campaign, Tie One

On For Safety asks adults to display a red ribbon on their vehicles to remind others to plan ahead and designate a non-drinking driver before holiday celebrations begin.

This season, MADD and Nationwide, national presenting sponsor of Tie One On For Safety, conducted a new online survey showing the growth of designated drivers throughout MADD's 35-year history.

Here are some encouraging results:

1989, when 35 percent of participants in a Roper survey reported being a designated driver.

» Women were slightly more likely to serve as a designated driver (76.92 percent vs. 71.87 percent)

» Eight out of 10 males (81.58 percent), ages 21-34 have served as a designated driver.

» 71 percent of respondents have used a designated driver in the past 12 months, an increase of nearly 10 percent from 2013, when 63 percent of adults surveyed in a 2013 MADD public opinion survey

had driven them home. » 94 percent of respondents said that a

designated driver is a person who hasn't been drinking at all. To encourage party goers to designate a nondrinking driver and plan

ahead for a safe ride home, MADD and Uber are teaming up to make it easy for party hosts to purchase Uber rides for their guests. Through Jan. 1, Uber

will donate \$10 to MADD for every ride home purchased through UberEVENTS+MADD. Whether it's a company holiday party or a family dinner, UberEVENTS

allows for party hosts to secure their guests a safe and reliable way home. Learn more at UberEVENTS+MADD.

Give guests the gift of safety with UberEVENTS+MADD. If not using Uber, traditional cab services — or allowing guests to spend the night rather than drive home in conditions dangerous to themselves or others — can be a godsend.

Let's all get home safely from our holiday celebrations and face the new year eager for new challenges and the treasures of family and friends



Joanne Maliszewski, Community editor Larry Ruehlen, Managing editor

75 percent of respondents say they have Jani Hayden, Advertising director been a designated driver in the past year, showing significant growth from said a designated driver



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Teenagers experience homelessness outdoors

Church members spend night in boxes

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

For more than 20 years, high school students who attend Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton have learned about homelessness each Boxing Day, the day after Christmas. The teens spend the night outdoors in the church parking lot.

"The first thing is to raise awareness in the community about homelessness," said Jeff Doering, youth elder at Geneva. Teens also learn what homeless people experience, he said, as well as what their blessings in life are.

"They did fine," Canton resident Doering said of this year's 14 participants. "They toughed it out."

This year's event included, for the first time, four teens from First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. Doering, a



Participating in the Boxing Night event are (back row, from left) Nathan Pohl, Scott Freeland, Brendan Smith, Stephen Rowley, Alex Marchand, Caitlin Marchand and Luke Pohl and (front row, from left) Brenna Degener, Erica Freeland, Louis Stark, Jessica Krone, Drew Degener, and Josh Doering. Nick Krone also participated.

Ford Motor Co. staffer, said the United Methodist outreach went well and will be repeated next December.

Drew Degener, 17, a Plymouth High School senior, said, "This is my fourth. I thought that this was one of the hardest years," due to heavy rainfall rather than snow.

"I just think we don't

even realize the things we get to use in everyday life," said Degener, a Canton resident, citing electricity, home heat and dry blankets. "We just take that for granted," Degener said, adding of getting through the cold night, "Talking to other people helped the most. I think that

having a bigger group is

always better."

"I'm glad I did it. I know it's making a difference. It makes me feel glad for doing it," added Degener, who cited both the related clothing drive and the Methodist teens' presence.

That came about due to a former Geneva youth ministry staffer, Josh Skelly, who has the Methodist congregation as his home church. "This is a continuation of

that," Doering said.

"They definitely get a perspective on how fortunate we are and how challenging it can be if you don't have a place to stay," Doering said.

The young people also are carrying on a church clothing drive for the Open Door program of Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit.

Doering noted that by 3:30 a.m. the teens' cardboard boxes were rainsoaked, despite tarps and sheeting. They'd gone outdoors for the night at 8 p.m. and came back inside 7 a.m. the next

Donations of new or gently used warm winter clothing, winter outerwear, blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries will be accepted through Jan. 8. No furniture, appliances, toys or household items should be given, organizers

Donations may be brought to the Canton church during office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or left in the drop boxes outside the church entrance. The clothes will be delivered Saturday, Jan. 9, to Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit for its Open Door program. Geneva Presbyterian Church is on the west side of Sheldon, north of Ford Road.

Jessica Krone, 17, a senior at Canton High School, participated for her fourth year. "I thought it was a great experience, another reminder of what homeless people go through," she

said. "It makes me grateful for everything I have.

"The rain definitely made it difficult. I didn't sleep at all," said Krone, a Canton resident, noting that standing by the fire in a barrel was the only option. "Definitely a rewarding experience. We're raising awareness for people."

When Krone tells her friends, they say, "I never realized all homeless people go through." She noted how hard it was to sleep outside on a cold, rainy night.

"I just realized you're so exhausted doing that. It's so easy for us to say, 'Go get a job.' It is really hard to be motivated. They do (that) every night of their lives," Krone said.

Boxing Day has its origins in the United Kingdom, a day when clothing no longer needed was boxed up for the needy the day after Christmas.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com Twitter: @248Julie

Livonia planning commission reviews proposed shopping center plans

David Veselenak

Staff Writer

The plans for Livonia's newest proposed shopping center continue to move forward.

The city's planning commission took one of its first looks earlier this month at the site plan for the proposed Haggerty Marketplace development on Haggerty between Seven and Eight Mile, giving the plan its recommended approval.

The redevelopment would replace the former Haggerty Tech Center, which has been mostly vacant for several years. Crews have worked to demolish some of the existing structures in recent months and the



FILE PHOTT The proposed site of a new shopping center on Haggerty.

developer recently got approval from the city for its commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate.

The plan would add three new structures to the site, though the tenants were not yet announced.

"The plans we're re-

ping center on Haggerty.

viewing this evening show three new build-

along the front third of the site," said Mark Taormina, the city's planning director. "And once the users are identified,

ings: one multi-tenant

retail building and two

would be constructed

restaurants, all of which

(they would) submit more plans for your re-

Of the three buildings on the original site, one has been demolished, one partially demolished and the last one will remain intact, though those buildings were not included in the site plan petition and the use for them is unknown right now, Taormina said.

Frank Jonna, with Jonna Realty Ventures, said company officials are working to determine proper parking situations for the complex, seeing if there's a way to spread out parking during the day.

He said one of the concepts being looked at for one of the restaurants

is a dinner-only concept, which could help alleviate parking concerns during other parts of the day.

"We do have a lot

more land here and we hope the remainder uses of this property will result in a mixed-use and the type of benefits that will create parking opportunities for one use to take advantage at peaks

of the others," he said.

"We're hoping that will

play into the mix."

The site plan now goes to the city council for review, which is expected to take place sometime early next year. If approved, it would be the most recent shopping center brought to town, following the Livonia

Commons center at Schoolcraft and Middlebelt.

Planning commissioner and city councilmanelect Scott Bahr said he likes how that stretch of road has seen successful development and added he looked forward to more coming in that part of Livonia.

"The comment that was made was that when high-end restaurants look to come to this area, the two places they look at is Big Beaver in Troy or Haggerty in Livonia," he said. "That's exciting. That's great to hear."

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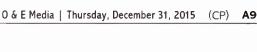
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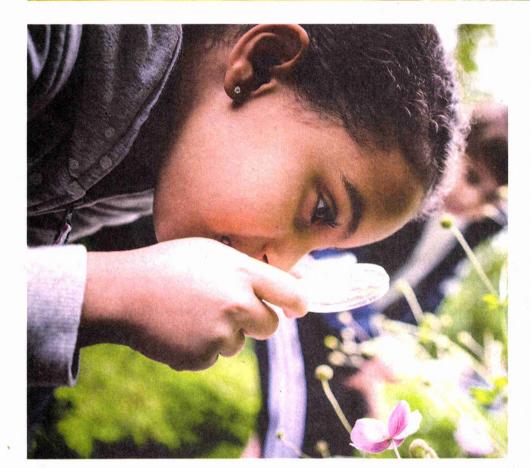


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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2015 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HOLIDAY HOOPS

Short-handed Harrison comes up big

Minus three players, Hawks topple JRLA

> Ed Wright Staff Writer

On the day after Christmas, Farmington Hills Harrison's boys basketball team brought some "presence" to the Detroit Motor City Roundball Classic.

Despite playing without

three players who were out of state on holiday trips, the Hawks delivered a 66-52 win over the Jalen Rose Leadership Academy in a game at Harper Woods High School.

At 3-2, Harrison is now just one win away from equaling its victory total for the 2014-15

Leading the Hawks in the scoring ledger were senior guard Adrian Pattah (24

points), senior forward Trevon Dixon (15 points) and senior center Tommy Williams (14 points).

Dixon contributed across the stat sheet, chipping in six rebounds and six assists.

"I was very impressed with how we hung in there and played 32 minutes," Harrison head coach Stefon Wilson said. "Trevon played well at both ends of the court, but this was a team win.

"We shared the ball well. We turned down good shots for great shots. Hopefully, we can carry this over to our next game, against North Farmington."

The Hawks led from the opening tip, racing to a 16-11 lead after one quarter before stretching their halftime advantage to 33-19. JRLA made a mini-run in the third quarter,

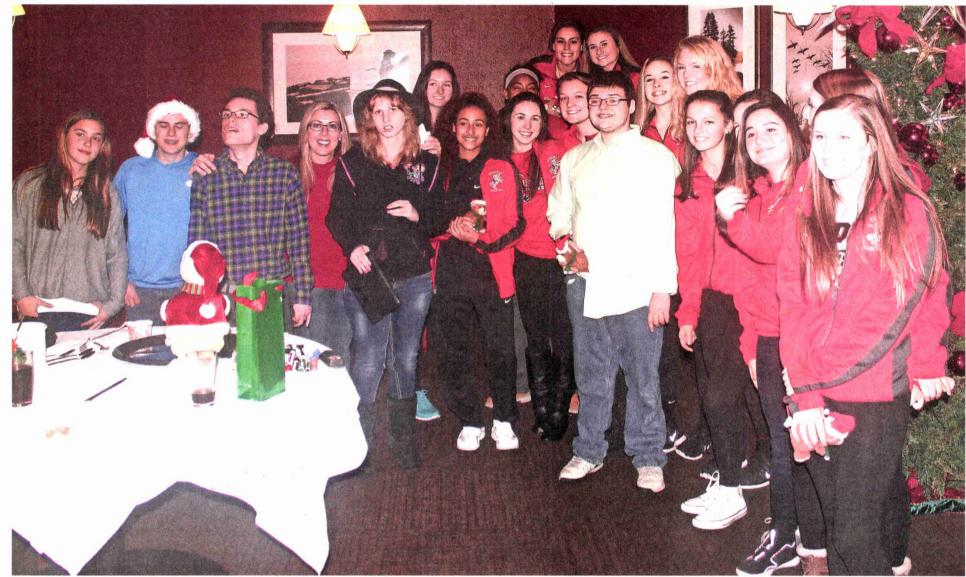
closing the gap to 45-35, but Harrison finished strong with a 21-point fourth quarter.

Harrison wasn't great from the free-throw line, knocking down 13-of-23 attempts, but it was good enough.

Anthony Giovanni dished out six assists for the winners, while Williams yanked down four rebounds.

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THE ART OF GIVING BACK



FD WRIGHT

Members of the Livonia Churchill girls basketball team helped throw a party for several Wayne County autistic residents Dec. 23 at the Twelve Oaks Macy's.

MAKING (S) WISHES COME TRUE

Churchill basketball players spend quality time with autistic individuals

Ed Wright Staff Writer

The afternoon of Dec. 23, just a long 3-point shot away from the chaos and stress that last-minute holiday shopping creates, a calming, heart-felt gathering was unfolding in an away-from-the-madness banquet room in the Twelve Oaks mall

all.
At the center of the festiv-

ities — which included games of Holiday Pictionary, karaoke sing-alongs and a visit from Santa Claus (a.k.a. Livonia Churchill girls basketball coach K'Len Morris) — were members of the Chargers varsity girls basketball team, who set aside a few hours of their holiday break to spend time with several Livonia-area individuals who live with autism and other related conditions.

Throughout most of the laughter-coated event, it was hard to tell who was having more fun — the volunteers or the non-volunteers.

One of Morris' priorities when he was hired to guide the

Chargers earlier this year was to make sure his players entrenched themselves in com-

munity-enhancing programs.
In addition to the holiday
banquet at Macy's (which donated the room free of charge),
Churchill players played
games with patients at the Ann
Arbor Veterans Administration

Hospital one day earlier.

"This is a great experience for us because, along with having fun, we're learning how appreciative we should be and how different everyone's lives are," Churchill senior Molly Pummill said. "We've also played basketball with them a couple of times, which they

really love doing."

"You can see it in their eyes
— and in the eyes of their parents — how special this is for
them," Churchill junior guard
Lily Allen said. "It brings me
and my teammates a lot of joy
as well. We're going to try to do
something with them once a
month."

While the autistic individuals were enjoying the string of fun activities, their parents were given the opportunity to shop at the mall or just relax without having to worry about their children.

Helping to orchestrate the event was Mari MacFarland, an employee of the Livonia

Public Schools whose many responsibilities include organizing peer programs for special-needs students.

"The autistic students and the students with social-skills deficits really enjoy programs like this," MacFarland said. "Their parents tell me they talk about these events well in advance.

"We are working at trying to increase involvement between students with autism and those without, because these meetings can be beneficial for everyone. For these girls to volunteer their time is really

See PLAYERS, Page B2

COLLEGE SPORTS

MSU swim roster includes former Stingrays

The Farmington Family YMCA Stingray swim team has a long history of producing college swimmers.

Currently, there are three FFYS Stingrays on the Michigan State University swim team – senior Marina Borri, sophomore Nick Leshok and freshman Emily Brunett.

Borri, the MSU record holder in the 200 breaststroke, and Brunett are graduates of Harrison High School. Leshok swam for North Farmington High School.

It is uncommon for three swimmers from one club team to reunite on an NCAA Division I college program, especially since the majority of the MSU roster lists hometowns outside of Michigan.

Other FFYS alumni swimming at the collegiate level include Mallory Buha, University of Buffalo; Maranda Buha, IUPUI; Mikayla Doepker,

Kalamazoo College, Keith Erichsen, Case Western University; Lauren Folkert, University of Rhode Island; Christopher Szymczyk, Wheaton College; and Jake Wasko, Kalamazoo College.

The most famous FFYS swim team alumna is Katya Bachrouche, who swam for Lebanon in the 2012 London Olympics.



The Farmington Hills trio of (from left) Marina Borri, Nick Leshok and Emily Brunett are members of the Michigan State swim program.

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USA HOCKEY

NTDP's Krys makes World Juniors roster

Teammates Bellows, Keller miss cut for tournament; two ex-Whalers on team

> **Tim Smith** Staff Writer

Defenseman Chad Krys is the lone man standing out of three **USA Hockey National** Team Development Program players who sought a chance to play in the World Juniors.

Two weeks ago, Krys and NTDP Under-18 teammates Kieffer Bellows and Clayton Keller went to Boston for the first phase of USA Hockey's selection camp. Bellows was cut from consideration for Team USA on Dec. 23 and Keller was sent back to Plymouth following round two, which was Dec. 19-23 in Vierumaki, Fin-

When Team USA suited up Dec. 26 against Canada in the team's first game of the 2016 Ice Hockey World Championship, an Under-20 tournament in Finland, only Krys was on the roster.

Also making the cut are goaltender Alex Ne-



International hockey is coming Feb. 9-13 to USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. **Tickets for the Five Nations** Tournament are on sale.

deljkovic and forward Sonny Milano, both formerly of the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers (a team sold to a Flint ownership group following the 2014-15 season). On the coaching staff is U18 head coach Danton Cole.

During an interview before leaving USA Hockey Arena for the Boston training camp, Krys said going through the demanding rigors of the NTDP would be a plus in the bid to make Team USA.

"I think so ... we've gotten college games in," Krys said. "We've played against some of that older competition that these guys are used to playing in all the time.

'We've been on the ice since the end of August, unlike some of the college teams that aren't practicing as a team as



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Defenseman Chad Krys of the NTDP U18s made the World Juniors roster, along with former Plymouth Whalers Alex Nedeljkovic and Sonny Milano.

long, so I think that's an advantage for us."

Five Nations tickets

Come to the USA Hockey Arena box office to get tickets for the 2016 **Under-17 Five Nations** Tournament, which will take place Feb. 9-13.

Teams in the tournament include the U.S. National Under-17 team, as well as squads from the Czech Republic, Finland, Russia and Sweden. Each team will skate

in four games, with points awarded as follows: regulation win,

three; overtime win, two; overtime loss, one.

Tournament passes, including tickets to all 10 games, are \$65 for center ice and \$55 for executive reserved.

Single-day tickets also are on sale, including access to two games.

Those are \$18 (center ice) and \$15 (executive reserved).

To buy tickets, go to USAHockeyArena.com or call the box office at 734-453-6400.

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YAGER CHOOSES UDM



On hand for Elizabeth Yager's signing ceremony were family members (standing, from left) dad Eric; brother Matthew; mom

SHE'LL KEEP TRADITION ALIVE

Canton senior will be fourth Yager to go to University of Detroit

> **Tim Smith** Staff Writer

Family tradition is big with the Yagers.

So it makes perfect sense why Canton senior outfielder Elizabeth Yager decided to become a Titan — signing her national letter of intent to play Division I softball at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Yager didn't have to think too long about deciding UDM was the best place for her to sign. Her grandfather (N. Joseph Yager) went to the University of Detroit in the 1950s and her dad (Eric) followed suit in the 1970s.

And older brother Joe Yager currently is a student at UDM, in the nursing program that Elizabeth intends on enrolling in.

"I'm really excited to do so," Elizabeth Yager said. "It wasn't necessarily a push from my family to do that. It was more a choice on my own. But it's pretty cool that I'm getting to do

"They're really excited for me, especially Joseph. He's excited to have me on campus with

But the 18-year-old Canton resident — who batted .542 with 38 stolen bases in 2015 for the Chiefs — will be starting her own tradition, playing D-I softball for the Titans.

"I am willing to play wherever I can get on the field," Yager said. "I know they've been looking for outfielders and that's obviously where I'd love to be.

"Center field is not the only spot I would play over there. I'm fine with anything as long as I'm on the field."

Although Yager is not getting a full-ride scholarship, a combination of academic (she carries a 4.1 grade-point average) and athletic scholarships will put a major dent in her tuition costs.

Priorities count

Yager emphasized that the family lure wasn't the biggest factor in her decision to sign with Detroit Mercy.

It was how UDM softball coach John Conway and his program places the main emphasis on academics for his players.

With that, Yager knew she could go all-in on studies for a nursing degree without worry there might be repercussions from the softball

"Most Division I schools, softball comes first and softball is over school," Yager said dur-ing a recent telephone interview. "And if you miss your nursing classes or you miss a clinical, that's just how it is.

"(UDM) runs it a little bit different, especially with their nursing program. Their clinical placements, they give athletes priority and they help athletes out with the nursing program. And then the coach himself stresses academics. It's important to him and it's important to his team."

UDM's softball team has been among the Horizon League leaders in grade-point average in recent years.

"And the work ethic of the girls on the team also drew me in," Yager said. "The girls that missed a practice because of their academic program, they went on their own time and set something else up with

"The girls worked so hard and the coach is willing to work with you at any time of day.'

That kind of work ethic is evident with her high school team as she looks to close out a successful prep career in

Childhood dream

Meanwhile, Yager can't wait to have the best of both worlds at UDM. Not only does she get to play softball, she'll go to work on becoming a nurse. It's the path she first envisioned taking when just a little girl.

And it doesn't matter that Joe Yager, a 2014 Canton graduate, already is in the Mercy nursing program.

"Actually, I wanted to go into nursing before he did," Elizabeth Yager said. "I have wanted to go into nursing since I was maybe in second or third grade.

'I can't wait. I know he's going to specialize in something a little different, so I won't have to compete with him for a job. But I cannot wait to be at the same school as him.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Powerful Rockets take down the Titans, 45-33

Woodard, Robinson form potent tandem

> **Ed Wright** Staff Write

Sophomore Sharon Woodard and senior Taylor Robinson formed a productive insideoutside combination for the Westland John Glenn girls basketball team Saturday afternoon against host Southgate

Anderson. Woodard, one of the

most accurate longrange shooters in the area, netted a careerbest 14 points, while Robinson was hard to handle in the paint, registering 10 points and 13 rebounds, in the Rockets' 45-33 victory over the

Titans. Also playing well for the winners were Kimah Stribling (seven points), Sierra Moseley (six points) and Carly Loving (six points).

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BOYS BASKETBALL



Franklin's Denzel Adams prepares to attack the rim during last week's holiday tournament.

Franklin walks the plank against Pirates

Ed Wright Staff Writer

Hampered by three game-ending injuries and a rugged trapping defense, Livonia Franklin dropped the consolation game of its own holiday tournament Dec. 23 to Pinckney, 59-33.

"Pinckney plays a tough, trapping defense and an up-tempo offense," Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault said. "Pinckney jumped out to an early lead, but I'm proud of our firsthalf comeback and team defense."

The Pirates led 16-12 after one quarter and 28-23 at the half. The visitors eliminated any drama from the final quarter by outscoring the Patriots 10-2 in the third before thrashing the Patriots, 21-8, over the final eight minutes.

Senior captain Joe Chinavare was a bright spot for the Patriots, scoring a team-high 11 points to go along with three steals. Chinavare was on the mark on 4-of-7 free-throw attempts.

Sophomore Mark Mettie also had his moments against Pinckney, registering eight points, seven rebounds and a blocked shot.

Jax Gasaway added two assists and three rebounds for Franklin, which shot 36 percent from the field and 2-of-6 from beyond the 3-point

Pinckney made 20of-28 free throws.

PLAYERS

Continued from Page B1

something special." Among the events planned for 2016 are a combination barbecue/ free-throw shooting competition.

"K'Len has done a great job of creating an awareness among his players about specialneeds individuals like they're connecting with today," MacFarland said.

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ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL

Local players dominate at the net

First team

Rayna Yetts, Churchill, outside hitter: The senior has committed to play at the college level for



Northeast Louisiana State University. Yetts was a KLAA all-conference, Class A all-region and Michigan Volleyball **Coaches Association** second team all-state selection after leading Churchill to the Class A semifinals. She finished the season with a teamhigh 527 kills, dished out 263 assists and served at sparkling 94-percent clip. "Rayna was one of two

players who put us on her back to make it within five points of a state championship," coach Mark Grenier said.

Grace Kellogg, Ply. Christian, outside hitter/def. specialist: Kel-

logg was one of the key reasons why the Eagles won the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference



Grace Kellogg

championship and followed with Class D district and regional titles.

The sophomore was first team all-conference and MIAC Blue MVP after tallying 414 kills, 248 digs, 72 aces and 25

"Grace really grew as a volleyball player this season," coach D.J. Kellogg said. "Her offensive decision-making improved significantly over last year and her confidence went up with it.

"She loves playing defense and, consequently, was one of the team leaders in digs. She was also our most consistent passer, which contributed to everyone's offense."

Lauren Hunter, Mercy, outside hitter: A two-year starter, Hunter made the Class A allstandout sophomore season.

She was the best hitter on a team with many good hitters and led the



Marlins in kills. Hunter is an all-round player who excels in other areas of the game, too.

"She was such a big part of the leadership on our team," coach Loretta Vogel said. "She was our No. 1 left front and our go-to person.

"She picked up where she left off as a freshman. We anticipate she'll be at an even higher level next year.'

Kayla March, Ladywood, outside hitter/ setter: March was a rare four-year varsity performer.

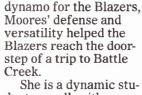


all-state honoree, she was equally efficient at hitting and setting for the Blazers.

March, who is being courted by college teams, is an outstanding student, with a grade-point average north of the 3.8 mark.

Hayley Moores, Ladywood, outside hitter: Despite her modest size

– for a hitter, at least Moores can knock down kills with the velocity of most sixfooters. An all-around



Hayley

Moores

dent as well, with a grade-point average in the 3.8 neighborhood. Stefanie Jankiewicz,

Harrison, outside hitter: A repeat member of the all-area first team, Jankiewicz led the Hawks to a 39-13-2 record and the

Bloomfield. The posted 528 kills and averaged 4.3 per set. She hit

junior

.383 and

had a kill

Stephanie

Jankiewicz

percentage of .501. A setter and all-round player, Jankiewicz also had 45 blocks, 346 digs, 527 assists and 123 aces.

ton, middle hitter: Madis was exceptional in her final season for the Chiefs. She Hannah tallied 137

Hannah Madis, Can-

Madis

kills, 73 blocks and 18 aces to spark Canton to a 9-1 record in the KLAA South Division and a share of the title with Livonia Churchill.

Her season was rewarded with selection to the all-conference team. Tess Ganich, Salem,

outside hitter: The fourthyear varsity player was a standout for the Rocks, leading the squad with 400 kills and 341



Displaying leadership (she was captain) and savvy, Ganich chipped in 28 aces and 11 blocks and was selected to the all-KLAA and all-region teams. She also was named a KLAA scholarathlete.

"Tess is the type of player that motivates the rest of her team to be their best," said coach Rebecca Middleton, whose team finished 15-9. "She held the team to a high standard and was a powerful force both on offense and defense.'

Ganich is committed to play collegiately at Mercyhurst (Pa.) Univer-

Alyssa Facione, Churchill, libero: Grenier said Facione is one of the best ero/defensive specialists he has ever coached. Only a junior, the athletic

Facione

earned KLAA all-conference and Class A all-region accolades after piling up 587 digs (5.8 per game), which was third all time in Churchill volleyball history.

Facione

"Alyssa is as good as the outstanding liberos we have had in the past years' state championship and final four years, including Kelly Archer, Lindsey Graciak, Taylor Kerr and Jacqui Gatt," Grenier said.

Mikel Coleman, Harrison, outside hitter: Coleman was best known for her thunderous kills from either the left-front or right-side positions. She also was her team's best block-

Coleman had a team-best 563 kills, averaging 4.5 per set and registering a kill per-



centage of .447. An allround player, she also had 88 blocks, 294 digs and 60 aces.

Coleman will play at the next level, but she has not made a commitment yet.

Kennedy Kuffner. Mercy, outside hitter: Kuffner had a breakout season and became

one of Mercy's top players. She complemented the play of Lauren



Kennedy

Marlins to a 56-14-1 record and a berth in a Class A regional final opposite state champion Novi.

"Kennedy was somewhat of a surprise for us

strong and was very consistent," Vogel said. "Her biggest achievement was becoming a primary passer and being able to play defense for us.

> "She's very capable of putting the entire game together and that's what we saw from Kennedy as the season progressed.

Olivia Mady, Ply. Christian, outside hitter: Still just a junior, Mady has made a major contribution to the Eagles all three of her varsity years.

This fall, she was an all-around catalyst as the Eagles finished 35-6-1 and reached

the Class D semifinal Mady

was named to the MIAC Olivia Mady Blue first team after amassing 349 kills, 214 digs, 33 blocks and 62

"Olivia had another great season," Kellogg said. "She is always a leader on the court and her leadership is by example. She is steady, reliable and can be counted on to find points when we need them.

'Besides being an offensive threat, her defensive game was honed in the past offseason and it was evident from start to finish."

Co-coaches of the Year Mark Grenier, Chur-

chill: In his return to the helm following a twovear hiatus, Grenier

proved why is one of the most respected coaches in the state as he guid-

ed the Chargers to a co-championship (with Canton) in the KLAA South Division, district and regional titles and a trip to the Class A final four in Battle Creek, where the

Mark Grenier

it could handle before they got nipped in a fiveset thriller.

Making hisachievement more remarkable was that he also served as the head coach of Churchill's freshman football team in the fall.

"This year's team was a special group of young ladies who were a pleasure to coach," Grenier said. "They were hardworking, extremely team-oriented and they bought into the process of having success. Their ability to mesh together individual goals, group dynamics, leadership and competitiveness made this the Cinderella season that it was!"

D.J. Kellogg, Ply. Christian: The debut season as PCA's head coach was a rewarding one for Kellogg, as the Eagles pretty much ran the table

until falling to Battle Creek St. Philip in a Class D semifinal. The



voung and talented squad went after each goal with purpose and determination and the end result was a string of titles (division, conference, district, regional).

"This was an awesome and fun team to coach," Kellogg said. "Knowing that team chemistry is critical and that a single bad attitude can ruin a team, they encouraged and supported each other in practice, games and off the court.

"They believed they could go far this season, but did not get ahead of themselves.

Kellogg credited assistant coach Mary Anleitner for her efforts in helping the team maximize its potential during

"Coach Mary and I are very proud of these young ladies, not only for a great season, but more importantly for the character and humility they displayed at all times,' he said.

ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL TEAM

ALL-OBSERVER VOLLEYBALL TEAM
Rayna Yetts, Sr., Churchill
Grace Kellogg, Soph., Ply. Christian
Lauren Hunter, Soph., Mercy Kayla March, Sr., Ladywood Hayley Moores, Sr., Ladywood Stefanie Jankiewicz, Jr., Harrison

Hannah Madis, Sr., Canton Hannah Madis, Sr., Canton Tess Ganich, Sr., Salem Mikel Coleman, Sr., Harrison Kennedy Kuffner, Jr., Mercy Alyssa Facione, Jr., Churchill Olivia Mady, Jr. Ply. Christian SECOND TEAM

Karlie Wengorovius, Sr., Farmingtor

Allie Lynn, Sr., Garden City Haley Qasawa, Jr., North Farmington Danielle Barile, Sr., Plymouth Kendall Gillen, Jr., Salem Emily Meredith, Soph., Canton Divna Roi, Jr., Ply. Christian Ryan Clemmons, Sr., John Glen Anne Yost, Jr., Churchill

Heather Pennington, Sr., Garden City Elizabeth Susitko, Jr., Mercy CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR D.J. Kellogg, Plymouth Christial
HONORABLE MENTION

Clarenceville: Brianna Brown, Delanie

MacRae, Josie VanDyke, Tiffanie Iuliano; MacKae, Josie VanDyke, Irffanie Iuliano; Farmington: Courtney Szymkowski, Danielle Petras, Talon Bialik-Cheng, Kayley Chandra; Harrison: Madison Ruffin, Elizabeth Leonard; Mercy: Colleen Hadley, Bella McDonald, Jordyn Kreucher, Sloan Horejsi; North Farmington: Mykaela Ross, Summer Farris, Kerrie Kopicko,

Catherine Dickow; Canton: Emma Clark, Carnerine Dickow; Canton: Emma Clark, Gina Giacomini; Salem: Lauren Wylie, Sara Soltis, Drew Smiley, Emma Merlington, Kassidy Hewett, Sammy Klozik; Ply-mouth: Charley Irvin, Jordan Schamp; Ply. Christian: Jessica Paulson, Paige Perkey, Robin Albert, Abigail Pray.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Winning road trip for both Schoolcraft College teams

Men, women each post lopsided victories in **Grand Rapids**

> **Tim Smith** Staff Writer

Road trips are much more fun when there are victories included. Such was the case Dec. 22 in Grand Rapids for both Schoolcraft College basketball teams. The men's and wom-

en's teams took turns defeating their respective opponents at Grand Rapids Community College, in contests that segued into the Christmas break.

Five members of the men's squad cracked double digits in scoring as the Ocelots rolled to a 95-76 win.

Schoolcraft led all the way, except for a 53second span when the game was deadlocked.

Registering 19 points including 11-of-11 from the free-throw line

was Bryan Collins. Canton alum Davon

Taylor and Anthony Wartley-Fritz each scored 13 points, with R.J. Coil (12 points) and Esa Abduljami (11 points) helping the cause.

Schoolcraft shot out the lights (34-of-63, 54 percent) while draining 8-of-21 from beyond the 3-point arc.

Making three of those treys was Ja'Christian Biles, accounting for all nine of his points.

The Ocelots were strong on the boards, outrebounding the home team by a 39-23 margin. Leading with seven rebounds was Taylor.

Women prevail

Schoolcraft (10-0) captured a 67-43 victory, pretty much leading wire-to-wire.

After opening the game with a 21-5 first quarter, the Lady Ocelots maintained a comfortable lead of 34-19 at halftime and 50-35 after three.

Schoolcraft then broke the game wide open with a 17-8 margin in the fourth.

Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm) led the Lady Ocelots with 18 points, including eight free throws.

Contributing 15 points and six steals was guard T'era Nesbitt, while guard and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland tallied 13 points

and seven rebounds. Tolbert, Salem alum Jamyra Wilson and Rikki Scherdt each pulled down six rebounds as Schoolcraft enjoyed a

39-34 edge on the glass.

Next up

Both teams now are in the midst of a holiday break.

The men's and women's teams will resume action Monday, Jan. 4, at Alpena Community College in the MCCAA Eastern Conference opener for both.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Michigan State's Reschke, McDowell ready for playoff challenge

Marty Budner Staff Writer

Jon Reschke and Malik McDowell are used to playoff football.

Reschke was a member of two straight Division 2 state championship teams while playing prep football for Al Fracassa at Brother Rice. McDowell played in the 2012 Division 7 state title game for Detroit Loyola, then was a playoff participant the following season at Southfield under head coach Tim

Now key defenders at Michigan State Univer-

Conley.



McDowell

Reschke

sity, Reschke and Mc-Dowell will help lead the Spartans into the NCAA Division I College Football Playoff for the first

No. 3-ranked Michigan State will battle No. 2 Alabama in the Cotton Bowl at 8 p.m. Dec. 31 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington in one semifinal

Top-ranked Clemson tackles No. 4 Oklahoma at 4 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Orange Bowl in the other semifinal.

The winners play for the national championship Jan. 11 in Glendale, Ariz.

The Spartans relish the chance to play highly-regarded Alabama (12-1), led by former MSU head coach Nick Saban and sparked by Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry. Alabama defeated MSU in the 2011 Capital Bowl in the only previous meeting be

tween the schools. "It's an incredible

opportunity. It's always been our goal to be where we're at right now," said Reschke, who successfully made the transition from middle to outside linebacker during preseason training camp following an injury to senior Ed Davis. "We're working and we're working hard. This is an opportunity of a

Bowl-bound focus

to give it everything

we've got."

lifetime and we're going

McDowell, a sophomore defensive lineman, played in all 13 games last year as a true fresh-

man and started all 13 games this season. He owns 54 career tackles and six sacks, one interception and one forced fumble.

The 6-6, 275-pound Detroit resident was named all-Big Ten second team by both the coaches and media. He was named Spartans Defensive Player of the Week in the season-opening win over Western

Michigan. Reschke, who graduated from Brother Rice in 2013 and was redshirted his freshman year, earned his first letter at MSU after play-

ing in eight games last year. The 6-foot-2, 228pound Sterling Heights native earned the starting job this season and has gained the confidence of head coach Mark Dantonio.

In 13 games, Reschke has been part of 74 tackles (31 unassisted, 43 assisted) with a pair of forced fumbles and a pair of sacks. In MSU's three final regular-season games — against Ohio State, Penn State and Iowa in the Big Ten championship game — Reschke accounted for 13 tackles, one sack and two quarterback hurries.

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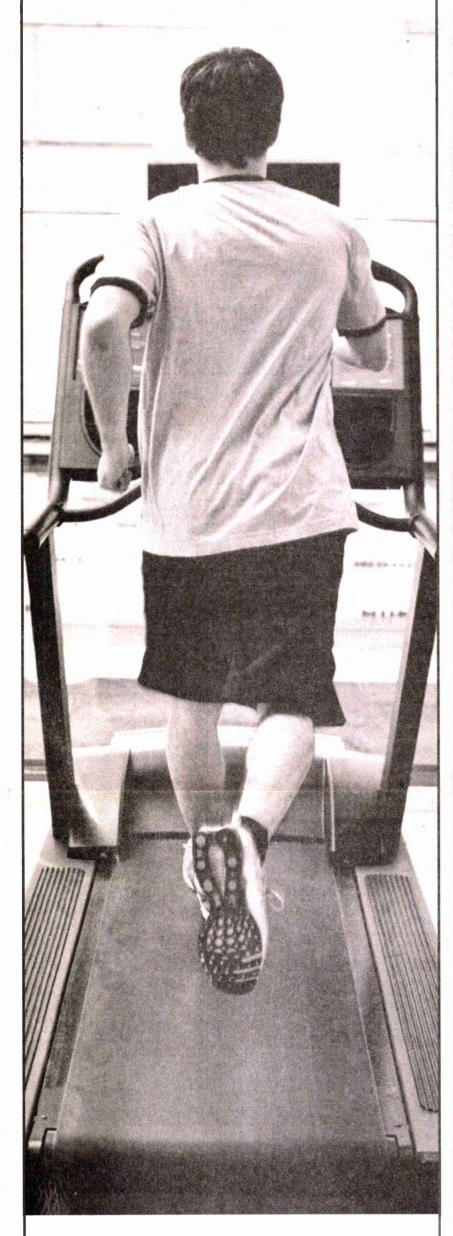
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Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure 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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WORDS

GIFT **GUESTS** BOXING DAY INVITATION CANDLES JANUARY CELEBRATION KITCHEN KWANZAA MUSIC NEW YEARS DAY CHRISTMAS PARTY COCKTAILS **PRESENTS** SHARING SOCIALIZE SONGS SURPRISES THANKFUL TREE WINTERTIME



Word Search Answers

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER NEW YEAR'S EVE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 31 Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford **Details:** Worship service

Contact: 313-532-8655 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Time/Date: 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31

Location: Orchard Grove Community Church, 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake

Details: A party for junior high school and high school students will include games, karaoke, prize giveaways, and inflatables Cost is \$25 through Dec. 27; \$35 after. Tickets also will be available at the door

Contact: shawna.schwaninger@orchardgrove.org

NEW YEAR'S SERVICE

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 31 Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livo-

Details: The church also will hold 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses on Jan. 1

Contact: 734-464-4433; stcolette.net

JANUARY EXERCISE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 11-April 11

Location: St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road,

Details: Joe Mason leads a 12-week session that focuses on balance, timing, coordination, strength, flexibility, stretching, abdominal and back exercises. \$84 for the series or \$10 per class

Contact: 734-455-5910

GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Jan. 3 Location: St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 W. 12 Mile, South-

Details: James Perkinson will

talk about economic principles found in the Bible and how individuals can apply those principles today. Perkinson is a professor of social ethics a the **Ecumenical Theological Seminary** in Detroit

Contact: stdavidssf.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17

Location: St. Kenneth, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: Mass and potluck lunch. Bring a dish to pass. Call Liz at 734-452-9149 to find out what foods are needed. Widowed friends is a peer support group of the Archdiocese of Detroit Contact: Pat at 734-895-6246

WOMEN'S EVENT

Time/Date: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Authors Lynn Donovan and Dineen Miller are guest speakers at an event for women who are "spiritually mismatched" in their marriage or have loved ones who are nonbelievers or are not mature in their faith. The conference will include a continental breakfast and lunch. Tickets are \$30. available at https://spiritualmismatch.eventbite.com

Contact: 734-421-0472

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CLASSES/STUDY Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study Contact: 313-534-9000 St. Michael the Archangel

Parish Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

CRAMER, ELEANOR Age 91, December 25, 2015

Beloved wife of the late Harvey Loving mother of (Donna), Peggy, James, Theresa (Jack) Burkett, Mike (Mary), Debbie Towshack, and Tammy (Mike) Clendening. Dear sister of Sonny (Theresa) Belkowski Also survived by many grand great-grandchildren, children. nieces and nephews. A Memorial were held Wednesday, December 30 at the RG & GR Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. In lieu flowers, of suggests donations to Hospice of Michigan or The American Lung Association. share a memory of Eleanor at www.rggrharris.com.

FUELLING C. MARCELLA

Age 94, passed away December 23rd at Tendercare, Alpena. She was born on August 2, 1921 in Vincennes Indiana to Joseph and Clara (McHale) Brown. Marcella married Melvin Fuelling on May 25th 1940 in Wayne, Michigan and lived in Plymouth, Michigan prior to moving to Huron Beach, Michigan in 1980. Mrs Fuelling is survived by two sons Dennis (Mary) of Canton and Kevin (Karen) of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania; two daughters, Diane Bennett of Union City Georgia and Jenine (Larry) Repke of Alpena; 14 grandchildren, Repke great-grandchildren; brother Gerald (Shirley) Brown of Plymouth, Michigan. Marcella is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years Melvin; parents Joseph and Clara; two brothers and a sister. A private memorial service will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Hospice of Michigan in memory of Marcella Fuelling. Arrangements are in the care of the Beck Funeral Home and online condolences be addressed through www.beckfuneralhome.org



LEGGAT, KLARYS P.

Age 92, December 19, 2015. Loving wife of the late Angus Bruce Leggat for 47 years. of Ralph Devoted mother Leggat, Steven (Joanne) Leggat, Scott Leggat, and Carol Leggat. Cherished grandmother of Samuel and David. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Olive Paxton; and her children, Linda and Daniel. A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at Will Funeral Home, 25450 Plymouth Rd., Redford. Leave a message or condolence at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.c

MIKOLAJCZYK, **PATRICIA**

(LEONARD) "PAT" 82. Born in Toledo, Ohio, March 1933, resident of Westland, Michigan, suddenly peacefully passed away on 25, 2015. Beloved December wife of the late Frank A. Pat was married to Frank on November 24, 1951; they were married 62 vears. Pat worked as a Sales Representative for Montgomery Wards and Avon Products. She most enjoyed spending time talking and laughing with friends and family; and was a huge sports fan, rooting on her hockey and football teams. Loving mother of Frank L., Craig, and Cheryl Mikolajczyk; grandmother of Nicole Vandriessche, Frank A. Mikolajczyk, Brandy Burda, Mandy Mikolajczyk, Bryan Burda, and Kyle Mikolajczyk, great-grandmother of Frank L. and Madison Mikolajczyk. She will be missed dearly by her family and friends. As per Pat's wishes, cremation will take place

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a

study of Isaiah. Bring your own

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livoniastmichael.org.

Faith Community Wesleyan Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every

Location: 14560 Merriman,

Livonia **Details:** This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first

and third Tuesdays Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support. practical help and spiritual hope. Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows Contact: Parish office at 734-

464-1223 Contact: 734-464-1223 St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

RECYCLING **RISEN CHRIST**

LUTHERAN CHURCH Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and

Beck roads, Plymouth Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads,

tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church. Contact: Lynn Hapman at

734-466-9023

SINGLES Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Contact: The facilitator at

313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org **Steve's Family Restaurant** Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and

fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244 » Farmington Hills Baptist

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in

Farmington Hills **Details:** Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

» Merriman Road Baptist Church Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and

Contact: 248-433-1011

fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations Contact: www.metrofibro-

group.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519 » Fireside Church of God Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday Location: 11771 Newburgh,

Livonia **Details:** Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializ-

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

ing in dementia care. Not a

drop-in center

» St. Andrew's Episcopal

Church

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday Location: 16360 Hubbard,

Details: A twice-monthly dropin Food Cupboard (nonperish-

able items) is available Contact: 734-421-8451

» St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton Details: Take Off Pounds Sen-

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-

0322 » Unity of Livonia Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia **Details:** Overeaters Anonymous

Contact: 248-559-7722; www.oa.org for additional information » Ward Evangelical Presby-

terian Church Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional): 7 p.m. worship: 8 p.m.

small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/ desserts), Thursday Location: 40000 Six Mile, North-

ville Township **Details:** Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is

free. Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery-.com and www.wardchurch.org/ celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian Location: 25350 W. Six Mile,

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through

Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a

question to know God more in

Location: 9401 General Drive,

their lives Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month

Location: The Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry, at 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit Details: Led by Capuchin friar

Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casev Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call cost for the tour, although donations are accepted

www.solanuscenter.org

WORSHIP

Contact: 313-579-2100, Ext. 149;

» Adat Shalom Synagogue Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and 6 p.m. weekdays

Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Contact: 248-851-5100 » Christ Our Savior Lutheran

Church Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible

Road, just north of I-96, Livonia Contact: 734-522-6830

Location: 14175 Farmington

» Congregation Bet Chaverim Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m. the third Friday of the

month Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Gluck and Cantorial soloist Robin Liberatore Contact: www.Facebook.com/

Congregation with Rabbi Peter

Details: Reformed Jewish

betchaverim or email to betchaverim@yahoo.com » Due Season Christian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with

7:15 p.m. Tuesday Bible study Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of

Farmington Road, in Livonia Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services.

Contact: 248-960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org

» Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship; 9 a.m. Bible study Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile.

Details: Women's group meets 12:30 p.m. third Thursday of the month. Vacation Bible School runs Aug. 10-14

Contact: 248-349-2345; faithcommunity-novi.org

» Faith Community Wesleyan Church

Time/Date: Prayer service, 9 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m., Sunday school, 12:30 p.m., contemporary service, 1:30 p.m., Bible study, 6 p.m., Sundays Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Contact: pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

» Garden City Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: Adult Bible study at 8:15 a.m.; traditional worship service, youth Sunday school and child care at 10 a.m. Large print order of service is available. Refreshments in the church fellowship hall immediately after service. Elevator and handicap parking

Location: Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road

Contact: 734-421-7620 » Good Hope Lutheran

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with Communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesday

Contact: 734-427-3660 » Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

Time/Date: 8:45 a.m. Sunday

Location: 28680 Cherry Hill,

Garden City

school/adult Bible study; 10 a.m. Sunday service Location: 4145 W. Nine Mile,

Contact: Rev. Thomas E. Schroe-

der at 248-349-0565; GoodShepherdNovi.org » Grace Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. traditional Sunday service and 10:30 a.m. contemporary; Sunday school and adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m. Location: 46001 Warren Road, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton Township

» His Church Anglican Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. at Trinity and 10 a.m. at Madonna Univer-

Location: Trinity Church, 34500

Six Mile, Livonia, and Kresge Hall

Contact: 734-637-8160

on the Madonna University ampus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia Contact: www.HisChurchAnglican.org; 248-442-0HCA

» Holy Cross Evangelical **Lutheran Church** Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Sunday; 9 a.m. Faith Forum; 10 a.m. Sunday school; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday worship in the chapel.

Location: 30650 Six Mile, Livonia Contact: 734-427-1414 » Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran

Church Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday Location: 9600 Leverne, west of

Beech Daly, north off West Chicago Road, Redford Contact: 313-937-2424

» In His Presence Ministries

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday Location: 26500 Grand River Ave., Redford Contact: 313-533-1956; detroi-

» Nativity United Church of

tinhispresence.org

service at 3 p.m.

Christ

Time/Date: 11 a.m. service with Plumb Line Church with the Rev. JoAnn Bastien, Praise Group, Sunday school and child care. Coffee at 10:45 a.m. Traditional Sunday worship service at 2 p.m. with Bastien. No Sunday school or child care. Coffee after the

Location: 9435 Henry Ruff Road at West Chicago Road, Livonia Contact: 734-421-5406

Your Invitation to Worship

For information regarding this directory please Call **Janice Brandon** at 248-926-2204

or email

jkbrando@michigan.com

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.

Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m nt music styles from classic t www.wardchurch.org

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN

CATHOLIC

CATHOLIC CHURCH **Tridentine Latin Mass** St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200

Mass Schedule:
First Friday Mass 7:00 p
Saturday Mass 11:00
Sunday Masses 7:30 & 7:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD A Church for Seasoned Saints

OPEN ARMS CHURCH

Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm Pastor Grady Jensen & Music Minister Abe Fazzini

33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 248.471.5282

Church As You Remember it!

MAKE IT A PUNK NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE ZOTZ **Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer Matthew Moran hopes to bring

audience members to their feet when he plays the New Year's Eve show at The Token Lounge in Westland.

"I don't like bars where everyone sits down. I want to get them back up. Get out there and have fun.'

Moran of Livonia is bass player for The Zotz, a "fun punk" band founded earlier this year by guitarist, vocalist and songwriter Bobby Noxious and drummer Shawn LeZotz of Dearborn Heights. They'll play a mix of original music and punk cover tunes at the show, which also will feature Screw with "raw power rock" and punk, and Tiger Sex, with "animalistic rock." Doors open at 8 p.m. Dec. 31, at 28949 Joy Road, Westland. Cover charge is \$10. It will include party favors and toast at midnight.

Noxious was singer-songwriterbassist for The Bomb Pops and Manic's Rage and plays bass with The Farleys. His wife, LeZotz, started playing drums about six years ago and was the lead drummer for a Ramones tribute band before the two formed The Zotz. Moran, who grew up in Livonia and Redford, lived in Colorado until a few years ago. After moving back to Livonia, he played with a downriver cover band, The Disorders. He also occasionally plays with Drunken Circus Monkey.



Moran met Noxious and LeZotz when both The Disorders and The Farleys were playing the same event. LeZotz mentioned that she and her husband planned to create their own band.

"I didn't think much about it then," Moran said. "They were really nice. I'd been at the same events with them

Several months ago he found out the pair needed a bass player for their new band. He decided to audition.

"I like the idea of original music. Playing punk covers can only go so far. It's (punk music) simple, fast and why can't you write your own? I wanted to get with someone who would write their own.

"We have a sound that clicked right away. We're loud and fast. I had a friend who asked if we ever play a slow song. We don't. That's why my fingers are sore by the end of the set," Moran said.

Learning bass

Although Moran played "a little" bass as a teenager, he hadn't per-formed on the instrument while living

"About two years ago I picked it up and have been playing and never stopped," he said. "I had a good teacher, my father, and I put in the work."

His father is Skid Marx, bass player for the Detroit-area band, The Seat-

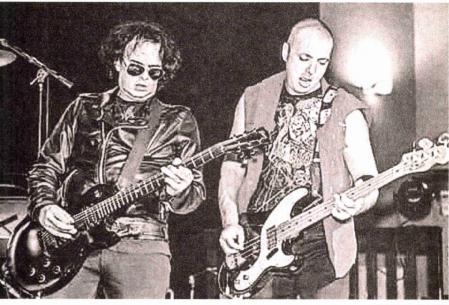
The Seatbelts have shared the stage with The Zotz a few times since the trio formed. They'll both play Jan. 8 at PJ's Lager House in Detroit. In the meantime, Moran is looking

forward to New Year's Eve at The Token. "I've always wanted to play on New

Year's eve. I think it will be fun. I'm hoping we get a lot of people in and we'll have a blast.'

For more about The Zotz, visit myspace.com/thezotz or visit its Facebook page.





Bobby Noxious and Matt Moran of The Zotz

ERICK BUCHHOLZ

Shawn LeZotz in action with The Zotz



The Zotz is Bobby Noxious (left) and Shawn LeZotz of Dearborn Heights and Matt Moran of Livonia. They will perform at a New Year's Eve show at The Token Lounge, Westland.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS **DETROIT ZOO**

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 1

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 4 Location: Canton Township Hall, 1150 5. Canton Center Road, Canton Details: Don and Kay Masini will

present a PowerPoint program called Art Critics and Surrealism. The event is

Contact: 313-231-3939; threecitiesartclub.org

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through Jan. 31

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road,

Details: "Dream Creatures" is a mixed media solo exhibition featuring the works of Took Gallagher Contact: 734/394-5300

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 2-3

Run/walk your way to a New Year's Eve party

Sharon Dargay

Staff Writer

First you run or walk. Then you party. If that's how you plan to bid 2015 good-bye, get your walking or running shoes ready and head to Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth on Dec. 31.

RunDTP, the informal running/walking

group that meets three times a week in

downtown Plymouth, plans a three-mile course, followed by a family-friendly New Year's Eve gathering at The Post Local Bistro, 844 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. "It should be fun. We had 250 for our Christmas Eve walk/run. It was well-attended. And we did the big turkey trot on Thanksgiving day," said David Murphy, who founded the group. "There is no registration. The event is free. It's just people

RunDTP meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and at 8 a.m. Saturday at the park. Participants run or walk three-mile, five-mile or seven-mile courses. If the regular meeting day coincides with a holiday, RunDTP "adjusts the time and does something fun," Murphy said.

coming together who love to exercise.

He said RunDTP meets regardless of the weather and that about half of the participants run, half walk. Some bring their dogs. Ages range from teens to runners in their 70s.

The group will gather at 4 p.m. at the park and at 5 p.m. at The Post Local Bistro.



SUBMITTED

RunDTP gathers for its recent Christmas Eve walk. Coming up next: a three-mile run/walk on New Year's Eve, starting at Kellogg Park and ending at The Post Local Bistro.

"The Post is a great place. There is nothing like it in the state," said Murphy, who grabs a beer with fellow runners every week at the Post.

In addition to the RunDTP gathering, the restaurant also will be open to the public for New Year's Eve, 11 a.m. Thursday to 3

"It's business as usual. We have our regular menu and a special surf and turf," said Jennifer Dales, owner. Guests also will get party favors and there will be a toast to ring in 2016.

For more about RunDTP, visit rundtp.com. For more about the Post, visit facebook.com/ThePostLocalBistro.

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth Details: The Martian, \$3 Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 8 and 2 p.m.

and 8 p.m. Jan. 9

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit Details: Close Encounters of the Third

Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordthea-

HISTORY PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth Details: Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Current exhibit: A Red Ryder Christmas Story draws its inspiration from the popular 1980s movie, A Christmas Story, in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christ-

Contact: 734-455-8940

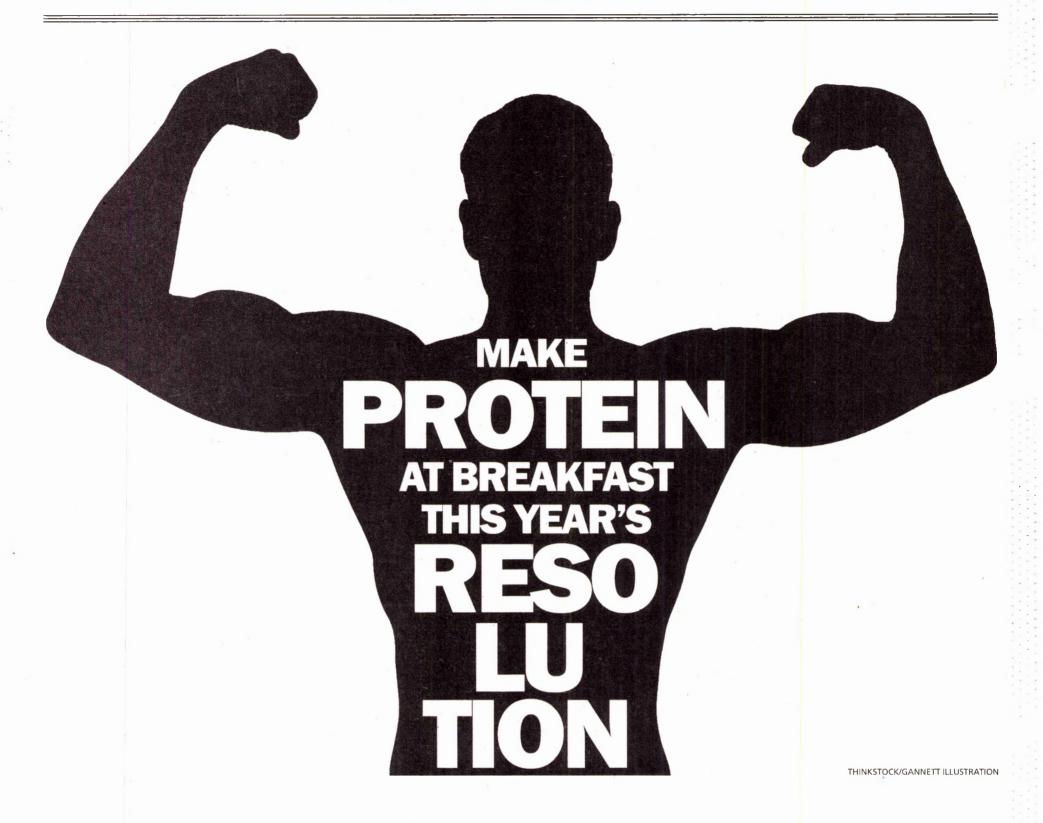
LIGHTS **WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST**

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday through Dec. 31.

Location: Enter at Hines Drive and Merriman in Westland and exit near Telegraph in Dearborn Heights Details: Drive-through light show

features nearly 50 lighted displays. Fee is \$5 per vehicle Contact: parks.waynecounty.com;

734-261-1990



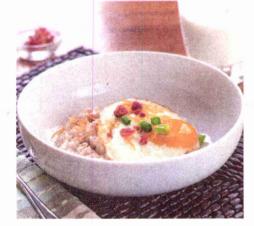
ired of the same New Year's resolution? The popular yet undefined and lofty goal to make healthy choices often fails after a few weeks as we get tired of pursuing it. This year, get specific with your goal and commit to making the most of each day by increasing your protein intake at breakfast.

Americans tend to eat most of their protein in the evening, but back-loading protein at dinner can affect how your body uses it. That's why experts recommend spacing out your protein intake throughout the day to make the most of the important nutrition it provides. In fact, many nutrition experts now recommend getting 25-30 grams of protein at each meal for the best daily nutrition, yet Americans only get about 13 grams of protein at breakfast, on average.

Pairing a glass of milk (or chocolate milk) and its high-quality protein with your eggs or favorite overnight oats combination is an easy, delicious way to help get the 25-30 grams of protein recommended before noon. You'll also feel fuller longer so you can focus on the things you want to accomplish.

For more information on how you can fill up your cup with milk to get closer to your morning protein goal, visit MilkLife.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



SAVORY OATMEAL WITH SOFT-COOKED EGG AND BACON

Servings: 1

1 cup low-fat milk

½ cup old-fashioned oats, uncooked 1 pinch sea salt

1 teaspoon cooking oil (or ½-second spray)

1 tablespoon cheddar cheese, shredded 1 slice cooked bacon, coarsely chopped

1 slice cooked bacon, coarsely chopped 2 teaspoons green onion, sliced salt and pepper (optional)

Combine milk, oats and salt and cook according to package instructions. While oats cook, heat small, non-stick skillet over medium heat. Lightly coat with cooking oil. Add egg and cook about 3-4 minutes for runny

Serve oatmeal topped with cheese, bacon, egg and green onion. If desired, season with salt and pepper.

Serve immediately with 8-ounce glass of

Nutrition information per serving: 540 calories; 23 g fat; 8 g saturated fat; 225 mg cholesterol; 32 g protein; 52 g carbohydrates; 4 g fiber; 800 mg sodium; 605 mg calcium. Nutrition figures based on using low-fat milk and including an 8-ounce glass of



ALMOND BUTTER ENGLISH MUFFIN WITH PEACH-TOPPED COTTAGE CHEESE PAIRED WITH CHOCOLATE MILK

Servings: 1

1 tablespoon almond butter 1 English muffin, toasted and halved ½cup cottage cheese ¼ cup diced peaches

Spread almond butter on toasted English

Nutrition information per serving: 230 calories; 10 g fat; 1 g saturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 9 g protein; 30 g carbohydrates; 6 g fiber; 280 mg sodium; 229 mg calcium (25% of daily value). For morning snack: Top cottage cheese with peaches and serve with 8-ounce glass of

Nutrition information per serving: 270 calories; 3.5 g fat; 2.5 g saturated fat; 10 mg cholesterol; 22 g protein; 38 g carbohydrates; 2 g fiber; 610 mg sodium; 361 mg calcium (35% of daily value). Nutrition figures based on using low-fat chocolate milk and including an 8-ounce glass of chocolate milk.



RICOTTA CHEESE & ASPARAGUS SCRAMBLED EGGS ON TOAST

Recipe by Chrissy Taylor of The Taylor House Makes: 1 serving

2 large eggs
2 tablespoons part skim ricotta chees

2 tablespoons part skim ricotta cheese 2 tablespoons milk

%cup asparagus, diced
% teaspoon fresh chives, chopped
1 piece whole wheat bread, toasted

Beat two eggs in a medium bowl. Add the ricotta cheese and 2 tablespoons milk to the eggs and mix well. Stir in the asparagus and chives. Heat a skillet to medium heat. Scramble the egg mixture in a skillet while toasting the bread. Place the piece of toast on a plate and top with the scrambled eggs. Serve with

Pair each serving with 8-ounce glass of milk

the remaining 8-ounce glass of milk.

Nutritional information per serving: 360 calories;
13 g fat; 5 g saturated fat; 385 mg cholesterol; 30 g
protein; 30 g carbohydrates; 3 g fiber; 410 mg
sodium; 517 mg calcium. Nutrition figures based on
using fat free milk, and include an 8-ounce glass of



PUMPKIN OATMEAL MUG

Recipe by Kath Younger of Kath Eats Real Food

Makes 1 serving

2 large eggs, beaten

2 large eggs, beater ½ cup rolled oats

¼ cup milk ½ cup canned pumpkin

1 tablespoon chia seeds ¼ teaspoon cinnamon

Pinch kosher salt

Pair each serving with 8-ounce glass of milk
Combine ingredients through salt in a mug

Combine ingredients through salt in a mug and mix well. Microwave mug at 50% power for about 4 minutes, checking center to see that all egg is cooked through. Serve with remaining 8-ounce glass of milk and an optional drizzle of maple syrup.

Nutritional information per serving: 430 calories; 15 g fat; 3.5 g saturated fat; 380 mg cholesterol; 30 g protein; 44 g carbohydrates; 8 g fiber; 520 mg sodium; 530 mg calcium. Nutrition figures based on using fat free milk, and include an 8-ounce glass of milk.