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Canton cops cite continued drop in student incidents at The Park

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Incidents involving a response by Canton police have shown an overall decrease at the 6,100-student Plymouth-Canton Educational Park since

2012, new statistics indicate, marking a welcome trend for a sprawling campus with three high schools.

A new report indicates the campus had 622 police-involved incidents for the last fall semester — down 9.3 per-

cent from the same time period a year earlier. Even more striking, the latest number is down 11 percent compared to fall semester 2013 and a startling 24.7 percent from 2012.

Police and school officials say it's no coincidence the

numbers have fallen since indoor security cameras were installed three years ago to capture incidents on video. Moreover, Canton police have added a third school resource officer, or SRO, to the campus

known as The Park. "Our number one priority is to keep everyone here safe," SRO Andy Curry said. While the officers certainly strike back against illegal

See INCIDENTS, Page A6

NEW HOTEL HOSTING EUROPEAN HOCKEY PLAYERS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Last-minute work was taking place Thursday at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites on Beck Road, north of M-14. The hotel opened Friday to visiting hockey players from Europe, who will be playing at the USA Hockey Arena next door.

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The new Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Plymouth Township is already an international destination.

The four-story, 107-room hotel on Beck Road is hosting hockey players from Russia, Sweden, Finland and the Czech Republic, teams that will be competing this week in the Five Nations Tournament

taking place next door at the USA Hockey Arena (formerly Compuware Arena).

USA Hockey's under-17 team makes up the fifth team in the 10-game competition, which begins Tuesday and runs through Saturday, Feb. 13.

The hotel opened Friday and the Czech team was to arrive Friday evening, said Mary Beth Miller, director of sales. The Russian, Swedish and Finnish teams were to check in Sunday.

"They've worked it hard to get it ready for this. It's kind of a win-win for everybody," said Scott Monaghan, senior director of operations for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, which is based at the arena. USA Hockey is the governing body for organized hockey in the U.S., and the NTDP trains future Olympic and National Hockey

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Fox Hills Chrysler Jeep reopens

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Fox Hills Chrysler Jeep is back in business, nearly seven years after Chrysler, in the depths of the Great Recession, forced the dealership to shut down.

"We're rolling. We're selling cars and working," owner Jim Schebil said Friday. "We're excited."

The dealership, on Ann Arbor Road at Lilley in Plymouth Township, was let go by Chrysler in 2009 in the midst of the automaker's bankruptcy and a federal bailout. But Schebil was among the Chrysler dealers who won the right to reopen through a federal arbitration process that was set up during efforts to revive the company.

The battle ended last summer, when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take up an appeal by the company. That let stand an appeals court decision that favored the dealers.

Schebil is not looking back. "The new Chrysler has embraced us and they're really working with us," he said of the automaker, now reorganized as Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. "They've been very, very good with us. This is an all-new company."

Fox Hills reopened Monday and has a website and a Facebook page up and running as well.

"We've got a lot of customers coming in and just very excited that we're coming back," Schebil said. A second-generation dealer, Schebil opened Fox Hills in May 1982.

New showroom, equipment

Before reopening, the dealership had to undergo extensive remodeling, including expanding the showroom, and buy new equipment for the service center. Furniture, computers and phones are all new as well, Schebil said, and 655 gallons of paint were used to spruce up the place.

"It's quite impressive," he said.

Not new, however, are several key Fox Hills employees, including Schebil's son Nick, the used-car manager; daughter Valarie Kardos, the officer

See FOX HILLS, Page A2

Interim school chief sets record straight on salary

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

In response to questions whether the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools has two superintendent salaries on the payroll, interim school chief Monica Merritt is setting the record straight.

"I've taken on the responsibilities without any additional salary," said Merritt, who was named interim chief in December.

In a special December meeting — preceded by a closed session with the district's attorney — the school board approved by unanimous

vote an administrative transition plan that removed Superintendent Michael Meissen from leading day-to-day operations, but requires him to fulfill his contract through June 30, 2016.

When hired in 2013, Meissen was awarded an annual \$212,500 salary, plus benefits,

which is his current salary. His salary has not been increased since his arrival in the district.

While serving as interim superintendent, Merritt continues to fulfill her duties as assistant superintendent of

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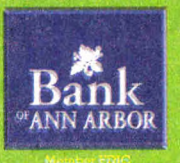
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NEWS BRIEFS

Register by Monday to vote in state primary

For those not already registered, Monday is the last day to register to be able to vote in Michigan's Tuesday, March 8, U.S. presidential primary.

U.S. citizens who will be at least 18 by election day can register at the clerk's office in the community where they reside.

To make the process easier, registrants can fill out the state's voter registration form ahead of time. It can be found on the Secretary of State's website

(www.michigan.gov/sos/). The completed form can be brought to the local clerk's office.

The Plymouth Township clerk's office is at 9955 N. Haggerty, just north of Ann Arbor Road, while the Plymouth clerk's office is at 201 S. Main, at Church.

PARC forum

PARC, the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, will be the topic of the next Plymouth Community Forum, scheduled for 7-8:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. Speakers will be Don

Soenen, president of PARC, and Shannon Price, Plymouth Township supervisor.

PARC is a nonprofit arts and recreation center at the former Central Middle School in Plymouth. Supporters would like to see it become a public amenity run by a joint city-township taxing authority that would fund improvements to the 18-acre site.

In addition, Price will be discussing taxing authorities, like downtown development authorities and special assessment districts, at the forum.

Tours of PARC, which is currently leasing space to about a dozen arts and recreation organizations, are being offered starting at 6 p.m. and again after the forum.

Chamber awards

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's second annual business awards dinner is Tuesday, March 8, at Karl's Cabin, 6005 Gotfredson.

The program, launched last year, is designed to honor the large, medium and small businesses of the year, as well as present the chamber's Legacy Award. The

dinner is a four-course meal of Michigan food products; wines and beers produced in the state will also be available.

The event begins with cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. and the awards presented beginning at 7:15 p.m. Seating is limited to 120 people.

Tickets are \$50 each; table sponsorships are available.

To reserve tickets, call Teri Fry at the chamber at 734-453-1540 or email her at teri@plymouth-mich.org.

Tax deadline

Winter tax bills in Plymouth Township can be paid without penalty through Tuesday, Feb. 16. Taxes can be paid at the treasurer's office at township hall (9955 N. Haggerty) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours payments can be placed in the white drop box in the circular drive in front of township hall.

The last day to pay taxes at township hall is Monday, Feb. 29. Beginning March 1, all 2015 tax payments must be made at the Wayne County Treasurer's Office, 400 Monroe, 5th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226.

Amazing Woman Foundation scholarship applications available

An Amazing Woman Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for spring and summer programming. Young women ages 10-18 who demonstrate a passion for their art form and a desire to seek additional education and experience in the arts are encouraged to apply. Application requirements are available at www.AnAmazing-WomanFoundation.org.

Scholarship applications are due Feb. 15. Funds can be used for art classes, materials, experiences, instrument and/or space rental, general assistance and much more. AAWF is an inclusive organization, embracing art in its many and diverse forms.

In its first round of scholarship

awards in fall 2015, AAWF awarded scholarships to three young women pursuing arts education and experience. "We are very excited about our second round of scholarship applications and awards," said Sandy Garbovan, president of AAWF. "We are committed to ensuring that the next generation of women are equipped with the courage, inner strength, confidence and positive attitude necessary to enrich their lives and transform their communities and the world in amazing ways."

An Amazing Woman Foundation was started in 2014 to develop confidence and character in young women through arts education and experience. Currently, the organization is active in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

CORRECTION

The budget deficit at Plymouth Township's Hill-top Golf Course for the fiscal year 2013 was incorrectly reported in a story in the Feb. 4 Plymouth Observer story "Board looks at golf course's future." The deficit for the year was roughly \$120,000.

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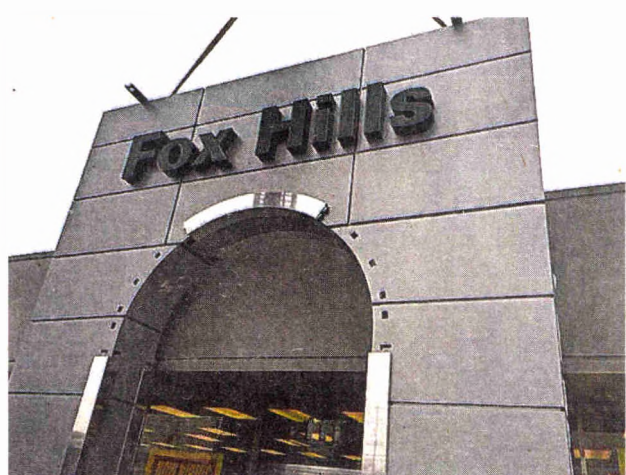
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FOX HILLS VIA FACEBOOK

Extensive remodeling at Fox Hills Chrysler Jeep, ahead of its reopening Monday, included this new facade over the entrance. Fox Hills was jettisoned by Chrysler in 2009, but won reinstatement through an arbitration process.

FOX HILLS

Continued from Page A1

manager; Rick Dillon, the service manager for 27 years; and veteran salesman Tony Pizzi.

"The band is getting back together," Schebil said with a laugh.

Schebil said he considered selling the complex after being forced out in 2009, but held onto it as he won rounds in the fight to be reinstated with Chrysler.

"As we kept going, I felt more confident," he said.

New vehicles have

changed a bit since 2009, Schebil said, with the addition of more technology.

He described driving a new Jeep Cherokee with a stop-start system, which cuts the engine when the vehicle comes to a stop, then restarts it when the brake is released (on an automatic transmission), saving on fuel and cutting emissions.

Schebil momentarily thought the Jeep had stalled. "I thought we had a problem, but we didn't," he said.

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'Lead Like A Girl' participants to graduate in June

In fall 2015, Canton Leisure Services unveiled a new program for young, at-risk women, "Lead Like A Girl." Inspiration for the program stemmed from a 2015 Super Bowl ad that challenged the nation to rethink an age-old adage about what it means to do something #LikeAGirl.

What was once considered an insult, #LikeAGirl has become an epic social battle to redefine those words for generations of women who struggle with challenges related to sexism, bias and self-confidence each day. The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center is committed to being a part of this movement. This new initiative, serving a diverse group of young women ages 11-15, is designed to change the way that these participants and the community at large think about what it means to "Lead Like A Girl."

"It has been an amazing experience getting to work with such a bright and talented group of girls," program coordinator Laura Mortier said. "In just four short

months, we have seen them grow into confident, well-spoken and understanding young women. This program has allowed them to challenge themselves, discuss relevant issues that young girls face with their peers and foster relationships with female role models in the community."

The pilot group of participants, consisting of 14 girls, will graduate in June. Qualified graduates will be given the opportunity to return this fall to serve as peer mentors and leaders for the incoming group of young women.

Monthly program curriculum that was developed to promote positive behavior, enhance social skills and encourage improved academic performance, included: "You Were Born To Lead," a special presentation by state Rep. Kristy Pagan; "The Power of Good Habits," a health and wellness workshop featuring yoga practices and healthy-eating tips; "Gender Stereotypes in the Workplace," featuring female



"Lead Like A Girl" participants, set to graduate in June, pose for a group photo.



"Lead Like A Girl" participants try their hands at cooking.



The Canton program encourages friendship and camaraderie.

physicians and specialists from St. Joseph Mercy Health System and a Canton Public Safety crime lab experience;

and "Civic Engagement," featuring an interactive presentation by Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett.

Sponsorship opportunities for "Lead Like A Girl" are still available for individuals, businesses and foundations to assist in the development of future sessions. To become involved, contact Mortier at 734-394-5376 or email lmortier@canton-mi.org.

The 2016 program initiatives will include on-site visits to the Michigan state capitol and Eastern Michigan University. Interested future candidates are encouraged to apply through the B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center. Applica-

tions will be available on The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center website at www.canton-mi.org/146 beginning in July. Space is limited.

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, provides a fun, teen-friendly environment where students ages 11-17 can participate in supervised after-school programs, social events and activities. For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-398-5570.

Federal judge issues injunction on public official 'gag order' law

U.S. District Court Judge John Corbett O'Meara issued a preliminary injunction Friday to stop the enforcement of a "gag order" provision in Public Act 269 that unconstitutionally was keeping school district and local government officials from communicating with voters before the March 8 election.

"Public officials deserve clarity on this issue so that they may serve the public in the normal course without fear of arbitrary sanction or prosecution," O'Meara wrote in his decision. "This matter is best re-

solved through the legislative process, with due deliberation and debate. Given the fast approaching March 8, 2016, elections, however, time is of the essence and the court must act."

More than 100 school districts and local governments with issues on the March 8 ballot were being harmed by Subsection 57(3) of Public Act 269, which bans local officials or employees of local governments and school districts from using public resources to communicate with voters within 60 days of an election by giving them factual information about a

ballot measure through radio, television, mass mailing or prerecorded telephone messages in the final two months of an election, according to a press release from the Conference of Western Wayne.

State law already prohibits governmental officials from using tax dollars to advocate for or against a proposal, the release notes. The Michigan Department of State over a three-year period found five valid complaints where local entities violated the state law forbidding them from advocating for a ballot issue.

Plaintiffs contended the new gag order went far beyond what is constitutionally permissible, violating their First and 14th Amendment rights. O'Meara issued the injunction one day after hearing arguments at the U.S. District Court, Federal Building in Ann Arbor.

"We're grateful that Judge O'Meara recognized the irreparable harm that Section 57(3) was causing communities and voters," said Jerome R. Watson of Miller Canfield, who argued for the 18 plaintiffs Thursday.

Multiple organizations

are opposed to Section 57(3) of PA 269, including the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, Michigan Association of School Administrators, Michigan Association of School Boards and Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators. The groups have consistently called for a repeal of the gag order provision in PA 269.

"We are pleased that Judge O'Meara concurs

with local government organizations that public officials deserve clarity in state law and the ability to communicate factual information about local ballot proposals," said Larry Merrill, Michigan Townships Association executive director. "Local officials are the best source of information about local matters, and voters are entitled to – and expect – their local officials to fully explain the ramifications of these often-complex issues. Michigan residents deserve nothing less."

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Winter Guard spins to excellence this season

"Is that really a thing?" A color guard member was recently questioned by a student during a freshman at a "Get-To-Know-You" event. She replied: "No, it's not 'a thing.' Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard is the thing!"

So what is Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard? The color guard really tells the story of the marching band show and is an integral part of the band. Members complement the show during the fall season, spinning flags, rifles and sabers in addition to entertaining the crowd with dance and gymnastics on the football field. What happens when the season ends and the temperatures drop below 30 degrees?

Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard takes the action indoors and there are some distinct differences between the Marching Band Color Guard and Winter Guard. The Winter Guard creates a new show that is performed on a tarp that covers the gym floor; each team paints a tarp to correspond with their show's theme. The music no longer comes from a marching band, but is a



The Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard readies for the season.

recorded six-minute piece that the girls perform to implementing multiple guard features. It's taking artistry in motion to another level. According to director Rachel Nelson, it also teaches young women the values of determination, persistence and dedication.

This year the guard continues under the direction of Nelson and Lucas Schmidt, assisted by their staff of chore-

ographers, Katie Hopkins, Rory Duffey and Seth Williams.

"This has been an explosive year for the guard, with the freshman class doubling the size of the group. This year we had 25 girls join," Nelson said. "The girls are so motivated and dedicated, their hard work has paid off. The marching band won the state championship in November. The Winter Guard has high aspirations

and hopes to take the state title this year for Winter Guard. These girls are not afraid to set the bar high."

Plymouth-Canton Color Guard would like to see this momentum continue into the fall 2016 season. It has a Junior Guard that is run through P-CCS Community Education and spots are still available. Go to pccregister.com for registration information.

The program has been instrumental in exposing middle school students to what Color Guard is all about. They meet 6-8 p.m. each Wednesday at Discovery Middle School. The group receives training in the many aspects of guard and they have the opportunity to march with the award winning Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Marching Band in the Memorial Day Parade this spring.

The guard has an incredible work ethic and contains some of the most driven young women at the park, Nelson said.

The girls are not only talented, but also excel at academics. They have an average grade-point of 3.75, they have

members representing both the STEM academy, as well as the International Academy. The group even includes National Merit Scholar Madeleine Hoke.

This year, the Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard will present its show, "Flight of the Monarch." The group will compete in five local competitions before it competes at the state championships and then heads to Winter Guard International in Dayton.

In collaboration with the Plymouth-Canton Winter Drumline, the guard will host a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. April 1 at Plymouth High School. Admission is \$8 and includes performances from both the drumline and the Color Guard following the dinner. All proceeds raised will assist in getting both groups to their national competition in Dayton.

The guard holds a community performance on most Friday evenings in the Plymouth High School Cafeteria. The public is invited. Be sure to check the calendar page at www.PCMB.net for the time. Admission is free.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Grand Valley State University
 Amanda Hunt of Canton made the fall 2015 list in her first semester. She is majoring in political science.

Tufts University
 Shehryar Malik of Canton was named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester.

Georgia Institute of Technology
 Andre Hijaouy of Plymouth made the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester.

Kent State
 Canton residents Courtney Peterson, Brittney Prather and Emilee Beyer were named to the fall 2015 dean's list.

Olivet Nazarene University
 Chloe Homco of Canton was named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester.

John Carroll University
 Norbert Kozlowski of Canton was named to the fall 2015 semester dean's list.

Saginaw Valley
 » Katelyn Moss of Plymouth and Christopher Perkovich of Canton were among graduates who earned degrees from Saginaw Valley State University during the December 2015 graduation ceremonies.

» Jacob Misiolek of Canton contributes to American Axel & Manufacture in an intern-

ship position. As part of the SVSU Cooperative Education and Internship Program administered by the Office of Career Services, students such as Misiolek have the opportunity to apply their academic coursework into a real-world setting. Misiolek is an electrical engineering major.

Fort Lewis College
 Kyle Bond of Canton graduated Dec. 19, 2015, from Fort Lewis College. Bond received a bachelor's degree with a major in biology.

George Mason
 Megan Johnston, a student at Canton High School, has

been selected to represent the school as a National Youth Delegate to the 2016 Washington Youth Summit on the Environment at George Mason University.

Johnston joins a select group of 250 students from across the country to participate in an intensive study week-long of leadership in environmental science and conservation. She was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in leadership in the sciences and conservation studies.

George Mason University along with partners, National Geographic and the National

Zoo welcome the nation's youth scholars to Washington, D.C. With distinguished faculty, guest speakers, and direct access to elite D.C. practitioners, the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment offers aspiring environmentalists and student leaders an unparalleled experience. The week-long program is held at George Mason University's state-of-the-art campus. The summit will encourage and inspire young leaders who desire a unique experience focused on successful careers in this dynamic industry.

The Washington Youth Summit on the Environment will run June 26 to July 1, 2016.


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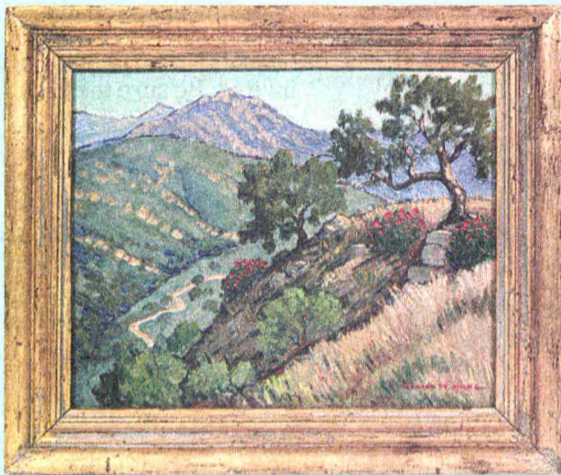
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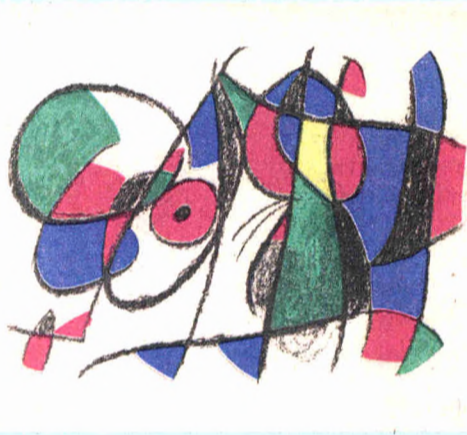
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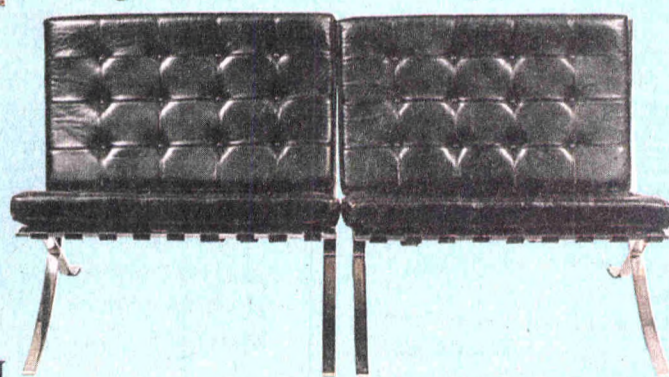
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Allan Seger traveled from his home in Ann Arbor for the book sale. He picked up a few books and a Johnny Cash CD.

Used book sale attracts buyers to Livonia library

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Hundreds of books can be found most days inside the Livonia library buildings. This weekend, though, there's hundreds more in the atrium of the Robert and Janet Bennett Library on Five Mile.

The Friends of the Library Used Book Sale runs all weekend at the library in the atrium, giving book hunters a chance to peruse the

hundreds of copies for the book they're looking for. The next used book sale is expected to take place sometime in May.

The book sale began Friday morning and runs throughout the weekend. The sale continues 1-5 p.m. Sunday at the library, 32777 Five Mile, in Livonia.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

INCIDENTS

Continued from Page A1

behavior, they say their role also involves going into classrooms to educate students about issues ranging from drunken driving to bullying, mentoring youngsters who need it and protecting a 305-acre campus whose daytime population could be compared to a small town. The Park has about 500 employees.

The numbers

Police-involved school incidents can — and do — fluctuate at The Park. But here's a closer look at some new statistics provided by SRO Dave Eyl:

» Police made only four custodial arrests of students last fall semester, a drop of 50 percent from the same period one year ago, 81 percent from 2013 and 66.6 percent from 2012. Less-serious citations have increased slightly, with 91 handed out last semester.

» SROs had no dangerous weapons incidents last fall semester, compared to just one in 2014, none in 2013 and two in 2012. The most serious offenses in recent years involved a large knife and an airsoft gun, or firearm replica, being brought to school.

» "We're not aware of any (real) firearms," Eyl said.

» Police officers handled seven drug-related incidents last fall semester, a 16.6-percent increase for the same period one year earlier. However, those cases were down 30 percent from 2013 and 75.8 percent from 2012.

» Bullying incidents are down 73 percent since 2012, with only four cases reported last semester. Those numbers are based on students who come forward.

» SROs reported six



Curry

Eyl

Jagst

assaults last semester, compared to four the previous fall semester, but much lower than the 27 assaults in 2012.

» Traffic accidents on or near The Park have spiked considerably. In all, 36 incidents were reported last fall, up 71.4 percent from 2012.

Even when a student is in trouble, SROs say the goal is to help the youngsters work through their problems and strive for graduation — not probation or incarceration. The officers work closely with The Park's security officers, school counselors, 35th District Court and Growth Works, an agency that provides services ranging from substance abuse treatment to family counseling.

'Best relationship'

Canton Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden said the unified approach, in his opinion, is "absolutely the best relationship" of its kind in Michigan. At school, SROs say one of their main goals is to develop trusting relationships with students. One teen, who improved his behavior after a marijuana arrest, became a confidant and provided a tip that led police to a student involved in malicious destruction of property.

SROs are careful to protect those relationships by keeping sensitive discussions private.

"We don't want to out anybody in the hallway," SRO Ed Jagst said.

Police officers also are tapping into social media to monitor potential issues such as security threats.

Monica Merritt, the Plymouth-Canton district's interim superin-

tendent, said Canton police officers are "an incredibly important part of the educational team" at

"He gave me a bunch of good quotes for the article," Robbins said. "As serious as the SROs are, they're great people. They do a lot more than what is being asked of them — and they're very good at what they do."

The Park.

"The experience, mentorship and commitment to student safety that they bring to the unique setting that is The Park helps the experience for the staff and students who teach and learn there on a daily basis," she said. "With all the benefits that the SROs bring to those three high schools, one of the most important and rewarding parts is the relationships that they are able to develop with the students. We know that this provides the high school students with positive role models who work so hard not just to keep The Park a safe place for all, but to be a great example for others to do the exact same thing."

Student perspective

Salem High senior Chris Robbins recalled an incident involving a student who, while waiting for his mother to pick him up at school, made a joking remark about selling drugs. Police and school security took it seriously and investigated.

"As a student, I feel as though that's great. We have people here who care for our safety and care for our well-being," Robbins said. "As great as the teachers are about that, there's only so much they can do if somebody comes to school with a gun or weapon. Having the SROs there makes me feel safer."

Robbins, a reporter for The Park's student newspaper, *The Perspective*, said SRO Jagst once helped him when he was working on a story about SADD, or Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Eyl said SROs also have helped teens who confide that they are victims of sexual assaults and parental abuse. That help may involve detectives, counselors and Child Protective Services.

SROs have investigated an occasional case of ethnic intimidation. One of the more recent incidents involved a white student who assaulted a black student, causing minor injuries. SROs say such reports are rare, even though The Park has a diverse population.

Curry said most Plymouth-Canton area students have long interacted with peers of different races and cultures, simply because the district serves a diverse population.

"They've been growing up with each other from day one in kindergarten," he said.

Students also have been exposed to an array of clubs, ranging from the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community to K-Pop, a group that celebrates Korean culture and music.

Hilden said Canton first assigned officers to The Park in 1997. They receive training from the National Association of School Resource Officers.

Hilden said school officials and SROs work together to set expectations for student behavior. He said they try their best to fairly enforce those rules.

"I think it lets everybody know what is expected of them," he said. "I think it makes for a safer environment."

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Canton library helps furnish school classrooms

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools recently received a large donation for furniture and other items from the Canton Public Library, including chairs, tables, bookshelves and room decorations. Five total P-CCS schools accepted the donations, headlined by

numerous items to help continue the makeover of the Allen Early Learning Academy, the district's new preschool and early childhood headquarters.

"The library is pleased to donate children's library furnishings and literacy development resources to our

community partner, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools," said Eva Davis, director of the Canton Public Library. "The Allen Early Learning Academy received the bulk of our tables and chairs and our well-loved giraffes and their habitat. Eriksen Elementary, Huls-

ing Elementary, Gallimore Elementary and Pioneer Middle School also received many items.

"We are glad to connect our community with resources to support learning and help foster student success," she added.

"Community partners

like the outstanding Canton Public Library are such an instrumental part of the growth and well-being of our students and our school district," P-CCS interim Superintendent Monica Merritt said. "We thank the entire staff from the CPL, not just for their generosity and dona-

tions to our school buildings, but even more so for all of the work they do for countless families and children in the P-CCS community. The district is fortunate to be surrounded and supported by the two amazing resources for learning that our public libraries both offer."

HOTEL

Continued from Page A1

League players.

"We got it open just in time," said Ron Wilson, chief executive officer of the Troy-based Hotel Investment Services, which is managing the new hotel. "We'll be the U.N. for hockey here for the next week or so."

Partnership

Monaghan said the new hotel is ideally locat-

ed for the arena and will get a lot of business from players and visiting fans, plus from other arena events. The NTDP plays in the United States Hockey League, which has 17 teams in states in the Midwest, and Monaghan said visiting teams will typically be staying at the Holiday Inn.

"Having a hotel and arena paired right next to each other is pretty much a winning pair," he said. The arena has amenities, like the C.J.'s Brewing Co. restaurant

and the drive-in movies in warmer weather, that can benefit hotel guests, he added.

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites is locally owned by Beck Ventures and represents an \$8.5 million investment, including the site, Wilson said. The hotel has features that make it especially comfortable, he said, like soundproof building materials in the floors and walls and individual heating and cooling systems in each room that are separately con-

tained, making them much quieter than the in-wall systems found in many hotels.

The hotel also has a conference room with a 100-person capacity, a swimming pool and a fitness center. There is no restaurant, but complimentary breakfasts will be served and the hotel plans to obtain a liquor license for events and sales to guests in the lobby shop, Wilson said.

Rooms will average about \$135 a night, Wilson said, and the hotel

has a full-time staff of 14 people.

The Holiday Inn is hosting Five Nations players, then players in town for another hockey event. It will start taking reservations from the general public in March, Miller said.

Wilson said that, with freeways, business parks and many major corporations nearby, the hotel will be attracting business travelers during the week, but on the weekends will draw a hockey crowd or people in town

for other nearby events, such as weddings.

Hotel Investment Services also manages The Inn at St. John's. Wilson said the new Holiday Inn will be handling the overflow when that hotel fills up during special events, such as the Concours d'Elegance, a show of rare and collectible vehicles that's hosted each July by St. John's.

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INTERIM

Continued from Page A1

human relations and labor relations. In this role and as interim superintendent, Merritt remains at her \$128,273 salary. Merritt received an increase from \$122,801 in 2008-09 to \$123,206 in 2012-13 and to her current level in 2013-14.

A resolution making Merritt the new superintendent is on the agenda for the Tuesday, Feb. 9, school board meeting. If the board adopts the resolution and changes Merritt's status, she still will not receive the superintendent's salary until Meissen's contract expires in June.

At the Jan. 26 meeting, the board discussed the direction for choosing a permanent superintendent. Board members' sentiments indicated a leaning toward focusing on internal candidates, rather than conducting a national search.

Meanwhile, the question of whether two superintendent salaries are on the payroll has surfaced a number of times in the past month, particularly in light of continuing negotiations with the Plymouth-Canton Educa-

tion Association teachers. In December, teachers rejected a proposed contract that offered a continuation of a pay freeze this year and a half-step increase next year for teachers earning in the first through 13th step. Teachers at the top of the scale, the 14th step and above, were offered a 0.5-percent increase next year.

In her support of teachers, former district employee Sonia Culver at the Jan. 26 board meeting asked about Meissen and "at what cost does he remain?"

She also questioned how Meissen could be

removed from his duties, but "in the next breath" the board determined him to be an "effective" superintendent.

"Obviously, whatever he's currently doing to fulfill his contract does not warrant the salary of a superintendent. Perhaps the new superintendent's contract should include a clause: 'If you can't do the job, your contract is terminated at that time, along with your salary,'" Culver said in a prepared statement.

"This is a situation that is not new to the district. It has happened before with other administrative personnel, ne-

cessitating the hiring of a replacement at an additional cost to the district. An egregious practice, to say the least," Culver said.

Board members did not respond to Culver's questions and comments.

When the school board in December approved the resolution making the transition from Meissen to Merritt, there was no discussion for the reasons for the switch. But Meissen and the district are fulfilling his contract.

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Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt

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The blues program just keeps getting better and better. On Feb. 9, headliners are Harmonica Shah, who is low-down Detroit blues and who has toured the world proving it. Billy Davis is in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for his years with Hank Ballard & the Midnighters. Backing these true veterans on guitar is Carlton Washington (now touring with Larry McCray), Phil Hale on keys (many years and tours with Thornetta Davis) and Curtis Sumter on drums, himself a great local bandleader and singer.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month.

There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy jazz in a listening room setting close to the entertainers.

On Feb. 23, for the their Elks debut will be The Boogie Woogie Kid Trio. Detroit's Boogie Woogie Kid, also known as Matthew Ball, joins singer Kate Jablonski and drummer Sean Nasrey for a rollicking romp through popular piano and song hits of the '20s, '30s and '40s. Enjoy favorites like *Swanee River Boogie*, *Waltzing Matilda*, *In the Mood*, *The Entertainer*, *Woman Be Wise*, *Those Were the Days*, *Bumble Boogie*, *I Have the Same Old Blues* and many more. For a preview, go to www.boogiewoogiekid.com.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.



DAVID MALHALAB MNS PHOTO | M NEWS SERVICE

Hundreds of visitors showed up for the St Robert Bellarmine Men's Club's annual train show in Redford.

Train enthusiasts and dealers crowd St. Robert Bellarmine's annual show

Hundreds of train aficionados turned out last weekend for the St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club's annual OI Toy and Train Show at St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford.

Organizers said the 2016 show was "significantly bigger and better" than it has been in many years after adding new operating displays.

More than 230 dealer tables were set up and the show featured a half-dozen operating displays, including the always popular LEGO display. As always, attendees had their trains tested by the Lincoln Park Train Club and saw trains in operation on the multiple layouts.

"We are actually quite excited about the show this year," co-chair Jim Vote said.

The train shows were



DAVID MALHALAB MNS PHOTO | M NEWS SERVICE

Max and Liam Bernhard told their dad Don of Redford the train items that they wanted at the St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club Train Show.



DAVID MALHALAB MNS PHOTO | M NEWS SERVICE

Ron Beier of Canton and Ron Beier II of Livonia came together to participate in the St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club Train Show.

"We have continued the show after Ray suddenly died a few years ago, both in honor of Ray and because it is a popular show," Vote said. "It raises money for good causes and Ray would

have wanted it to continue."

The show featured train collectors from four states. Door prizes were awarded, and a new Lionel train set was raffled off.

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PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting February 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street; Plymouth, MI
734-453-0750 x 217

Publish: February 7, 2015

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Yankee Museum trains for guests with no, low vision

The Yankee Air Museum recently took steps to improve access to its exhibits and collections for people who have low vision or no vision. Key museum department heads and tour guides (docents) received "sighted guide training" Jan. 27 as part of the museum's "no guest left behind" initiative. The training was provided as a service of the state of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons.

"At the Yankee Air Museum, we have always encouraged people to get up close to our airplanes, something that's rare among aviation museums," said Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum. "We know people who are visually impaired enjoy being active and taking in all



The Yankee Air Museum has made improvements to allow for guests without or low vision.

of the culture of the community. The sighted guide training assures we can deliver a quality 'up close' experience for our visitors who have low or no vision."

"The sighted guide training consisted of a presentation and real-time demonstrations with our docents and staff role playing various scenarios," Walsh said. "It was very thor-

ough and all of us came away with a new appreciation for our eyesight and a new sensitivity for people who are visually impaired."

The museum will offer a "Behind the Scenes Touch Tour" for people with low or no vision March 5. Registration is required in order to keep the tour groups small and the interactions large.

The museum has 11 docents who recently completed the certification program for Boy Scouts of America merit badges.

"I'm really excited to be able to offer cool new programs that appeal to boys and young men leading to merit badges from Boy Scouts of America," Walsh said. "And we're not stopping with this certification. We'll be moving ahead with the Boy Scouts STEM Nova program and working with the Girl Scouts as well."

For more information on the March 5 "Behind the Scenes Touch Tour," call 734-483-4030.

For more information on the Boy Scouts of America merit badge programs at Yankee Air Museum, email education@yankeeamuseum.org.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

'LITTLE MERMAID'

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7

Location: PARC, 650 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: Forever After Productions will stage Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, *The Little Mermaid* is a love story for the ages. With music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater and a compelling book by Doug Wright, this fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including *Under the Sea*, *Kiss the Girl* and *Part of Your World*.

Cost: General admission tickets are \$10. Tickets can be purchased at www.iheartforeverafter.com or by calling Forever After Productions at 734-547-5156

FIGHT THE FLU

Time/Date: Donations 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, through February

Location: Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, in conjunction with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, is asking the community to "Share the Love - Not the Flu" and donate items that will keep students and teachers well during the flu season

Contact: Laurie Aren at laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org or call 734-453-5464

WINE, BEER TASTING

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Feb. 14

Location: Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, 42600

Details: The event will feature wine and beer tasting and hors d'oeuvres, compliments of Holiday Market.

Cost: \$35 admission; sponsorships range \$250 to \$500

P-CEP CULINARY DINNER

Time/Date: 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11

Location: Rock Cafe, Salem High School

Details: Dive in to be served at the fourth annual P-CEP Culinary Program dinner fundraiser in time for Valentine's Day. The 36 students in the P-CEP culinary programs have designed a four-course meal for guests. The event is a fundraiser to help students with competitions

Cost: \$35 per person; tickets available at Old World Olive, 457 Forest Avenue, Plymouth



The P-CEP culinary program will host a four-course dinner fundraiser, Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Rock Cafe.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Time/Date: 2-3 p.m. Feb. 13; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 20; 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 25

Location: Canton Public Library

Details: The Canton Public Library has announced a series of programs to celebrate Black History Month. Urban Stringz II Youth Ensemble, a Detroit-based string ensemble, performs Saturday, Feb. 13. The program is intended to educate children through music to build a better community. Classical violin and contemporary music are blended to form what is billed as a unique and unforgettable music experience. All ages are welcome. Mancala, a challenging game that has been played from ancient times throughout Africa, is featured Saturday, Feb. 20. All ages are welcome. "Buffalo Soldiers: History & Horses" featuring a presentation by James H. Mills of the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Center, happens Thursday, Feb. 25. Mills is set to share the history of the legendary African-American U.S. Army regiment.

RECORD SHOW

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20

Location: Salem High School cafeteria, 46181 Joy Road

Details: Hosted by student radio station WSDP-FM (88.1), known as The Park, the annual record show returns. Record show patrons often can find early releases by groups such as

the Beatles and the Rolling Stones — sometimes "for significant amounts of money" — or they can opt for the \$1 album bins, 45-rpm vinyl singles and the occasional cassette tape

Cost: Admission is \$3, but collectors can get early admission at 9 a.m. for \$5. Students from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools get in free with student identification

ESSAY CONTEST

Time/Date: Applications due April 1

Details: The Beloved Community, partnering with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, has announced the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest. The contest is open to all sixth- through 12th-grade students in Plymouth and Canton, including those children who attend traditional public, charter and private schools or who are home-schooled. Participation in the essay contest is intended to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion and further the goals of education, deep reflection and reconciliation on topics critical to racial justice in the Plymouth-Canton community.

Contact: Inquiries about the application process may be directed to Loren Khogali at lorenkhogali@gmail.com or Sommer Foster at sommer.foster@gmail.com

RELAY KICKOFF

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Thursday,

Feb. 11. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road, Canton

Details: Relay for Life of Canton organizers hope to raise \$170,000 this year to fight cancer, while also increasing the number of teams participating this year. The kickoff party helps volunteers understand how the community has benefited from money raised. It also honors cancer survivors and caregivers, while serving as a pep rally of sorts for volunteers and team leaders who will become crucial to this year's success. Volunteers and teams will be able to register for this year's event during the kickoff party

Contact: Go to www.relayforlife.org/CantonMI to learn more or contact Schaper at 248-663-3417 or by email at Megan.Schaper@cancer.org

ANNUAL AUCTION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14

Details: Concordia Lutheran School hosts its annual auction, "With One Heart," at the Helenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, in Westland. Tickets are \$30 (\$270 for a table of 10) and must be ordered by Feb. 8. Ticket includes appetizers, dinner, dessert and drinks. For more information and to order tickets, call 248-474-2488 or 313-937-2233.

CANCER SUPPORT

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. third Monday of each month

Details: Connecting with others who know what it is to have lung cancer can help during this difficult time. To start, join the Lung Cancer Support Group at the Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon Dr. David Sternberg leads the group. The group is open to anyone living with lung cancer and their loved ones. Meetings are free the third Monday each month. For more information, call 248-473-4828.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Men's Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Ladies Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Connor's Restaurant, Haggerty/Five Mile Road, Northville. To save a seat, contact Carol at 313-562-3080.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting

Co-Ed Breakfast at Richard's Restaurant, on Plymouth Road at Eckles Road. Contact Jerry at 734-455-2651.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday

Location: Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth Township

Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging announces new programs for senior community from the city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Upcoming programs and events will include Chair Exercise, Free Wii Bowling, Knitting & Crocheting Class, Craft Classes, Free Drop in Game Day, Senior Cardio Fitness and Senior Yoga. In addition to the new programs, the center will offer free monthly bingo beginning Feb. 16. Presently, the Community Senior Transportation is at the Friendship Station. The center will offer Focus Hope distribution and a newly created food pantry.

Contact: For more information and a calendar of dates and times and information on membership, call 734-354-3222. For transportation information, call 734-459-8888.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Dorothy & Peter Brown Adult Day Care Program holds free monthly caregiver support group meetings at two locations. Respite care may be available during the daytime meetings; if interested, inquire when you RSVP.

JVS (29699 Southfield Road, Southfield):

» 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, for family caregivers of older adults with memory loss

» 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, for family caregivers of all older adults

For information or to RSVP for either meeting, contact Dorothy Moon at 248-233-4392 or dmoon@jvsdet.org. Jewish Senior Life, Fleischman Residence/Blumberg Plaza (6710 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield):

» 1:30-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, for family caregivers of older adults with memory loss

» Call for information re the evening support group meeting for family caregivers of all older adults

For information or to RSVP for meeting, contact Fran Cook at 248-592-5032 or frcook@jslmi.org.

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NEWS BRIEFS

PARC launches program for those 60 and older

The Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, a nonprofit located in the former Central Middle School in Plymouth, has launched PARC Social, a new program for active people age 60 and older.

PARC Social includes activities like water walking and water aerobics, easy yoga, Zumba and fitness classes, easu art and pottery classes and The Gathering Place, a room for coffee and socializing. There are also indoor walking routes at the complex.

The PARC is inviting those 60 and up to visit beginning this week, Monday through Saturday. Many of the classes, such as art, fitness and aquatics, that usually have a fee will be free for them during the week.

More information about PARC and PARC Social is available at the PARC website, www.plymouthparc.com.

Lincoln talk

Dan Packer, a longtime Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum member, will offer a free presentation at the museum at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"Lincoln's Legacy Into the 21st Century" will look at how Lincoln's life and presidency shaped the generations that

came after and also how that legacy changed with the generations.

The museum is at 155 S. Main, Plymouth.

Miracle League

Registration is under way for the Miracle League of Plymouth's spring and fall baseball seasons.

The Miracle League gives young people with disabilities a chance to play baseball on their own field. The league plays at the Bilkie Family Field on Theodore in Plymouth, behind the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (the former Central Middle School).

Play is in four different age groups: 5-8, 9-12, 13-17 and 18 and older. The price for a spring season is \$60 a player or \$100 for both the spring and fall seasons.

Registration can be done through the Parks and Recreation section of Plymouth's website, www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. Or it can be done in person at the Plymouth Community Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, from 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, see the Miracle League's website (www.miracleleagueplymouth.org) or email the league at info@miracleleagueplymouth.org.

Plan for elder financial care before it is needed



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

It would be easy if you could say once you turn a certain age is when you need to start thinking about these issues. There is no magic age; it depends upon your situation.

I recently read a very disturbing story. The story was about a senior citizen who lived alone, his children were out of town and, basically, he had his money stolen by a caregiver. The caregiver was hired by the family to assist the gentleman with his needs, including handling his finances. Even though they eventually prosecuted and convicted the caregiver, it was relatively meaningless because the end result was the money was gone.

Unfortunately, these stories are becoming more and more common. People are living longer than ever before and the fact that families are spread out all over the country, along with the complexity of personal finance, has resulted in a wave of elder financial abuse. It is becoming so prevalent that, finally, federal and state agencies are starting to awaken to the problem.

No one would want to end up like this gentleman did. He is now broke, totally dependent upon government assistance and, as a result, his quality of life is not what he had hoped it would be. The lesson is two-fold. First, as we get older, we have a responsibility to ourselves to make sure we have a plan in place to handle our finances if we are unable to do so. In the case at hand, nothing was in place, leaving the caregiver an opportunity to take advantage of the situation.

I believe you have to be pro-active and have a plan. The plan has to have some sort of checks and balances to protect you. Particularly if you have a non-family

member assist you with finances, there needs to be some oversight. Unfortunately, in many family situations, there also should be some sort of oversight. The reality is that sometimes even children will take advantage of their parents. That is why children are not necessarily the best people to handle a senior's finances.

The time to start thinking about these issues is not when the crisis develops, but well ahead of time. This is a difficult issue and it is one we hope will never happen to us, but it's important to be prepared. When you have

time to explore and research the various options available, it will help you make the right decision for your situation. In the midst of a crisis is the worst time to try to make a decision.

It would be easy if you could say once you turn a certain age is when you need to start thinking about these issues. There is no magic age; it depends upon your situation. Suffice it to say someone in their mid- or late 70s, no matter their current health, should at least begin the process of exploring options. If you have a loved one who is getting up in age, it is important to begin to explore this issue. I recognize these are difficult conversations to have. What is also difficult and not pleasant is what happened to this gentleman — to be elderly, in need and have no resources.

One last note: If you are going to handle someone else's finances, it is important to have the right legal documents. For most situations, this will be a Durable Power of Attorney. This document will give you the legal authority to handle someone's finances and, at the same time, provide you some protection.

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

Ben Daniels Band coming to Village Theater

The five-member Ben Daniels Band is coming to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill for a performance at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20.

The band brings to the stage original songs and covers that span a wide range of music genres, including Americana, blues, jazz and rock 'n' roll.

With five CDs under its belt, the Ben Daniels Band has toured in Michigan, New York City, Washington D.C. and Nashville.

Son of actor Jeff Daniels, Ben Daniels is joined by Tommy Reifel on bass, George Merkel on guitar and Wesley Fritzscheimer on drums



The Ben Daniels Band is coming to Canton.

and mandolin, along with Daniels' wife, singer/songwriter Amanda Daniels.

Ben Daniels was raised on Bob Dylan, Robert Johnson and Jack

White, among others.

Tickets are \$15 and available at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling 734-394-5300. The theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Applications available for Noon Rotary Club scholarships

The Plymouth Noon Rotary Club will again offer two Memorial Scholarships. Each of these scholarships is for \$2,500 per year for four years, for a total of \$10,000. Additional one-year scholarships will also be awarded. The Rotary Club Memorial Scholarships are awarded to students who reside in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district.

Scholarship Committee Members are looking for well-rounded individuals, who have demonstrated academic success, show leadership qualities and exhibit the characteristics of "Service Above Self." To be considered for this scholarship, students must reside within the Plymouth-Canton school district, be a graduating senior, have a GPA of at least 3.0, be a person of high personal and moral character and have demonstrated school and community service.

Through the years, the Plymouth Rotary club has awarded hundreds of scholarships. Making a recipient selection from among the applications submitted each year is very difficult. It is truly rewarding to realize that so many of our students are talented and contributing young citizens. The Rotary Club of Plymouth is pleased to be able to make these scholarships available to the deserving youth of our community.

In addition to the Plymouth Rotary Club Memorial scholarships, the club also funds technical education scholarships and academic scholarships. In total, the club expects to award more than \$50,000 in scholarships this year.

Memorial Scholarships application forms are available in the coun-

selling offices at each of the high schools, as well as on the Rotary webSite at www.plymouthrotary.org.

The deadline for submitting the application is March 6.

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 - Whether or not obligations can be fulfilled
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 - How to honor the spirit of our vows or promises

For your convenience, this seminar will be held at two locations. Please RSVP for the location nearest you.

<p>Wednesday, February 10, 2016 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm</p> <p>Arden Courts Memory Care Community 24005 West 13 Mile Road Bingham Farms, MI 48025</p> <p>RSVP for this event by calling (248) 644-8100 or e-mailing BinghamFarms@arden-courts.com</p>	<p>Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:30 am to 1:00 pm</p> <p>Arden Courts Memory Care Community 32500 Seven Mile Road Livonia, MI 48152</p> <p>RSVP for this event by calling (248) 426-7055 or e-mailing Livonia@arden-courts.com</p>
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Tim Smith
Staff Writer

From the opening tip-off Friday night, the Salem Rocks ran South Lyon East out of the building.

Watching Salem break out to a 42-8 halftime team and ultimately roll 76-53 in a KLAACentral Division varsity boys basketball game were inductees and family members of Salem's inaugural class of inductees into the Wall of Champions.

The late basketball coach Fred Thomann would have loved the show.

So would have the late Tom Moshimer, coach of the Rocks' 1974 state championship football team. Both are being posthumously inducted this weekend; the official ceremony takes place Saturday night. Also inducted in the team category is that '74 grid juggernaut.

"There's a lot of tradition

here at Salem and it's been a long time coming," Rocks head coach Bob Brodie said. "I'm glad it's started. It's been talked about for years, but it takes some time, it takes some energy and it takes some money to do that."

Brodie then said the only thing that would have made the special night even better was if Thomann and Moshimer could have been in the Salem gymnasium for the game and half-time introductions.

"I miss those guys; they

See ROCKS, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jodee Dillon greets Rich Hewlett. Jodee's husband Tim Dillon and Hewlett both were quarterbacks for the Rocks during the 1970s.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton Chiefs varsity football coach Tim Baechler (standing) congratulates future D-I players Jared Stephens (left) and Jalen Cochran (right) on National Signing Day.

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Division I football teams come calling for Canton standouts Cochran, Stephens

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With a stroke of the pen Wednesday, any anxiety that might have overtaken prospective Division I football players Jalen Cochran and Jared Stephens vanished.

On National Signing Day, both Canton seniors happily left the college recruiting game firmly behind — and now look forward to playing the game they love.

"It's a huge deal, all the stress is gone now," smiled Cochran, a 6-4, 235-pound defensive end who ultimately decided to sign with Arizona. "All the recruiting craziness, it's all over. I'm super excited."

Cochran flicked off a late Hail Mary pitch made by Michigan State University and opted for hot weather and the high-flying Pac-12 Conference.

Meanwhile, multi-talented Stephens — a standout member of the Chiefs'

"It's a huge deal, all the stress is gone now. All the recruiting craziness, it's all over. I'm super excited."

JALEN COCHRAN,
Canton senior who signed to play college football at Arizona

defensive secondary and running attack — is all set to join Saginaw Valley State University's Cardinals.

"I have some images of what it (college football) could be like, but honestly I don't know for sure," said the 6-0, 190-pound Stephens. "I'll see when I get up there. I know I got to get bigger, faster, stronger. That's always the thing."

"I think I'm smart enough to play at the next level, but there's always room

for improvement."

Fitting in

The stress of where to sign was less on Stephens, who is going to be reunited with former Canton teammate Matt McKoy and pretty much leaned toward SVSU all along.

"I like where they're heading in the future, the coaches have good plans for me," Stephens said. "The defensive back coach told me he has plans for me. I'm looking forward to getting there."

"Their facilities are so nice, their coaches, they were all like my dads when I went up there. They treated me like I was their son, they treated me nice, fairly and they told me the truth."

But for Cochran, the decision came down to the wire. In addition to Arizona, he was mulling offers from Iowa State and Miami (Ohio). Then came the

See CHIEFS, Page B5

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

He's cool 'Cat about future

Abraham thrilled about chance to play D-I football

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

From snap to whistle throughout his Plymouth high school football career, Victor Abraham II was as much a gamer as you'd find anywhere.

And Abraham's impeccable work habits and determination to excel on the gridiron for the Wildcats paid off handsomely with Wednesday's National Signing Day. The standout defensive back and wideout inked his national letter of intent to play Division I football at Southern Illinois University.

"I'm just blessed to play at the next level," said Abraham, during National Signing Day festivities with families and friends. "I can't wait to give it a shot, go in there and see how I stand out against all the other players."

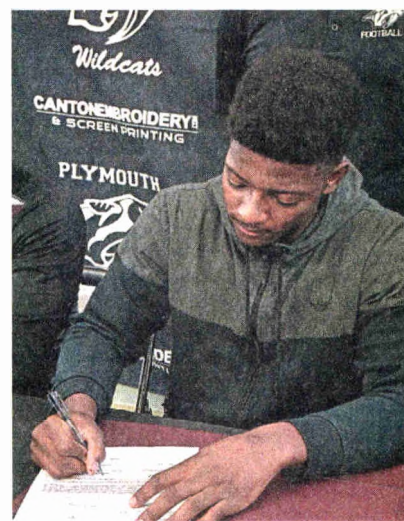
Plymouth head football coach Mike Sawchuk — who also has three other members of the 2015 team moving on to play collegiately — has no qualms about Abraham's D-I future. It is as bright as can be.

"Victor's a great kid, he'll do anything he's asked to do," Sawchuk said. "The good thing, probably the best thing is, on the field and off the field he's a great character kid."

Abraham, who is being penciled in as a safety on the SIU depth chart, has the potential to make a fast impact, Sawchuk said.

"He definitely can hit like a (college) senior, he's not afraid to mix it up and get physical in there," Sawchuk noted. "We'll see. When you get to that level it's a big jump."

See ABRAHAM, Page B4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Plymouth Wildcats football player Victor Abraham II signs with Southern Illinois University.

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Rocks thrilled to share milestone

Dozen Salem student-athletes make college dream a reality

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem High School is having quite a week.

On Friday and Saturday, the first class of the new Wall of Champions is being unveiled and celebrated.

But Wednesday was no slouch, either, with 12 Salem student-athletes taking part in National Signing Day. Actually, 11 of the 12 seniors were on hand at the high school to have photos taken and to enjoy a moment in the sun with family members and friends.

Even former coaches like Amanda (Suder) Nies stopped by the Salem athletics office to warmly congratulate college-bound volleyball players Tess Ganich and Cassidy Hewett.

"It's exciting," said Hewett, about the National Signing Day hoopla. "I'm ready for college."

Hewett will be a right-side hitter at Olivet Nazarene University, while Ganich will be an outside hitter at Mercyhurst University in Pennsylvania.

Sharing the moment

Both — also sprucing up their game with the Michigan Elite club program — said it was great to be together for the signing ceremony, particularly since they have known each other since childhood.

"I've known Tess since I was in fifth grade, because our sisters played together," said Hewett, who holds a 3.9 grade-point average and looks to study for a degree in business. "It's been really cool to see each other through high school together, and especially being teammates the past two years has been really fun."

Ganich, who has a 3.3 GPA and is eyeing a career in criminal justice, thanked "all my



Salem's 2016 National Signing Day contingent was 12 strong. In the back row (from left) are Lisa Zhang, Cassidy Hewett, Tess Ganich, Griffin Skaff, Hunter Gibbons and Logan Marshall. In the front row (from left) are Linda Zhang, Alyssa Wiggle, Jamie Squires, Kara Hutchison and Leah Moss. Not present was Kaya Knake.

KANDRA HEWETT

coaches (at Salem) and the girls who motivated and pushed me." She nodded in the direction of Nies, who did not coach in 2015 after having a baby.

"I really fell in love with Mercyhurst," Ganich said. "I love the campus and they have the academics I wanted. Volleyball has always been my passion, so I'm really excited to continue it in college."

"I know the game is going to be a lot faster, but I think I'm ready for it."

At Salem, the signees came to the office at different scheduled times for photos to be taken.

One of those waiting for her "photo opp" was Leah Moss, who will play defense at the University of Iowa (a Division I school).

Moss is not playing high school soccer with the Rocks, but wanted to be there with her classmates. She is a member of the Michigan Hawks Elite Clubs National League

Under-18 team.

"It feels like everything is coming together that I worked really hard for, I'm real excited for the future," Moss said. "It's a pretty important day."

Holder of a 3.4 GPA, Moss said although the intensity and competitiveness of club soccer helped her immensely for a chance to go to a D-I program, she enjoyed playing at Salem during her freshman and sophomore years.

"High school soccer is fun, because you get to see your friends every day," Moss said. "I'll miss that about it."

About choosing Iowa, she said it is a "perfect distance from home. As soon as I got there I felt really comfortable there, with the coaching staff and the campus is beautiful. I pretty much loved everything about it."

Honor roll

Other Salem student-athletes who signed national letters of intent include (in al-

phabetical order):

» **Hunter Gibbons**, soccer, Spring Arbor University;

» **Kara Hutchison**, softball, Davenport University;

» **Kaya Knake**, cross country/track and field, University of Maryland, Baltimore County;

» **Logan Marshall**, baseball, Calvin College;

» **Griffin Skaff**, cross country/track and field, Ohio Northern;

» **Jamie Squires**, softball, Oakland University (D-I);

» **Alyssa Wiggle**, gymnastics, Illinois State (D-I);

» **Linda Zhang**, swimming, University of Pennsylvania (D-I);

» **Lisa Zhang**, swimming, Columbia University (D-I).

NOTE: Additional National Signing Day stories about Canton, Plymouth and Salem student-athletes will be published in the Thursday, Feb. 11 and Sunday, Feb. 14 Observer.

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Salem Wall of Champions honorees (from left) Tiffany Grubaugh, Jordan Falcusan, Chuck Olson, Ron Orris, Dennis (Doc) O'Connor, Doug Tripp, Rick Gladstone, Jerry Brink, Dan Ross, Darrell Rowe, Mike Moshimer, Doug Ward, Gloria Shelton (Fred Thomann's sister), Tim Dillon, Tanya Thomann, Gary Shelton, Mary Ann Thomann and Rich Hewlett. They were introduced at halftime of the Salem boys basketball game.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

were great coaches and great people," Brodie said. "It would have been nice to have them here, but I think they're here in spirit."

Launching the Rocks (9-5 overall, 5-3 in the KLAA Central) over winless East was a scorching first half, as they connected on 7-of-11 tries from behind the 3-point arc.

"We established a pretty good lead out there," Brodie said. "We did it inside, we did outside. We didn't give them any opportunities at their end, obviously. You give up eight points in a half, that means you're doing something at the defensive end, too."

Leading Salem with 14 points was Cameron Grace, with Camren Barden (13 points), Freddie McGee III (10 points) and Kenny Topolovec (eight points) helping the cause. The Rocks enjoyed a 43-24 rebounding edge over the Cougars.

Eleven of 12 Salem players got on the score sheet on what also was parents/senior night.

"It's good for the kids to play in front of a big crowd. We haven't too many big crowds, we don't get a lot of students here all the time," Brodie said. "But they had the young football players out there and the alumni, the hall of fame people and the parents."

"I think it steps up their game a little bit. That's why we came out of the blocks pretty fast."

The game was as perfect as could be from a Salem standpoint, but halftime was pretty riveting, too.

Kurt Britnell, Salem's head football coach, introduced the debut class — which congregated near half court.

In addition to Thomann and Moshimer (who were represented by family members), other debut inductees include John Beaudoin (wrestling), Jim Ellinghausen (basketball), Dena Head (basketball), Jordan Falcusan (soccer, volleyball, basketball, track and tennis), Tiffany Grubaugh (track and field), Ron Orris (swimming), Chuck Olson (swimming coach) and stand-out 1977-era quarterback Rich Hewlett, whose No. 2 is re-

tired at the high school.

"He'd be very proud and the fact that he'd be inducted at the same time as his state championship team, along with Rich Hewlett, it would be double (the pride) for him," Moshimer's son Mike, a 1974 player, said. "These guys epitomized his whole career; he absolutely loved them."

"Just getting it started, it's been a long time coming. If you look out at the Wall of Champions out there, it's fantastic. I went to school here and don't remember anything like that. They did a really good job."

'Awesome' honor

Concurring were other honorees.

"It's awesome walking in here and seeing the history," Grubaugh said. "Being part of the first class, it's such an honor. It's a great feeling."

Hewlett said he "looked up to those guys (on the 1974 team). I admired them and everything. Those were my idols when I grew up in Plymouth, so it's great."

Olson, only recently retired as Salem swimming coach, sat throughout the evening next to

one of his former swimmers — state champion and All-American Orris.

"It would have been nice to have had Tom Moshimer and Fred Thomann here," Olson said. "But it's nice to see them honored and I'm very honored to be included in that group."

"But we have a lot that we got to catch up on. We got a long, good history here at Salem."

According to Orris, he is "thrilled, this is terrific. I'm looking forward to seeing it (plaque) and the ceremony (Saturday). It's an honor to come back with Chuck and a lot of other people that benefited a lot from the program Salem had to offer us."

Meanwhile, Dennis (Doc) O'Connor, team manager and statistician of the 1974 football team, tipped his cap to the Salem athletic department for finally starting the Wall of Champions.

"And not just to commemorate us," O'Connor said. "But to really build on the tradition to help them in the future."

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FIVE NATIONS
TOURNAMENT PRIMER

Puck drops Tuesday for Five Nations tournament

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The intensity is soon to be ramped up to a global level at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

Just around the corner is the 2016 Under-17 Five Nations Tournament, to get started with a doubleheader Tuesday. The 10-game tournament involving the U.S. National Team Development Program Under-17 team and four European countries continues through Saturday, Feb. 13.

The best will be saved for last. Team USA and Russia will meet at 7 p.m. Saturday, in the Five Nations finale — capping the first international event hosted by USA Hockey since the organization bought the Beck Road facility formerly known as Compuware Arena.

Prices are \$15 and \$18 for daily passes (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday doubleheaders included) and \$65 for the full tournament slate.

"It's a good kind of first event for us to get international hockey in front of the Plymouth, Northville, Canton communities and let them see what it's all about, with an eye toward there's going to be a lot more of them here in the future," said Scott Monaghan, senior director of operations for USA Hockey's NTDP.

"We'll probably have two or three next year and our objective is two to three international events a year around all the rest of the stuff that we do."

Sponsored by Farmers Insurance, joining Team USA for the round-robin tourney will be Russia, Finland, Sweden and the Czech Republic.

"We're hoping that we have full houses for it," Monaghan said. "We have tournament packages that are at a great discount and then individual day tickets, which you can come to two games (or) you can come to one. But you have the pass for both."

"We're hoping for the Friday and Saturday night to be really big crowds, as weekends you usually have better crowds anyway."

FIVE NATIONS TOURNAMENT

When: Tuesday through Saturday, Feb. 13, sponsored by Farmers Insurance.

Where: USA Hockey Arena, 14900 Beck Road, Plymouth (west of Five Mile Road).

Teams: The U.S. National Team Development Program Under-17 team is squaring off in an international tournament that includes Russia, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Finland.

Format: A team winning in regulation will receive three points, overtime winners get two points and OT losers earn one point. The team with the most points will be awarded the Farmers Insurance Cup and have its national anthem played following the last game.

Schedule: Tuesday — 3:30 p.m., Finland vs. Russia, 7 p.m., U.S. vs. Czech Republic; Wednesday — 3:30 p.m., Russia vs. Sweden, 7 p.m., Finland vs. U.S.; Thursday — 3:30 p.m., Sweden vs. Finland, 7 p.m., Russia vs. Czech Republic; Friday, Feb. 12 — 3:30 p.m., Czech Republic vs. Finland, 7 p.m., Sweden vs. U.S.; Saturday, Feb. 13 — 3:30 p.m., Czech Republic vs. Sweden, 7 p.m., U.S. vs. Russia.

Tickets: Two-game day passes are available for \$15 and \$18; 10-game tournament passes are \$55 and \$65. Call 734-453-8400 or go to www.usahockeyarena.com.

Broadcasts: All Team USA games will be broadcast live on CN-900. The Schoolcraft College Sports Network produces the broadcasts. Pete Krupsky will be on play-by-play with Sean Baligian providing analysis. Krupsky also will be calling all 10 tournament contests for www.FASThockey.com.

Area's elite team features all-state talent

FIRST TEAM
Emma Bradley, 200 free, N. Farmington: One of the best swimmers in school history, Bradley is the Oakland County champion in the 200, posting an area-best time of 1:52.87 at that meet.

At the Division 2 state meet, she was fourth in the 200 and 500 free. She also was the county runner-up in the 500.

Bradley, who will swim for Miami University in Ohio, placed third in the 200 and fourth in the butterfly at the OAA Red Division meet.

She broke former Virginia and Olympic swimmer Katya Bachrouche's school record in the fly with a time of 57.54.

"Emma had a fantastic season," coach Mike Harfoot said. "She can swim any event and do really well. We could always count on her for relays and individual events, wherever the team needed her."

"We had her go against the other team's best swimmer in dual meets, and she always held her own. She's a really hard trainer. She's always looking to do the extra things to get better."

Linda Zhang, 200 IM, Salem: One half of the Rocks' uber-talented Zhang twins, Linda capped off a brilliant four-year prep career.

She finished third in the 200 individual medley at the Division 1 state meet with a time of 2:04.82. It marked her fourth straight all-state performance.

Zhang, also a team captain and outstanding student-athlete

(4.0 grade-point average), displayed her trademark versatility for the Rocks, with the No. 1 time among Observerland swimmers in the 100 breaststroke (1:04.84).

She also was among the top area swimmers in every freestyle event, butterfly and backstroke. Her personal best of 2:04.44 was fourth overall in the 200 IM. Zhang was a standout performer on all Salem relays, too.

"Linda owns probably half the Salem records now," coach Chuck Olson said. "All the relays, she's got the 200 free, IM, 100 free, 100 breaststroke. She's been All-American, most valuable the last two years. Just a great person and a great student."

Zhang received an academic scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania and will compete in women's swimming. She also was named co-winner of the 2015 Rock Maurer Award, presented for leadership, academics and athletics, sharing the honor with her sister.

Ashley Turak, 50 free, Harrison: Just a freshman, Turak had a great first year of high school swimming, earning Division 2 all-state status in two individual events.

Her major accomplishments include being the OAA White Division champion in the 50 and 100 freestyle.

She placed fourth in the 50 at

the Oakland County and state meets. She also was 10th and sixth in the 100, respectively.

"She's just a pure sprinter," coach Kyle Kinyon said. "She bought into the training and improved throughout the season. She's always pushing herself, wanting to get better."

"If you don't have the fast-twitch muscles, you're not going to be a good sprinter. She's blessed with that ability. Recognizing that early, we trained her that way throughout the season, and it paid off for us."

Alexa Rybicki, diving, Mercy: Rybicki had a great sophomore season and has a big upside for future success.

She is the Catholic League champion, scoring an area-best 412.75 points in that competition. She also was sixth in Oakland County and 16th in the state.

"Alexa is very dedicated to the sport of diving," coach Shannon Dunworth said. "Her going to the state meet and scoring points there demonstrated that."

"We've had some really strong divers at Mercy, and Alexa can be on a par with the best of them if she continues to progress."

Alaina Skellett, 100 fly, Mercy: Skellett is the Catholic League and Oakland County champion in the butterfly. She set a league record of 55.88 and swam the fastest area time at 55.20.

Skellett also was the D1 state runner-up in the fly and placed third in the backstroke. She was second in the backstroke at the league and county meets.

"Alaina is one of the most coachable kids, if not the most coachable, I've ever had," Dunworth said. "She's fiercely competitive. She's very, very talented and extremely level-headed when it comes to her swimming."

"She's one of those people you can count on in the pressure situations."

Kendall Goit, 100 free, Mercy: The 100 was a new event for Goit. She adapted well to it and had the fastest time (52.44) of any area swimmer. She is among the best in the 200 and 500 free, too.

In the 100, Goit was second in the league, third in Oakland County and 10th in the D1 state meet. In the 200, she was second in the county and seventh in the state; she also was third in the IM at the league meet.

"Kendall made a very successful move from the 500 free to the 100," Dunworth said. "I'm not positive that's going to be her best event, but that's the place on the team where we needed her most."

"She clearly filled that void. It was not without a great deal of commitment on her part to learning new things and dedicating herself to a different event."

Ellyse Conn, 500 free, Mercy: A perennial member of the all-area team, Conn capped an outstanding prep career by finishing third in the 500 free

ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

200-yard freestyle: 1. Emma Bradley, sr., North Farmington; 2. Maria Arakelian, fr., Stevenson.

200 individual medley: 1. Linda Zhang, sr., Salem; 2. Katie Xu, jr., Salem; Mya Loniewski, soph., Mercy.

50 freestyle: 1. Ashley Turak, fr., Harrison; 2. Summer Edwards, jr., North Farmington.

One-meter diving: 1. Alexa Rybicki, soph., Mercy; 2. Camille Burt, soph., Salem.

100 butterfly: 1. Alaina Skellett, jr., Mercy; 2. Katy Kouvaris, sr., Mercy.

100 freestyle: 1. Kendall Goit, soph., Mercy; 2. Allison Lennig, sr., Plymouth.

500 freestyle: 1. Ellyse Conn, sr., Mercy; 2. Morgan Jones, sr., Mercy.

100 backstroke: 1. Katie Minnich, soph., Mercy; 2. Meghan Mans, jr., Canton; Patricia Freitag, sr., Salem.

100 breaststroke: 1. Julia Borri, sr., Harrison; 2. Grace Xu, jr., Harrison; Allison Lobbia, jr., Mercy.

At-large selections: 1. Lisa Zhang, sr., Salem; Hannah Chao, jr., North Farmington; Annette Dombkowski, fr., Mercy.

RELAY TEAMS

200-yard medley: 1. Mercy (soph. Katie Minnich, jr. Allison Lobbia, jr. Alaina Skellett, fr. Annette Dombkowski), 2. Salem (jr. Katie Xu, sr. Linda Zhang, sr. Patricia Freitag, sr. Lisa Zhang).

200-yard freestyle: 1. Harrison (jr. Grace Xu, sr. Julia Borri, sr. Katie Romero, fr. Ashley Turak), 2. Mercy (sr. Katy Kouvaris, soph. Kendall Goit, fr. Annette Dombkowski, sr. Ellyse Conn).

400-yard freestyle: 1. Mercy (soph. Kendall Goit, soph. Katie Minnich, sr. Ellyse Conn, jr. Alaina Skellett), 2. Salem (sr. Lisa Zhang, jr. Katie Xu, sr. Patricia Freitag, sr. Linda Zhang).

swimming career," Kinyon said of Borri's state-meet swim.

"Julia is a phenomenal teammate who is always encouraging everyone on the team and not just the most talented."

"When it comes to her training, she has no complaints; she works hard. She prepared really well for the state meet. I was really happy to see her have a great accomplishment and become all-state."

Lisa Zhang, at-large, Salem: Across the board, Lisa Zhang has been an outstanding performer all four years with the Rocks.

Like her twin sister, Lisa's brilliance has been all-encompassing. She also is a team captain and a 4.0 student who garnered all-state kudos throughout her career.

At the D1 finals in Holland, she placed fifth in the 100 fly (personal best 56.59) and fifth in the 100 back (56.51), good for all-state recognition.

Zhang also is among the area leaders in six other events.

"She's in all three relays, owns (Salem) varsity records in the 50 free, 100 fly, 100 backstroke," Olson said. "That pretty much covers most of the strokes (when combined with Linda's records)."

"(The Zhang twins) were most valuable the last two years, and this year they also were Rock Maurer recipients (an award presented for outstanding leadership, academics and athletics)."

Zhang will be going to Columbia University on an academic scholarship and will compete for the women's swim team.

Hannah Chao, at-large, N. Farmington: For the third straight year, Chao broke the school record in the backstroke. She was seventh in the Division 2 state meet in that event and 10th in the 50 free.

Chao is the OAA Red champion in the backstroke and was sixth in Oakland County. In the 50, she was second in the division and 10th in the county.

"Hannah had a fantastic junior year," Harfoot said. "She kind of grew up in competition this year. As a freshman and sophomore, she was always looking at how fast other kids were. She realizes how fast she is and is owning that."

"She was steady for us in the backstroke all season. Her underwater work is some of the best I've ever seen. At the state meet, she was one of the faster starters and one of the better ones off the wall."

Annette Dombkowski, at-large, Mercy: She ended her freshman season with a sixth-place finish in the 500 freestyle at the D1 state meet. In that event, she also was third in the Catholic League and fifth in Oakland County.

Dombkowski placed third in the 200 free at the league meet. As an IMer, she was eighth in

the county and just missed scoring at state, finishing 17th in the prelims.

"As a freshman, I'm not sure we used her in her best races," Dunworth said. "There are better things to come for her. Clearly, she has big potential in the 500 free."

"She was kind of a role player (in the medley relay) and turned out to be one of the strong links in that relay. We knew she had a lot of potential and talent. I'm happy she lived up to and even exceeded that."

RELAY TEAMS
200 medley, Mercy: Katie Minnich, Allison Lobbia, Alaina Skellett and Annette Dombkowski won the Division 1 state championship with a record time of 1:44.44. The same four-some also won the Catholic League crown.

The record swim was an amazing achievement, according to Dunworth,

because the Marlins graduated two former state champions off that relay. Minnich and Skellett were returning members.

"Allie Lobbia had never even been to a state meet, and Annette was thrown into that relay to be a 50 freestyler," Dunworth said. "We were hoping to be able to squeak through that relay and do well. The race that exceeded my expectations more than any other was that race."

200 freestyle, Harrison: The team of Grace Xu, Julia Borri, Katie Romero and Ashley Turak dropped 1:01 from their prelim time and finished sixth in the D2 state meet with a school-record and Observerland-best of 1:38.07. They also were fifth in Oakland County.

"Every one of those girls stepped up and surpassed what they needed to do to get that record, and it was certainly exciting to see," Kinyon said.

"My favorite part about that relay was Katie and Julia, both being seniors

and our captains, what a way to end their high school school swim careers."

"With the future of Harrison and the swimming program in doubt, what a statement, to finish the season like that."

Xu also excelled individually, finishing eighth in the breaststroke at the D2 state meet.

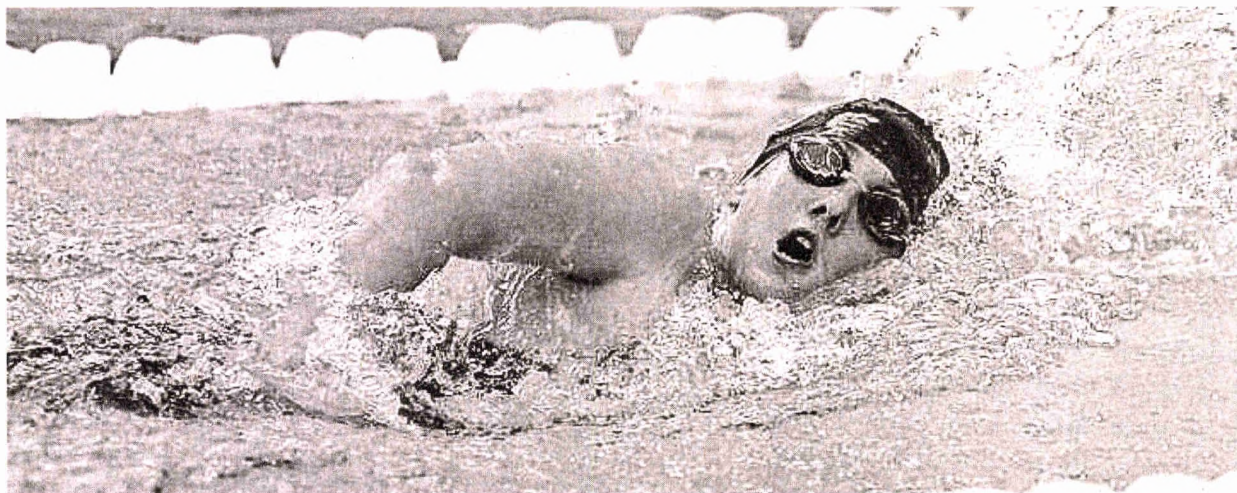
400 freestyle, Mercy: Kendall Goit, Katie Minnich, Ellyse Conn and Alaina Skellett are the Catholic League and Oakland County champions in this relay. They swam an area-best time of 3:29.83 to win the league title.

"What was fun about that relay is it shows our depth as a team," Dunworth said. "We don't have any hundred freestylers on that relay. Kendall is the closest to it, and she's just now starting to swim the 100."

"Alaina, Katie and Ellyse did a great job. It shows the versatility of our team, and that comes from the hard work the kids put in. You can take four really good swimmers and have an All-American relay because of it."



GIRLS SWIMMING TOP MARKS



North Farmington senior Emma Bradley is the Oakland County champion in the 200-yard freestyle. At the Division 2 state meet, she was fourth in the 200 and 500 freestyle. She was the Oakland County runner-up to Mercy's Ellyse Conn in the 500.

- 200 MEDLEY RELAY**
 Farmington Hills Mercy 1:44.44
 Salem 1:46.93
 North Farmington 1:48.23
 Farmington Harrison 1:50.51
 Livonia Stevenson 1:53.04
- 200 FREESTYLE**
 Emma Bradley (N. Farmington) 1:52.87
 Kendall Goit (Mercy) 1:53.19
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 1:53.99
 Meghan Mans (Canton) 1:55.36
 Maria Arakelian (Stevenson) 1:55.75
 Katy Kouvaris (Mercy) 1:56.11
 Morgan Jones (Mercy) 1:56.57
 Allison Lennig (Plymouth) 1:56.60
 Annette Dombkowski (Mercy) 1:57.66
 Patricia Freitag (Salem) 1:58.18
- 200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY**
 Ellyse Conn (Mercy) 2:04.21
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 2:04.44
 Katie Minnich (Mercy) 2:06.67
 Katie Xu (Salem) 2:10.93
 Mya Loniewski (Mercy) 2:11.09
 Kendall Goit (Mercy) 2:11.20
 Annette Dombkowski (Mercy) 2:11.36
 Lisa Zhang (Salem) 2:11.93
 Maria Arakelian (Stevenson) 2:12.79
 Caroline Reamer (Mercy) 2:13.38
- 50 FREESTYLE**
 Ashley Turak (Harrison) 23.71
 Hannah Chao (N. Farmington) 24.55
 Lisa Zhang (Salem) 24.57
 Kendall Goit (Mercy) 24.73
 Summer Edwards (N. Farmington) 24.76
 Katy Kouvaris (Mercy) 24.84
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 24.88

- Grace Xu (Harrison) 24.90
 Katie Romero (Harrison) 25.09
 Sidney Aloisi (John Glenn) 25.14
- ONE-METER DIVING**
 Alexa Rybicki (Mercy) 412.75
 Camille Burt (Salem) 387.90
 Shayna Jankowski (Mercy) 359.25
 Jenna Mack (Mercy) 326.15
 Erin Gold (N. Farmington) 323.90
 Jordyn Williams (Salem) 320.30
 Kelly Shrosbree (N. Farmington) 313.30
 Rachel Williams (Ladywood) 284.25

- Natalie Yurgil (Churchill) 281.65
 Beth Henderson (Plymouth) 270.20
- 100 BUTTERFLY**
 Alaina Skellett (Mercy) 55.20
 Lisa Zhang (Salem) 56.59
 Ellyse Conn (Mercy) 57.31
 Emma Bradley (N. Farmington) 57.87
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 58.20
 Katy Kouvaris (Mercy) 59.49
 Emily Osika (Canton) 59.63
 Kera Sells (John Glenn) 59.73
 Katie Xu (Salem) 1:00.25

- Amber Gulau (Stevenson) 1:00.36
- 100 FREESTYLE**
 Kendall Goit (Mercy) 52.44
 Ashley Turak (Harrison) 52.79
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 52.79
 Allison Lennig (Plymouth) 53.18
 Lisa Zhang (Salem) 53.44
 Meghan Mans (Canton) 54.27
 Rachel Arceri (Stevenson) 54.44
 Sidney Aloisi (John Glenn) 54.69
 Summer Edwards (N. Farmington) 54.77
 Maria Arakelian (Stevenson) 54.79

- 500 FREESTYLE**
 Ellyse Conn (Mercy) 4:54.84
 Emma Bradley (N. Farmington) 5:03.53
 Annette Dombkowski (Mercy) 5:03.70
 Maria Arakelian (Stevenson) 5:08.95
 Morgan Jones (Mercy) 5:11.41
 Meghan Mans (Canton) 5:15.52
 Patricia Freitag (Salem) 5:16.06
 Caroline Reamer (Mercy) 5:16.75
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 5:16.77
 Jessica Clark (Canton) 5:18.61

- 200 FREESTYLE RELAY**
 Farmington Harrison 1:38.07
 Farmington Hills Mercy 1:38.15
 North Farmington 1:39.02
 Salem 1:39.68
 Plymouth 1:41.96
- 100 BACKSTROKE**
 Katie Minnich (Mercy) 54.67
 Alaina Skellett (Mercy) 55.75
 Lisa Zhang (Salem) 56.42
 Hannah Chao (N. Farmington) 57.47
 Meghan Mans (Canton) 58.19
 Katie Xu (Salem) 58.91
 Patricia Freitag (Salem) 58.94
 Jackie Baldus (Mercy) 59.36
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 1:00.10
 Emily Osika (Canton) 1:00.72
- 100 BREASTSTROKE**
 Linda Zhang (Salem) 1:04.84
 Julia Borri (Harrison) 1:07.43
 Allison Lobbia (Mercy) 1:07.82
 Grace Xu (Harrison) 1:07.85
 Megan Hutter (Mercy) 1:08.83
 Julianna Petrak (N. Farmington) 1:09.51
 Julia Bryant (Wayne) 1:09.65
 Dayna Borregard (Harrison) 1:09.71
 Monica Rzepka (Ladywood) 1:09.72
 Lisa Zhang (Salem) 1:09.78
- 400 FREESTYLE RELAY**
 Farmington Hills Mercy 3:29.83
 Salem 3:34.91
 North Farmington 3:39.03
 Livonia Stevenson 3:41.55
 Canton 3:42.18

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth High School athletes gather on National Signing Day. Standing (from left) are Victor Abraham II, Chris Walls, Kyle Wolter, Josh Sulak, Daniella Barile, Katelyn Chipman, Cassidy Lewis, Allison Lennig, Darwin Filey II, Jewel Davis and Trevor McManus. Kneeling (from left) are Rachel Zerona, Natalie Nowicki, Megan McCurry, Olivia Janke, Anna DeBiasi and Kathryn Gordon.

Wildcats enjoy opportunity to celebrate their futures

Impressive group of Plymouth student-athletes ready for next chapter

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The crowded corridor outside the Plymouth High School gymnasium was worth navigating for college-bound student-athletes on Wednesday afternoon.

National Signing Day ceremonies at Plymouth — the first of three staggered events at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park — enabled coaches like Ricky Styes a chance to get in on the wave of flowing recognition.

"From a coaching perspective it's pretty exciting," Styes said. "This is the ultimate goal for coaches, to get these kids in position where they can go to college, compete."

Styes continues to coach National Signing Day participant Jewel Davis, a record-holding runner for the Rocks' varsity girls track and field team.

"From our perspective, we're really proud of her," Styes said. "She's the second D-I runner that we've had."

"We've had a couple vaulters. But to get a scholarship as a runner is a little more difficult than it is in a jumper or vaulter. We're pretty excited to get a full scholarship and her being able to perform at the next level."

Davis, whose photo hangs on the all-state wall along the very corridor Wednesday's event took place, smiled about what

now is official — she will run at Central Michigan University, a Division I school.

"It's just a milestone for me, it's finalized today and it's a great feeling," Davis said. "I was looking at U-M, Michigan State, and Central just was a fit for me."

"I love everything about Central, from my official visit the moment I got there I knew it was home for the next four years."

Davis is among the very best of an elite group of 21 Wildcats who are moving on to play their sport collegiately. Of that group, football lineman Michael Jordan already moved on to Ohio State University; his dad proudly took in Wednesday's proceedings.

Taking a look down the hallway, Davis saw Kyle Meteyer, Plymouth assistant principal of athletics and activities, directing one of her classmates to a table for official photos.

"It's really special," said Davis, talking about being able to share the stage on National Signing Day. "A lot of these people I didn't know they had signed anywhere because my schedule's so busy that we don't see each other as much senior year."

On their way up

In addition to Davis, Plymouth student-athletes who signed national letters of intent include (in alphabetical order):

- » **Victor Abraham II**, football, Southern Illinois University (D-I);
- » **Daniella Barile**, volleyball, University of Michigan-Dearborn;

» **Katelyn Chipman**, golf, Grand Valley State University (D-I);

» **Anna DeBiasi**, soccer, Cleveland State University (D-I);

» **Emily Divens**, pom pon, Grand Valley State University (D-I);

» **Darwin Filey II**, football, Mount Union University;

» **Kathryn Gordon**, soccer, Siena Heights University;

» **Olivia Janke**, soccer, Valparaiso University (D-I);

» **Michael Jordan**, football, Ohio State University (D-I);

» **Allison Lennig**, swimming, Youngstown State University (D-I);

» **Cassidy Lewis**, basketball, Siena Heights University;

» **Megan McCurry**, soccer, Siena Heights University;

» **Trevor McManus**, lacrosse, Albion College;

» **Natalie Nowicki**, lacrosse, Ursuline University;

» **Anastasia Pivko**, pom pon, Grand Valley State University (D-I);

» **Josh Sulak**, baseball, Northwood University;

» **Taylor Tyskiewicz**, pom pon, Grand Valley State University (D-I);

» **Christian Walls**, football, Michigan Technical University;

» **Kyle Wolter**, baseball, Lawrence Tech University;

» **Rachel Zerona**, softball, Oakland University (D-I)

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KLAA BASKETBALL

Senior-led Wildcats topple Patriots, 60-45

Brent Davis scores 23, including breakaway dunk

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

"Senior Night" couldn't have gone much smoother Tuesday for Plymouth's boys basketball team, which received 49 points — two of which were recorded in spectacular fashion — from the evening's honorees in a 60-45 triumph over a shorthanded, but strong-willed, Livonia Franklin squad.

Not surprisingly, senior Brent Davis's name was at the top of the scoring ledger with 23 points — two coming on a soaring, breakaway, two-handed slam dunk that practically everyone in the gym knew was inevitable once the spring-loaded guard stole the ball near midcourt early in the fourth quarter.

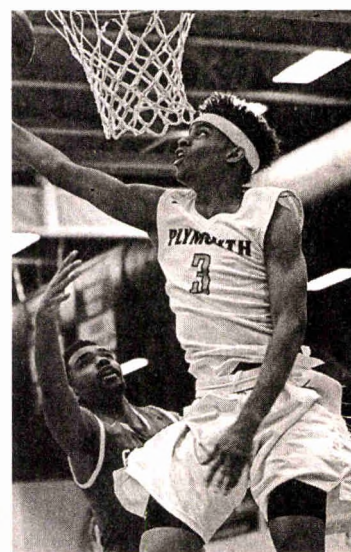
Proving he's far from one-dimensional, Davis also knocked down nine of 11 free throws on a night the Wildcats stepped to the line a whopping 39 times, making 24.

"We shot a ton of free throws, but we didn't make a ton," said Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup, smiling, while possibly revealing a scoop as to what his team would be working on in Wednesday's practice. "Overall, it was a nice way to send the seniors out with a win."

"The first half we didn't play with the energy or enthusiasm I expect, but we played harder in stretches in the second half. We have a lot of young guys — we have four sophomores up — who don't always figure out right away that you have to play hard at this level all the time. I thought Franklin's kids played hard from beginning to end."

Fellow final-year player Frank Brown was Robin to Davis's Batman, delivering 13 points (seven in the tone-setting first quarter) and a team-high eight rebounds.

Other seniors who helped make the night memorable — if not magical — were Pete Carravallah (four points), Julian LeDoux (three points) and Armani Tate, whose lone



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Plymouth senior Brent Davis soars for a nifty layup Tuesday night against Livonia Franklin.

shot found nothing but net.

Franklin hung around most of the night — Plymouth's first double-digit lead didn't come until the 1:50 mark of the third quarter — due to its chase-down-every-loose-ball mentality, ball care and freaky-good free-throw shooting.

The Patriots turned the ball over just nine times (zero in the first quarter) while canning 17 of 21 free throws.

"The two good things that came out of tonight's game was the way we shot free throws — that's something we've been working on — and the way we took care of the ball," said Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault. "What hurt us was them shooting close to 40 free throws. You see that kind of number when a team is trying to foul at the end of a game, but we weren't trying."

Senior guard Joe Chinavare led the Patriots' balanced scoring attack with 11 points. The four-year varsity player swished seven of his eight free-throw attempts. Toying with double-digit scoring territory were Peytin Harris (nine points) and Jackie Hughes, who scored eight.

CANTON 71, JOHN GLENN 54: On Tuesday, the Chiefs improved to 13-0 overall and 7-0 in the KLAA South Division with this varsity boys basketball victory.

PREP BASKETBALL

Canton boys cap off another division title

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Despite not having Logan Ryan in the lineup Friday night, Canton's varsity boys basketball team rolled to a 68-54 victory over Wayne Memorial, clinching its second straight KLAA South Division title.

Canton took control early, leading 19-6 after the first quarter and enjoying a 31-22 halftime edge. A 21-10 third quarter put the game out of reach of the Zebras.

Scoring 20 points and grabbing 14 rebounds for the Chiefs (14-0, 8-0) was Obi Okoli. Also in double figures were Handy Turfe (12 points), Jalen Cochran (10 points) and Noah Brown (10 points).

Adding nine points and four assists was freshman guard B. Artis White.

The Chiefs now have won the division five times in the last seven seasons.

Girls basketball

» It wasn't such a successful night for Canton's girls basketball squad, as the Chiefs fell, 60-47, Friday to Wayne Memorial.

Brianna Finn and Erin Hult scored 15 and 13 points, respectively, for Canton (11-3 overall, 7-1 in the KLAA South).

According to Chiefs head coach Rob Heitmeyer, the Zebras' fast tempo hurt his team — especially on offense.

Canton players wound up rushing shots and not being in good position for rebounds. "We need to be more pa-

tient," he said.

Also costing Canton were 14 turnovers in the first half, "which led to a number of easy baskets for them."

Madison Archibald (eight points) and Madison Wolfbauer (seven points) also had solid games for the Chiefs.

» Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team made it two straight wins with a 39-19 win over Livonia Churchill. Senior Cassidy Lewis led the Wildcats with 13 points, with senior Hannah Badger contributing nine.

An all-around performance by sophomore Gabby Chouinard was a key. Chouinard was opportunistic on offense (four points) and wreaked havoc on defense in half-court and in our full-court press.

"We executed our offense, worked very hard in our press and played as one," Chouinard said. "I believe this game definitely helped get us ready for March."

» Also Friday night, Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls cagers dropped a 50-48 overtime decision to Taylor Baptist Park.

Jordan Reed paced the Eagles with 15 points. Also having productive games were Aliyah Pries (nine points), Lydia Chapel (eight points) and Kennedy Horne (seven points).

PCA trailed 21-18 at halftime, but knotted the score at 28-28 entering the fourth.

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ABRAHAM

Continued from Page B1

He'll find out that there's a lot of kids that are just the same caliber as he is and he's going to have to work for it."

According to Abraham, whose parents are Victor and Laurence Abraham of Canton, his high school career definitely helped him earn a full-ride athletic scholarship.

"It definitely gave me a great sense of discipline and helped instill a work ethic like no other," Abraham said. "You always got things done and we were always taught to work hard and stay in shape. It's something I really hope to carry on."

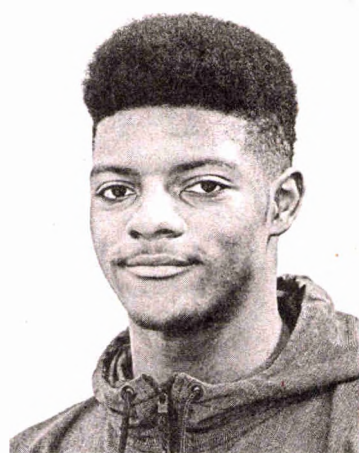
Although there were offers from Grand Valley State University, Davenport University and Wayne State University, Abraham said he just felt comfortable right away on the Carbondale campus.

"I just wanted to go where it's the best fit for me," Abraham said. "I really liked what they had down there at Southern Illinois."

Walls to be Huskie

Also signing Wednesday from the Plymouth team were quarterback/DB Chris Walls (Michigan Tech, D-II) and DB Darwin Filey II (Mount Union, Ohio).

Offensive lineman Michael Jordan, who was not at Wednesday's event, left high school in December to enroll early at Ohio State University — where



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Victor Abraham II said the work ethic instilled as part of the Plymouth Wildcats paid off with his college scholarship.

he will play D-I football.

"We all grew up together, it's an amazing experience to be part of a group like that, we'll all be successful," said Walls, about signing the same day as Abraham and Filey. "I'm just blessed for everything that happened."

Sawchuk tipped his cap to all of the college-bound players.

"Chris, as soon as he walks on campus, is probably going to be one of the most versatile athletes that team is going to have, because he can play quarterback, DB, receiver," Sawchuk said. "Darwin is one of the toughest kids I've coached. He played with a partially torn ACL this year, never griped, never moaned."

"He wants to realize a dream of going to play college



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Walls is headed to Michigan Tech to play football.

football, and picked one of the best D-III schools in the nation to go to. They've won 12 national championships in the last 15 years. I'm very proud of those kids."

Abraham also said it was great to share National Signing Day with so many others who are moving on to college programs, and with those who helped get him to the signing table.

"I just want to congratulate all the other people signing today, and I wish everybody the best of luck," Abraham stressed. "And I want to thank my coaches and my family and everybody that got me here today."

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

They're beaming about future



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's state champion in shot put, Emily Meier, signs with the University of Tennessee. There for the moment is her father, Richard Meier.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's 2016 National Signing Day participants include: (standing, from left) Jalen Cochran, Elizabeth Yager, Casey Muglia, Jared Stephens and Emily Meier; (sitting, from left) James Walkinshaw, Madison Archibald, Natalie Winters and Maddy Lucas.

Colleges come calling for 10 Canton student-athletes on National Signing Day

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Yager, all decked out Wednesday in University of Detroit Mercy garb, couldn't hold back her enthusiasm about what the future holds for her and nine Canton High School senior classmates.

"It's really exciting for everyone," said Yager, who will patrol the outfield at the Division I Catholic university beginning next year. "It's pretty cool to see everyone else reaching their goals."

"It's really cool to see that everyone else has achieved something great. Can't wait to be a Titan."

She smiled widely when making that statement, because

even though National Signing Day is about toasting the future for talented, hard-working student-athletes, there remains more to do with the Chiefs.

Yager was the lone softball player making her college choice official Wednesday, but there were five soccer players leading the charge.

From the Division 1 state finalist varsity boys soccer team, taking part during National Signing Day festivities was Jimmy Walkinshaw, headed to Ohio Northern University.

Canton girls soccer players who participated were Madison Archibald (Siena Heights University), Casey Muglia (Ashland University, Ohio) Madeleine Lucas and Natalie Winters (both going to D-I University of

Iowa).

Rounding out the cast of signees were football standouts Jalen Cochran and Jared Stephens, headed to D-I Arizona and Saginaw Valley State, respectively, and Emily Meier (D-I University of Tennessee), who was the 2015 state champion in shot put for the Chiefs.

Unable to participate at the event was swimmer Gerard Niermann, who is going to the University of Findlay (Ohio).

"I feel great about it, any time you can have young athletes sign letters of intent to play college it's a great thing," said Vernon Crump, Canton assistant principal of athletics

and activities. "It says a lot about our coaches ... I think we got great coaches that work real hard and athletes as well."

Let's hear it

Canton student-athletes who signed national letters of intent include (in alphabetical order):

- » **Madison Archibald**, soccer, Siena Heights University;
- » **Jalen Cochran**, football, University of Arizona (D-I);
- » **Madeleine Lucas**, soccer, University of Iowa (D-I);
- » **Emily Meier**, track and field, University of Tennessee (D-I);
- » **Casey Muglia**, soccer, Ashland University;

- » **Gerard Niermann**, swimming, University of Findlay;
- » **Jared Stephens**, football, Saginaw Valley State University (D-I);
- » **James Walkinshaw**, soccer, Ohio Northern University;
- » **Natalie Winters**, soccer, University of Iowa (D-I);
- » **Elizabeth Yager**, softball, University of Detroit Mercy (D-I).

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton senior Jana Hilditch was a consistently strong performer against Livonia Red.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Chiefs grab division title with victory over Livonia Red

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

No team wants to peak too soon, but Canton varsity girls gymnastics coach John Cunningham likes the way his squad is trending nonetheless.

The Chiefs defeated a tough Livonia Red team 144.325-140.85 on Tuesday to clinch the KLAAs Kensington Division and "build confidence leading into Saturday's Canton Invitational, which features the top 11 teams in the state," Cunningham noted.

"It was definitely a feel good meet," Cunningham continued. "Building confidence for both individuals and the team."

Canton enjoys a 5-0 record in the division, with Livonia Red's KLAAs Kensington ledger falling to 2-1. Senior Jana Hilditch was outstanding for the Chiefs, with firsts on vault (9.2), uneven parallel bars (9.0) and all-around (36.7).

Earning the top spot on floor exercise was Katie Dickson, with a 9.4, while Stephanie Cox tallied a first-place score of 9.6 on balance beam.

Chipping in elsewhere with a 9.45 on beam (second place) and 9.15 on floor was senior Hailey Hodgson; Dickson also came in second on bars (8.775) and all-around (35.474).

Kelsea Kernosek "had a nicely balanced meet, going 8.5-8.6-8.7-9.2 on her four events," Cunningham said.

Canton registered a 37.3 total on beam to put the meet in the win column.

Double win

Canton kept rolling Thursday with a 141.125-133.25 victory over Huron Valley/Lake-land to improve to 11-1 overall in dual meets.

Hilditch once again was stellar with firsts on vault (9.35), bars (9.225) and beam (9.35).

Continuing her strong sea-

son was Hodgson, who won on floor (9.45) and finished second on bars and beam with respective scores of 8.75 and 8.9.

Other contributors were freshman Katherine Najduk (third on vault, 8.75; fourth on bars, 8.35; fifth on floor, 8.5), Cox (third on beam, 8.85); Annika Wang (fourth on beam, 8.55) and Rachel Socha (second on floor, 8.85).

"With a meet on Tuesday and the Canton Invite looming Saturday (Feb. 6), the meet was difficult," Cunningham noted. "But (it was) mostly positive with cleaner routines and some better individual scores."

"There's a lot more work to be done, but we are moving in the right direction."

PLYMOUTH WINS: The Plymouth girls gymnastics team defeated West Bloomfield 139.93 on Tuesday, led by sophomore Tori Silvester (8.885 on beam, 8.575 on floor), senior Emily Welch (8.7 on bars) and freshman Ava Eilola (8.7).

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CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

Spartans a couple weeks ago.

Ultimately, he just thought about the way he was welcomed during his visit to Arizona as well as how he fit in with the Wildcats.

"The staff is really nice, the scheme fits who I am, a pass rusher, drop in the flat type of person," Cochran said. "It's a bunch of blitzing in our scheme, and ... there's going to be a lot of pass rushing."

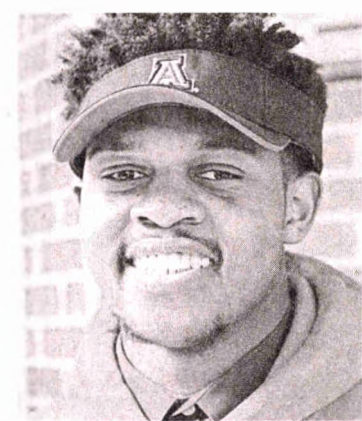
Full marks

Both players shook hands and were congratulated Wednesday by veteran Canton football coach Tim Baechler.

He had major props for both Cochran and Stephens, calling them "complete" players who had a knack for rising to the occasion at Canton.

"Jalen was definitely much bigger and more physical this year," said Baechler, about Cochran. "When he rushed, he's got to work on technique still, but he brought a load when he got there."

"... When we got to the plays and the biggest situations,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defensive end Jalen Cochran will play Pac-12 football at Arizona.

it seemed like he made some plays that really were momentum changers for us. A pass deflection against Northville that turned into a pick, two pass deflections against Saline and two great tackles out in the flat, just plays that gets everybody believing and fired up."

Baechler said Cochran felt good about Arizona as soon as he checked out the facilities and met coaches and players.

"He fit in really well with the coaches and the guys he was hanging out with," Bae-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior Jared Stephens will play at Saginaw Valley State.

chler continued. "And obviously he loved the facilities and the weather, he just liked the guys. He had a good vibe."

"He'll be playing a similar position with similar responsibilities that he's played here the last three years, he just felt it was a great fit, that he could get there and maybe get on the field quickly."

Familiarity helps

Turning his attention to Stephens, the coach said the Cardinals will be getting a player who pretty much did it

all with the Chiefs.

"Jared is a football player, our MVP," Baechler said. "He could have played quarterback, receiver, tight end. He did play running back. He could have played linebacker."

"He is a complete football player. He can throw it, catch it, block, run. Saginaw Valley's getting a great football player."

Baechler mentioned that helping Stephens with his transition will be the presence of 2013 Canton alum McKoy, entering his senior season with Saginaw Valley.

"I've got a kid up there who's the starting free safety, Matt McKoy, he's a great kid," Baechler said. "They'll be playing similar positions ... I have friends up there that know the staff pretty well, I think he's in good hands."

Stephens concurred that McKoy's presence was a plus for him when making his college choice.

"McKoy is going to be my teammate again," Stephens said. "It will be his senior year in college, so it will kind of be like how it was my freshman year in high school. It will be me playing under him, learning how he does things."

"... I knew he was there and

I know they treat Canton players well, so that had an influence on my decision."

Hit the books, too

In addition to the topsy-turvy world of D-I football recruiting, Cochran learned something else about himself and shared that advice with players looking to someday wear college colors at a future National Signing Day ceremony.

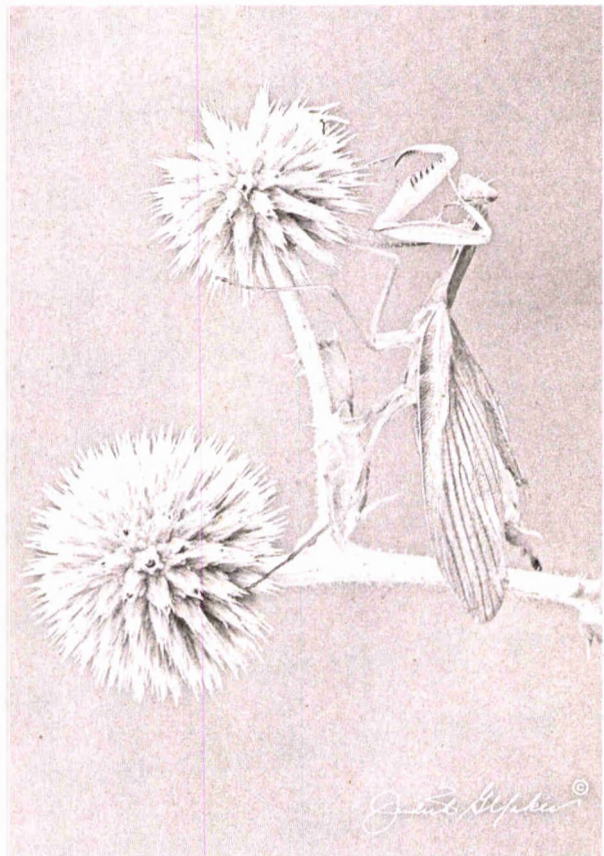
"Do your homework," said Cochran, managing a smile. "Stay on top of the academic part, because that takes you really far."

Cochran added that hard work in the classroom over the past year or so helped raise his grade-point average significantly, from 1.6 to 2.5. Had he not improved his grades, junior college might be in his immediate future instead of Division I.

"I probably would have had to go JUCO," he noted.

Now, he'll have the chance to make the grade under the D-I spotlight.

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"Praying Mantis on Globe Thistle" by Judy Yaker of Birmingham. SUBMITTED

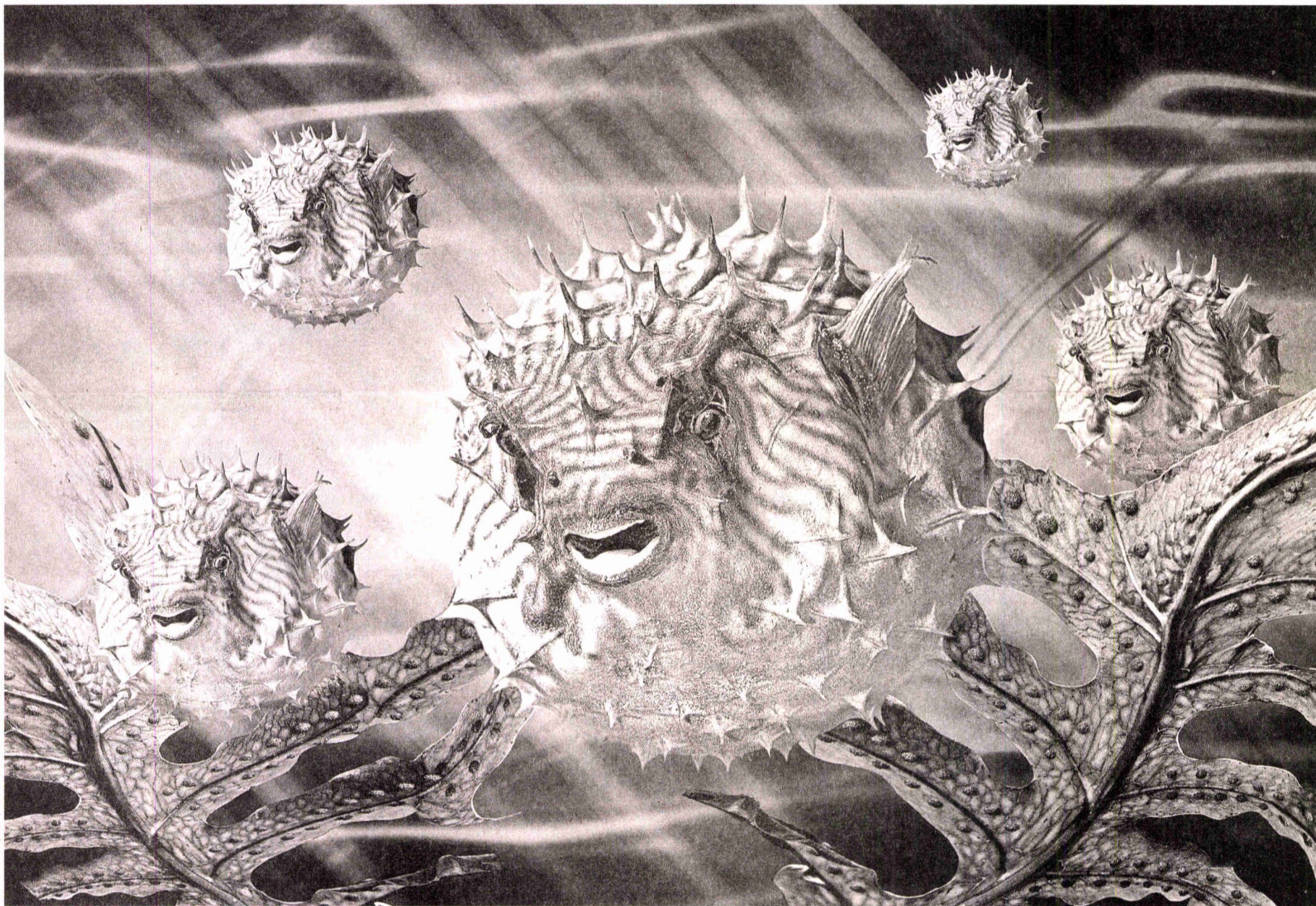


"Cedar Falls" by Lenore Jordan of Livonia. SUBMITTED



"Tethered Hawk" by Jerry Jordan of Livonia. SUBMITTED

Camera club members show their best photos in Livonia



"Puffer Fish Squadron" by Richard Grubola of The Photographic Guild, which meets in Southfield. SUBMITTED

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The "Best Of The Best" exhibit at Civic Center Library in Livonia is both a photography show and the perfect recruiting tool for local camera clubs.

Members from 10 camera clubs that make up the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council are exhibiting the nearly 100 photographs this month. The prints won competitions throughout the year before getting the nod for the

"Best Of The Best" show.

"They did well at the local club level, very well at Greater Detroit Camera Club Council competition and once a year they pick the best of the best and have one more competition and those are the winners on display at the library," said Jerry Jordan, a Livonia resident and member of the West Oakland Camera Club that meets twice monthly in New Hudson. He and his wife, Lenore, coordinate the exhibit at the library. "It's a nice thing to show off the photos and the library has welcomed us back every year."

The photos include a variety of subjects, from landscape to animals, people to buildings, and are grouped according to experience levels.

Jordan and his wife each have two photos in the exhibit. They enjoy photography as a hobby and shoot pictures on vacation and at home.

"We go to Greenfield Village a lot. I like people pictures. I get a lot from Civil War days, the Old Car Festival," Jordan said. "It's a year-round hobby."

See PHOTOS, Page B7

Livonia man talks about grief in new TV series on death



Michael Kovalcheck prepares for his on-camera interview. SUBMITTED

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Michael Kovalcheck wants to convey a message of hope through his appearance in the new documentary TV series, *Embrace of Dying: How we deal with the end of life*.

The show, which starts Monday, Feb. 8, on WTVS Detroit Public Television, is the final installment in local filmmaker Keith Famie's three-part look at aging. Famie interviewed Kovalcheck, a Livonia resident, last year for a segment on grieving, which will air during "Embrace of Dying" episode 4, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29.

Kovalcheck and his wife,

Toni, would have celebrated their 40th marriage anniversary last fall if she had survived another year in her battle with stage-four cancer. Toni died in January 2015, just a few months after appearing in a segment on women and cancer in *Embrace of Aging, the Female Perspective on Growing Old*, Famie's second installment in the aging series. Toni was one of three breast cancer patients profiled in the program. The Kovalchecks explained how breast cancer had affected their lives and how they had faced challenges.

In the upcoming series, Kovalcheck will talk about his grief experience and observa-

tions about death.

"When Keith first asked me it was fresh. I was four months into this," he said. "I thought about it. I didn't know if I could do it. Should I do it for Toni?"

"Then it came to me. I need to do this because people are grieving and they can have hope. I want to show there is hope. Will our lives be the same physically? No. But spiritually you become stronger. My wife is more alive than when she was here. I believe that in my heart. My wife had a smile on her face when she died. She is in pure love that words can't explain."

See GRIEF, Page B9

'Mass Mob' aims to fill pews at St. Valentine in Redford

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Traveling Catholic's Mass Mob will visit Redford for a second time this year when it attends a worship service Sunday, Feb. 7, at St. Valentine Catholic Church.

"There's no reason not to come to Mass," said Annamarie Barnes, Traveling Catholic's founder, noting that Feb. 7 is Super Bowl Sunday. "Start your day with Mass and finish up with a good football game. It's a good kickoff to the Super Bowl."

Barnes, a Warren resident, founded the Traveling Catholic's Mass Mob to help increase collection plate proceeds and attendance at various churches. She uses social media to get the word out, encouraging Catholics to become a part of the "mob" of



The Traveling Catholic's Mass Mob helps fill the pews at one of its featured churches last year.

worshippers at the featured church each month. She focuses on churches in financial need or those with schools. Last month, she called for a Mass Mob at St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford and drew approximately 500 participants on a snowy Sunday.

"I'm expecting 400-600 (at St. Valentine)," she said. "That's what I'm hoping for with them having a school and they have alumni." The Mass will start at noon. The church is located at 25881 Dow. Bishop Donald Hanchon will be the main celebrant at

the service, which will include a brief commentary on the parish's history, a special entrance procession and both adult and children's choirs. Refreshments will be served in the school gym after the service. "If you're interested in a

Catholic education for your child, stop by and get a feel for the church and the school," Barnes said, adding that she and her late husband visited churches long before she founded the Traveling Catholic's Mass Mob. "We'd go to a different church each month to see what it was like, out of curiosity."

"This year, with the emphasis on evangelization, sharing the gospel, I can't think of a better way than doing it through a Mass Mob."

In addition to St. Valentine, the Traveling Catholic's Mass Mob this year will visit churches in Detroit, Taylor, Onaway, St. Clair, Sterling Heights and Warren.

sdargay@hometownlife.com
Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

PHOTOS

Continued from Page B6

"We like the camera clubs because we've made many friends there. We're not professionals. We just go for fun. But it brings out the best you can do."

Improving skills

The Council's 10 clubs all hold monthly competitions for print and digital photographs. Most meet twice a month and assign members a monthly photo challenge. They bring in guest speakers and offer presentations on technique and other photography topics.

"We've done a lot of listening and picked up a lot of tricks at the club," Jordan said.

Learning and improving photography skills is one of the best reasons to join a club, according to Judy Yaker of Bloomfield Hills. She's a Greater Detroit Camera Club Council board member and attends the Oakland Camera Club meetings in Waterford.

"I firmly believe in clubs. You meet people with the same likes, you'll find out where to shoot. We talk about equipment — where to put the f-stop, what shutter speed to use. It's a common interest," Yaker said.

"Some of my best friends I've met through camera club.

"You get better because people critique your work. I do think people who are serious about photography and who want to get better should find a club. They need to be able to take the good and the bad, to take constructive criticism."

Although Yaker had a solo exhibit at the Detroit Zoo several years ago, has traveled worldwide capturing wildlife in photographs, and has sold images to calendar publishers, she's not a professional photographer.

"It's not a job. I just do it for fun," she said.

Bears, tigers

Two of her photographs — one of a tiger, and another of a polar bear and her cubs — are featured on the covers of *National Geographic* calendars this year. She has photographed polar bears in Manitoba for the past four years. She'll travel there again this spring.

"Last year it was minus-50 degrees Celsius and the wind was blowing. You have to keep your distance and you are standing outside all day," she said. "I get them as they are coming out of the den and that is really something. You get goose bumps when you see



"Alert Buck" by Skip Moody of the West Oakland Camera Club.

SUBMITTED

these babies see the world for the first time."

Most of her tiger photos are shot at the Detroit Zoo. Proud Lake State Recreation area is her favorite place to photograph bugs. Her image of a praying mantis on a globe thistle is on display in the Livonia exhibit.

Yaker joined a camera club and took photojournalism classes in the early 1990s. She quickly discovered a passion for photographing animals.

"I told my professor I really don't like shoving my camera into someone's face. I enjoy

photographing my cat. He let me get away with it. It snowballed from there."

The Civic Center Library is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, at 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

Here's a sampling of Greater Detroit Camera Club Council member clubs:

» Livonia Camera Club meets at 8 p.m. the first two Thursdays of the month at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. See a presentation on light painting on Feb. 11. livoniacamclub.com

» Motor City Camera Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, Bloomfield Township. motorcitycameraclub.com

» Oakland Camera Club meets at 7 p.m., the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Oakland County Executive Office Building in the Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Building 41West, Waterford. oaklandcameraclub.com

» The Photographic Guild meets the first two Mondays of the month at the Burgh Historical Center, located at Berg Road and Civic Center Drive, in Southfield. thephotoguild.org

» West Oakland Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month at New Hudson United Methodist Church, 56730 Grand River Ave., New Hudson. wocc.photoclubsservice.com

Other member clubs meet in Toledo, Ohio, Windsor, Ont., Detroit, Grosse Pointe, and Dryden. Visit the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council at gdccc.photoclubservices.com

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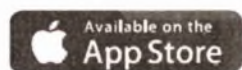


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Butterflies

Mark Hunter, University of Michigan professor, will talk about the current patterns and future problems for Monarch butterflies at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Free for mem-

bers of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association; \$3 for non-members. 734-223-5510. sembutterfly.org

Valentine Day hike

Adults, age 18 and up, can take an evening hike from 8-9:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, through

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. A naturalist will lead the "Stroll with your Sweetheart" hike, while talking about courtship behaviors of the park's nocturnal animals. Hot drinks and sweet treats will be available after the hike, along with an opportunity to win prizes. Cost

is \$5 per person. Register at recreg.fhgov.com or at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call the park nature center at 248-477-1135.

Frogs

Friends of the Rouge seeks volunteers for its annual frog

and toad survey Surveys are conducted independently on warm evenings after dark several times each month from March-June. Potential volunteers must attend a training workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 27, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Register for the

workshop at therouge.org.

English Gardens

» Get tips on attracting birds to your yard at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. Kids can make a bird treat for \$5 at 2:30 p.m. Sign up online for the kid's workshop.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mideathnotices.com

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



BELL, GEORGE R.

of Arcadia, Michigan, was an Army veteran and life-long educator. He passed away at 88 years old on January 28, 2016. He is survived by Ruth, his wife and soul mate of 66 years. Survivors also include their three children, Steve (Luda), Kathy (Marty) and Robert (Gail) along with grandchildren Christopher, Taylor, Julia and Kameryn. George was the band director at Wayne Memorial High School in the 1950s and became the principal there through the 70s. He then moved on to become the superintendent of Northville Schools and retired in 1995. After his long career in the schools, he enjoyed more than 20 years of an active and adventurous retirement with his wife Ruth. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the Wounded Warrior Project - www.woundedwarriorproject.org. Online condolences to obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

O'BRIEN SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME



CARPENTER, KAREN THEODORE

61, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 29, surrounded by family and under the able and compassionate care of Allegiance Hospice Home. Her final moments were more quiet and understated than most of those that preceded them. In life, she was more commonly found in a room full of laughter, often the source or the cause of it herself. A lifelong Michigander, Karen grew up in Westland and raised her family in Canton. The "city girl" eventually left Wayne County to settle in Jackson with her beloved husband, John, a "farm boy" from the west side of the state, whom she was paired with hours after signing up for a trial account on Match.com. Though their years together were relatively few in number, they were rich in travel and adventure, from Washington D.C. to New York City to the Grand Canyon, and filled with an unmistakable love that radiated through their joined families. As a career educator, she dedicated her energy especially to students with disabilities. She earned her B.S. with a concentration in Emotional Impairment in 1979 and her M.A. in Learning Disabilities in 1983, both from Eastern Michigan University. She taught Emotionally Impaired middle schoolers in the Monroe County ISD for four years before taking a "break" to raise her children - a teaching job in itself for which she was indisputably well equipped. She returned to teaching and spent the next 18 years with Plymouth Canton Community Schools, first as a special education teacher at East Middle School before accepting a position as Resource Room Teacher and later Teacher Consultant at Salem High School. At Salem, she used a secret sign to greet her slightly embarrassed son in the hallways, often loaned her daughter lunch money, and kept a close eye on which classes and which teachers both children were assigned. In 2013, she traded in the commute to Canton for a position as Teacher Consultant for Jackson County ISD, where she was based at Western High School. (Although, she then resumed the commute to Canton rather frequently in her excitement at becoming a grandmother.) Karen is preceded in death by her father, Chris Theodore. She is survived by her husband, John; mother, Lu; brothers, Toby (Kim) and Jeff (Karen); son, Lee (Katie); daughter, Erin (Ali); step-daughters, Jenny (Gregg) and Cary; and grandchildren, Jensen, Emily, Ashley, and Jack. Family, friends, and students are welcome to join in remembering Karen at First United Methodist Church, 275 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49201 on February 27 at 11 a.m. In keeping with her joyous and generous spirit, her family will also be hosting a charitable event in her honor this coming summer, to benefit causes meaningful to her. Details will follow.

DELANEY, DOLORES ANN (KRUSKE)

March 12, 1924 - January 14, 2016. Dolores was born in Saginaw, Michigan to Hulda and Paul Kruske. She attended St. Andrew School through through 12th grade and graduated with both college preparation and business backgrounds. After high school, she and her four brothers: Paul, James (Kenneth), Russell and Robert enlisted in various branches of the armed services and served during World War II. Dolores was the secretary to a commander for her entire years of service and was stationed in Miami, Florida. After leaving the military, she attended Michigan State Normal College and met her love, Herbert Joseph Delaney, who was to be her husband for 33 years until his death. Herb and Dolores had three children: Cheryl Ann (John Kreger), Patricia Louise Delaney (Leonard Bawol) and Pamela Jean (Robert Carefelle). Dolores received her undergraduate degree from Wayne State University and her Masters from Eastern Michigan University. She taught for 26 years in South Redford School District in both the classroom and as a Reading Consultant. She loved the students and made many life-long friends. Dolores was active throughout her life and enjoyed extensive travel, golf, bowling, bridge, pinocle, cross country skiing, as well as ballroom and line dancing. Wherever Dolores went she had fun and added a touch of glamour and class. Dolores will be missed by her three daughters, nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, her love for 15 years, Benjamin Hain, as well as many friends. The family is most grateful to all who have shown care and kindness: Angela Hospice, Ben Hain, Fr. Gary and St. Collette Parish, and her friends. Donations can be made to the Herbert and Dolores Delaney Scholarship at Mercy High School or to the charity of choice in Dolores' name. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Collette Church on Tuesday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m. with guests gathering at 10:00. Visit: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

SCHIRMER, LUCILLE HELEN

Age 95 January 31, 2016 Beloved wife of the late Clarence. Loving mother of Richard (Florence Walraven) Schirmer and Lisa (Michael Powell) Schirmer. Proud grandmother of Jason (Trisha) Van Eck, Lesley (Stefan) Keeney, Robert (Courtney) White and Benjamin Powell. Dear great-grandmother of Colyn Van Eck, Alana Van Eck, Taylor Conn, Jada Autry, Desmond White and Ivy White. Also survived by cherished sister Margie (Ken) Siegel. Visitation Friday 3-8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. until the time of service, 11 a.m., at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



SADDEN, LAUREL MARIE (SPENCER)

Age 93, died peacefully at her home in Tellico Village, Loudon, Tennessee on November 28, 2015. A Chicago native, she married George Spencer in 1942 and moved first to Detroit, then to Huntington Woods in 1947 and to Franklin Village in 1954. Aurel and George played bridge and traveled extensively, and after his 1985 death, Aurel continued to do both. She met Jack Sidden on a cruise; they married in 1987 and moved to Tellico Village in 1995. After Jack's 2005 death, Aurel continued her travels, returning many times to her favorite place, Hong Kong. All who knew Aurel will always remember her kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. Aurel is survived by her children, Michael Spencer, J. Patrick Spencer (Celese) and Isabel Hansen (John); six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

FEBRUARY

AUCTION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14

Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland

Details: Auction supports Concordia Lutheran School. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$270 for a table of 10 and includes appetizer, dinner, desserts, drinks and auction. Deadline is Feb. 8. Order by calling 248-474-2488 or 313-937-2233.

Contact: Laura Goodman at 313-937-2233

CLOTHING COLLECTION

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, through Feb. 14

Location: Crossroads Church, which meets at Trinity Church, 34500 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: The church is collecting winter survival gear, including men's used work boots, men's new and gently-used white socks, ladies new and gently-used turtleneck tops. Contact the church to arrange additional drop-off times

Contact: crossroadsnow.org; Pastor Steve at 248-890-5718

CONCERT

Time/Date: 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7

Location: Sacred Heart Banquet and Conference Center, 29125 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: "The Donut Man" Rob Evans and his puppet sidekick Duncan will perform original Bible story-songs. The concert will have a Lenten theme. Admission is \$5 per person at the door, children ages 3 and under admitted free

Contact: Rev. Joseph Marquis, 734-522-3166

FAMILY FUN DAY

Time/Date: 3-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27

Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Games, prizes and special activities for kids, including a bounce house. Chair massages, chiropractic screening and a talk on health and wellness for adults. Sponsored by Applied Modern Health Chiropractic

Contact: 734-421-1760

FILM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11

Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, UCC, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills

Details: The film, *Seeds of Time*, focusing on the global food system, is part of the Life on Earth @ Risk documentary series

Contact: 248-514-8746

FISH FRY

Time/Date: 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12-March 18

Location: St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: All you can eat, \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for kids, ages 3-13, free for kids under 3, carry outs, \$9 and \$10

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200

GRIEF WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17-March 16

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: "Grieving with Great Hope" a five-week series, is for anyone mourning the loss of a loved one. Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy, leads the sessions. For more information and registration details, visit goodmourningministry.net

Contact: 734-261-1455, www.livoniastmichael.org

GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 21

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

Details: Willie W. Payne, historian and author, will present a multimedia lecture on "Underground Railroad Michigan Connection." He will use music and photos of local Underground Railroad stops to narrate stories and describe places used to harbor runaway slaves. He will discuss how slave work songs and spirituals were used to communicate escape plans and how these songs also influenced blues, jazz and other music

Contact: 248-478-7272

MARDI GRAS PARTY

Time/Date: 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9

Location: Plymouth Knights of Columbus, 150 Fair St., Plymouth

Details: Dixieland music by The Tabasco Cats, a light buffet-style dinner, cash bar, beads, trinkets, drawings and a shrimp and oyster bar staffed by senior Boy

Scouts from Troop 743. Tickets are \$10, available in advance at the hall.

Contact: 734-516-0648

PANCAKE DINNER

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Shrove Tuesday dinner will include pancakes, sausages, applesauce, packzies, music and fellowship. Donations accepted at the door

Ashes: Imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist at noon and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10

Contact: 734-421-8451

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Feb. 20

Location: St. Michael Lutheran School, 3003 Hannan, Wayne

Details: Take a guided tour of the school, meet with teachers, and learn more about Christian education for preschool-eighth grade. The school offers licensed latchkey, and bus service for resident of Wayne and Westland schools

Contact: 734-728-3315; stmichaellutheran.org

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER-DANCE

Time/Date: 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13

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

Details: 1950s theme dinner-dance will include hamburgers, hotdogs, fries and desserts and music for dancing. The event benefits Camp Hope, a bereavement camp for kids, ages 6-17. Tickets are \$20 per person and available at the church office

Contact: 248-553-3380

ONGOING

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 and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

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

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

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 Thursday

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

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

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

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

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, ¼ 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

Young heart transplant recipient inspiring others

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat.

Less than three months after receiving a new heart, 15-year-old Trevor Sullivan is kicking off the annual American Heart Association's Hoops for Heart fundraiser at his alma mater, Berkshire Middle School in Beverly Hills.

A packed auditorium of students gave the Southfield teenager a rock star ovation Wednesday as he came out on the stage to talk about organ donation and the importance of a healthy heart.

"Hi, everybody," Sullivan told the cheering students. "I'm basically here to tell you my story."

It was a year ago in February that Sullivan and his family learned about his congenital heart disease and the need for a transplant.

After waiting more than nine months for a match, he received his new heart Nov. 13.

"So that's why I'm here," he said. "I received someone's heart."

His old heart was nearly three times the



Trevor Sullivan spoke to students at Berkshire Middle School.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

normal size and started pushing down on his lungs. The new one is beating strong.

"Once I got the new heart, it felt really good," he told the students.

During the rally, it

was pointed out that more than 720,000 people in the U.S. suffer heart attacks every year and that a person dies from heart disease every 60 seconds. When a teacher asked the students if they personally

knew someone who suffered a heart attack, a sea of hands quickly shot up.

Sullivan told the students he hopes to become the first person to reach old age with a single transplant. He's

already become an overnight media sensation, as a 43-second video of the Southfield teen waking up from his heart transplant has racked up more than 15 million views online, prompting one student at the rally

to ask Sullivan if he's famous now.

"No!" he said, protesting with a giant smile, before adding, "I mean, a little bit."

After the rally, Assistant Principal Roy Bishop described Sullivan as a symbol of courage and inspiration — and a member of the Berkshire family.

"We always say at Berkshire, 'Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat,'" Bishop said. "Trevor has really inspired everyone in this community ... his journey has sparked conversations about what matters in life and how you have to approach school every day to do your personal best."

Eighth-grade student Megan Weiss, 13, said the fact that someone so young had a heart transplant hit home with a lot of students.

"I think that it's really inspiring, because he's been so strong and everything," she said. "It doesn't seem like he ever had any doubt."

For information on how to become an organ donor, go to www.organdonor.gov.

kgrossman@hometownlife.com

GRIEF

Continued from Page B6

"From my perspective, dying is an earthly thing. It's the true beginning."

Grief process

After Toni died, Kovalcheck read extensively about grieving and discovered that some books on the subject "are good for kindling and some are on the mark." He attended a group workshop through Good Mourning Ministries, which is based at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, and still attends one-on-one counseling sessions at Angela Hospice. He also has offered encouragement and support to other individuals with loved ones in hospice and prays with those who are in mourning.

"I am a grief counseling amateur," he said. He still sets a coffee cup out each morning for Toni and visits her grave two or three times a week. He said he feels at peace there.

Kovalcheck's strong Catholic faith helped him through her death and his feelings of loss. He believes in praying daily for deceased loved ones.

"I think dying has always been a dirty word. When someone we loves dies, we have pain. We all hurt and it's not beautiful to hurt," he said. "People say they want to celebrate life on earth. Memories are important, so we celebrate the past, but also we should celebrate the future. What we should celebrate is the fact that they are in a spot that we want to get into. I can't wait to be with her. I'm excited about being reunited. I never say my wife died. I say, Toni went home."

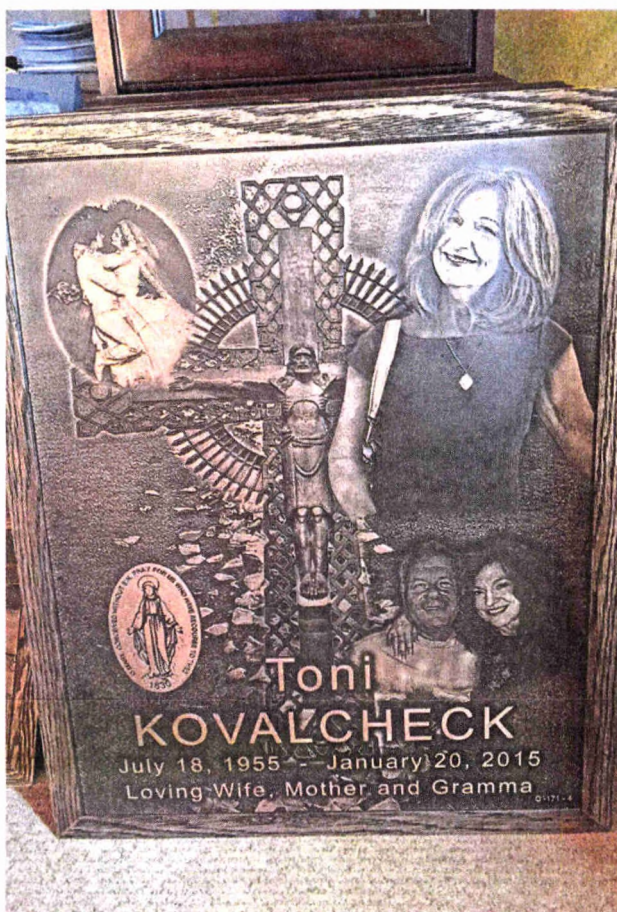
Kovalcheck acknowledges that some individuals, especially those who recently experienced the death of a loved one, may shy away from watching *Embrace of Dying*. But he said the series might also offer a path to healing.

"Maybe they will find some peace in hearing someone else verbalize how they feel. I think that can help some people."

Kovalcheck hasn't seen the series, but plans to watch the weekly episodes on TV.

The shows air at 7:30 p.m. Mondays. Episodes include:

» Introduction, Feb 8: An overview of what dying means as the Baby Boomer generation approaches its twilight years. The episode includes a look at a 96-year-old doctor still



A memorial for Toni Kovalcheck

SUBMITTED

"We all hurt and it's not beautiful to hurt. People say they want to celebrate life on earth. Memories are important, so we celebrate the past, but also we should celebrate the future."

MICHAEL KOVALCHECK

practicing medicine in Durand, a collection of "objects d'mort" in Chicago, Ill., thoughts from a psychiatric neuroscientist from Wayne State University, and interviews with funeral directors.

» Hospice and Terminal Illness, Feb. 15: The show travels to England for a historical perspective on hospice, spends a day with rabbis at the Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network, visits a hospice patient, and includes an interview with a "death midwife."

» Funeral Directors, Feb. 22: The program focuses on the funeral profession and its history, a mortuary science student from Wayne State University, and military funerals. Roger Husband of Husband Funeral Home, in Westland, also recounts his experience preparing Rosa Parks for her funeral.

» The Eulogy, Feb. 29: The episode looks at the eulogy in the grieving process, how the Mexican culture regards death, and includes stories from individuals who lost loved ones, including Michael Kovalcheck.

» Cemeteries, March 14: The show travels to cemeteries in England,

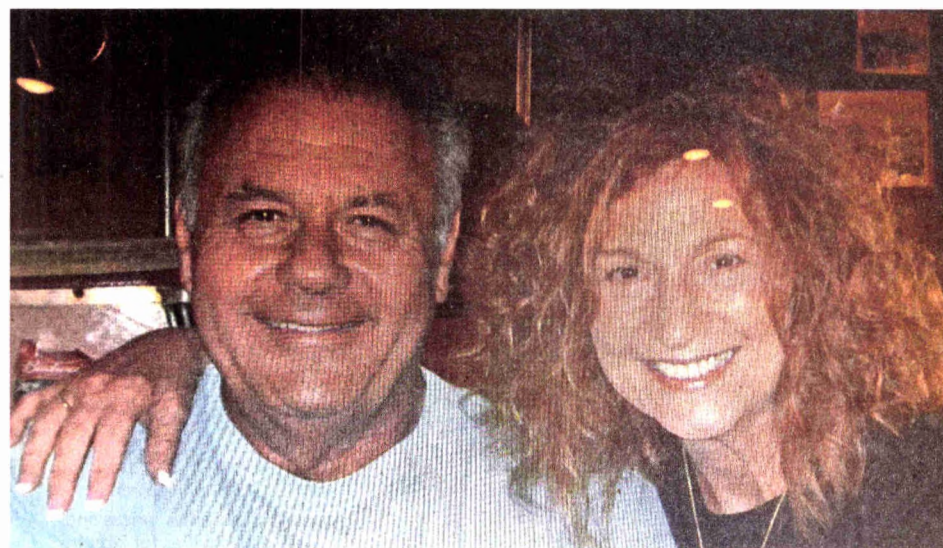
France and Detroit.

» The Afterlife, March 21: The program visits the Afterlife Awareness Conference and the Death Cafe in New York City, N.Y.

» Pay It Forward, March 28: The show looks at how death can be a new beginning for someone else, through scholarships, memorial foundations, and organ donation. It includes interviews with the Ingram family of Carleton, founders of Mikie's Minutes, an organization that provides calling cards for deployed troops, and with organizers of the Rich Rau Memorial Bicycle Tour in West Virginia, established in honor of a bicyclist who was killed while riding his bike. Viewers also learn about the story of Jimmy Williams who donated his heart through Gift of Life Michigan.

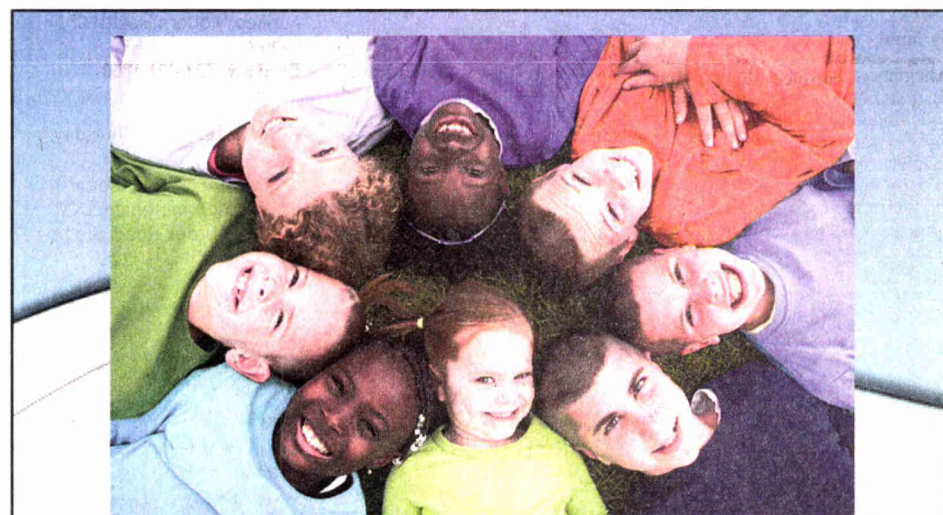
» Memorials, April 4: The series ends with a look at objects and activities used to remember loved ones. It also looks at the Cryonics Institute and explores memories of the future, from new-age burial methods to the role of technology in archiving lives.

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Michael Kovalcheck of Livonia and his wife, Toni, who died in January 2015.

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Old advice applies even in today's job search

BY MATT TARPEY
CAREERBUILDER

Job hunting has changed a lot over the years, so it's tempting to assume that the tips of the old days are useless. But no matter how different the process may look, many crucial elements remain the same. Here are five "outdated" career tips that you should still follow.

1. Watch your résumé length.

The digital age has made it easier for hiring managers to review multi-page résumés, but that doesn't mean it's less of a hassle for them to find the relevant information.

"It used to be that career coaches recommended that a résumé cram as much relevant information in so as to demonstrate your skill set, qualifications and ability to hit the ground running," says Roy Cohen, a career coach who wrote "The Wall Street Professional's Survival Guide." "In general, résumés nowadays should be brief. No more than two pages or you risk losing the reader's attention."

2. Build your network.

Networking is possibly the oldest piece of advice there is for job seekers, and it remains one of the best. The fact that networking has been the go-to



THINKSTOCK

career advice for generations is a testament to its effectiveness.

"Whether it's face-to-face or via LinkedIn, connections get jobs," says Joni Holderman, a professional résumé writer and founder of Thrive! Resumes. "Your connection doesn't have to be a top executive. Even a referral from an entry-level employee carries more weight than a résumé submitted cold."

3. Wear a suit to your interview.

Dress codes are generally becoming more relaxed, leading some to argue that candidates' interview outfits should be, too. But this approach may have negative consequences.

"Even if the first interview is by phone or Skype, there is a benefit to being 'on,'" Cohen says. "A suit makes it feel official. Success in interviewing is not just about being well-prepared. It often happens as a byproduct of feeling ready and knowing that you look the part."

While you should get a sense of the company environment before you select your interview outfit, it's always better to overdress than look unprofessional.

4. Always submit a cover letter.

Some experts suggest that the availability of additional candidate information online

makes cover letters unnecessary. However, a clear and concise cover letter is still an effective way to set yourself apart.

"In an age where hundreds of people can easily apply for a position online without even looking at the job description, a decent cover letter is a great way to stand out from the pack and ... prove you've done your basic homework," says Marc Prosser, co-founder and managing partner of Fit Small Business, which provides reviews for small-business owners. "It shows you've considered the position and maybe even done some research on the company, which is more than most

job applicants will undertake."

5. Pound the pavement.

Not long ago, one of the most common job-hunting techniques was to trek from office to office in search of openings. Job seekers would comb the classified sections and seek out as many interviews as possible.

"Of course, nowadays, most job postings and applications are online, and there's no physical pavement involved. However, the general sentiment of this piece of advice still holds true," says Aaron Michel, CEO of PathSource, a career exploration tool. "In order to find the right job, you need to put some time and effort into it. Instead of going from office to office, job seekers now need to check out a variety of online resources to research and find the right job."

Despite all the changes to job seeking over the years, the main concepts stay the same. Before you write off a piece of advice as outdated, consider its core message and see if it can be updated for the modern job hunt.

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

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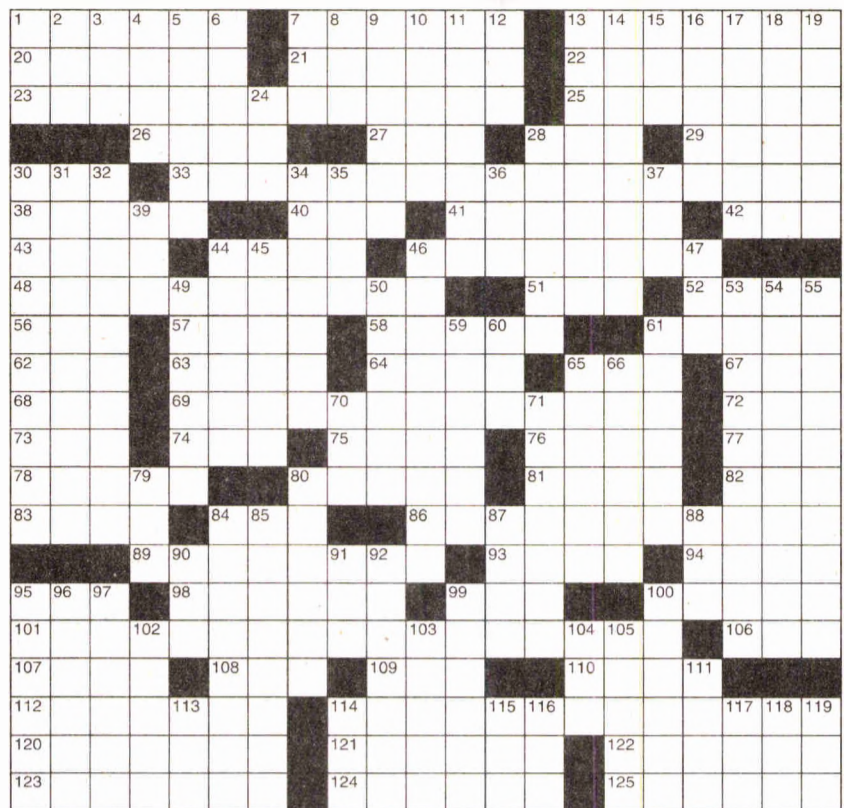
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- ACROSS**
- 1 It turns litmus paper blue
 - 7 Strip a disguise from
 - 13 "— Baby" (#1 U2 album of 1991)
 - 20 Arrive like the tide
 - 21 Savage
 - 22 Less dull
 - 23 Rural lumber-jack resting after chopping?
 - 25 Lounged around
 - 26 Dreamcast producer
 - 27 Get as clear profit
 - 28 100-yr. period
 - 29 Heap (up)
 - 30 Trough for toting bricks
 - 33 Extended cloth used for messy cold-weather meals?
 - 38 Hostile force
 - 40 Down food
 - 41 Purple spring blooms
 - 42 Wide-shoe letters
 - 43 Spool
 - 44 Gets firm
 - 46 Produced a napped surface on
 - 48 Chart showing the highs and lows of actress Ellen's career?
 - 51 LP replacers
 - 52 KGB's milieu
 - 56 "— all over!"
 - 57 Asian dress
 - 58 Alex of "The Godfather"
 - 61 Unit of work
 - 62 Orioles great
 - 63 Gp. for Qatar
 - 64 Sea in 75-Across
 - 65 "Now I see!"
 - 67 Matchstick-removing game
 - 68 Suffix with senior
 - 69 Item pinned on to support a Russian poet's election to office?
 - 72 Sarge, e.g.
 - 73 Abbr. for a handy-andy
 - 74 Mil. missions
 - 75 Qatar locale
 - 76 Lovers' deity
 - 77 Still
 - 78 Revise
 - 80 Prepare to give a ring?
 - 81 Horse father
 - 82 Beijing-to-Shanghai dir.
 - 83 Shot fluids
 - 84 "— see it ..."
 - 86 One of the Skywalker's dressed up as St. Nick?
 - 89 Kind of pear
 - 93 With skill
 - 94 Fir's cousin
 - 95 "Ender's Game" star
 - 98 Unmoving machine part
 - 99 Troop gp.
 - 100 They negate
 - 101 Afghan-wrapped football?
 - 106 "Help!"
 - 107 Guthrie at Woodstock
 - 108 B-to-F string
 - 109 Thai tongue
 - 110 "Think of — a loan"
 - 112 Foot lever
 - 114 Clean a jack-o'-lantern with a Hoover?
 - 120 More weighty
 - 121 Alicia of ballet
 - 122 Choose
 - 123 Aden citizens
 - 124 French edict site of 1598
 - 125 Nail coater
 - 28 Big name in shortening
 - 30 Weedkillers
 - 31 Singly
 - 32 James Fenimore Cooper novel, with "The"
 - 34 Grow wealthy
 - 35 "I— Male War Bride"
 - 36 History unit
 - 37 Suffix of enzymes
 - 39 Monogram in civil rights
 - 44 Grab quickly
 - 45 Departure
 - 46 Most prickly
 - 47 Trio less one
 - 49 Crustacean such as a wood louse
 - 50 Kudos
 - 53 Features of cloudless days
 - 54 Cuts, as pie
 - 55 Far-off distance
 - 59 Jewish mysticism
 - 60 "McQ" actor
 - 61 Speed skater Dan
 - 65 Of a heart chamber
 - 66 Shout of joy
 - 70 State east of Colo.
 - 71 Nuclear trial prohibition
 - 79 Catch cold
 - 80 Tartan skirt sporter
 - 84 First Constitution section
 - 85 Risen people
 - 87 Galileo's gp.
 - 88 Inclined (to)
 - 90 Petition, e.g.
 - 91 History unit
 - 92 Light refrain
 - 95 Disinterest
 - 96 "No —!" ("Uh-uh!")
 - 97 Glistering
 - 99 Hall-of-Fame footballer Mel
 - 100 Flower organ
 - 102 Dry, white Italian wine
 - 103 Strips for breakfast
 - 104 Currency unit of Laos
 - 105 Musical exercise
 - 111 Lab safety org.?
 - 113 Major racket
 - 114 U-Haul rental
 - 115 Capitalize on
 - 116 Cal. dozen
 - 117 — Jong-un
 - 118 Suffix with chlor-
 - 119 "— Blu Di-pinto di Blu" (1958 hit)
- DOWN**
- 1 Wall St. opportunist
 - 2 Singer
 - 3 Dutch airline
 - 4 Home to edelweiss
 - 5 Probable
 - 6 Architect
 - 7 Alien craft
 - 8 Writer Anaïs
 - 9 Not be joking
 - 10 "Get Happy" songwriter
 - 11 Highland terrier, briefly
 - 12 Saloon barrel
 - 13 Figured out the value of
 - 14 Stations
 - 15 Hair hider
 - 16 Linda in 1998 headlines
 - 17 "Rabbit, Run" novelist John
 - 18 — Mae (loan provider)
 - 19 Graham or Lorne
 - 24 Sister of Bert Bobbsey



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	6	1					2
		4	8		6		3
	3		9		5		
8	1			3			4
		9	2				7
	7		4				6
		2	5				8
5				7	6	1	

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 puzzle!

2	4	1	9	7	3	8	6	5
8	3	7	6	1	5	2	4	9
5	9	6	2	4	8	1	7	3
1	7	3	8	9	2	6	5	4
4	6	2	3	5	7	9	1	8
9	8	5	1	6	4	7	3	2
3	5	9	7	8	4	6	2	1
7	4	2	7	3	1	5	8	9
6	1	9	5	2	8	3	6	7

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P Y A C X J I N S I I G J A A M B D S I
C O R H M G M S B S B S O M S L T F S A
I C D O H G E T V C E R N L M T V Y E C
B A I L P M H R A A B R I E O M O E V T
O R U E U H C E N R A S P L T I B L L U
R D M S K E S S U D E R N L O D O D E A
E I K T C A I S B I E O R O A P R J J
A U X E E R A R R O Y B E H P O T Y A U
R M B R H T H A E V E A S L Y O L O H C
E K K O C C L I X A S L E I C T U B R X
T H V L L L K G E S P T O N S S H O T K
T U L O I I E Y R C A S R H P O U M T Y
L U L T P Y P K T C U L T O E R S N M I D
L B A U T I U I L O E S L T O Y A B A
F C N H V D H F S A R N H D L C F D Y F
M J O G G I N G E R P T B R P C H D V C

WORDS

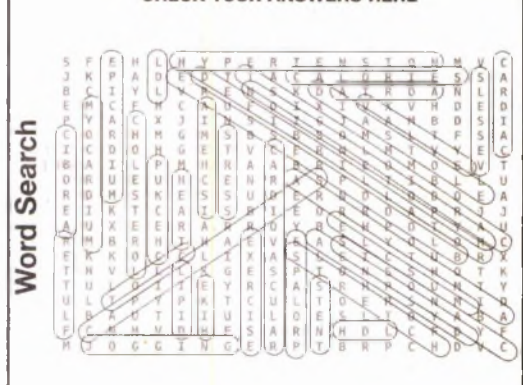
- AEROBIC
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- CHECKUP
- CHOLESTEROL
- CLOT
- CYANOSIS
- DEFIBRILLATOR
- DIASTOLE
- DYSPNEA
- EPICARDIUM
- EXERCISE
- FLUTTER
- HDL
- HEART
- HIKE
- HYPERTENSION
- HYPOTENSION
- ISCHEMIA
- JOGGING
- LDL
- LIPID
- MUSCLE
- MYOCARDIUM
- PROLAPSE
- STENT
- STRESS
- STRETCH
- VALVE
- VESSELS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Crossword Answers

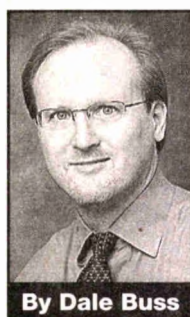
ALKALI	UNMASK	ACHTUNG
ROLLIN	FIERCE	SHARPER
BUMPKIN	NONALOG	SATIDLE
SEGA	NET	CEN
HOD	LONGWINTERS	NAPKIN
ENEMY	EAT	IRISES
REEL	SETS	TEASELED
BARKING	GRAPH	CDS
ITIS	SARI	ROCCO
CAL	PUSK	ARAL
ITA	PUSHK	INBUTTON
DIY	OPS	ASIA
EMEND	KNEEL	SIRE
SERA	ASI	SANTAANAKIN
BARTLETT	ABLY	PINE
ASA	STATOR	BSA
PIGSKIN	ININABLANKET	SOS
ARLO	CDE	LAO
TREADLE	VACUUM	PUMPKIN
HEAVIER	ALONSO	DECIDE
YEMENIS	NANTES	ENAMEL

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Car Report

Cadillac Is Ready To Rev Up Its Reinvention With Worthy, All-New CT6 Sedan



By Dale Buss

Cadillac has spent a year or so softening up buyers with a new approach to marketing GM's luxury brand: a fresh positioning under the "Dare Greatly" rubric, attempts to break with Detroit tradition, an effort to create a genuine lifestyle brand, and promises that a new generation of Cadillac products would back up this brand promise in steel, leather, aluminum and rubber.

Now that day has come, and the first expert reviewers of the initial product in Cadillac's "new tradition"—the CT6 sedan—credit the brand with getting it right. They say that it will do well in supporting Cadillac's aim of delivering a body blow to large rival German sedans such as BMW's 7 Series and Mercedes-

Benz's S-Class.

"The CT6 that hits showrooms in March is its own animal," enthused an Automotive News reviewer. "It's a fresh approach to the big-body luxury-sedan category, one that defies categorization in terms of its size, interior space and price." The new sedan has "serious road presence, with a long hood and low, wide stance. Its cavernous interior" rivals those German targets, too.

Yet CT6 is lighter than comparable German vehicles in part because of a mix of aluminum and high-strength steel welded together with minimal riveting and fewer overall components. Cadillac also outfitted the entry-level CT6 with a 2.0-liter, four-cylinder turbo engine, much lighter than the entry-level V-8 in the Mercedes S-Class.

Price-wise, Cadillac is trying to give US buyers this all-new package for about \$65,000 for a CT6 with a twin turbo, 3.0-liter V-6

engine compared with more than \$82,000 for a BMW 7 Series with the same displacement and power.

"It is a car like no other," Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen told reviewing journalists in California last month.

One reason is that, on contrast to the detailed set of goals most GM projects begin with, according to the Detroit Free Press, chief engineer Travis Hester had almost unprecedented latitude in creating the CT6. He was told the car should use a brand-new twin-turbo V6, have an advanced and lightweight body and structure, and compete with the best big luxury sedans. The rest, the newspaper said, was up to him.

"This is a real commitment to build real large luxury sedans for a brand that needs them," Eric Noble, president of the Carlab consultancy, told the publication. "This requires discipline by GM to avoid discounting. They need to launch it, hold the price and let volume grow naturally as people figure out how good the car is."

And CT6 is just the first in a string of new products, which include a new XT5 crossover-utility vehicle, a compact crossover, an SUV somewhat larger than XT5, and a true, ultra-expensive flagship sedan by 2020.

DeNysschen told me that Cadillac now "must deliver on 'Dare Greatly'" and "that means technology, showing how good the products are, with a distinctive



The bold profile of the all-new Cadillac CT6

design inside and out. We need to show that GM is serious about Cadillac and that we are visibly on par with the Germans."

And, he added, CT6 "shows we have something more to offer than just look and feel and a marketing campaign."

One of the key elements of de Nysschen's strategy for Cadillac has not yet been deployed. That is creating a sense of supply scarcity. He was really good at doing so when he ran Audi, boosting buzz and prices for the brand's high-performance models and leading the Volkswagen-owned luxury brand to unprecedented levels of US sales, market share and profitability.

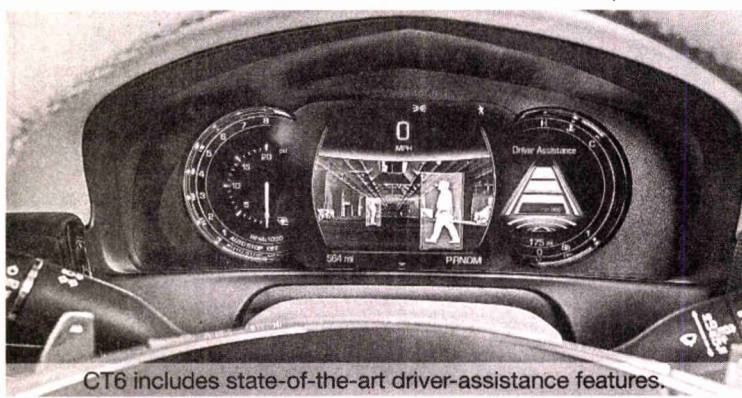
"You need to show the cars proper respect," he told me. "You must compete on the basis of substance. Before now at Cadillac, though, we had taught our dealers

that Cadillac runs a mainstream brand strategy. If you have too many cars, the salesman says, 'We have a deal today.' You change that conversation with tension in the supply chain."

Or, as de Nysschen told journalists, GM plans to use CT6 to draw a line in the sand between its past and a future in which even worthier vehicles as well as a supply-scarcity strategy will undergird prices, profit margins and brand equity.

"We can't continue to focus on price," he told me. "We need to let sales find their natural level."

And in that regard, de Nysschen said, Cadillac already has made tremendous progress, cutting its inventory to a 48-day supply at the end of 2015 from 120 days at the end of 2014, lowering its incentive spending and increasing average transaction prices.



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