

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

THURSDAY 04.14.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MICHIGAN PHIL GOES TO THE MOVIES

ENTERTAINMENT, B9



City commissioner wants to succeed Heise

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Touting her experience at the city, Wayne County and state levels, Colleen Pobur of Plymouth announced Monday her candidacy for the Michigan House of Representatives. A Plymouth City Commis-

sion member, Pobur is running as a Democrat in the 20th District, which includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township and part of eastern Canton Township. Current Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, cannot seek re-election because of term limits and is running for township supervisor.

Speaking to a small group of supporters at the Plymouth District Library, Pobur said her experience working with people of different backgrounds and political affiliations will give her an edge should she be elected. Republicans currently have a 63-46 House majority, but Pobur said

she expects those numbers to get closer after the election in November.

"I've worked with people of all persuasions since the day I got into this business," said Pobur, 57.

Pobur is in her eighth year as a city commission member; she served from 1997 to 2003,

then was appointed in September 2014 to fill a vacancy and won a full four-year term last fall.

County, state roles

She worked for the Detroit-Wayne County Metropolitan

See **POBUR**, Page A2



Terry Jacek and husband Steve Jacek spin the wheel to earn a prize from Alexis Dickinson of USA Hockey.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Township man killed in one-car crash on Ann Arbor Trail

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

High speed and alcohol appear to be factors in a crash early Sunday that killed a 27-year-old man on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth Township.

Police say Douglas P. McKelvey, who lived in the township, was heading east on Ann Arbor Trail, west of Haggerty, when the 2016 Chevrolet Camaro he was driving left the road and struck a tree just after 2 a.m.

The Camaro was "literally almost ripped in two" and McKelvey was pronounced dead at the scene, said Plymouth Township Lt. Bob Antal, who is in charge of the investigation.

There were no passengers in the Camaro, no other vehicles involved and no known witnesses to the crash, police said.

The car's speedometer was stuck at 80 mph, but although that may not indicate the speed at which the Camaro was traveling, it was going at a very high rate speed judging from the damage to it, Antal said.

Police are awaiting the results of an autopsy, including blood-test results, but McKelvey had reportedly been drinking at several places in downtown Plymouth before the crash. Before that, Saturday evening, McKelvey had gone out to dinner with family members, Antal said.

Antal said police have visited a couple of the establishments where McKelvey had reportedly been drinking and that managers have been cooperative in giving police access to security video from Saturday night and early Sunday.

Before the crash, Antal said, Waverly's Camaro left Ann Arbor Trail west of Waverly, traveled about 150 feet, crossed Waverly and struck the tree east of Waverly. A nearby resident who was sitting in his living room at the time reported hearing the crash, he said.

Visitation for McKelvey is scheduled for 2-9 p.m. Thursday at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road, and a funeral service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial, with friends and family gathering at the church beginning at 10 a.m.

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SHOWCASE 'NOTHING BUT GREAT' AS BUSINESS MARKETING EVENT

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Marketing returned to its roots as a person-to-person endeavor — no social media, online campaigns or fancy "branding" here — Monday at the Showcase and Taste of Plymouth.

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's annual expo brought nearly 100 Plymouth- and Canton-area organizations and businesses,

including about 20 restaurants, to The Inn at St. John's, where hundreds of visitors packed the aisles to talk shop, sample the wares and socialize.

"It's been nothing but great," said Edward Smythe, of the Moo Cluck Moo on Ford Road in Canton. It was the restaurant's first visit to the Showcase.

Smythe, Moo Cluck Moo's director of product development and catering, and his crew were giving away bite-

sized grilled chicken sandwiches and they were going fast. "We're getting a lot of good reviews," Smythe said.

Smythe said he'd seen Moo Cluck Moo regulars at the Showcase, including some who were representing other businesses there.

"The Showcase is just getting better every year," said Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. "For the second straight year, we had

about 600 people join us and they are from a broad cross-section of the community."

Graff said restaurants, caterers and sweet shops use the event to show off some of their best menu items.

"It is like a Food Network challenge, with the winners being the attendees who get to discover some of

See **SHOWCASE**, Page A7

Canton High graduate creates positive brand

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

Positivity reigns. Tough times don't last. Look up, be proud.

These are the words that metro Detroit clothing brand Head High Detroit promotes.

Head High Detroit owner and 2010 Canton High School graduate Darius Beasley is working to spread this message via its name and logo, not only in the Detroit area, but also both nationally and internationally.

Beasley, 23, said he always

wanted to start something like Head High, but never knew how to go about it. He said the idea for his brand actually came to him after one of his childhood friends was murdered three years ago. At the funeral, he told his deceased friend's mother that he was praying for her and to keep her "head high."

"While working one day, it hit me," Beasley said. "That's it. That's the name."

Once the name was chosen, Beasley contacted his friend,

See **BRAND**, Page A2



On Nov. 20, Head High Detroit joined the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.



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Remodeled homes tour includes Plymouth, Canton

The 2016 Tour of Remodeled Homes, presented by NARI of Southeast Michigan, showcases 10 homes that have been remodeled throughout the Ann Arbor and Plymouth-Canton areas. The event is 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday April 23, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

This showcase of remodeled homes is an extremely valuable event for anybody who has

remodeling or new construction plans in their future. This event offers the opportunity for attendees to see how local design build professionals have worked within existing constraints to produce new and vibrant living spaces.

This year's tour offers an eclectic mix of design aesthetics, ranging from traditional additions to very contemporary kitchens, as well as sev-

eral whole home transformations. Attendees will see some of the latest trends in the remodeling industry and how those trends can be applied to their own homes.

The tour is sponsored by Mans Lumber & Millwork. Family owned since 1900, the Mans family has serviced the lumber and building needs of the metro Detroit and Ann Arbor communities.

Admission is \$10 per person, with children 5 and under free. Tickets are available at all nine of the Tour of Remodeled Homes projects; tickets must be validated before entering and are good for use on both days of the tour. Each ticket sale is accompanied by a tour guide, complete with project map.

Tickets are on sale online www.narisemich.org.

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- » Dexter Builders, 3124 Fawnmeadow Ct., Ann Arbor
- » Michael A. Rogers Building & Home Improvement, Inc., 3374 Bluett Drive, Ann Arbor

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POBUR

Continued from Page A1

Airport, first in its noise-abatement program and then as director of the concessions program at the McNamara Terminal as it was being planned and built. From 2008-12, Pobur was on the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, a job that, she said, gave her insight into both state government and how small businesses operate.

Pobur began her career in sales in the private sector.

"All those different experiences will give me the background to hit the ground running," she said.

Pobur listed several policy goals she'd have if elected: supporting small businesses rather than giving "giant tax breaks" to big corporations, working to end disparities in state funding for public education and working to make higher education more affordable.

She said changes that



MATT JACHMAN
Colleen Pobur, a Plymouth City Commission member, with supporters Monday as she announces her candidacy in the Michigan House 20th District.

would bring more equality to public school funding will have to be "incremental," but that she senses there is agreement in both political parties that changes need to be made.

"The system is broken and we have to work on it," she said.

She also plugged for more openness in state government, saying there is "nothing behind closed doors" in the way Plymouth is run.

"The citizens deserve to know what their elect-

ed officials are doing and that goes for Lansing, as well," she said.

She promised an active campaign. "I'll knock on thousands of doors and talk to you about what you care about," she said.

'Woman of great integrity'

In addition to being a city commissioner, Pobur chairs Plymouth's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and its Economic Development Corp. She is also chair-

woman of the Northville-Plymouth Fire Advisory Board, which oversees the fire department that serves both communities.

Pobur was introduced by Mayor Dan Dwyer, a longtime friend and commission colleague.

"She is a woman of great integrity and limitless energy," Dwyer said.

Pobur is the only Democrat in the race so far; the primary is Tuesday, Aug. 2, and the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

There are three Republicans, so far, vying to succeed Heise: Jeff Noble of Plymouth Township, a local pastor; Chris Roosen, a former Northville Township trustee and an auto industry veteran; and Joe Smith of Plymouth Township, office manager at an Oakland County landscaping firm. The 20th District includes Northville Township and part of the city of Northville.

A one-time Republican candidate, Steven Valentini of Northville Township, recently dropped out of the race. The filing deadline for the primary is Tuesday.

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Head High Detroit's logo was drawn by Trevor Coates; Beasley said he wanted something universal.

BRAND

Continued from Page A1

Trevor Coates, with ideas for a corporate logo, which he agreed to draw for him. He also hired both an assistant, Olivia Henry, and an event planner, Yorel Huckleberry.

"We do events and I make it a goal to do some community service every month," Beasley said.

In November, Head High Detroit was asked to join the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. Its apparel is now sold in the Michigan Science Center and is frequently worn by University of Michigan basketball players, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park faculty and students and many others.

For more information on the brand or to purchase apparel, go to www.headhighdetroit.com, follow HeadHighDetroit on Instagram or "like" the Facebook page, Head High Detroit.

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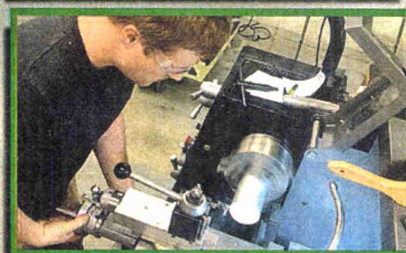
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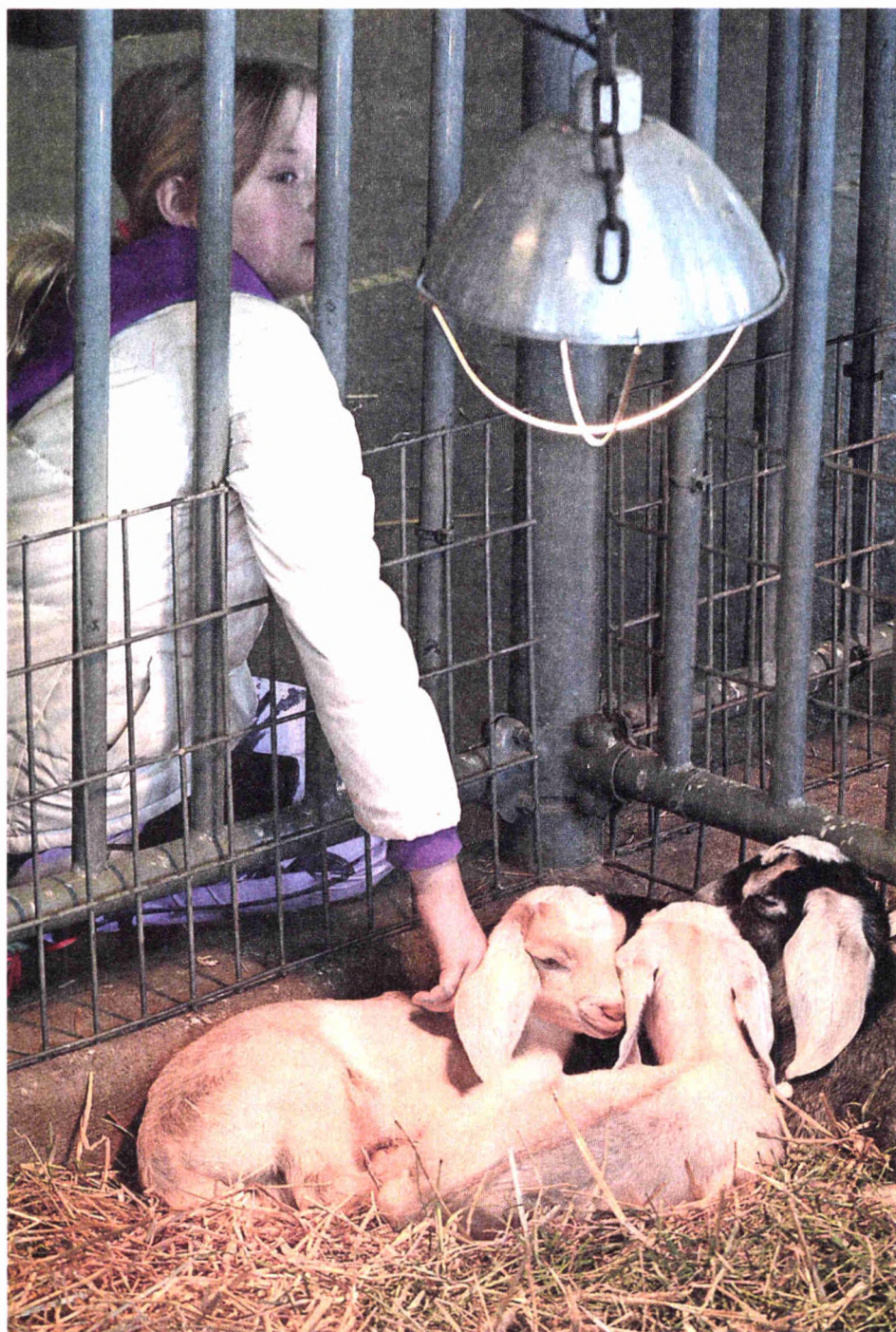
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marais Sutton, 8, connects with some of the baby goats born recently at Kensington Metropark's farm. The farm has seen births in recent weeks from sheep, pigs and goats and they can be viewed seven days a week at the farm.

Spring babies arrive at Kensington Farm Center

Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

The barns are bursting with new babies and expectant mothers at Kensington Metropark's Farm Center in Milford.

Over the last couple of weeks, farm staff and visitors have welcomed two litters of piglets, one set of twin baby goats, triplet baby lambs and quadruplet baby goats.

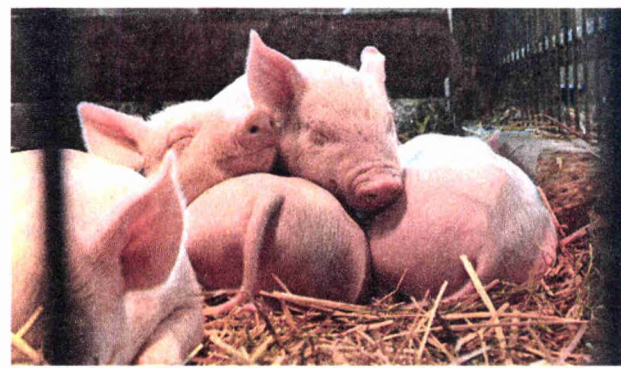
"We call that lower barn our maternity ward," farm manager Debbie Cavallaro said, noting many of the animals now producing offspring were born and raised at the farm, including Gem, a sow who recently delivered her first litter of piglets.

"Spring is always a very exciting time for us; it's very rewarding for the staff, who all care immensely for the animals here."

After one of the farm's Nubian goats recently gave birth to four kids, she added, farm staff began augmenting the smaller two with bottles, even taking the babies home at night, since a mother goat can only feed two at a time.

"We always hope for nice healthy twins," Cavallaro said. "Sometimes we get triplets; four are double trouble."

The efforts have paid off as the babies continue



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A litter of pigs born recently at Kensington Metropark's Farm Center.

to grow and have already started on hay and grain.

All the spring babies attract lots of visitors to the farm each year, Cavallaro said. During the next few months, more baby sheep, goats and pigs are expected and one of the farm's cows, Daisy, is due the third week of June.

"They grow up quick," she said, noting many of the new additions are sold to 4H children, who raise the animals for entry into county fairs. "I come back after just two days off and I can't believe how much they've grown."

The farm, which is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., is also home to draft horses, ducks, chickens, miniature donkeys and rabbits.

The farm will host a fun-filled weekend of

activities for the whole family April 23-24 during the annual Spring Festival.

The two-day event centers on shearing the farm's flock of sheep, but visitors can also tour the farm, take a hayride, be entertained by Rosco the Clown and see a border collie demonstration.

"They'll show how they move the sheep," Cavallaro said. "Just like in the movie 'Babe.'"

A metroparks vehicle entry permit is required to enter any metropark and is \$35 annually for regular admission. One-day passes are also available. General information can be found at www.metroparks.com or by calling 800-47-PARKS.

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Valentini leaves GOP state House race, three candidates remain



Valentini

Steven Valentini, a real estate agent and Northville Township resident, has dropped out of the race to succeed state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, in the Michigan House of Representatives, according to Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's office.

Valentini had been facing three opponents in the Republican race for the 20th District nomination. The district is made up of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville Township, part of the city of Northville and part of eastern Canton Township.

Valentini's withdrawal leaves local pastor Jeff Noble, former Northville Township Trustee Chris Roosen and Joe Smith, the office manager of a landscaping company, left in the GOP race. Plymouth City Commissioner Colleen Pobur, who announced her

bid on Monday, is the only Democrat so far in the primary race.

Tuesday is the last day for primary candidates to file. The primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 2, while the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Heise, who is serving his

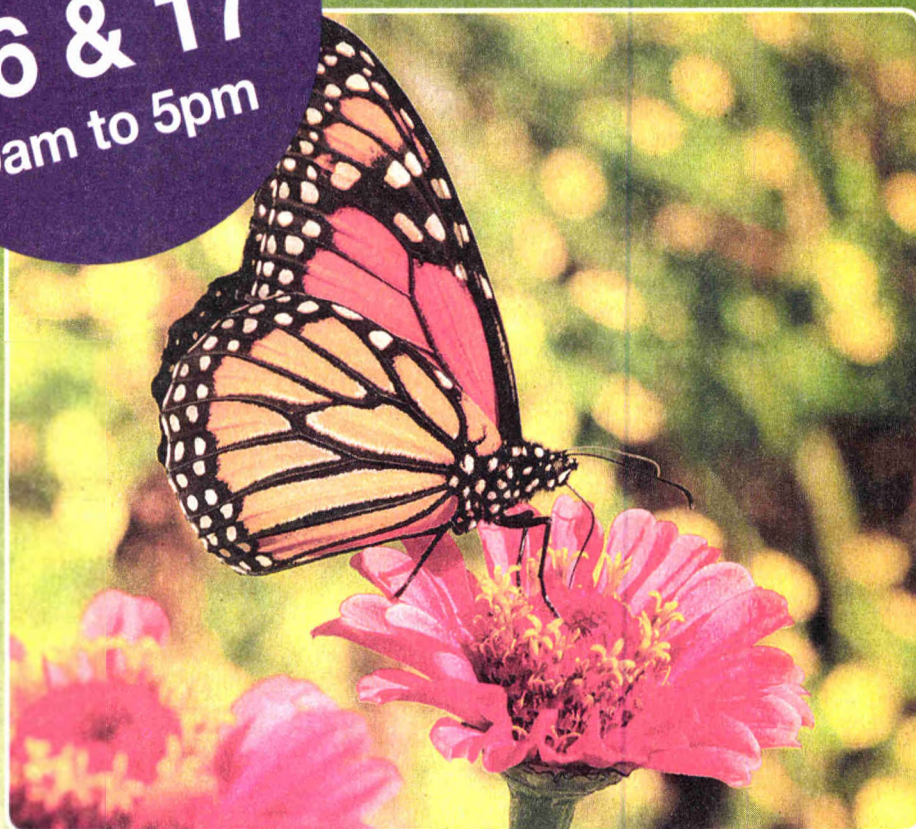
third two-year term in the House, cannot seek reelection because of term limits. He is running for supervisor in Plymouth Township.

Valentini did not return a call seeking comment.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Uber passenger ends up with a ride to jail

An unlucky Uber passenger, riding with a bag of marijuana and a credit card that wasn't his, was arrested after Canton police stopped his 70-year-old driver for having no headlights.

Police say the incident unfolded about 11 p.m. April 6, when the Uber driver's Chrysler PT Cruiser was spotted with no headlights on Belleville Road, near Michigan Avenue.

Police detected the odor of marijuana, prompting the passenger, a 24-year-old Detroit man, to say he smokes it for back pain, even though he conceded he has no medical marijuana card.

The suspect told police he had hired the Uber driver because he has no driver's license

and needed to get to a friend's birthday party. Police learned the suspect had warrants for speeding in Huntington Woods and for driving with a suspended license in Hazel Park and Ferndale.

A police report indicated the suspect had a retail bag containing three new iPhones, four gift cards, two credit cards, a small bag of marijuana and a digital scale that he said he uses to ensure he gets a fair deal when buying marijuana.

He told police he bought the iPhones for relatives. One of the credit cards had someone else's name on it, prompting him to tell police that a friend had left it in his car — even though he already had said he doesn't drive because he has no license.

The traffic stop ended with the suspect being arrested for possession of marijuana and

for illegally having the credit card. Police confiscated the credit card and gift cards as the investigation continued.

Hoodie swindle

A 19-year-old Livonia man told police he had gone Sunday afternoon to Canton to sell his A Bathing Ape brand hoodie to someone for \$420 — only to be ripped off.

The victim had arranged to meet two Canton teens about 1 p.m. near Cherry Hill and I-275 to make the sale. He told police one of the teens tried on the hoodie and then ran for a black SUV, driving off without paying.

The victim said no weapons had been seen during the incident and he was not assaulted. He gave police the information they needed to track down the teens, who agreed to meet police outside a Canton bank to

return the hoodie.

A police report said the victim didn't want to prosecute the case; he just wanted his hoodie back.

Fraudulent cards

Police nabbed two suspects accused of trying to use fraudulent gift cards to make purchases at the Meijer store at Ford and Canton Center, a report said.

The incident unfolded about 4:15 p.m. April 6, after a Meijer employee notified police that the two suspects had been swiping several cards to try to get one to work, before leaving in a Dodge Challenger.

Police spotted the vehicle on eastbound Ford Road and stopped it, advising the suspects they were under investigation for fraud. A police report identified them as Detroit men, ages 24 and 22.

Police found two gift cards and a Green Dot card during the investigation — cards that a Meijer employee confirmed as fraudulent. Police took the suspects into custody as the investigation was continuing.

Lost backpack

Police went to the Marathon gas station at Michigan Avenue and Haggerty after receiving reports that a backpack had been left near a gas pump, a report said.

Police received the call about 9 p.m. Friday. Nothing suspicious was found inside the backpack — only clothing and miscellaneous items, but nothing to identify its owner.

The backpack was placed in the police station's property room in case someone reports it missing.

— By Darrell Clem

Livonia man wielding gun shot by police officers during traffic stop

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A 23-year-old Livonia man is in the hospital and police custody after Livonia police say he pointed a gun at an officer during a traffic stop early Sunday morning.

Police say the man was pulled over at about 2 a.m. Sunday near the intersection of Lyndon and Farmington after he was observed driving erratically near I-96 and Farmington by a caller who dialed 9-1-1.

Police say the suspect, who was driving a white Ford Explorer, was swerving in and out of traffic and was then followed

by police. After the driving behavior was confirmed, the officer pulled over the vehicle under a suspicion of drunken driving. A second patrol car arrived as backup during the stop.

As the officers approached the vehicle on foot during the stop, the driver pointed a long gun out the window. The officers responded by firing their weapons at the driver. The driver then pulled the gun back inside the vehicle and the officers retreated to cover.

Police gave the suspect multiple commands to leave the vehicle without the gun, which he then did. He was taken into

custody and later transferred to an area hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound.

Police say the injury sustained by the driver was not life-threatening and he was in stable condition as of Sunday afternoon.

Police have not released any more details, including if any charges had been filed. As of Tuesday morning, the case was still being reviewed by the prosecutor's office. The investigation remains ongoing, according to police.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Valuables stolen in locker break-in

Cash, a wedding band and a \$750 cellular phone were reported stolen April 5 from a locker in the men's locker room at the new LA Fitness on Ann Arbor Road at Haggerty.

The victim told police the locker was broken into while he worked out there between about 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. April 5, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. He had used a lock on the locker, he said, but it had been removed.

House egged

A house on Grant Drive, in the area of North Territorial and Ridge Road, was egged Saturday night, police report.

A resident told police he woke up, shortly before 10:30 p.m., to loud sounds coming from the front of his house, a police report said. He went outside, he told police, to see three broken eggs and an orange that had apparently struck the house. There was no visible damage to the siding, police said.

License suspended

A 24-year-old Detroit man was arrested Monday night on a charge of driving with a suspended license during a traffic stop on Ann Arbor Road, near I-275.

A police report said the driver was pulled over because the Ford Explorer he was in had a temporary license that was obstructed from the officer's view. The driver, in addition to having a suspended license, had no registration or insurance for the vehicle, police said.

Police said he also had two outstanding warrants, out of Bloomfield Hills, for failure to appear in court.

— By Matt Jachman

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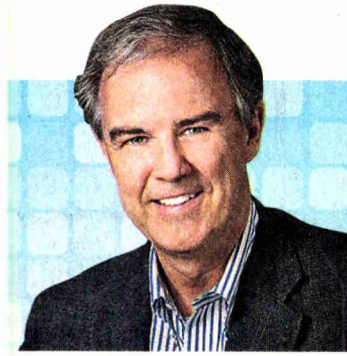
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David C. Kelsall, M.D.,
Cochlear Medical Advisor

Dr. David C. Kelsall, a hearing implant surgeon and medical advisor to Cochlear, the world leader in hearing implants, answers common questions about hearing implants.

Q: Is a hearing implant right for me?

A: If you have tried hearing aid after hearing aid and nothing seems to work, it may mean a hearing implant is right for you. Other signs may include having difficulty hearing in noisy environments (such as restaurants) or on the phone. Be sure to discuss these signs with a Hearing Implant Specialist in your area. Hearing aids are typically worn before implantable solutions are considered.

Q: How are hearing implants different than hearing aids?

A: While hearing aids only amplify sounds, hearing implants help make them louder and clearer. Improving the clarity of your hearing may help you better understand speech in both quiet and noisy situations.

Q: What kinds of hearing implants are there?

A: There are hearing implant solutions for many types of hearing loss. They include cochlear implants, Hybrid™ Hearing and bone conduction implants. Visit your Hearing Implant Specialist to determine which one may be right for you.

Q: Does Medicare cover hearing implants?

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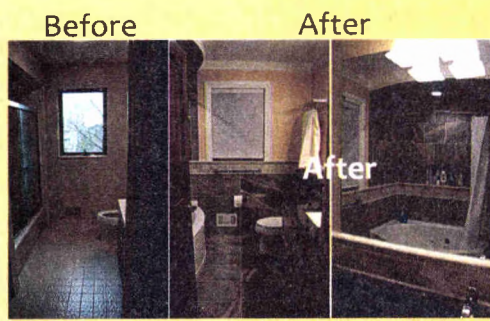


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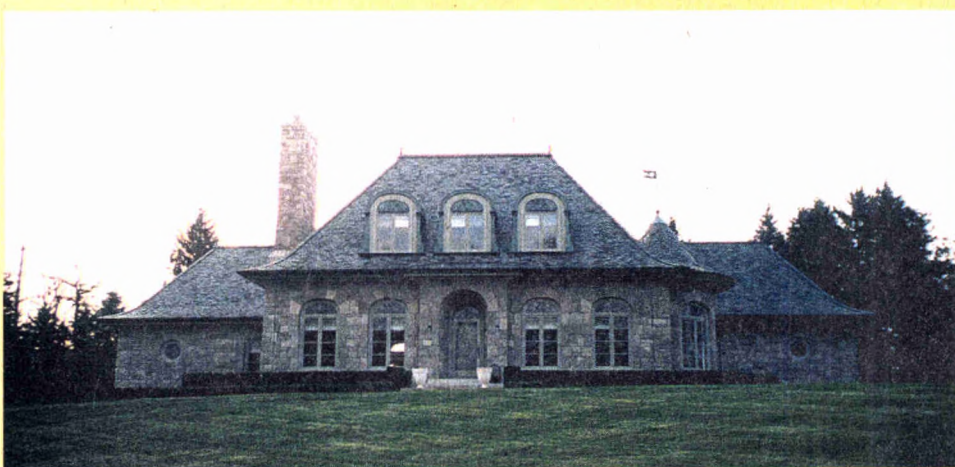
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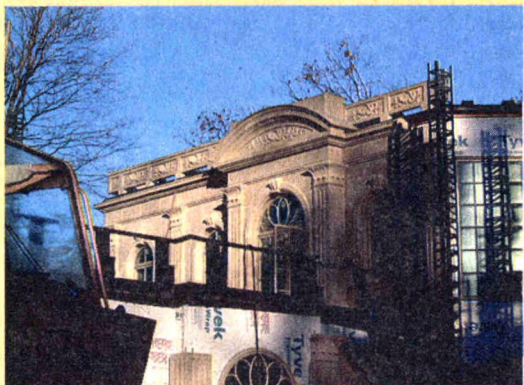


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Schoolcraft Nursing student Erin Brashear checks I. Britt's blood pressure. Brashear is from Belleville. Britt lives in Westland.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hundreds attend annual O&E Spring Expo

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Getting the newest information, especially for seniors, was a big theme April 5 at the Observer & Eccentric Senior Spring Expo at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. That's what drew Plymouth Township resident Kathie Gornica to the event.

The 82-year-old ballroom dance instructor, who teaches many seniors out of her home, said she comes every year to the event in Livonia to gather info and pass it along.

"I like to recommend to my students who, a lot of them are seniors, that are going to have problems," she said. "I'm giving them brochures to look into it."

Gornica was one of hundreds who filled Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center for the annual event. Attendees sought information from the many vendors in attendance, including health care providers, estate planners and senior living facilities, among many others. Some seminars held during the event saw standing-room-only crowds to hear some of the speakers.

One such provider was Mercy Elite Sports Performance, a Livonia-based sports medicine facility located at 13245 Newburgh just south of I-96 and part of the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Employees as well as local golf officials were on hand to examine attendees' golf swings and see what, if anything, could cause injury or other ailments while out on the links.

Terry Welsh, the outing and marketing coordinator for the city of Livonia's golf division, said it's important for those golfers to know what ails them, as golf pros don't typically go out and ask golfers about their health status on the golf course.

"As a golf pro, my first question isn't always, 'Hey, do you have any preexisting injuries or have you had hip replacement surgery?'" he

said. "It's 'What do you want to work on in your golf game?' This is the most important step, getting the body ready for golf so that I can maximize the golf swing, get the most potential out of one's golf game."

Nursing students station

A new station this year was several tables of Schoolcraft College nursing students checking vital signs for visitors and talking to them about health. Students came and took blood pressure, among other measurements, from patrons and talked to them in a casual setting. The event replaced the students' clinicals for the day, and gave them experience working with the public out in the field rather than in a medical setting.

"This is more of a preventative-type event," said Rachel Morrow, a Westland resident and first-year nursing student.

One of those in attendance was Farmington Hills resident Rose Lehnerer, who wanted to be aware of what she and her husband needed to do to get their affairs in order.

It's something she hopes isn't needed for a long, long time, she said.

"My husband and I were interested in estate planning," she said. "There's a certain amount of denial that you really need this."

"We all feel like we have an unlimited amount of time."

Ingrid James of Canton said the event was the second Senior Spring Expo she's attended. She came last year and decided it was worthwhile to return this year.

She recommends others to come next year, because of all the access to information she picked up.

"I'm always trying to keep abreast of what the latest things are," she said. "This is a good place to go to find out."

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Mary Traub of Plymouth won a gift basket from Westland Nursing and rehab's Jude Aschoff.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



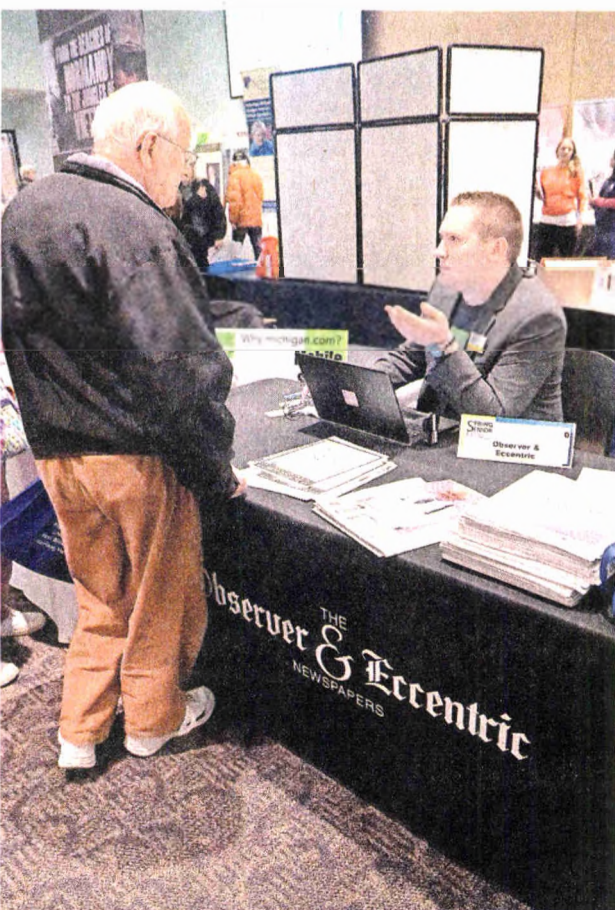
As the standing-room only crowd leaves the auditorium, Beverly Brenner of Northville asks Rick Bloom for clarification of financial advice.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Ralph Schwedt of Livonia learns about Cedarbrook Senior Living, under construction on Haggerty Road in Northville, from Fran Finsilver.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



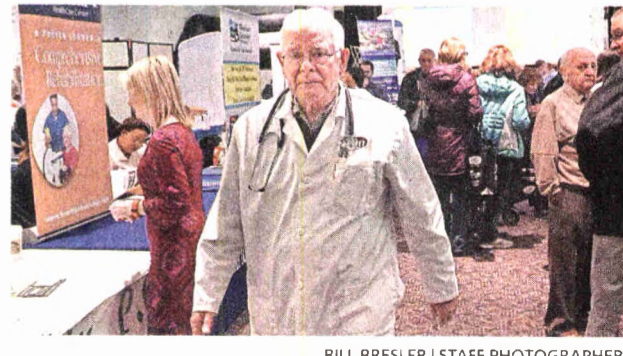
Steve Kemp helps George Korody of Northville.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Katie Kowalski, with Huron-Clinton Metroparks, shares a park map with Carol Yates of Plymouth.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The Doctor is in. Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, is ready with advice.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Don and Joyce Muno of Beverly Hills leave the expo with good advice, lunch, and some swag.



Arbor Hospice announces new officers, board

Canton, Plymouth and Northville residents are among those serving with Arbor Hospice and The Arbor Hospice Foundation, which have announced officers and board members.

Elected officers to the Arbor Hospice Board of Directors are chair Pat Jannausch of Ann Arbor, principal at Core OD Consulting, LLC and treasurer Lee Ann Myers of Canton, vice presi-

dent and chief financial officer of Hospice of Michigan.

Joining them on the Arbor Hospice board as elected members are:

» Gloria D. Brooks of Ann Arbor, president of Arbor Hospice and The Arbor Hospice Foundation.

» John Evangelista, CFP, of Ann Arbor, principal at Evangelista & Associates.

» Denise Hoffman of

Milan, director of nursing practice, quality and support at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

» Michael Jasperson of Northville Township, vice president, chief marketing officer, Hospice of Michigan.

» Dr. Kathleen Wade of Ann Arbor, director of social work and associate hospital administrator, UMH Operations, and assistant dean of hospital social work

services, School of Social Work.

Elected officers to the The Arbor Hospice Foundation Board of Directors are:

» Chair, Jackie Silhanek of Ann Arbor, executive director of strategic clients at GE Healthcare.

» Treasurer, Greg Hawkins of Ann Arbor, executive director at Northwest Ohio ACO.

» Secretary, Dean

Marble of Ann Arbor, director, finance at DTE Energy Services.

Joining them on The Arbor Hospice Foundation board as elected members are:

» Charles Borgsdorf of Ann Arbor, attorney at Hooper Hathaway.

» Gloria D. Brooks of Ann Arbor, president of Arbor Hospice and The Arbor Hospice Foundation.

» Melonie Colaianne

of Northville, retired president, MASCO Corporation Foundation.

» Marcie Hillary of Grand Rapids, vice president, chief development officer, Hospice of Michigan.

» Mike McCarthy of Plymouth, financial adviser at Rehmann.

» Chris Prisby of Saline, senior vice president and investment group manager at Bank of Ann Arbor.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Live music from Dennis Carter II and Ellen Breakfield-Glick, members of the Michigan Philharmonic.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jan Bowler of the Rusty Bucket in Northville is ready to serve big handfuls of mac and cheese.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 An overview of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's 27th Showcase and Taste of Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Zochowski of Plymouth grabs for flying cash in the booth sponsored by Monroe Bank and Trust.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don't mess with Leslie Ryder of the Plymouth Historical Museum, who is holding a classic Daisy Red Ryder.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chelsea Earley, sous chef at Independence Village, prepares Asian-style gravlax on crispy wonton.

SHOWCASE

Continued from Page A1

the best food in our area," he said.

The Curves women-only gym, which has locations on Five Mile in Plymouth Township and on Cherry Hill in Canton, was making its third Showcase appearance. Claire O'Connor, a Curves coach, said the event is a good way to attract new clients and explore options for cross-marketing with other businesses.

O'Connor had even run into come former Curves customers. "I think we convinced 'em to come back," she said.

Several community organizations were represented at the Showcase, including the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, the Michigan Philharmonic and the Plymouth Community United Way. Even the Northville City Fire Department, which serves Northville and Plymouth, had a booth.

At a table featuring Simply Fresh Mediterranean Grill, Anthony Warra was handing out sampler plates. He and his father Sam own the restaurant on Penniman in downtown Plymouth; it was Simply Fresh's first time at the Showcase.

"Everyone I talk to seems to enjoy it," Warra said. Like Smythe at Moo Cluck Moo, Warra was seeing regular Simply Fresh customers at St. John's.

"This is actually a very good experience," Sam Warra said, adding the event exposed Simply Fresh to many visitors from outside the community. "Definitely a plus."

The Showcase included the chamber's volunteers of the year awards, which honored 27 people for their service to local community and civic groups.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Pindzia ladles up samples of chili from the Post Local Bistro.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marilyn Messina of Canton Township enters a contest for gift cards, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Smythe and Teri Bauer, of the Canton restaurant Moo Cluck Moo, tell John Bailey about the business and their chicken sandwiches — gluten-free, no less.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ava Barszczyk, 3, and brother Zachary, 7, enjoy some of the samples offered by local restaurants at Monday's Showcase and Taste of Plymouth.

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OUR VIEW

Robotics competition a win-win for students, schools and business world

Educator Mark Skodack put it well during a recent robotics competition. Of his Hackbots team, which includes teens from Farmington Public Schools' Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools, teacher/coach Skodack said, "It's almost like a small business. A business has to market, a business has to be safe. Six weeks to build a robot is tight for these kids. It gets their focus razor-sharp."

The Hackbots were among more than 40 school systems, public, private and charter, at the March 24-26 FIRST in Michigan District Event at Livonia Churchill High School. FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

The students built robots with a robotic arm, designed to throw a ball through a target. This year's medieval theme proved popular with participants.

Churchill was crowded with high school students, teachers/coaches, mentors, volunteers and spectators on those March days. What they observed was students learning together and from each other in the competition, in which veteran teams are encouraged to help newcomers, such as Garden City High School, hone their skills.

Isolina Carlini is team leader and coach for the Livonia Public Schools' Warriors. She's a middle school teacher in Livonia, at Holmes, and is proud both of the many LPS high schoolers — from Stevenson, Churchill and Franklin — as well as the district's middle school feeder program.

Competition leads to "Worlds," coming up soon in St. Louis, a goal the teams at Churchill shared. Seeing the students, educators and mentors from engineer-

ing and other business backgrounds come together was rewarding.

Said host Carlini, "I think it gives them a hands-on example that simply is not possible in the classroom. It positions kids for success and scholarships and internships. Kids that like this kind of stuff, it really appeals to them."

Students face an increasingly complex world to navigate as they grow up and technological know-how developed through FIRST robotics competition will serve them well. One young woman, Avery Cosier, 17, of Farmington High plans a dentistry career, with many other students set on engineering.

Not all FIRST students will become engineers, but the knowledge, skills and friendships they have gained will serve them well in years to come.

Thoughts on third-grade reading education, instruction

In fiscal year 2016, the state of Michigan will spend \$14.2 billion of taxpayer funds to educate 1.5 million K-12 students. That works out to \$9,466 per student or \$255,600 per classroom of 27 students (Michigan average). And that does not include federal grants allocated directly to schools. What do we get for this money?

According to the latest statewide assessment, only 50 percent of Michigan third-graders are proficient in reading at a third-grade level. That's right — only 50 percent!

The achievement of third-grade reading proficiency is an important



Patrick Colbeck
GUEST COLUMNIST

milestone. It marks the transition from learning to read to an education that depends upon reading to learn. So how do we fix this problem? Let's teach our kids to read. That is the purpose of House Bill 4822. To achieve this purpose, the bill includes provisions for "Literacy Coaches" for teachers, mandatory "Reading Intervention Programs" and state-driven grade retention policies. Do we really

need a state law to teach teachers how to teach? Has it really come down to this?

Why do we need "Literacy Coaches?" A state requirement for "Literacy Coaches" presupposes that our teachers do not have the skills necessary to teach our kids to read. Why do we need remedial education for teachers? What are teachers being taught in universities that offer education degrees? Or, more to the point, what are they not being taught?

Why do we need to require "Reading Intervention Programs?" A state requirement for "Reading Intervention Programs" presupposes that teachers are not currently working on ways to teach struggling students how to read. Why do we need a state law that says that teachers need to teach kids to read?

One would think that

there would be an uproar from the education community at the suggestion that teachers need "Literacy Coaches" or that teachers need to be told to develop "Reading Intervention Programs." Quite the contrary is true, however. While the state-driven mandatory retention provision has met significant resistance from the education community, I have yet to hear any concerns voiced regarding state requirements for coaches or plan development. Why is that?

Simple. State education mandates or "recommendations" translate to more funding. In fact, in the FY 2016 budget, almost \$2.5 million was earmarked specifically for early learning programs. This is chump change in the grand scheme of things. Last year alone, \$128 million was spent on professional development for educators. The fact is most

teachers do not need professional development instruction like racist White Privilege Seminars. The time teachers spend on professional development would be better spent teaching students how to read. The money spent on professional development would be better spent on those teachers who teach well.

So rather than ask why we are accepting teachers in our classrooms who need "Literacy Coaches" or need to be told by the state to develop "Reading Intervention Plans," taxpayers are being asked to throw more money at the problem. Sounds eerily familiar to the problem-solving approach taken for the roads, doesn't it? Instead of improving the quality, we just threw more money at the problem.

We should be asking why some teaching degrees require only two

credit hours on how to teach kids to read. We should be asking why some teaching degrees do not feature any practical classroom training. We should be examining whether or not our teaching certification bureaucracy is fundamentally flawed. The answers to these questions will help us to solve the root problem of our third-grade reading deficiency crisis.

Our students deserve a quality education. Our teachers who are paying for education degrees at universities with expenses that increase at four times the rate of inflation deserve a quality education. Our taxpayers deserve respect, not another crisis-driven shakedown.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck represents the 7th Senate District, which encompasses the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne, as well as the townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth.

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TITLE BOXING CLUB

SWING TIME



Canton's Aleasha Peck joined TITLE Boxing Club when it opened last summer and now hits the gym — and the punching bag — three times a week.

Unique Canton gym gives added 'punch' to burning carbs, building muscle

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The earbuds-wearing trainer stood in the middle of a forest of 100-pound leather punching bags, barking out instructions during an afternoon Power Hour at TITLE Boxing Club in Canton.

"OK, 3-2-1 hit it!" he said to the group of about 25 sweat-drenched participants. "Hit it, pop-pop-pop! Three rights, work-work-work!"

Among those kicking, punching and jabbing in unison was 39-year-old Canton resident Aleasha Peck, who joined the facility located on Sheldon Road, north of Ford Road, when co-owners Mike Kemsley and Jerry Kim opened it last July.

"I still enjoy it. I love it," Peck said, wrapping tape around her hands as she pre-



Mike Kemsley (left) and Jerry Kim are the proprietors of TITLE Boxing Club in Canton.

pared for the session. "It's a really good workout. I've lost a lot of weight. I've been

struggling at other gyms to lose the weight for quite a while now.

"And I came here and got a lot of it off right away, because it's a really good workout."

Peck said she and other family members checked out several gyms before finding out about TITLE Boxing's Canton launch.

"We've been members to a few gyms in the area and just trying to find something new and different," Peck said. "It just looked like fun ... kickboxing with a bag, with some resistance instead of just being in a studio punching air."

The facility is drawing a variety of people — youngsters, high school athletes, adults looking for a new and physical challenge. Even major league baseball, hockey and football players have

See TITLE, Page B2

PREP LACROSSE

Chiefs keep the goals coming

Pakula nets seven as Canton boys rout Howell, 16-4

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After stumbling early in Friday's varsity boys lacrosse match-up against host Howell, the vaunted Canton offense went to work and rolled to a 16-4 victory.

After falling behind 2-0, the resilient Chiefs got on the board when sophomore midfielder Nick Polydoros blasted one home. Howell got it back a half-minute later, but Canton senior attackman Carson Pakula (seven goals) cut the deficit to 3-2 just before the end of the opening quarter.

It was a 7-4 Canton lead at halftime, following single goals by Polydoros, Micah Rinke, Chase Meredith and two goals by sophomore midfielder Connor Flannigan.

Canton (2-0) didn't waste any time relaunching the offense in the third quarter as Lukas Pashigan drilled a shot into the Highlanders' net just 30 seconds into the quarter.

Soon it was 10-4 following back-to-back goals by Pakula. Minutes later, Pashigan sent a feed over to senior midfielder Aditya Joshi in front of the Howell net and he did not miss.

The Chiefs kept the goals coming, taking a 15-4 lead into the fourth on three more goals by Pakula and one by Pashigan.

During the snowy fourth quarter, strong defense came to the forefront, with the lone goal scored by Pakula on a fast break after taking an outlet pass from goalie Trevor Stahl (11 saves).

Helping to close out the convincing win was Canton's starting defense of senior Kumar Johnson and juniors Steven Szymusiak and Reid McDonnell.

SALEM 11 (BOYS), SHRINE 9: The Rocks built a seemingly comfortable 8-4 halftime lead Saturday before Royal Oak Shrine bounced back to tie the

See LACROSSE, Page B2



Salem's Anna Faybrick (left) and Plymouth's Morgan Gooden vie for a 50/50 ball during Friday's game.

GIRLS SOCCER

Rocks, 'Cats overcome the elements

Campus rivals Salem, Plymouth battle to 3-3 deadlock on cold, rainy night

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's varsity girls soccer team let a lead slip away Friday night against Plymouth, but the Rocks showed enough push-back to make their coach proud.

After a 2-0 lead turned into a 3-2 deficit in the second half, the Rocks found a way to score the equalizer and earn a hard-fought 3-3 tie at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The tying goal came with about eight minutes remaining in regulation. Nikki Pilon sent a ball across the pitch to Katie Coleman, who threaded her

way between two Plymouth defenders and took an 18-yard shot that deflected in.

"What I was impressed with is how we overcame adversity," Salem head coach George Tomasso said. "We showed how they can prevail in an adverse situation. I believe this is what builds a strong foundation."

Displaying plenty of intensity, Salem battled the Wildcats tooth-and-nail and had early success when Bailee Soper scored. Setting up the goal with a nifty crossing pass was Anna Faybrick.

Later in the opening half, Salem went up by two goals

when Marisa Martin scored. Tomasso said Caroline Simko set the play up, chipping the ball following a 40-yard restart.

But the Wildcats came out a different team in the second half.

"(Plymouth) coach Jeff Neschich did a great job rallying his team and they started the second half with a high level of intensity and urgency," Tomasso said.

About 10 minutes into the half, Plymouth scored the first of three successive goals to take a 3-2 advantage.

See SOCCER, Page B4

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Catholic Central's Jim Broderick makes an attempt in the long jump in Monday's dual meet against University of Detroit-Jesuit.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Shamrocks run past Cubs

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Just being outdoors was a victory in itself as host Novi Detroit Catholic Central launched its dual meet season Monday afternoon with a 97-31 Catholic League boys track and field win over University of Detroit-Jesuit.

"That's our first experience at running a dual meet this year," CC coach Tony Magni said. "Because of the weather so far, we've haven't done anything at all. And I thought our kids responded pretty well. We hadn't really done anything since Friday, Saturday or even yesterday because of the weather,

so we tried to get everything together and be ready to go and they responded very well."

Catholic Central won 13 of the 17 events, led junior Andrew Levens, who figured in three first-place finishes.

Levens swept the 110- and 300-meter hurdles with times of 16.5 and 44.2, respectively, while also teaming with junior Haden Kasdorf, sophomore Brandon Smith and junior Zach Chops for a victory in the 800 relay (1:38.0).

The Shamrocks also made a strong showing in the field events, led by senior Shane Joyce and junior Chris Bradbury, who placed first and second in the shot put

and discus.

Joyce captured both events with marks of 47 feet, 0.25 inches and 126-0, respectively, while Bradbury was runner-up with throws of 121-10 and 46-7.

Other field event winners for CC included Brandon Smith in the long jump (19-10.25) and Brendan Downs in the high jump (5-4).

Other first-place finishers on the track for the Shamrocks included Nick Gessler, 400 (55.43); Scott Smith, 800 (2:06.0); Avery Felty, 1,600 (4:38.9); and Ty Buckley, 3,200 (10:09.1).

CC's 3,200 relay team of Mark Borek, Buckley, Ben Racine and Scott Smith took first in 8:49.4,

while the foursome of Gessler, Quinn Smolinski, Racine and Ben Lockhart took the final event of the meet in the 1,600 relay (3:45.2).

The Shamrocks return to action Saturday at Ortonville Brandon in the Blackhawks Athletic Department Tri-County Invitational before traveling Monday to face defending Catholic League A-B Division champion Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

"We're looking forward to going to Orchard Lake St. Mary's," Magni said.

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LACROSSE

Continued from Page B1

varsity boys lacrosse match-up in the second half. That didn't deter Salem, cranking up team defense and ultimately coming away with the victory.

"During the final stretch of that game, our defense really pulled through and played as a group who could execute their assignments," Salem head coach Corey Mattingly said.

PLYMOUTH 13, SALEM 2 (GIRLS): On a snowy Saturday, the Wildcats romped to victory over the cross-campus Rocks behind a four-goal game by Marissa Cirino.

Other Plymouth contributors were Natalie Nowicki (three goals), Cierra Steiner (two goals), Madeline Caswell, Michelle Cirino, Cathryn VandenBosch and Kari Schoen (one goal each).

Plymouth improved to 2-1 overall and 2-1 in the division.

PLYMOUTH 19, CANTON 4 (GIRLS): Bouncing back from the loss to Northville, the Wildcats featured a balanced attack with nine players scoring in the April 8 win over the Chiefs.

Registering four goals each were Marissa Cirino and Natalie Nowicki, while Madeline Caswell, Regan Woodward, Cathryn VandenBosch and Michelle Cirino scored two goals each. Single goals were collected by Cierra Steiner, Sabrina Shiftar and Emily LeBlanc.

NORTHVILLE 10, PLYMOUTH 7 (GIRLS): Emma Dietrich scored four of her six goals in the opening half April 5 as the Mustangs (1-0, 1-0) opened KLAAS Kensington Conference play with a hard-fought win over the host Wildcats (0-1, 0-1).

Northville trailed 2-0 early and then took a 6-4 halftime lead before Plymouth rallied in the second half to tie it a 7-7 with 10 minutes remaining.

Junior Sarah Chase then put Northville ahead for keeps with a goal. Dietrich and junior Ally Blough followed with late insurance goals to secure the victory.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- PREP BASEBALL**
Friday, April 15
Novi at Canton, 4 p.m.
Salem at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
- PREP SOFTBALL**
Friday, April 15
Novi at Canton, 4 p.m.
Salem at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
- GIRLS SOCCER**
Thursday, April 14
Ladywood at Mercy, 6 p.m.
Friday, April 15
Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Canton at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16**
Bishop Foley at Ladywood, 1 p.m.
- GIRLS TENNIS**
Thursday, April 14
Plymouth at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.
Salem at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 15
Franklin at Canton, 4 p.m.
Divine Child at Ladywood, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16**
JV Invite at Canton, TBA
- BOYS LACROSSE**
Thursday, April 14
Canton at Belleville, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16**
Canton at W.L. Central, 1 p.m.
F.H. Northern at Plymouth, 1 p.m.
Salem at Caledonia, TBA
- GIRLS LACROSSE**
Thursday, April 14
Salem at East Lansing, 6 p.m.
Friday, April 15
W.L. Northern at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.
Mercy at Canton, 8 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16**
Holt at Salem, 1:30 p.m.



Meet TITLE Boxing trainers Graciela Otero and Devin Skrumbellos.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TITLE

Continued from Page B1

signed up and sing TITLE Boxing's praises.

"People say this is, out of all the workouts they've done, this is the best cardio exercise," Kim said. "And these are people who have been to gyms, they've done other type of high-intensity training."

Here we go

After a basic warmup featuring stretches, pushups, jumping jacks and the like, TITLE Boxing members such as Peck then go into the Power Hour — namely eight three-minute sessions with one minute of so-called "active rest" in between.

Then comes a 15-minute core workout to cap off the hour, exercises designed to sharpen up a proper leg kick or deliver a powerful punch.

"One person to a bag, everybody has their own bag and the instructor will warm everybody up," Peck said. "You start off without your gloves on. Once warmup's done, everybody grabs their gloves and then you go into the rounds."

By the time the total-body session concludes, the studio filled with 60 punching bags is drenched in perspiration — exactly what Kemsley and Kim said is the driving force behind a gym that has more than tripled in members since last summer to more than 200 of all ages and fitness goals.

"You don't need to be in shape (to join), you don't need to have a six-pack, eight-pack or be Superman," Kemsley said. "This class is so diverse. ... The most common thing, and this is why everyone loves it, is everyone's pushing you. All the peers around you. Looking over, seeing someone just waiting on the bag, it motivates you to get going, too."

"So everyone at the end of the class, the one common thing everyone has, is the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TITLE Boxing is located on Sheldon Road, north of Ford Road, in Canton.

sweat. The floor is covered in sweat. You're covered in sweat. And that's the biggest takeaway from everything."

Changing it up

And the secret might be that the trainers constantly shuffle pieces of the workout puzzle — called combinations — so that nothing happens by rote.

"With this exercise, it's not routine at all," Kim said. "Because you have a variety of different trainers, they give you a different combination for each of the rounds."

"So it's like, when you walk in, it feels like there's a surprise there, where you really have to think about 'OK, now I have to do this kind of combination.' Rather than just being routine, being on the treadmill or whatever."

Kim added that following trainers' change-on-the-fly instructions, "next thing you know you're sweating without even knowing it. Because your mind is so entrenched in doing the combinations and then you have to switch."

According to Kemsley,

three weekly visits are recommended for people to start reducing waistlines and stress. And once somebody starts something, they'll finish it, with some prodding and encouragement here and there.

"This is a trainer-led class, so the trainer will motivate you to push you to that level out of your comfort zone and also watching the people around you," Kemsley said. "Other members will motivate you. Because you want to make sure you're punching just as hard as the person standing next to you."

"Definitely, that will get you out of the comfort zone and really drive you, take you to that high-intensity level. People are generally competitive."

More personal

One of the things Kemsley and Kim often have to do with new members is educate them about TITLE Boxing and allay any fears about what they might be walking into.

"Most people, when they come through the front door, they're intimidated," Kemsley

GET INTO THE RING

What: TITLE Boxing Club.
Where: 5848 N. Sheldon Road in Canton, on east side of the street, north of Ford Road. The facility opened in July 2015 and membership has tripled since then; there currently are more than 200 members.
Owners: The franchise is owned by Mike Kemsley and Jerry Kim, who oversee a customer-friendly business where they make a point to know people's names and workout goals.
Classes: Individual memberships begin at \$59 per month, with family plans beginning at \$109 per month. Also available are \$20 drop-in sessions and two-week unlimited sessions for \$50.
Info: Go to canton-sheldon.titleboxingclub.com for more information or call 734-207-0337.

said. "Because they associate the boxing with getting punched or the physicality workout of it."

"At TITLE, we don't condone any type of physical contact with one another. So after we give them a tour and explain to them what happens, you can just see a breath of fresh air. 'OK, I don't have to be super physically fit, not everyone around me is going to be intimidating.'"

And for Peck and others who are TITLE Boxing regulars, a plus is the personalized approach.

"Most of the time, when you go other gyms, you walk in the front door, it's a 'Hey, how you doing?'" Kemsley said. "You put your headphones on and you never see them again."

"We'll sit here and have conversations with everyone. People come in on their lunch breaks. I'll go back there and walk with them (on the treadmill). ... We really try to connect on that level and I think that's what makes us unique."

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ALL-OBSERVER BOYS BOWLING TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Conner Weber, Wayne: Weber was a strike machine for the Zebras, rolling his way to a 212 average in KLAA matches.

Wayne coach Bob Jawor said. "I look for Conner to have a great career as an adult in the game of bowling."

Mitchell Rusinek, Salem: One of the top reasons for the Rocks qualifying for the team state finals, Rusinek finished 10th in the Division 1 individual regionals with a total of 1,182 pins.

Rusinek was Salem's anchor, earned all-conference honors with a 200 average and was named to the scholar-athlete team.

Tyler Shady, Farm. Unified: Shady finished the season with a 202 league average and a 197 season average over 55 games.

Shady, who will attend Ohio Northern University, had a high series of 487 in winning the Canton tournament.

Brian Martin, John Glenn: Only a sophomore, Martin established himself as one of the most promising bowlers in the area as he led the Rockets with a 198 average.

Malik Felder, Farm. Unified: Felder finished his second year on the varsity with a 185 average in 51 games.

Damien Strohschein, John Glenn: A captain for the Rockets, Strohschein barely missed qualifying for the individual state meet.

Kyle Keating, Redford Union: A junior, Keating emerged as the catalyst of the second-year Panthers' varsity bowling program.

Nick Ray, Plymouth: The senior captain averaged 188 in 45 matches and tallied a 1,081 score at the D1 individual finals.

Ray had some highlight-reel moments, including a 258 high game and three-game series of 651.

And at the Wayne County tourney, he came up clutch with a strike in the ninth frame to lock up a Baker game victory over Salem.

"Nick was the inspirational leader of the team in every way," Kapke said.

Mitchell Zelenak, Canton: The senior and fourth-year player earned all-conference and scholar-athlete honors after averaging 200 to lead the Chiefs.

At D1 individual regionals, Zelenak finished 14th with a score of 1,146.

"Mitch has been a solid player for our team for four years ... and a leader," Brubaker said. "He is always working hard on the lanes and as a coach you like to see that effort."

SECOND TEAM

Jacob Kurth, Salem: The senior co-captain averaged 200 for the Rocks and earned all-conference and scholar-athlete honors.

Kurth followed his strong regular season helped the Rocks qualify for D1 team finals and posted a 1,060 total at individual regionals.

"Jake was usually our lead-off bowler," Hahn said. "That was the position that he liked to play, because he could set the pace for the rest of the team and he did this well."

John Willet, Wayne: Willet enjoyed an outstanding senior season, winning the Clarenceville Doubles Tournament Weber, helping the Zebras qualify for the state tournament and averaging a stellar 197.

"Johnny is one of the nicest young men I have had the pleasure of coaching in my 10 years," Jawor said. "He's a complete team player. I wish him all the best as he moves on to LTU."

Dominic Gibson, Farm. Unified: Gibson completed his third varsity season with a league average of 203, which placed him eighth among 100 boys in the OAA.

He increased his league and overall averages by more than 10 pins this season and by 42 pins since his freshmen year. Gibson, who will attend the University of Arizona, had a high game of 245 and high series of 446.

"Dominic's league average shows his desire to compete and win championships," coach Dennis Hermani said. "His driving motivation is to compete at an elite level."

"As a model of consistency, Dominic shot a 400 series in all but one of our league matches in which he bowled both games.

"His work ethic — no one has worked harder on 10-pin conversions — and infectious, positive attitude rubbed off on all of his teammates."

ALL-OBSERVER FIRST TEAM

- Conner Weber, sr., Wayne Mem. Mitchell Rusinek, sr., Salem Tyler Pozan, sr., Canton Justin O'Shaughnessy, jr., Plym. Mitchell Zelenak, sr., Canton SECOND TEAM Jacob Kurth, sr., Salem John Willet, sr., Wayne Mem. Dominic Gibson, sr., Farm. Unified Tyler Shady, sr., Farm. Unified Brian Martin, soph., John Glenn THIRD TEAM Zach Gonyea, sr., Salem Nick Ray, sr., Plymouth Malik Felder, jr., Farm. Unified Damien Strohschein, John Glenn Kyle Keating, sr., Redford Union HONORABLE MENTIONS Farm Unified: Evan Yaros; N. Farmington: JD Maynard, Ryan Darnell, Joe Damiani, Elden Palmer; Canton: Andrew Pascual, Jack Watson; Salem: Joshua Hall, Brendan Kwapis; Plymouth: Alan Brown; Wayne Memorial: Ty Weber, Brennen Maldonado; John Glenn: Jared Stevens, Michael Pizzuti.

PREP SOFTBALL

Mercy poised to defend title

Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

As a follow-up to a great softball season, the Mercy High School coaches and players are hoping for more of the same in 2016.

The Marlins won the Catholic League Central Division title and went as far as the Division 1 state semifinals in the postseason, finishing with a 27-4 record.

"Honestly, at the beginning of every year, you practice and prepare — and everything is done — to try to win a state championship right from the beginning," Mercy coach Alec Lesko said.

"Our hard work is going to be done day by day, pitch by pitch, but we're keeping our eyes on the ultimate goal."

Despite some key losses, the Marlins remain a talented team with eight returning

players and have all areas of the diamond covered with capable people.

The big loss to graduation was that of Alex Sobczak, who won the Miss Softball Award last year and was a perennial all-area selection.

Sobczak, who played every position on the field during her prep career and moved from third base to catcher in the middle of last season, is playing regularly for the University of Michigan.

While the Marlins are trying to settle on a new receiver, they return their No. 1 pitcher in senior ace Andrea Elmore.

She made the all-Observer team after compiling a 16-3 record with five shutouts and a 1.57 earned-run average. Elmore had 153 strikeouts and 27 walks in 124 1/3 innings.

"Anytime you have your starting pitcher back in high school, it's always a good

thing," Lesko said. "Andrea worked hard in the off season and came back in good shape. We're hoping she can continue where she left off."

Leading hitter

Mercy will miss Sobczak's bat in the lineup, but the return of senior first baseman Abby Krzywiecki will ease the pain of that loss.

The power-hitting Krzywiecki, who signed with South Alabama and was another all-area pick, batted .574 with six doubles, two triples, 12 home runs and a team-high 57 RBIs.

"She'll probably bat in the three spot again," Lesko said. "She seems real comfortable there. Abby has put up big numbers and been real consistent over her career."

The team's only other senior is veteran utility player Cari Padula, who is one of three getting a tryout at catcher. She batted .333 with three home runs and 19 RBIs.

"She caught a little bit until we moved Sobczak back there," Lesko said. "She does bring a lot of versatility, which

is going to come in handy this year, especially until we settle in to where we want to be."

The Marlins are solid in the middle of the infield with the return of junior's Nicole Belans and Shannon Gibbons at second base and shortstop, respectively.

Belans was the fourth-leading hitter with a .407 average, four triples, one homer and eight RBIs. Gibbons, who batted .338, scored 22 runs and Belans 21.

"Both have really honed their games," Lesko said. "We thought about moving Nicole to third base, but the way the two look together in the middle, at this point, I think we'll leave well enough alone."

The Marlins must replace Jordan Johnson, who hit .366 with four homers and 42 RBIs, at third base.

Sophomores Anna Dixon, who started in right field, and Megan Satawa, who was on the JV last year, are competing with Padula at catcher and with freshman Sarah Cassidy at the hot corner.

All-area outfielder

Junior Sophia VanAcker landed a spot on the all-area first team after batting .547 with three triples and 30 RBIs. The 33 runs she scored were second only to Sobczak's 58.

VanAcker, who is one of the leading scorers on Mercy's championship hockey team, might stay in left field or move to center as the replacement for Molly Murphy.

Junior Mary Reeber, another returning varsity player, could be the new center fielder as Lesko looks "for her to step up and get some more time on the grass this year."

The right fielder could be Dixon, Cassidy or one of the other varsity newcomers. Mercy doesn't have a JV team this year.

Sophomores Julia Kleismit, Madison Kestin, Emily Rzepecki and Sydney Puda and freshmen Madigan Langlois, Colleen Thomson, Elizabeth Ziembra and Kristin Rzepecki are new to the varsity.

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JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Andrea Elmore returns to the pitching circle for the Marlins, following a superb junior season.

Schoolcraft signing



SCHOOLCRAFT ATHLETICS

Victoria Porter, a senior from Canton High School, recently committed to play softball at Schoolcraft College. Porter, a catcher now in her final season with the Chiefs, will focus on general studies when she begins attending Schoolcraft in the fall.

GIRLS SOCCER

A LITTLE TOO MUCH MERCY

GC stays close for half against Marlins

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Garden City's girls soccer team followed the game plan to a "T" during the first 32 minutes of Monday night's home game against powerful Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Cougars battled the Marlins to a scoreless draw until the waning minutes of the first half, when Lauren George's goal spearheaded a rush that ultimately led to a 4-0 Mercy victory.

The result left Garden City with a 1-1-1 mark — and good vibes for Cougars head coach Jeff Szygula.

"We played them neck-and-neck for most of the first half; our defensive formation was outstanding," Szygula said. "It was a great team effort — everybody had everyone else's back."

"Mercy is such a solid, technically sound team. If you make even the smallest error, they find a way to capitalize and that's what they did in the second half."

Although the Marlins tacked on three

second-half goals, George's goal with approximately eight minutes to play in the first half was the game-changer, Szygula emphasized.

"We we could have went into the half tied 0-0 or even with a lead. That would have been huge for us," he said.

"Once we fell behind, we tried for force things a little more and that gave them some open space."

"Last year we lost 7-0 to Mercy, so we're making strides."

Mercy's Maranda Konja scored nine minutes into the second half to expand the

Marlins' advantage to 2-0. Chloe Woodbeck and Allia McDowell also scored to ice the win for the visitors.

Junior goalkeeper Tatum Spears played solid between the pipes for GC, turning away 10 Mercy shots. The Cougars put seven shots on goal.

"Once of the big differences was that we had zero corner kicks and they had seven," Szygula said. "It's tough when you don't get at least a couple set pieces to generate some offense."

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TOM BEAUDOIN

Farmington Hills Mercy's Missy Hunt (left) and Garden City's Alyssa Metcalf battle for possession of the ball during Monday's game.

PREP BASEBALL

Plymouth pitching comes through

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The combination of steady veterans and versatile newcomers is starting to pay off dividends for Plymouth's varsity baseball team, head coach Jason Crain said.

But Monday, the veterans led the way as the Wildcats earned a 6-4 win over South Lyon East to square their record at 2-2.

Pitching 5½ strong innings for the victory was senior Josh Sulak, who gave up just one earned run while striking out six.

Another senior pitcher, Regan Fleisher, then chipped in 1½ innings of hitless relief for the save.

Leading the offense were seniors Kyle Wolter (2-for-3) and Pete Caravallah (triple in three at-bats).

"We got a much-needed win to start our league schedule," Crain said. "Our focus every year is to win the division and we have difficult opponents within it."

"Our new additions to the team are providing versatility that will be fruitful through the grueling stretch of the season."

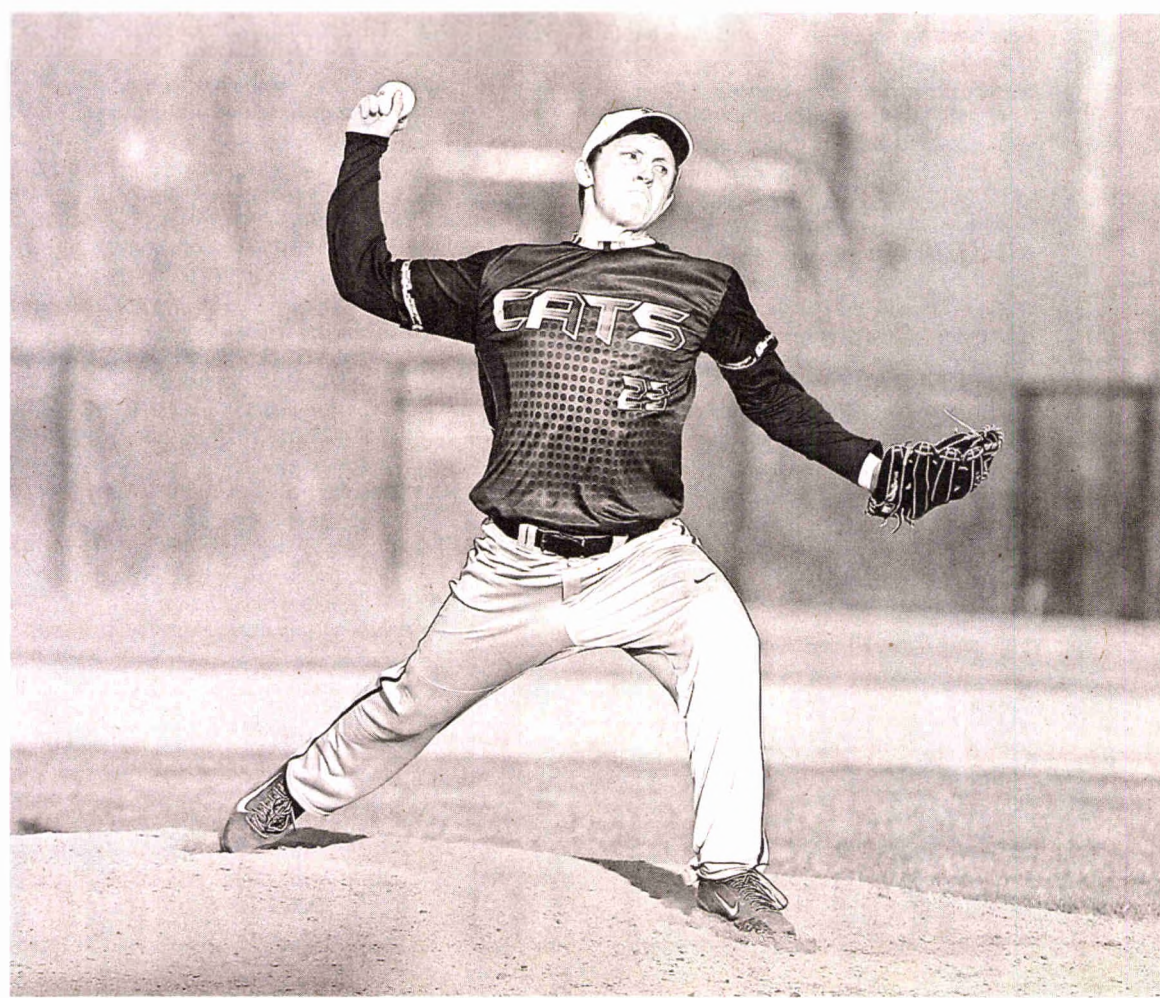
The Wildcats will host Salem at 4 p.m. Friday in a cross-campus match-up.

» Salem also was victorious Monday, crushing Wayne Memorial, 15-2. Adam Pitcole was the winning pitcher for the Rocks.

CC edges Stevenson

Novi Detroit Catholic Central exploded for four runs in the top of the seventh inning Monday to post a 5-3 victory over host Livonia Stevenson.

Both teams used five pitchers throughout the well-played



FILE PHOTO

Delivering a pitch in this undated file photo is Plymouth pitcher Josh Sulak. He pitched the Wildcats to Monday's win over South Lyon East.

contest.

Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the sixth, the Spartans knotted the score before the Shamrocks got their offense in gear in the final inning.

Stevenson nearly rallied, scoring twice in the bottom of the seventh.

Chris Tanderys had a solid opening game at the plate for

Stevenson, going 2-for-4 with and double and a run scored. Brandon Posky also had two hits, while Frank Carlin went 1-for-4 with an RBI.

Danny Morris, Bobby Cavin, Mark Petterson and Nick Beers all contributed a hit apiece to the Stevenson offense.

Matt Stinehiser led the

Shamrocks with three hits and an RBI.

Staff writer Ed Wright contributed to this report.

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PREP TRACK AND TENNIS

All-around excellence sparks Salem girls thinclads

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Stellar performances across all areas lifted Salem's varsity girls track and field team to a 105-32 victory Tuesday over South Lyon East.

Kyndra Parker won the discus, throwing 104 feet, 4 inches. Other standouts included freshmen Kaitlyn Mockaitis (first in high jump, 4-8) and Gabby Mancini (first in the 3,200-meter run).

Also prevailing for the Rocks (2-0) was senior Kaya

Knake in the 800 and 1,600 runs.

Next up for Salem is Saturday's Blue Devil Relays in Lake Fenton.

» Plymouth's varsity girls track and field team opened the KLAA schedule Tuesday by losing a tough 82-57 meet against Livonia Churchill.

Girls tennis

Getting the varsity girls tennis season off to a rousing start were the Plymouth Wildcats, with a 7-2 victory Tuesday over host Livonia Franklin.

Freshman Jessica Braun won 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles for her first-ever varsity match win, while the No. 1 doubles tandem of Bei Li Martin and captain Alyssa Lopez earned a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

» Tuesday's 7-2 loss to Novi wasn't indicative of how competitive Salem was, according to head coach Ty Moss.

Prevailing at No. 1 singles for the Rocks was senior and co-captain Chelsea Yu, winning 6-3, 6-0. Also winning her match was freshman and No. 2 singles player Lizzy Lu, by a

6-4, 7-6 tally.

Bianca Ghita lost at No. 3 singles, but not until taking her opponent to three hard-fought sets.

Meanwhile, newcomers to the Salem doubles lineup, Rachel Zhou and Sharon Chen, lost 3-6, 4-6, but "made a great statement with their strong play."

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Canton football meeting on tap

The Canton football season doesn't kickoff until August, but the first official order of business is just around the corner.

On Tuesday, May 10, Canton football staff members and the boosters club are holding a mandatory meeting for all 2016 players and their parents.

At 6 p.m., players and parents new to the program will convene in the Canton High School cafeteria. All returning players and parents will join them at 6:30 p.m.

Coaches will be on-hand to give information and expectations about the program and answer any questions. Team merchandise also will be available.

One of the topics to be discussed is an overview of off-season workouts.

Any questions can be directed to head coach Tim Baechler via email at tim.baechler@pccsk12.com.

Plymouth football info meeting May 3

The Plymouth Wildcats football staff and boosters is holding a mandatory meeting for 2016 players and parents, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 at Plymouth High School.

The meeting, which will take place in the cafeteria, is for all levels.

At the meeting, the entire football staff will be introduced and they will answer any questions pertaining to the upcoming season.

Also, important paperwork will be handed out and there will be a discussion about "the expectations and responsibilities of becoming a Plymouth Wildcat football player."

Booster president Mike Humm will speak about the importance of getting involved with the club, along with fundraising responsibilities.

Team merchandise will be available to purchase before and after the meeting.

Any questions or concerns please contact Coach Mike Sawchuk at 734-765-1766 or email michael.sawchuk@pccsk12.com

SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

Scoring for the Wildcats were Bre Pfeiffer (who also had two assists), Lexi White and Eve Davis.

Midway through the half, however, Tomasso's squad regained its composure and began generating some scoring chances. That ultimately led to Coleman's tying goal.

"I was very proud of how our girls played in the first half against a strong Plymouth team," Tomasso said.

He also liked how they bounced back after Plymouth's second-half surge.

W.L. NORTHERN 3, PLYMOUTH 2: The Wildcats lost Monday to Walled Lake Northern despite goals by Catherine Gordon and Lexi White.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Fighting for the ball Friday are Salem's Sara Hawks (left) and Plymouth's Anna DeBiasi.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Former Delta rival
 - 4 Humane org. since 1866
 - 9 Shining
 - 14 Birds' beaks
 - 19 On top of, in verse
 - 20 Nerd relative
 - 21 City in Utah
 - 22 Bugged a lot
 - 23 Support a female donkey?
 - 25 All fired up
 - 26 Flag sewer
 - 27 "Dies —" (Mass hymn)
 - 28 Squirmy
 - 30 "Listen up, warm-blooded animal!"
 - 32 More itty-bitty
 - 34 African country
 - 36 Disfigure
 - 37 Horror director
 - 38 Open a new tavern?
 - 41 Magna — laude
 - 42 Baltique or Adriatique
 - 43 Units of bag thickness
 - 44 "Bridge of Spies" actor
 - 46 Core belief of orthopedic practice?
 - 48 Home to Pago Pago
 - 52 "Vestibula giubba," e.g.
 - 53 — Majesty the Queen
 - 54 IM-offering
 - 55 Choose a wooden peg?
 - 57 Aromatic resins
 - 59 Chair or pekee
 - 62 Pyle and
 - 63 Railcar
 - 64 Sees
 - 66 Church call
 - 67 Makes a warden gentle?
 - 72 Australian avians
 - 73 Be the king
 - 75 Delilah
 - 76 Rub down
 - 78 Sketch show since '75
 - 79 Estate of a winegrower
 - 81 Curly-furred cat's giggle?
 - 84 The way, to Lao-tzu
 - 85 Undertake
 - 86 Thing to hum
 - 87 Wraith
 - 88 Descend upon a certain grainfield in droves?
 - 92 Circles around heavenly bodies
 - 94 Sails through
 - 95 Neither hide — hair
 - 96 Bad review
 - 97 Very tentative taste of food?
 - 102 Greek "H"
 - 103 Match unit
 - 104 Ballroom dance
 - 106 Dr. Seuss' real surname
 - 107 Pale people writing things quickly?
 - 110 Jetsons' dog
 - 113 Caffeine-laden nut
 - 114 Perrier rival
 - 115 Aristocratic
 - 117 Toast topper that's nifty?
 - 119 Tuscan town
 - 120 Bugs a lot
 - 121 Sporting site
 - 122 Big cat's lair
 - 123 Stunning gun
 - 124 Cries out
 - 125 Cyclist, e.g. before, in verse
 - 31 Actress d'Abbo
 - 33 Online brokerage
 - 35 Receivable
 - 39 What "there oughta be"
 - 40 Uncommon
 - 42 Choice bit
 - 43 Hollywood's Gibson
 - 45 Zippo
 - 46 Celebrity lawyer
 - 47 Mix, as salad
 - 48 Pickle units
 - 49 Flying guys
 - 50 "Chicago Hope" doctor
 - 51 Assenting to — impact on (effects)
 - 56 East, in Ulm
 - 57 Small jewel
 - 58 Suffix of enzymes
 - 59 V8 ingredient
 - 60 Musician's exercises
 - 61 Affirm
 - 63 Analyze
 - 65 Australian state capital
 - 68 — whole lady
 - 69 Subject
 - 70 Manicure aid
 - 71 Scoundrel
 - 74 University sports org.
 - 77 Tuna variety
 - 80 Wasp variety
 - 81 1921 sci-fi play
 - 82 Sufficient, in verse
 - 83 TV "Warrior Princess"
 - 84 "Conan" network
 - 86 Pacific island country
 - 88 "My Little Chickadee" co-star
 - 89 Wife of Nero
 - 90 Head-hugging hats
 - 91 Mega Millions, e.g.
 - 92 Soup holder
 - 93 French forest region
 - 96 Soft shade
 - 98 Moped, e.g.
 - 99 "Tristan und —"
 - 100 6-Down's partner in magic
 - 101 Booster of comedy
 - 103 Sub detector
 - 104 Quaver
 - 105 Actor Werner
 - 108 Tarzan's lady
 - 109 Author
 - 111 Actress Polo
 - 112 Bog grass
 - 116 Slalom path
 - 118 Pickle holder

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19				20										22			
23			24											26			
27								29						31			
32					33				34					35			
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94																	
102																	
107																	
114																	
119																	
123																	

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smccllellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

HOME DECOR WORD SEARCH

WORDS

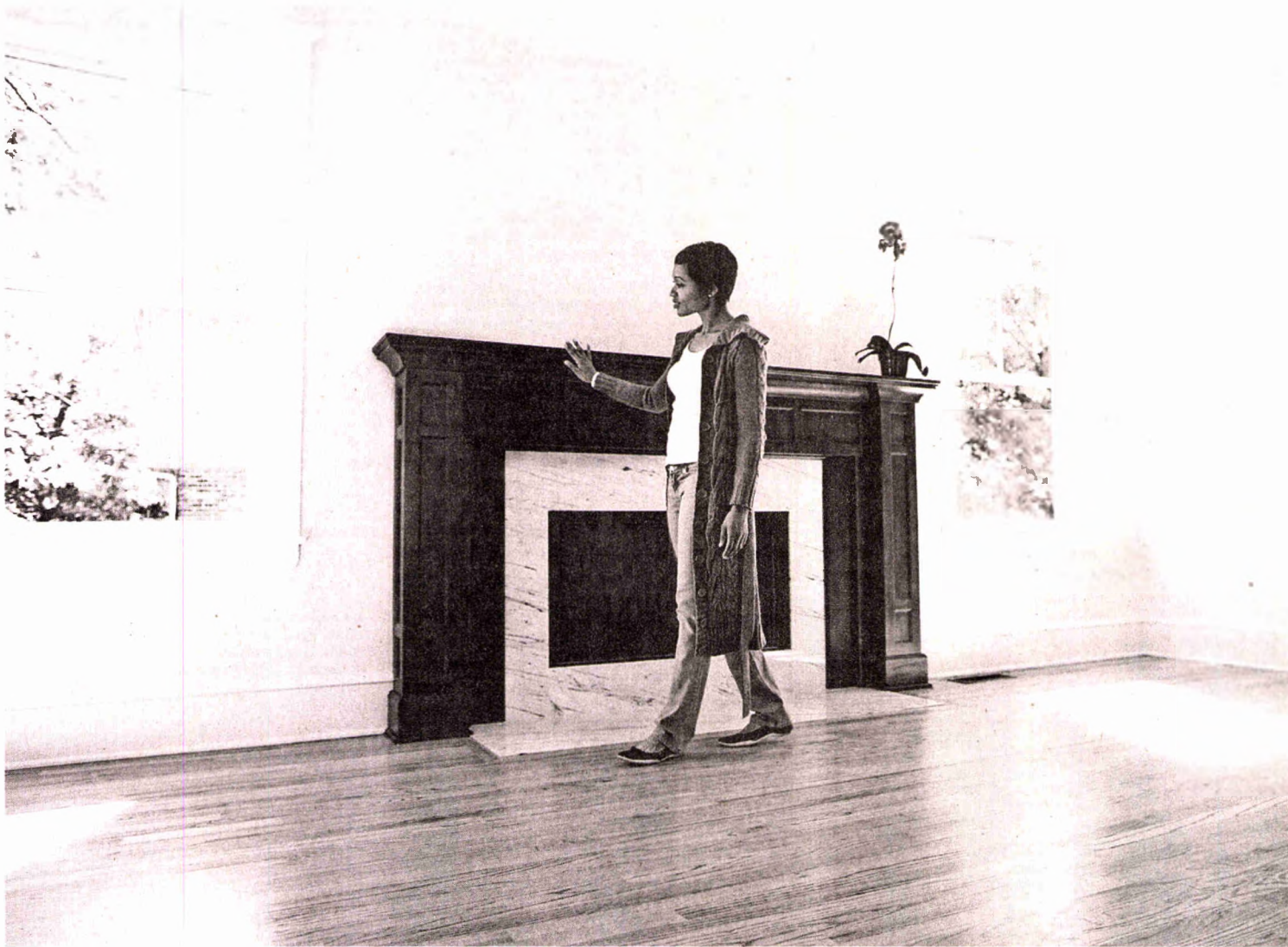
F F D O T T O M A N B U T B G K I V U P	ARCHITECT	EXTERIOR
R O I R E T N I S Y E S R N X V L K X A	AREA	FINANCES
S P R L G N I T S E N E S I T D T U S A H	ARTWORK	FLOORING
P F R L T K P O O D H E N S W O L L I P D	BEDROOM	FRAMES
H R I O O E Y F C E A T C E T I H C R A	BLINDS	HOME
C E S A O X C A L E S W A T A B L E D K	BUREAU	INTERIOR
I N W X H R M O L L V I V R P O S W K P	CABINETS	LAYOUT
E O O E C I C U D O O G S O S R U E M	CARPETING	LOUNGE
R V D X R Y E N V C K U V N E C I W O F	CHAIRS	MEASURE
U A N T H C R T G D H Y N R E T E O I I	CHEST	NESTING
S T I E N C F R A M E S D G K R R D G N	CLEANING	OTTOMAN
A E W R T K K R O W T R A V E D S N I A	COUCH	PILLOWS
E T C I I H E F U A E R U B E R I S G N	COUNTERS	PURCHASE
M T U O A E R A S D N I L B E T T H C	CURTAINS	RENOVATE
B M R R S E C T I O N A L T E E D E L E	DECORATE	SECTIONAL
P E T Y V A L N W E X M N P T I N N A S	DESIGNER	SOFA
E S A H C R U P F F W O A S U N F Y B O	DINING	TABLE
R T I E T H G M V G W A R I B K P Y A	DRESSER	WINDOWS
P S N O W E T E D C C F N L N H A A U O		
L D S E S E M O H Y E G G E I B I C T Y		

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

TWA	ASPCA	AGLOW	BILLS
OER	DWEBB	PROVO	ATEAT
BACK	JENNY	EAGER	BETSY
IRAE	ANTSY	HARKMAMMAL	
TINIER	SUDAN	MARELLI	
START	BAR	CUM	MER
			MILS
			RYLANCE
			BONYTENET
SAMOA	ARIA	HER	AOL
PICKDOWEL	BALSAMS	TEA	
ERNIES	AI	SLES	SPOTS
AMEN	JAMES	JAILER	EMUS
REIGN	SAMSON	ABRADE	
SNL	CHATEAU	REXTITTER	
TAO	TRY	TUNE	GHOST
MOBBARLEY	CORONAE		
ACES	NOR	PAN	WARYBITE
ETA	SET	TANGO	GEISEL
WANJOTTTERS	ASTRO	KOLA	
EVIAN	ELITE	KEENJELLY	
SIENA	RILES	ARENA	DEN
TASER	YELLS	RIDER	ERE

Crossword Answers

Word Search Answers



According to a 2016 National Association of Realtors' report, single women make up 15 percent of all home buyers.

GETTY IMAGES

Industry report: Single women make up substantial share of home buyers

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

If you're a single woman, you just may own your own home.

It doesn't come as a great surprise that the largest share of home buyer households is married couples. In fact, 67 percent of all home buyers are married couples. The second most common group of buyers, however, is single females.

According to the 2016 National Association of Realtors' *Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends* report, single females make up 15 percent of all home buyers, and this number goes up when looking at older buyers — 20 percent of buyers between 51 and 60 years of age and 19 percent between the ages of 61 and 69 are single females.

These percentages are substantially higher than those for single males, who only make up 9 percent of all home buyers; the share of single made buyers is even lower in older age groups, only 10 percent of buyers between 51 and 60 are single males.

Mary Vellardita bought a Westland condominium in 2010 and is glad she did so. "Economically it made more sense because you get a return on your investment. Tax advantages. More privacy," she said of ownership compared to renting.

"I like the fact that I still have a little yard to enjoy but I don't have to do yard work," Vellardita said. "I have ample storage compared to what you get in most apartments."

Her garage was also a big selling point.

The NAR report found those more likely to be trading up (Gen X homeowners) or trading down (older boomers) represented the largest share of sellers in the past year, at 25 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

"That's huge to me, and I don't have to shovel snow and cut grass. It's perfect for me," said Vellardita, the marketing and membership manager for the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Robin Kay Cooke is an associate broker for Cooke Realty of Keller Williams Plymouth-Canton, and has been in real estate 14 years. "We oftentimes have single women buy," said Cooke.

She sold to a widow a Canton condominium who was moving from Redford with her mother, who has health issues associated with aging. "That was really a helpful move for them," Cooke said.

Cooke finds for married couples women have a great say in home purchases. "If the wife's not happy, no one's happy," she noted with a chuckle. "They carry a lot of the decision-making."

For her own family, "My husband trusts my judgment," Cooke said. Her husband wanted a three-car garage, and wasn't all that interested in the kitchen or bathrooms of their home.

She finds women look in particular for walk-in closets, hardwood floors (helpful for those with allergies, and good for upkeep), granite or other hard-surfaced countertops and more.

"Really people need to have that in their home to be competitive in today's market," Cooke said of the countertops. Outdoors matters to buyers, too.

"A lot of people like to entertain in their yard space," Cooke said. "People started to invest in their back yards and see it as an extension of their living space."

For single women, she recommends an attached garage for safety. She also encourages single women to drive a prospective neighborhood at different times, and to talk to potential neighbors.

"After hours, you can kind of see the demographics," Cooke said, noting single mothers can see if there are other children living nearby.

The laws of years ago that limited single women in buying a home are long gone, agreed Cooke. "It really comes down to creditworthiness and income," she said, noting usually two years on a job is needed.

"Their goals are the same, typically," Cooke said of single women buyers and general buyers. Some women buyers are very social, she said, "and interact with the neighborhood and others choose not to."

She had a client of Indian descent who is mom to a daughter around 12. The

daughter is in private school, which made public systems less important to her mother. The woman wished to carry on their ethnic heritage, noted Cooke, an issue with some buyers when they relocate.

The NAR report found those more likely to be trading up (Gen X homeowners) or trading down (older boomers) represented the largest share of sellers in the past year, at 25 percent and 24 percent, respectively. Millennials — also likely to be move-up buyers — stayed in their home the shortest amount of time before selling (five years).

Even though younger sellers were more likely to need a larger home or move because of job relocation, older boomers were far more likely to move further away. Sellers overall moved a median distance of 20 miles, with older boomers traveling the furthest at 75 miles.

Across every generation at 88 percent or above, sellers overwhelmingly used a real estate agent or broker to sell their home. When asked what sellers wanted most from their real estate agent, younger sellers were more likely to want their agent to help price their home competitively or sell within a specific time frame, whereas help finding a buyer was desired more by younger and older boomers.

The National Association of Realtors website contributed to this report.

Condo Association Lawyers aim: upgrade condo living

Q: I was at a recent condominium seminar and heard someone mention that there is a College of Community Association Lawyers. Can you give me some information about it?

A: The College of Community Association Lawyers is an organization established in conjunction with the Community Association Institute, a national organization designed to improve community association living. The College is comprised of lawyers in community association law who have reached a high degree of recognition in practicing community association law and have been active in educational, professional and have reached a certain plateau of expertise in community association law. The College's official credentials for admission and recognition state as follows:

» Promoting high standards of professional and ethical responsibility in the practice of community association law

» Developing and educating attorneys working in the field of community association law

» Facilitating the development of community association educational materials and programming related to legal issues for use by other professionals and homeowners

» Cooperating with international, national, state and local organizations, government agencies and other groups having an interest in community association law

» Working with their fellow college fellows to assist community associations in maximizing effective governance practices

» Creating a community of scholars to promote professional development needs and career goals of CCAL fellows

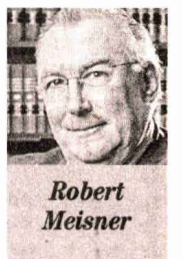
» Helping implementing the goals and objectives of the Community Associations Institute and its fellows

In Michigan we have only two lawyers who have been inducted in the College of Community Association Lawyers as Fellows, this writer being the first to be so inducted.

Q: We have an issue with our city attorney in regard to an affidavit he filed regarding the fact that our property could not be subdivided without a variance. I don't think he has the authority to do that and I don't think he was correct. Do you think we have a claim against the city manager?

A: Based on similar facts, I think you are going to have a problem filing a claim against the city manager based upon governmental immunity. The statute provides that in the absence of certain enumerated exceptions, governmental agencies are immune from tort liability when engaged in the discharge or exercise of a governmental function. In this particular case, the city would argue that it was engaged in a governmental function at the time it filed the affidavit. A governmental function is any activity that is expressly or impliedly mandated or authorized by the Constitution, state or local charter or ordinance or other law. No doubt, the government will argue that its filing of an affidavit was in furtherance of its larger, more general function of insuring compliance with its zoning ordinances and that the enforcement of a zoning ordinance is a governmental function.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



Robert Meisner

Homearama plans progressing well, trade group reports

Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (HBA) has announced that development of Christenbury Creek in Macomb Township is progressing according to schedule for the Fall 2016 public opening of Homearama 2016. The 10 homes being showcased in the program will range in price from \$350,000 to \$500,000 and will be open for public display for three weekends.

Homearama 2016 is a public service activity of HBA

featuring homes built by HBA professional builder members including Arteva Homes, Clearview Homes, Lassale Homes, Sunset Homes and Vitale Companies. The community is also being developed by Arteva Homes.

Each home is being designed, built, fully decorated and landscaped by the area's top professionals. Homes will feature the latest amenities, advanced technology and energy saving features. These homes offer visitors

the opportunity to gather design and decor, ideas that could be used in their own homes.

On-site ticket sales will be available during the run of the program. Over 50,000 home owners, home buyers and dreamers are expected to visit Homearama 2016. Special events are also planned during the run of the event. More information will be available at www.HomearamaHBA.com beginning in May.

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Home Builders Association of SE Michigan (HBA) is a trade association representing nearly 800 builders, remodelers, developers and suppliers to the single family residential construction industry. HBA is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to

their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informa-

tional seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addvaluelife.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Take a musical trip to the movies

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Michigan Philharmonic will celebrate its birthday in a big way — with blockbuster movie scores, more musicians, and a larger-than-usual venue — when it takes the stage Saturday in Salem High School's auditorium.

"We wanted to make this a community celebration for the 70th anniversary. Movie music is accessible and people have lots of favorite movie music," said Beth Stewart, executive director. "The movie scores are big works that require a big orchestra and lots of percussion."

Approximately 20 additional musicians will join the Michigan Philharmonic's core group of 45 for "Lights, Camera, Concert!" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Salem High School, 46181 Joy, in Canton.

The orchestra size and venue for the upcoming performance harkens back to the orchestra's early days when it was known as the Plymouth Symphony. Although it started out with just 10 players in 1945, rehearsing in a local home and performing in the gymnasium at what is now the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC), it grew to 95 musicians at one point in its history. The Salem auditorium was its home venue for 20 years.

"At one point they had huge numbers. It was the largest community orchestra at one time in Michigan in the smallest town to have an orchestra," Stewart said. "I think because of Plymouth's geographic location between Detroit and Ann Arbor it allows us to draw musicians from both places and this whole area continues to be great in classically-trained musicians."

Smaller orchestra

The Michigan Philharmonic's musicians are freelancers who also perform with other orchestras or at other events. Faith Demorest, a violinist and the orchestra's personnel manager, supplements the talent pool as needed.

"We have really tried to fill that niche of a chamber-sized orchestra and there is a ton of great music that fits and orchestra of that size," Stewart said.

Both Stewart and Faith Demorest credit conductor Nan Washburn for enriching the orchestra's repertoire and strengthening its musician-ship.

Washburn was artistic director and conductor of the West Hollywood Orchestra and music director of Orchestra Sonoma and the Camela Symphony in California when the Plymouth Symphony board conducted a national search for a new conductor.

"One of the things I brought to the table was the idea of doing contemporary American music and featuring a living composer on every program if possible," Washburn said. "That kind of excited them, but it was a little scary and I am so glad they embraced that."

New musicians

The emphasis on including contemporary music along with standard classical repertoire led to change in the talent, according to Demorest. Musicians who didn't want to make those changes or learn

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CONCERT!

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Where: Salem Auditorium, Salem High School, 46181 Joy, Canton

Details: The Michigan Philharmonic's 70th birthday bash will feature music from such films as "Vertigo," "Back to the Future," and "Schindler's List." The symphony will play the full score "Symphonic Dances" from "West Side Story," the Pure Michigan Theme song from "Cider House Rules," and composer Laura Karpman's theme from the HBO series, "Taken." 88.1 the Park, the student-operated radio station at Salem High School, will live broadcast the concert. WRCJ 90.9 FM will record for broadcast the following weekend.

Special guests: The PCEP choirs, under the direction of Jennifer Neumann, will perform "Dry Your Tears, Afrika," from "Amistad," and Jack Goggin, host of "Film Classics" on WRCJ Radio will emcee the concert.

Tickets: \$30 general admission, \$25 for seniors, age 62 and older, and \$10 for students with ID

Contact: 734-451-2112; michiganphil.org



Michigan Philharmonic outreach programs include educational programs in the schools and a youth orchestra.



Nan Washburn conducts approximately 45 musicians in the Michigan Philharmonic. Another 20 performers will join the group for its anniversary concert on April 16.



A name change from Plymouth Symphony to the Michigan Philharmonic led to performance opportunities throughout southeastern Michigan, including Kensington Metropark in Milford.



Music director and conductor Nan Washburn added contemporary music to the symphony's repertoire. She was hired in 1999 after a nationwide search for a new conductor.

things all the time," Stewart said. "In any musical genre, you have to be out there making new albums and putting out new music. Why should classical music be any different?"

All three women agree that the orchestra's name change from Plymouth Symphony to the Michigan Philharmonic in 2011 led to major opportunities in both educational outreach to schools and new concert venues.

"I think we've done an enormous amount of growth aesthetically and with branding and this next year we're focusing on making sure we are equipped on the whole organizational level to keep the art growing," Washburn said.

She recently finished programming for the 71st concert season. It will include a ukulele concerto, a concert celebrating female composers and a team-up with the Plymouth Community Band.

"The season is going to be very exciting," Washburn said.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

GET OUT!: ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

For a complete list of events please visit hometownlife.com.

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

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

Contact: 248-541-5717

FARMS AND CRAFTS FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL

Time/Date: Through April 22
Location: 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Works by local artists Pamela Alexander and Susan Warner

Contact: 248-473-1859

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 14-15, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16

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

Details: Farmington Art Foundation's spring sale will be held in conjunction with the festival. The festival kicks off with an awards ceremony recognizing the 2016 Artist in Residence and other art award winners, beginning with a reception at 6 p.m. Friday, featuring live music, appetizers and a cash bar, followed by an awards presentation at 7 p.m., along with entertainment. Tickets are \$15. Visit recreg.fhgov.com. An interactive forum and workshop exploring art-focused education and career opportunities will run 1-3 p.m. Saturday. The festival culminates with entertainment and art displays on Sunday

Contact: farmingtonarts.org; 248-473-1859

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. through April 30

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: The exhibit features the per-

sonal work of the late Richard Rochon, who was known in the field of architecture for his renderings of buildings. Includes a reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 1

Contact: 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ART CENTER

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Thursday, noon-4 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, and during public events through April

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, at Junction, Plymouth

Details: 7th Annual Open Exhibit features works by 36 artists on the theme, "one word." Includes pen & ink, photography, collage, encaustic, colored pencil, pastel, charcoal, mixed media and paintings

Contact: 734-416-4278; plymoutharts.com

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Time/Date: Through Tuesday, April 19

Location: Forum Building's 400 hallway, on the main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven

Mile, Livonia

Details: Self-portraits by students enrolled in art studio classes are on display. The public may vote for their favorites by emailing solson@schoolcraft.edu. The subject line should include the numbers of three favorite works. Winning students will receive Schoolcraft College gift cards

Contact: Sarah Olson at 734-462-4400, ext. 7174

U-M MUSEUM OF ART

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. through May 29

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

Details: First U.S. exhibition of Chinese artist Xu Weixin focuses on portraits of Chinese coal miners and of Chinese historical figures during the Cultural Revolution

Contact: 734-764-0395; umma.umich.edu

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through April 28

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road,

Canton

Details: "Silent Images: Featured Works of Chuck Schroeder" features intricate pen and ink drawings

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org

VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21

Location: Livonia Civic Center Library auditorium, 33000 Civic Center

Details: Professor Emeritus Richard Rubenfeld of Eastern Michigan University will talk about historic and contemporary self-portraits in this program sponsored by VAAL. Free

Contact: vaalart.org

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 15-16; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 17; and 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: "Finest Hours," \$3

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

Blindfolds on? Let's dine in the dark!

Dinner by candlelight is cozy. Dining in the Dark goes beyond a candlelit setting and tempts your palate with a deliciously different dining experience. Guests wear blindfolds, temporarily giving up their sense of sight. Then, they immerse themselves in the tastes, aromas, textures and sounds of a delectable gourmet meal.



Diana Wing

Kathy Vargo, owner of On the Rocks Detroit, launched Dining in the Dark Detroit events two years ago and is seeing many returning diners. On Wednesday, May 4, a masked "Cinco de Mayo Eve" experience will be held at the Great Lakes Culinary Center in Southfield, featuring a four-course dinner by chef Tim Castañeda of Zúmba Mexican Catering.

"We had such a good experience there when we did it last fall with chef Reva," Vargo said of the culinary center's executive chef. "We've done it in Ferndale at Rust Belt Market. We've done it at the Menagerie in Pontiac. Every time we've had a different theme and a different chef, something that makes it a totally unique experience."

The masked meal concept had its start in Europe with the premise that by removing the sense of sight, your other senses are heightened, leading to an enhanced experience.

"No one feeds you; you feed yourself," Vargo said, laughing, clearing up a question people will often ask. "We serve and then take the plates away and they un-blindfolded themselves between courses. We have a fun, creative craft bar, so everybody gets cocktails. ... There are always 'peekers,' but that's all right."

After the meal, guests can see examples of the plated dishes they were served and meet the chef and discuss their experience.

"Most people really enjoy the meal where you can just sit and relax and try to figure out what you're eating," Vargo said. "It's always a nice discovery."

Mexican specialties

Castañeda admitted that as a chef it would drive him crazy to dine in the dark, but he's excited to be involved in the "Cinco de Mayo Eve" masked dinner.

"It's a very cool, novel idea and something that's different. ... The bottom line is, you're there to have fun and eat good food," said the Birmingham resident, who has spent 30 years perfecting the Mexican recipes he grew up eating and then preparing in his family's restaurants.

Castañeda has worked at and owned Mexican restaurants and catering businesses in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix and Detroit. More



KATHY VARGO

Guests rely on taste, smell, touch and sound at a Dining in the Dark event at the Great Lakes Culinary Center in Southfield.



KATHY VARGO

Dining in the Dark is a deliciously different and fun night out.

"Most people really enjoy the meal where you can just sit and relax and try to figure out what you're eating. It's always a nice discovery."

KATHY VARGO
owner of On the Rocks Detroit

recently, he gave up the grind of a seven-day work week, closing his restaurants in Birmingham and Royal Oak, to focus on his catering business. He couldn't tell me what dishes he planned to prepare for Dining in the Dark (the fun for blindfolded diners is not knowing), but he said, "You don't want to make it too messy."

Castañeda was in Mexico

City not long ago with his wife and son and they took a customized culinary tour that was impressive.

"It was good to be in the heart of the city where things were happening," he said. "There are so many restaurants there. It (has been) a culinary destination in the last 10-15 years. It's like the American dining scene 30 years ago.



Tim Castañeda, owner of Zúmba Mexican Catering, will prepare Mexican specialties at a "Cinco de Mayo Eve" masked event.

is a prix fixe three-hour experience which includes four courses and a handcrafted Mexican cucumber martini featuring Tito's Handmade Vodka. Sponsors include Treat Dreams custom/homemade ice cream and Don Marcos tortilla chips. There's a cash bar after the meal. Check in at 6:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 (excluding additional beverages and gratuity). Advanced reservations are required. Go to diningdarkdetroit.com. Call 248-687-9168 for more information.

Cooking class

Looking to improve your diet and your skills in the kitchen? Then, "Healthy Eats for Spring" is the class for you.

The Great Lakes Culinary Center hosts this hands-on session, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Executive chef Reva Constantine will show you simple ways to utilize fresh produce from the center's organic garden and will teach techniques for cooking whole vegetables from stem to root - nothing goes to waste. Learn how to transform seasonal ingredients into dishes that are packed with flavor, not calories. Master the fundamentals of healthy cooking so you can create great-tasting, good-for-you meals.

Cost is \$70 per person. A cash bar will be available and guests 21 and over are welcome. Dinner and one drink ticket are included. Register online at gculinarycenter.com. Call Erika Miller at 248-286-3102 for more information.

Mexico City is going through that right now."

The chef is looking forward to sharing some of his Mexican specialties at the Great Lakes Culinary Center in May.

"The kitchen is top-notch and everybody who has been there for an event or cooked there says it's great," he said. "It's a beautiful place."

Dining in the Dark Detroit

Chili contest in Redford is hot event for local cooks

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

No beans. No spaghetti. No big chunks of vegetables.

Keep that in mind when you make your next pot of traditional red chili or chili verde and you may have the beginnings of a culinary competition winner.

"The principle behind the International Chili Society is no artificial fillers, no Cincinnati-style, absolutely no beans, that kind of stuff," said Gary Ray, who is co-coordinating the ICS-sanctioned state of Michigan Chili Championship this month with his wife Lauren. "We're helpful for rookies coming in. We'll advise you on what not to do. I cooked next to someone at the Great Lakes Chili Cook-off and he was ready to put corn in his chili." Ray set him straight on what judges look for in ICS competition, which generally doesn't include "floating vegetables."

Ray and his wife are Livonia residents and both hold world champion titles from the ICS in chili verde. First-place winners at state or regional chili contests are allowed to cook at the world event, which is held in a



different U.S. city each year. Top world ICS winners can pocket between \$3,000 for first place salsa to \$25,000 for traditional red chili.

Ray said he has used pork tenderloin, chicken broth, chili seasoning and cumin, among other ingredients, in his winning chili verde. Chili verde includes green chili peppers, while traditional red chili is made with red chili peppers. ICS rules allow any kind of meat or combination of meat.

"In mid-state Illinois, they like a ground chuck. In this area, it tends to be more of a tri-tip style cubed meat. Some

places like a small cubed meat and a little ground beef," Ray said, describing red chili.

Spicy strategy

The Rays have competed in chili contests throughout the country and try to get a feel for regional taste preferences.

"In Baton Rouge, I thought they'd like heat. I got busted twice," Ray said, with a laugh. "I cooked one day and it was too salty and spicy. Then (the next day) I was busted for too much heat."

He tends to take to heart comments from friends who also compete.



The state of Michigan Chili Championship is set for April 23 in Redford.

Far left: Contestants cook chili at a previous State of Michigan Chili Championship competition.

"We give each other opinions," he said. "We all help each other out."

The Michigan Chili Championship competition is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Hubert-Fortiers-O'Grady VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft, in Redford Township. More than 25 cooks from Michigan and other states will compete in salsa, chili verde and traditional red chili categories. Sign up to become a contestant at chili-cookoff.com.

Contestants also will make one gallon of chili for the "people's choice" award. Entries can include any combination of

ingredients, including those forbidden in the verde and red categories.

"You can have beans, macaroni noodles," Ray said. "We had a friend who made a seafood people's choice chili."

Admission to watch the cooks prepare their recipes is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. All net proceeds will benefit the Michigan Veterans Foundation. Visitors will get a chance to sample chili and enter gift basket raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

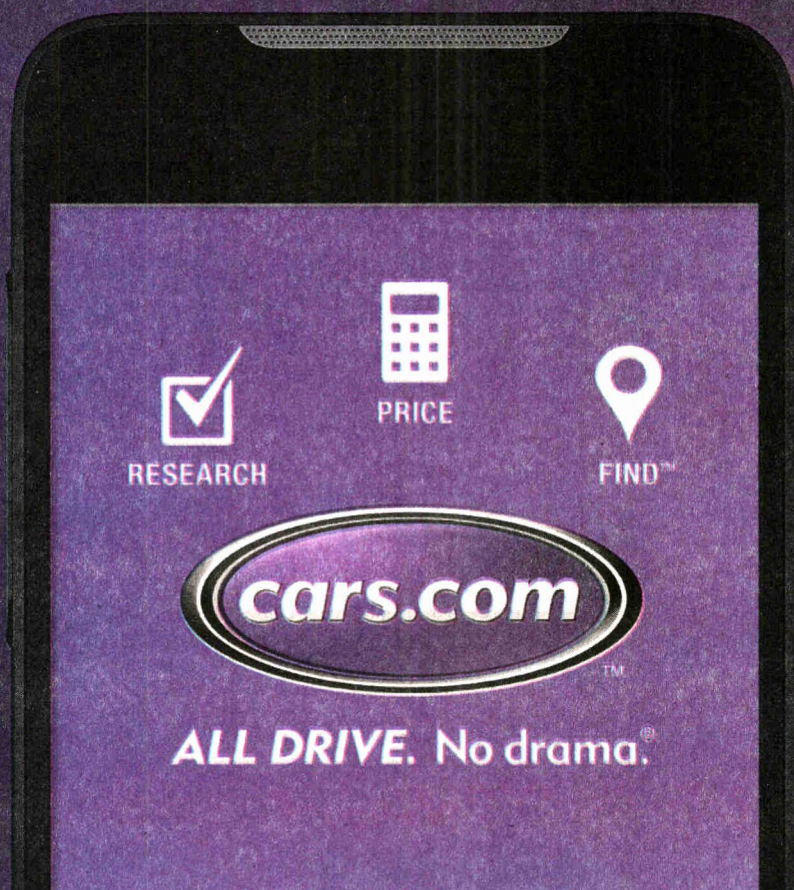
For more information, email Ray at wodac_garyray@yahoo.com or call 313-938-6364.

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