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REFERENCE
Report in, township hoping for \$24K

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

A decision by the Michigan Department of Treasury to withhold \$24,285 from Plymouth Township should be reversed, officials say, after a months-overdue financial report is submitted within days to the state.

In a major breakthrough, auditing firm Plante Moran confirmed Thursday it has finished an audit — due last June 30 — after receiving the last data it needed from former Treasurer Ron Edwards' office and confirming its accuracy.

"The audit, in their opinion, is ready," newly elected Supervisor Kurt Heise said. "It is

complete." The report will be sent to the state after the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, barring any 11th-hour snags, approves it Tuesday during the board's last session of the year.



Heise

"We're a little bit under the gun," newly elected Treasurer Mark Clinton said Tuesday during a meeting.

Ron Leix, deputy public information officer for the Michigan Department of Treasury, told the Observer in November the late audit prompted the state to withhold two state-

shared revenue payments for August and October totaling \$24,285. He said Thursday no more money has yet been withheld.

Leix said the \$24,285 would be released to the township once an audit is submitted and accepted by the state — a move local officials hope will be imminent.

"I'm confident that we will get it," Heise said of the money.

The state had followed through on its threat to hold back state-shared revenue until Plymouth Township met its legal obligation to file an audit.

"It's meant to be a reminder and not a punishment," Heise said. "They're not out to hurt us, but they do expect us to get

the report done in a timely manner."

That didn't happen with the former township board.

As of November, Plante Moran still was working to reconcile a township general checking account from late 2015, but auditors finally got the data they needed to complete the task.

The state financial report is separate from a Department of Justice audit that officials say also could be resolved soon, initially freeing up an estimated \$400,000 for the township. The DOJ withheld the money until the township board agreed to transfer \$83,397 from the general fund, where money was misspent for non-police

items, to the drug forfeiture fund, where it can be spent only on the police department.

Meanwhile, Heise has said the state audit controversy created difficulties for the newly elected township board, especially Clinton. The audit had been due June 30 — six months after the close of the township's last fiscal year.

Edwards had initially disputed reports that Plante Moran had failed to receive certain records it needed for the audit, saying his political opponents sought to make an issue of it. However, he turned over additional documents before his departure from office.

See REPORT, Page A2



Veterans gather to remember the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Autographed
Trump tie is
prized
possession
for family**

12
11

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

Kim Harber has a Donald Trump story that will literally have you in knots.

About six years ago, the Plymouth Township woman went to New York with a friend for a vacation weekend. They were strolling around Manhattan when they found themselves standing in front of Trump Tower.

"I wanted to buy something for my husband, so we went inside to see what we could find," she said.

It didn't take long before the two women came across a collection of Trump ties. Harber picked one out and took it to a salesperson — who told her Donald Trump himself was going to be in the building later that day and that he might be willing to autograph the necktie.

The two women returned to the store later that evening, where an autographed tie was waiting for Harber.

"I looked at the front of the tie, turned it around and, on the back, it was signed: 'To Dan, kick ass, Donald Trump.' I loved it and my husband did, too, when I gave it to him," she said of the tie.

Mind you, this was back in 2010. Harber had no idea the man who signed her husband's necktie would one day become the nation's president. Her husband, Dan Harber, a local cardiologist, continues to wear the tie frequently — especially on Election Day.

"It's a prized possession," Harber said. "It's been a great

See TIE, Page A2

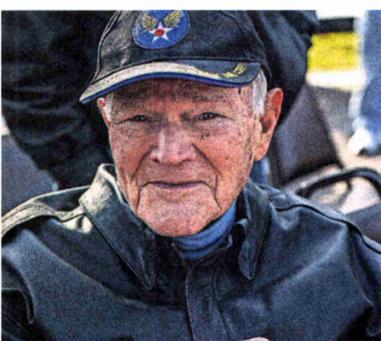
**PEARL HARBOR REMEMBERED
IN PLYMOUTH CEREMONY**

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

World War II veteran Charles Minthorn still remembers the wreckage of U.S. ships after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that catapulted the United States into war.

Minthorn, a Plymouth resident, worked at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Pearl Harbor and operated small boats during his service in 1943-45. On a cold day marking the

See CEREMONY, Page A2



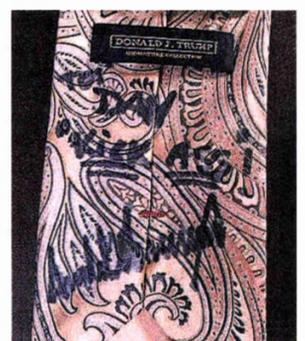
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

World War II veteran Jack McClellan served in the Army Air Corps, flying in B-29 aircraft in the South Pacific.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

World War II veterans Gene Overholt and Charles Minthorn stand for the opening prayer.



Donald Trump autographed this necktie in 2010 for a Plymouth Township resident.



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REPORT

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Before he left, Edwards contended during his last meeting that he would "never jeopardize the money" due to Plymouth Township.

On Tuesday, township Trustee Chuck Curmi said he wanted the situation resolved as quickly as possible.

"I do not want us to suffer a loss of state-shared revenue," he said.

Martin Olejnik, a Plante Moran partner,

said Plymouth Township was the only community he is aware of that was filing an audit report nearly six months after the deadline. He said the auditing firm finally got the financial data it needed.

"It was a tough process," he said. "It was a lot tougher than I'm used to, to be honest."

Heise said the new administration will begin working soon to make sure the 2017 audit is completed on time.

"We're just going to go right into it," he said.

dclm@hometownlife.com

TIE

Continued from Page A1

conversation with his patients ... my kids both think we should frame it and hang it on the wall."

Harber said her entire family supports Trump and hopes he has

a successful presidency. "All four of us voted for Mr. Trump," she said. "We were surprised and elated he won. The tie is just icing on the cake."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com
586-826-7030
Twitter: @BhmEccentric



Vietnam veterans' rifle salute.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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Editor: Joanne Maliszewski
248-396-6620
Email: jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

Sports: Tim Smith
734-469-4128
Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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CEREMONY

Continued from Page A1

75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Minthorn fought back tears when asked why he came to a ceremony at the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park.

"I came here because it's my duty," he said.

Not far away, U.S. Army veteran Gene Overholt recalled serving in France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands as a communications soldier relaying information from combat zones to military headquarters. He was still in high school when he got a draft notice that ultimately landed him in the Battle of the Bulge.

His service in World War II forever changed his life. He spent four years at war and got out in 1946.

"It made a man out of a boy pretty quick," said



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Ruehle salutes after leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Overholt, a Plymouth resident. "It was a life change."

Minthorn and Overholt were among a group of Plymouth-Canton area veterans and their supporters who paid tribute to those who served, suffered injuries and died at Pearl Harbor.

Don Dignan, chaplain of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, said a prayer as a U.S. flag flapped in the wind.

"War is not what we seek," Dignan said.

Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter, read a prayer poem and said it was common during World War II for people to carry wartime poems with them. She read one and spoke of the sinking of the USS Arizona and those who died on it.

During the solemn ceremony, the crowd said the Pledge of Allegiance, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and listened as Monaghan made mention of those who became prisoners of war or who were missing in action during war. Some veterans laid wreaths at the memorial while others fired a rifle salute. A lone trumpeter played "Taps."

In addition to the VFW Post 528 and the DAR chapter, other groups participating in the ceremony included the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695 and the Plymouth Passage-Gayde American Legion Post 391.

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Cops release more details on missing woman

28-year-old last seen Dec. 2

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Farmington Hills Police are releasing more information in the case of Danielle Stislicki, the 28-year-old Farmington Hills woman last seen Friday, Dec. 2.

According to police, Stislicki was last seen around 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, leaving the Met Life Office building on Telegraph, north of 10 Mile, in Southfield. Her car, a 2015 Jeep Renegade with a Michigan license plate DGH 8957, was found in front of her apartment building in the Independence Green Apartment Complex on Lincoln Court around 6 p.m. Saturday, police said.



Danielle Stislicki's Jeep Renegade was discovered outside her apartment building about 6 p.m. Saturday.

Police said her disappearance "is out of character and a concern to the family and police." The family is asking

for help from the public and friends have set up a GoFundMe page to gather a reward for information leading to Stislicki's



Danielle Stislicki, 28, has been missing since last being seen around 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

whereabouts. Stislicki is a white female with brown wavy medium length hair, 5 feet, 5 inches, weighing 123 pounds. She was last seen wearing blue jeans, black zip-up shirt, a

sky-blue three-in-one Eddie Bauer coat and burgundy boots. Farmington Hills Police are also asking help from the public for: Anyone who may have observed Stislicki

and/or her vehicle leaving the Met Life office building/parking lot Dec. 2.

» Anyone who may have observed Stislicki and/or her vehicle arriving at her residence between 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and 6 p.m. Dec. 3.

» Anyone who may have observed her any time between 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and 6 p.m. Dec. 3, when her car was located.

» Anyone who may have seen or found a Samsung Galaxy Core Prime cellphone in a rose-colored case and key chain with a charm and two keys.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call the Farmington Hills Police Department at 248-871-2610.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

Retiring Northville public safety director Werth to be honored

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

John Werth, Northville Township's public safety director for nearly nine years and a more than 30-year township employee, will be honored Thursday, Dec. 15, on the occasion of his retirement.

Werth's service will be celebrated during the last regular Board of Trustees meeting of the year, which begins at 7 p.m. at township hall. Officials will also mark the 50th anniversary of the township police department.

Werth is retiring as public safety director, effective that day. He will be succeeded by Todd Mutchler, current police chief.

Werth, 54, began with the police department in May 1985. He worked as



Werth

2001.

While with the department, Werth spent time on loan to the Michigan State Police as part of the western Wayne County narcotics and auto theft units. He became public safety director, overseeing the police and fire departments, in February 2007.

Mutchler retired from Canton Township as public safety director earlier this year after a 28-year police career and became chief in Northville Township. He and Werth were in the

a patrolman and a detective and was promoted to sergeant in 1996 and to police chief in

same class at Eastern Michigan University's School of Police & Fire Staff and Command, graduating in 2000.

"We've got a perfect person to pass the torch to and move it forward," Werth said of Mutchler.

A press release from the township said Werth wanted to retire without fanfare, but "we're not going to honor his wishes."

"The Board of Trustees will not let him walk off into the sunset without acknowledging what a great team player he has been and paying tribute to his 32 years of commitment to this township during his tour of duty," the release said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

BaseLine Folk Society scheduled to perform annual holiday concert Dec. 17

The BaseLine Folk Society will present its annual holiday concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road.

The evening opens with 10 musical artists offering open-mic performances. Featured performer is John Delle-Monache. He is a singer and songwriter who has performed at BaseLine over the last 10 years and this is the first time he will be a featured performer. He will perform for 30 minutes.

Delle-Monache was a reporter in radio news (in a former life) and currently works for the Broadcast News Department at Ford Motor Co., with radio as his specialty. As a proud member of the Folk Laureates, he continues to add to his



Bengtsson

Delle-Monache

Julie Bengtsson, who will perform two songs and introduce the open mic performers throughout the evening. The sign-up for open mic performers is 6:15-6:40 p.m.

The BaseLine Folk Society's schedule is available on Facebook page. For more information, email bfsresident4u@gmail.com.

song list and enhance his guitar skills. The evening's host is

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f t i y s

CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

The Canton Public Library has a variety of activities for all ages. The library is at 1200 S. Canton Center Road. Its contact number is 734-397-0999.

Library closures

The library will be closed for the holidays Dec. 23, Dec. 26, Dec. 30-31 and Jan. 1-2.

Homework Help: NHS Tutors at CPL

National Honor Society students visit the library to provide students in grades 3-12 with free homework help. If you're under 12, your parent must remain in the library. You must bring the assignment and any other needed materials. Those seeking tutoring will be helped on a first-come first-served basis. They will be allowed a 30-minute maximum if there is a line. There will be no tutoring during breaks or school closures/snow days.

Library Board Meeting

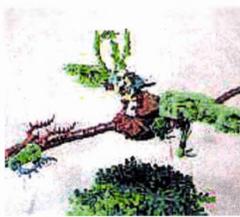
The library board meets on the third Thursday of each month and the next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15. The public is invited to attend and the meetings are held in the library's Community Room.

STEM Robotics: Sphero Dance Party

Students ages 11 and older can learn how to program and make the Sphero dance to music in a synchronized routine with the new CPL robots. This program is 1-3:30 p.m. Dec. 17 and registration is required. Go to www.cantonpl.org to register.

Count Me In Special Needs Storytime

This sensory-friendly storytime is filled with picture books, preschool songs and simple sign language especially de-



The Canton Public Library will host a LEGO contest.

signed for young children with developmental delays and disabilities. The next session is from 4-4:30 p.m. Dec. 17.

LEGO® Build Day

In preparation for the Library's 2017 LEGO® Fantastic Beasts Building Contest, patrons are invited to the library for two hours of free play with the library's stock of LEGO® and Duplo blocks at 10 a.m. Dec. 27. Participants are not required to compete in the building contest.

Winter Break Movie Madness

The library is showing free movies during winter break, and patrons are invited to bring pillows, blankets and snacks to add to the movie watching experience. Showtimes and movies are:

» "Finding Dory" — 2-4 p.m. Dec. 28

» "The BFG" — 2-4 p.m. Jan. 3

» "Secret Life of Pets" — 2-4 p.m. Jan. 6

LEGO® Fantastic Beasts Building Contest

Patrons are invited to show off their creative creature designs using LEGO®s at this year's building contest. There are multiple divisions based on grades: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9 and over. Contestants may enter individually or as part as a team. Registration begins Dec. 22. The contest will take place Jan. 5.

Canton student recognized

Miami University student-athlete Stephanie Dillon of Canton has earned academic all-Mid-American-Conference recognition. Twelve members of Miami's soccer team earned a spot on this year's team.

The academic all-MAC honor is for a student-athlete who has excelled in athletics and academics. To qualify, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA and have participated in at least

50 percent of the contests for that particular sport.

Dillon is earning a bachelor of science degree in business, majoring in marketing.

Plymouth student earns award

Jaime Sharer Kilburg of Plymouth recently was awarded a Love of Learning award worth \$500 from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Kilburg is one of 80 recipients nationwide to

receive the award.

Kilburg, assistant director of Integrated Marketing Communications for the Office of Enrollment Management at University of Michigan, will use funds from the award to continue pursuing her master's degree from Eastern Michigan University's College of Business.

Kilburg was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi in 2016 at Eastern Michigan University.

The Love of Learning program, implemented in 2007, grants 160 awards annually in sup-

port of graduate and professional studies, doctoral dissertations, continuing education, career development and travel related to teaching and studies.

In addition to the Love of Learning program, the Society's award programs give \$1.4 million each biennium to qualifying students and members through graduate fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, member and chapter awards, and grants for local and national literacy initiatives.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE NEWS BRIEFS

On-site advising for students

Many students at Schoolcraft College plan to transfer to a four-year institution, but their busy school and work schedules make it hard to visit the college or university they want to transfer to and meet with an academic advisor. However, a unique program enables students to meet with advisors from colleges and universities on the Schoolcraft College campus to get the information they need about the transfer process and requirements.

According to Laurie Kattuah-Snyder, associate dean of advising and partnerships at Schoolcraft College, the on-site advising model that brings representatives from four-year institutions to Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia to meet with students is unique and is a real benefit for students interested in transferring.

"The visits were slow for most of the colleges during the first couple of weeks of the fall term, but now it's picked up as word has spread about this ser-

vice," Kattuah-Snyder said. She said the colleges that had the most students visiting with them on campus included the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Dearborn and Eastern Michigan University. However, there were eight other colleges and universities that were part of the program this fall, and the program will continue in the winter term as well.

"This is long overdue, and I'm very happy that we now have the space on the campus to do this," Kattuah-Snyder said. "Today's students are very practical, and although we provide them with sound advice, some students won't believe us until they hear it directly from the four-year college representative."

The schedule of upcoming university advising visits is available at www.schoolcraft.edu/ advising or by calling 734-462-4429.

Winter registration now available

Registration is open for community members interested in taking any of the hundreds of winter 2017 classes

available through Schoolcraft College's popular Continuing Education and Professional Development program. CEPD classes are offered in a variety of areas, including computers and technology, cooking, entrepreneurship, event planning, financial planning, meditation, painting, senior fitness and yoga, to name a few.

One area growing in popularity is English as a second language, and CEPD is offering 15 different courses designed to help non-native speakers of English improve their speaking and listening skills to help them in their daily lives.

Photography classes have always been popular, and this winter CEPD will offer a new program — The Schoolcraft Certificate of Photography — that provides a comprehensive learning experience for amateur photographers and those individuals working in the industry.

Online registration is encouraged and continues until the day before the class meets. Registration is also

See BRIEFS, Page A7

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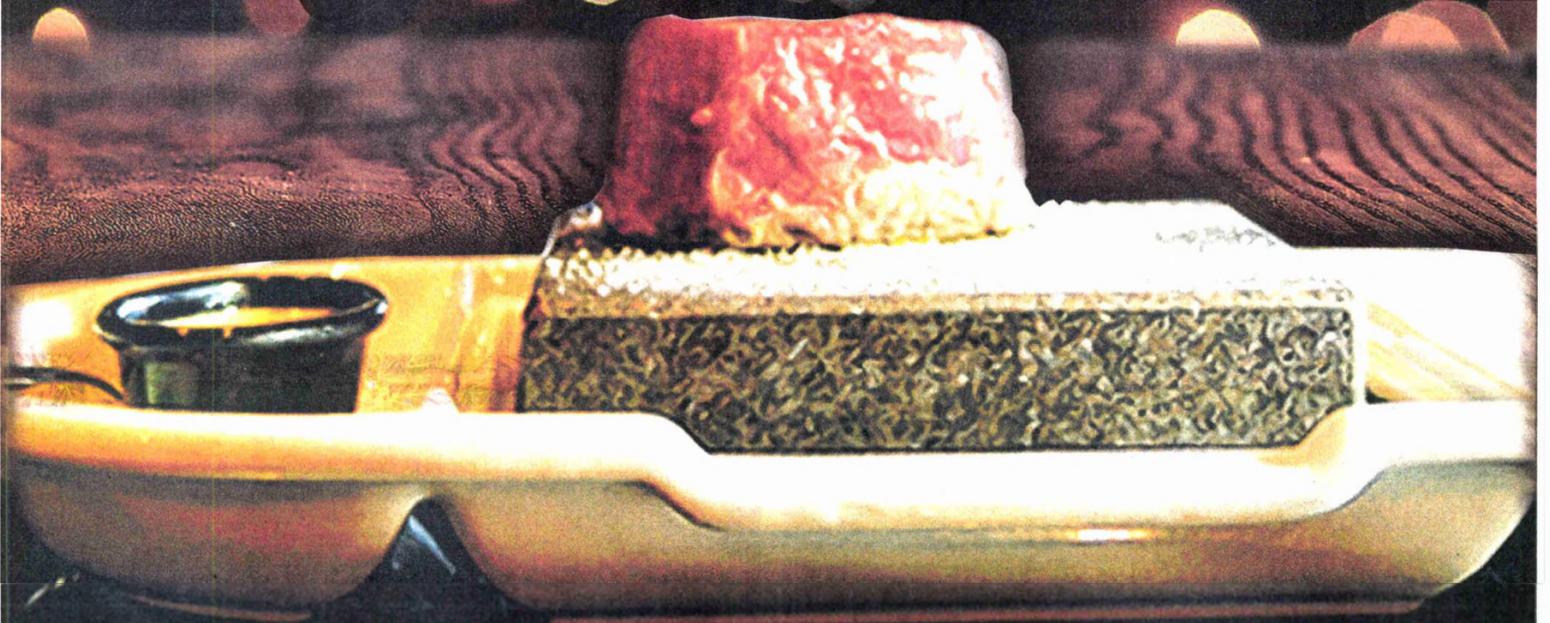
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Warm up with Plymouth Ice Festival in January

Downtown Plymouth will host the 35th annual Plymouth Ice Festival Jan. 6-8. The Plymouth Ice Festival has a long-standing history of turning downtown Plymouth into a magical winter wonderland filled with ice sculptures and family activities. More than 100,000 individuals and families from all over attend each year.

This year's event will bring back favorite activities like the Ice Playground, Fire and Ice Towers and the Dueling Chain Saws Competition. New attractions include the Winter Wonderland Michigan Market and horse-drawn carriages.

The market area will showcase small Michigan merchants from throughout the state displaying their unique goods and wearables to festival attendees. The market location will be on Forest Avenue.

The annual Collegiate Ice Carving Competition presented by Genysis Credit Union will host two carving competitions for various Michigan colleges and universities. Saturday, Jan. 7, will be the individual contest starting at 9 a.m. Competitors will have three hours to carve their masterpieces. On Sunday, Jan. 8, the ice-carving competitors will take part in the team competition starting at 8 a.m. Teammates will have to work together to build and sculpt their ice carving.

The winners of each contest will be announced and receive trophies each day at 1 p.m.

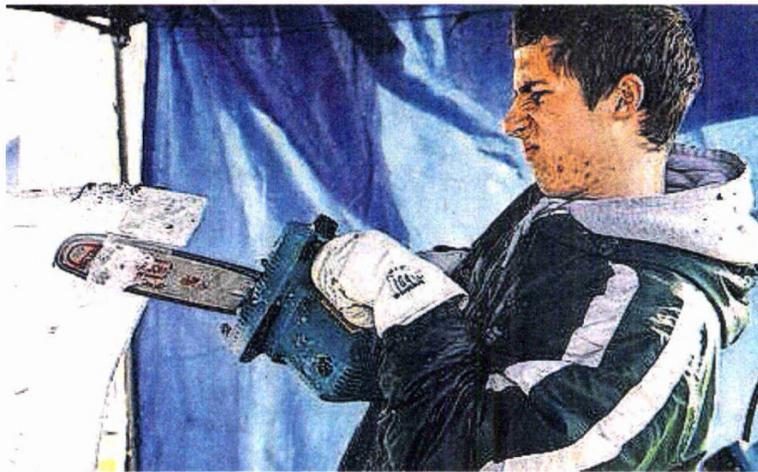
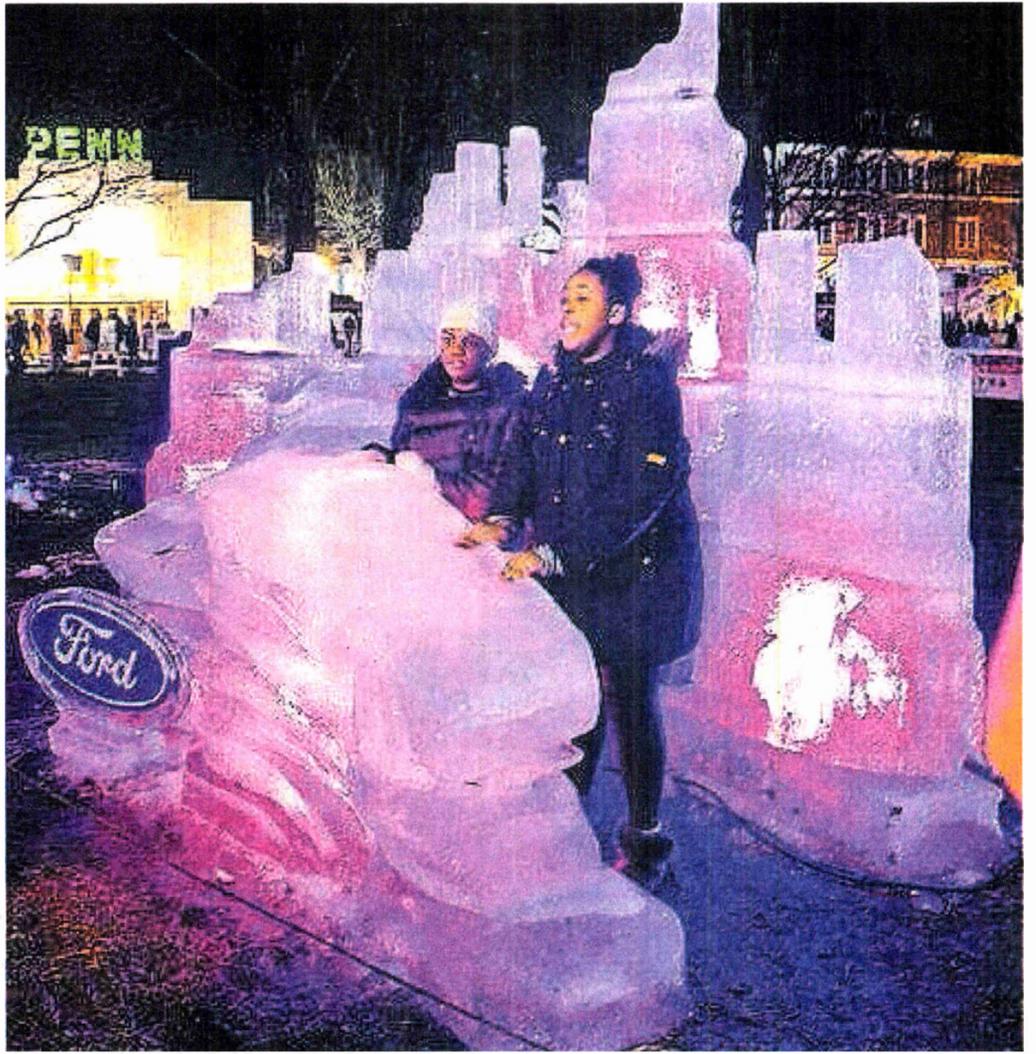
Opening ceremonies for the event begin at 7 p.m. with the inaugural ribbon-cutting, immediately followed by a live ice carving demonstration sponsored by IHA. Once the live ice carving is completed, there will be music with the IHA entertainment DJ that night and again Saturday evening.

Once again, families can enjoy learning how to ski together at the Blue Care Network Cross Country Skiing Zone presented by Sun and Snow. Seasoned professionals will explain the gear, help guests suit up and set them off on the cross country skiing trail in Kellogg Park.

The Ice Playground interactive area is full of games carved out of ice and has plenty of opportunity for pictures while the kids play with the ice.

The EG Nick's Party Lot on Forest Avenue will have cold beer, drink specials and live music. The Party Lot has become the place to be for the evening crowd. There will be live entertainment from Big Ray and the Motor City Kings on Friday, Jan. 6, and Fifty Amp Fuse on Saturday, Jan. 7.

For more information, go to www.plymouthicefestival.com or follow on social media at @PlymouthIce (Twitter) and on Facebook.



FILE PHOTO
The 2017 Ice Festival in Plymouth is set for Jan. 6-8.

FILE PHOTO
Last year, James Seeterlin competed with the Oakland Community College team.

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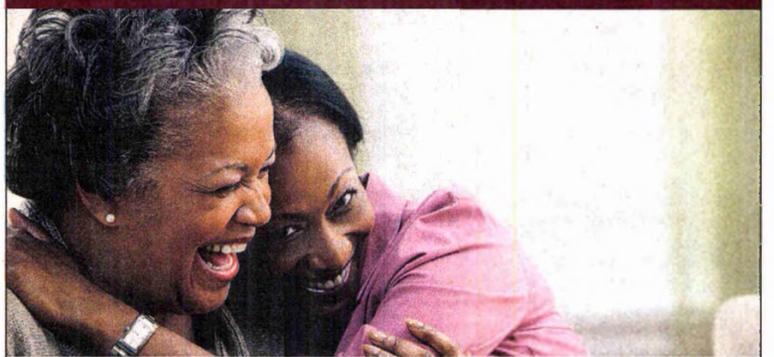


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Equity-indexed annuity is usually not the best choice

Q: I hope you can help me with my situation. I am in my mid-40s and in the press of getting a divorce. Because of some tax issues, the divorce will not be finalized until early next year. The terms of the agreement are complex and I will be receiving our home, which is paid off, as well as an IRA worth about \$25,000. In addition, I will receive two CDs, each worth \$100,000 and currently working my salary will more than cover my income needs as well as alimony, which I have to pay my husband under the terms of the deal. I have to pay him alimony for the next five years. I plan to work another 20 years and I am putting the maximum away in my 401(k) plan. Originally with the money in the IRA, I was going to turn it over to Fidelity Vanguard and have them invest it. However, a friend of a friend suggested I put the money into an equity-indexed annuity. He told me you get stock market returns and, at the same time, you cannot lose money. I know nothing about investing, but I am somewhat suspicious. He says the money is for my retirement, so I do not anticipate needing it for at least 20 years. I am not opposed to some risk; I also do not want to lose it. Do you think an equity-indexed annuity would be good for me or should I go to Fidelity or Vanguard?

A: I love the fact that you are suspicious, because that is an excellent



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

trait for an investor to have and I wish more people had it. In reviewing your situation, I do not think an equity-indexed annuity is for you. Yes, with an equity-indexed annuity your principal is protected, but you do not get stock market returns. With equity-indexed annuities, they do not consider dividends when they compute returns. Dividends can be considerable and make up a substantial part of an investor's stock market return. In addition, most equity-indexed annuities have a participation rate that also reduces return. For example, if you had a 60-percent participation rate and the market, not including dividends, was up 5 percent, your return would only be 3 percent (five times 60 percent). In your situation, considering that you are planning to work for at least another 20 years, one of the risks you have to contend with is purchasing power risk. We all know \$100 today doesn't buy what \$100 bought 20 years ago. In addition, 20 years from now, \$100 will buy considerably less than it buys today. As investors, it's important that our returns keep up with the increased cost of living. Unfortunately, the equity-indexed annuities don't accomplish this. In certain situations, equity-indexed annuities can fit into someone's

portfolio, but not in the case at hand. A long-term investor who is willing to assume some risk of principal fluctuation can do much better over a 20-year period than in an equity-indexed annuity. One of the other reasons I'm opposed to most equity-indexed annuities is that they require you to lock up your money for long periods of time. I am not a fan of those types of investments for most people. We live in a world that is ever-changing and it is important to have flexibility. Unfortunately, variable annuities do not give you that flexibility. Many of these products have penalty periods for 10 years or longer. What that means is, if you decide to make a change and sell your annuity before the penalty period expires, it will cost you a substantial amount of money. Why should I have to pay a penalty to get my own money? Both Fidelity and Vanguard are very good companies and have a wide range of services that probably will fit your situation. My recommendation is to contact both those companies and talk to their representatives to see which one best suits your situation. As far as I'm concerned, you can't make a mistake dealing with either company. Good luck!

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

Business owner offers why of shopping local

What makes a community unique? What allows a community to stay vibrant? The backbone is a diverse offering of locally owned and operated store fronts and restaurants. Nothing is quite as disheartening as going through a town and seeing empty store fronts on Main Street, only to find a brand new strip filled with national chain stores out by the highway. When our downtowns are filled with local vendors and restaurants, there is a feeling of life ... of growth ... of security.

We see the vibrancy of a community with the rebirth of the farmers markets, where locals sell handmade goods and veggies they grew nearby. Each week, we get to know each other better and form deep ties with our neighborhood. As a third-generation business owner, I have made some close bonds with my customers over the years. They know my family story; they even bring presents for my kids around the holidays.

There are several nationwide surveys that have studied the economic effects of small business on a community vs. the effects of national chains. Many of these studies show us when



Joe Legato
GUEST COLUMNIST

\$100 is spent at a local business, about \$45 of that initial amount stays within that local economy. When the national chains are examined, it is found that only \$23 stays in the local economy. If you take that same \$100 and spend it online, virtually nothing stays in the local economy.

Our local businesses can put so much back into the community because this is where we operate. Our accountants are just up the street, our employees live nearby, we invest with local media for marketing and support our neighborhood Little League teams.

When you shop local, you can typically expect to have a higher level of service from that retailer or a dining experience that is totally unique. For example, often when you come in for an appliance part at my store, we will walk through the replacement to make sure it is a repair you want to tackle. Or when you need to purchase a new appliance, we listen first to your needs and then address your wants. This

ensures we find the right fit for you and not just push a product because that is what we want to sell. With every sale, we strive for excellence because there is a name and a family attached to our store. Our integrity is on the line with every person who walks through the door.

So why buy local this year for the holidays? The answer is simple. You, as the consumer, have the power to make your community strong. With this power comes the ability to encourage new growth, creativity and develop a vibrancy that attracts new families to the neighborhood.

So this year, please consider getting your meats from your local butcher, buy your rolls from the neighborhood bakery (get yourself a sweet treat, too) and check local shops for that unique item that would be great for your Uncle Bob that he would truly appreciate. It is these types of simple actions that every day make the world a better place. Shop local. Support your community.

Joe Legato is third-generation owner of Bill & Rod's Appliance and Mattress in Livonia and a graduate of Northwood University.

BRIEFS

Continued from page A4

available by waiting in to the Registrar Center located in the McDowell Center in the main campus in Livonia. For more information about registration, visit www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd or call 74-462-4448.

'Peace and War'

Each year student members Schoolcraft College's Omicron Iota

Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa international honorary scholastic society select a theme for their Honors in Action project as part of the international society annual competition for two-year colleges.

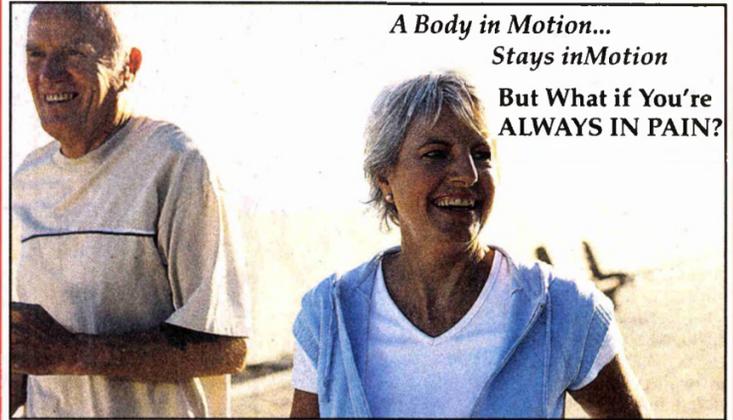
This year's theme for the project will be "Peace and War: How does conflict impact people and the way in which the world works?" This theme aligns with the international PTK society's focus: "How the World Works: Global Perspectives."

As part of the HIA project, student members of Schoolcraft College's chapter will perform academic research on the topic and from that research perform an action that shares the results of the research with others and identifies actions or initiative that can be implemented to advocate and/or affect a specific cause.

The international Phi Theta Kappa awards ceremony for the HIA projects will help held in Nashville in April, 2017.

Local Institute Healing Degenerative Pain With Stem Cell Injections

FREE CONSULTATION



Stem Cell Institute of Michigan is now offering state-of-the-art stem cell therapy at its Sterling Heights office. To find out more about this amazing regenerative treatments, call (586) 323-0301.

Michigan Stem Cell Institute of America, Michigan branch devotes much of its time treating chronically ill patients - especially those in pain. With 26 years of experience, the Sterling Heights-based practice continues to utilize cutting-edge technology to help restore patients' health.

The Institute recently announced its latest state-of-the-art healing procedure: regenerative stem cell therapy. Developed in conjunction with the Stem Cell Institute of America, the Stem Cell Institute of America, Michigan branch, is now offering painless, FDA approved stem cell injections for arthritic and/ or degenerative conditions, especially those found in the knees, hips, shoulder, neck and lower back.

"...PAINLESS, FDA APPROVED STEM CELL INJECTIONS..."

These remarkable treatments can repair tissue in the body that has been damaged from age, disease or degeneration.

They do this by pinpointing the impaired areas, removing the swelling with powerful anti-inflammatory properties and healing them by regenerating new cells and tissue. This innovative therapy is particularly effective in treating such conditions as degenerative arthritis, degenerative cartilage and ligaments, bone spurs, degenerative joint disease, bursitis and tendonitis.

"...HEALING THEM BY REGENERATING NEW CELLS AND TISSUE..."

According to Stem Cell Institute of Michigan's chief medical officer, patients can experience a significant decrease in pain and an improvement in range of motion within weeks of one treatment. "Our patients say the results are magical," "In time, it's our hope that this truly amazing therapy will eliminate the need for drugs and surgery."

"OUR PATIENTS SAY THE RESULTS ARE MAGICAL"

Macomb Primary Care is one of the first clinics in Michigan to offer this highly advanced form of therapy. Macomb Primary Care Physicians are all board certified with more than 20 years of experience.

The Practice will hold free educational seminars on stem cell therapy on:

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Call Now to Reserve Your Seat. DON'T WAIT.

Seating is limited. To reserve your seat at this informative seminar, call **(586) 323-0301**. When you attend, you'll receive a complimentary examination at the clinic to explore stem cell options.

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Canton foundation awards grants

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle announced its 2017 grants, totaling more than \$20,000, and recognized local philanthropists at its 10th anniversary event in October. The grants were allocated to the following Plymouth-Canton community organizations:

- » **Salvation Army:** \$1,500 for personal care products for women and children in its programs.
- » **Literacy Council:** \$3,500 to help fund a part-time program coordinator for the volunteer English literacy tutors program.
- » **Miracle League:** \$3,500 to help pay for a pavilion and bleachers used by children and volunteers at events.
- » **Starfish Family Services:** \$3,000 for playground equipment for children at Plymouth-Canton Head Start.
- » **First Step:** \$7,000 to support Head of the House project enabling community women to refurbish the shelter's community room.
- » **Local nonprofit organizations:** \$2,500; this incentive grant will allow community organizations to participate in the Giving Hope Spring Educational meeting to educate community members on their services and needs.

"Each of these organizations is serving an important segment of need in our community and we are pleased to help support their efforts," said Cynthia Vercruyse, Giving Hope advisory board chair. "Thanks to our members and the anniversary event, which raised more than \$10,000 toward Giving Hope's endowment, we will be able to make many more grants in the years ahead."

Approximately 160 Giving Hope members and guests attended the anniversary event, which was co-chaired by Joan Noricks and Carla O'Malley. As part of its anniversary celebration, Giving Hope established the Giving Hope Philanthropy Awards to honor Plymouth and Canton philanthropic leaders and volunteers who best represent Giving Hope's primary mission of improving the lives of women and children in the Canton and Plymouth communities. The following award recipients were honored at the event.



Giving Hope founding members (seated, from left) Karyl Niemi, Loren Wadington, Joan Noricks and Jean LaJoy and (standing, from left) Linda Radtke, Jean Stenger, Nancy Eggenberger, Betty Bloch, Carla O'Malley, Terry Bennett and Martha Snow.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeannie Etherford, Peggy Dalt, Lauren Falcusan and net Sibbold.

» **Wilm Sabak,** a P-CCS student who organized a 60-man clothing drive last winter.

» **Stacy and Rebecca Reynolds,** Canton mother and daughter team who led the 2016 Mother's Day Purse Project, collecting 566 purses filled with items, including toiletries, socks, scarves, books and T-shirts, to aid victims of domestic abuse.

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle, a donor-advised fund of the Canton Community Foundation that provides grants to address the needs of women and families in the greater Canton and Plymouth area. Giving Hope has provided more than \$90,000 in funds during the past 10 years in support of women and families in the Plymouth-Canton area. More than 85 local women comprise the Giving Circle, which aspires to make a positive community impact through philanthropy. For more information about Giving Hope, go to www.cantonfoundation.org/giving-hope.

Giving Hope is grateful to the following anniversary sponsors for their support:

It's a Girl Thing Level — \$1,000: Foley & Lardner, LLC; The LaFave Family; Community Financial Credit Union; Carla O'Malley; The Vercruyse Family; Friend of Giving Hope

It's a Good Thing Level — \$500: The Bair Family, Linda Demmer, Canton Dermatology Specialists of Canton, Kennedy Nemier Insurance Agency, Inc.; LaJoy Group; The Lenyo Family; Hines Park Lincoln; PARC - Don and Colleen; DKKS - CPAs & Advisors; UBS - STM Wealth Management Group; Clark Hill, PLLC; Pat Williams, Canton trustee

It's a Good Thing Level — \$250: Community Literacy Council; Hamzavi Canton Dermatology; Mr. John and Dr. Ann LaFond; Lou LaRiche Chevrolet; Michigan Philharmonic; The West End Yoga Co.; Phil and Jean LaJoy

In-kind sponsors: Canton Creative Marketing; Hour Magazine; Susan Rosiek; Elizabeth Patterson The Vesche Team, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel



Marion and Jerry Rozum.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Incoming Giving Hope advisory board chair Joan Noricks (left) and outgoing board chair Cynthia Vercruyse.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

event.

Group category

The 14 founding women who established the Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle in 2006: Joan Noricks, Loren Wadington, Terry Bennett, Betty Bloch, Shahnaz Broucek, Nancy Eggenberger, Jean LaJoy, Carla O'Malley, Karyl Niemi, Linda Radtke, Nancy Richter, Martha Snow, Jean Stenger and Ellen Tucker.

Family category

Marion and Jerry Rozum, who created the Marion and Jerry Rozum Foundation, a donor-advised fund of the Canton Community Foundation for children with disabilities and special needs. The foundation delivers myriad needed services to the communi-

ty, including scholarships that have allowed children with disabilities to enjoy a summer camp experience at Camp A.B.L.E., support for the Detroit Area Diaper Bank, tornado relief efforts through local churches, the Miracle League of Plymouth and Chicks for Charity projects in the greater Canton and Plymouth communities. Marion Rozum is a member of Giving Hope, serves on the board of the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities and is involved in the Village Arts Factory that will integrate arts, culture, creativity and well-being for all in western Wayne County.

Student category

The Student Leadership Council at the Plymouth-Canton Communi-

ty Schools district motivates students grades 4-12 to raise money for community needs and to support philanthropy in age-appropriate ways. One of the council's recent initiatives supports the Students Helping Homeless Students project to provide housing for one or two local families in need, in conjunction with the Journey to Housing program of St. Vincent de Paul.

Individual category

Lorraine Zaksek of Plymouth started the Journey to Housing program and is currently chairperson of its general committee. To date, a total of 12 families have been placed into a home or an apartment. Journey to Housing pays for the move-in costs, furniture and 50 percent of the

rental cost for the first six months and provides mandatory weekly care management meetings, which include discussions on job searching and budgeting for each family.

In addition to the designated Philanthropic Awards, Giving Hope also recognized the following local philanthropists on its 2016 Honor Roll.

» **Canton Township "Denim Days" Project,** in which employees raise funds for local community causes.

» **Debbie Cortellini** for her service on the Community Literacy Council.

» **Volunteers of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district Clothing Bank:** Karen Palgut, Julie Jasinski, Patti Jenkins, Jackie Norris, Maureen Rice,

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TRAVELERS EXPLORE HIDDEN GEMS OF BALKANS

Jay Young
Correspondent

Question: What do Melania Trump, "Shark Tank" entrepreneur Robert Herjavec and "Game of Thrones" have in common? The answer begins in the Republic of Slovenia, the birthplace of the future first lady of the United States.

We recently returned from a three-week trip with Grand Circle Cruise Line, starting in the tiny country of Slovenia, which achieved its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. About half the size of Switzerland, Slovenia borders Italy and Austria on its north and west and Croatia and Hungary to the east and south. It is an intriguing mixture of the best of those cultures.

Landing in the capital of Ljubljana, we visited its fascinating mix of churches, museums and public markets before traveling about 20 miles to beautiful Lake Bled, Slovenia's leading mountain resort. Situated in the Julian Alps, the area encompasses sweeping alpine panoramas, a fairy tale island located in the center of the lake and a popular spot for weddings, a cliff-hanging medieval castle and a four-mile promenade around the lake.

In day trips from Bled, we visited Postojna Cave, the country's most famous natural attraction with its endless display of stalagmites and stalactites, and the 13th century Predjama Castle, which served as a stronghold for robber barons throughout its fascinating history.

Our next stop was Zagreb, the capital and largest city of Croatia and home country of Herjavec's immigrant parents. Zagreb is a city

with a rich history dating from Roman times. Our tour included medieval landmarks, such as the Cathedral of the Assumption, a colorful open-air market called Dolac and the Museum of Naive Art, displaying artworks by untrained peasants.

A day trip from Zagreb led us to the lovely Baroque city of Varazdin, a former capital of Croatia and home to several aristocratic families who built magnificent palaces and churches there. They later contributed furnishings to its centerpiece, a moated castle, which now serves as a museum.

From Zagreb, we traveled south to Plitvice Lakes National Park, the largest national park in Croatia and one of the oldest in southeast Europe. Founded in 1949, more than one million visitors each year come to view waterfalls and 16 interconnected lakes, which range in color from turquoise to green, gray or blue, depending on the mineral content of the water.

Arriving at Split, we embarked on our Grand Circle Cruise Line ship, the Athena, which would take us down the Adriatic coast to several Croatian islands, Montenegro, Albania and Greece.

Split is the second largest city of Croatia and largest port on the Dalmatian coast. Dating from the 4th century B.C.E., when it was founded by Greeks, it has seen many rulers, including the Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Ottomans, French and Habsburgs. Split is best known today as the site of the huge Imperial Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Occupied from 300-313 A.D. by Diocletian, a Croatian native, the palace is built like a fortress with walls

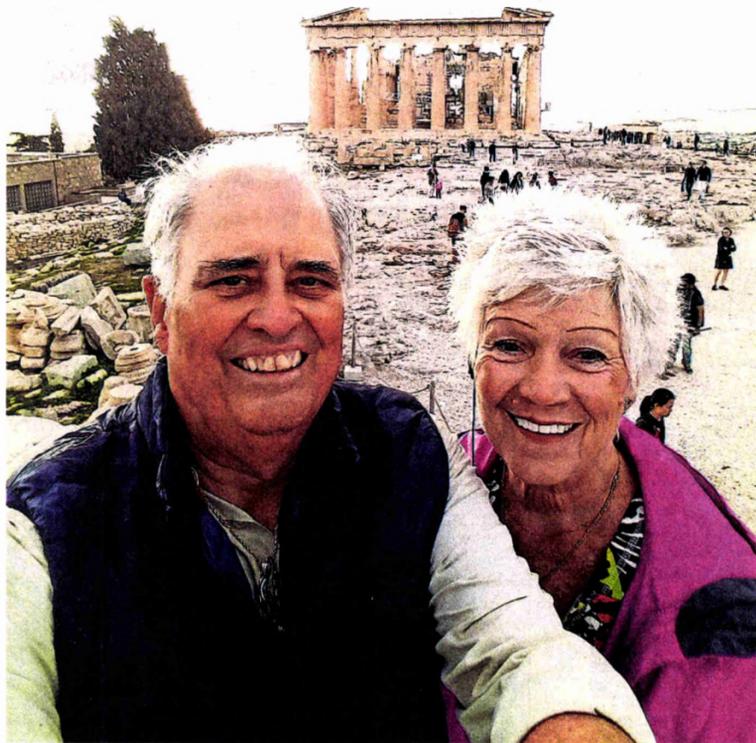
running 590 feet by 705 feet. Ironically, although Diocletian was a great persecutor of Christians, his Temple of Jupiter was later converted into a Christian baptistry and his mausoleum became a cathedral.

That night, we set sail for our first Dalmatian island, Hvar. Blessed with having a large fertile coastal plain and fresh water springs, its hillsides are covered in pine forests, vineyards, olive groves, fruit orchards and lavender fields. Unique to the island are stone walls defining agricultural field divisions of the Stari Grad Plain, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Our next stop was the island of Korcula, reputed to be the birthplace of Marco Polo. The most populous Croatian island not connected to the mainland by a bridge, we learned it was ruled for centuries by the powerful city-state of Venice and is today known for ship building and fishing.

Our next destination was the grand city of Dubrovnik. Regarded as one of the world's most exquisite walled cities, it is one of the most prominent tourist destinations on the Adriatic Sea and the setting for the "Game of Thrones" HBO television series.

Dubrovnik's character reflects its storied past as an independent city-state called Regusa, whose fleet of ships carried trade between much of Europe and the Middle East. Although demilitarized to protect it from war in 1991, it was besieged by Serb and Montenegrin soldiers for seven months and suffered significant damage from shelling. Under UNESCO supervision, Dubrovnik was repaired



Jay and Linnea Young take a selfie on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, with the Parthenon, the temple dedicated to Athena, in the background.

with amazing speed and the only visible reminders of the war are pockmarked bullet holes in some structures and new bright orange roof tiles.

The next morning, we cruised into beautiful Kotor Bay, Montenegro. One of the youngest republics in Europe (it achieved independence from Serbia in 2006), Montenegro is even more of a crossroads of cultures than Croatia. The result is a unique nation of rugged beauty with a historic link to Serbia that defies many of the preconceived notions of the Balkans.

The highlight of our visit was a boat trip to a beautiful baroque church, Our Lady of the Rocks, situated on a man-made island in the middle of the bay. My wife and I renewed our wedding vows in this gorgeous place on our 45th wedding anniversary - truly a memorable event.

If Montenegro was magical, our next stop, Saranda, Albania, was sobering. Saddled with a paranoid Communist government, the country was isolated from the international community from 1945-85. During that time, under dictator Enver Hoxha, hundreds of mosques and Islamic libraries, as well as Christian churches, were destroyed and the country was proclaimed the "world's first atheist state." A sad reminder of those days is the 750,000 concrete bunkers scattered throughout the country in preparation for an imaginary invasion that never came.

Our next port of call was the Greek island of Corfu and an excursion to Achillion Palace, the magnificent villa and gardens built by Elizabeth, Empress of Austria, in 1890. A popular figure, she retreated to Corfu to escape the constraints of

court life in Vienna and immersed herself in the world of the ancient Greeks.

Our last stop before passing through the Corinth canal and disembarking at the port of Athens was the ruins at Delphi. Thought to be the center of the Earth by the ancient Greeks, the Oracle at Delphi was often consulted before important decisions were made and contained treasures built by the great societies of the day to honor Apollo and other Greek gods.

Like the puzzle we started with, during this trip we put together pieces of history, culture, natural wonders and delightful people we didn't know existed, as we discovered the hidden gems of the Dalmatian coast.

Canton resident Jay Young is former director of community services for the Livonia Public Schools district.

How to protect your family members from financial scams

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

Nobody wants to lose their retirement nest egg to a con artist, yet it happens all the time.

According to the National Council on Aging, approximately five million older Americans are abused every year and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$2.6 billion. Nor is it a problem that's going away anytime soon, as an average of 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 years old every day.

Carol Guyton, a senior vice president with Bank of America, is something of an expert when it comes to spotting scams involving the elderly. Guyton has worked 32 years in the banking industry, mostly in the consumer area. Here are some tips and warning signs she provides to customers to avoid being the next victim:

Q: What are the most common scams and fraud risks that older customers face?

Guyton: The most common scams prey on people's trust. It could be a con artist who tells the person they owe a large sum of money and the con artist is willing to work with the person if they will make a "good faith" payment by withdrawing funds from their bank account. Another scam is getting the victim to wire or send money on the pretext that the person's child or another relative is in the hospital and needs the money. Also, money is solicited



Guyton

for fake charities. This often occurs after natural disasters.

Q: Is there a specific time of year this fraud is more frequent?

Guyton: No, these types of scams are active year-round.

Q: What systems and safeguards are in place to protect elder customer's accounts from unauthorized access?

Guyton: Bank employees are trained to recognize "red flags" such as:

- » Sudden changes in a client's bank accounts or banking practices.
- » Withdrawals of unusual or unexplained large sums of money.
- » Changes in a client's behavior.
- » New signers are added or new joint accounts are opened.
- » Confusion about account balances or activity or claim that some property is suddenly missing.

Q: What are the signs that loved ones or fam-

ily members should look for that may indicate an elderly person is a target of fraud?

Guyton: I have personal experience in this area. I tell families when an elderly person is suddenly very close and trusting with individuals the family doesn't know or are not comfortable with, this is a huge warning sign. An example could be new neighbors or someone they've had met over the phone. I would encourage those with elderly family members to carefully observe and ask questions about who they talk to on the phone and whether they've received any visitors.

Be sure to let the person know you are only asking to make sure everything is in order. Also, if the relationship is close enough and applicable, ask to browse checkbooks and bank statements from time-to-time.

Q: What are some of the more popular scams?

Guyton: Financial scams involving Medicare or health insurance ... online counterfeit prescription drugs ... funeral and cemetery scams ... investment schemes ... reverse mortgage schemes ... and, of course, lottery or sweepstakes scams. Unfortunately, it's a growing list.

For more information on how to avoid scams against seniors, go to the National Council on Aging's Savvy Savings Seniors page.

grossman@hometownlife.com
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Passages

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

BONANDER



JOAN CAROL (NEE VIALL) Entered into eternal rest on December 5, 2016 following a long illness. Joan was born November 1, 1937 and spent her childhood in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She attended Miami University where she met her late husband, John V. Bonander. Together they raised their children, James Bonander and Karen (Bonander) Can?eld in Troy/Birmingham, MI. She loved her time sailing with her family, sharing fellowship with her faith communities in Birmingham and later Hickory, North Carolina, and time with her family. Joan leaves her children and their spouses, Patricia Carroll Bonander and James Can?eld; and her grandchildren, John Patrick (J.P.), William (Billy), and Elizabeth (Libby) Can?eld. The family will hold a memorial service in Akron, Ohio in the spring.

FRIEDMAN

JOAN Age 79 of Farmington Hills, passed away December 6, 2016. Daughter of the late William and Betty LaCasse. Loving mother of late Steven and Scott Friedman. Joan is survived by her sister, Carol Charlier; loving son, Jeffrey (Jody) Friedman; grandchildren, Jammie and Michael; great-grandchildren, Skylar, Daniel, and Aiden. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

SCHEPPELE



ESTHER M. Age 89, of Canton, passed away December 8, 2016. Loving mother of Margaret (Kim) Dutcher, Eileen (Keith) Evans, Carol (Max) Schneidereit, Robert (Marge) Scheppele, John Scheppele, Diana Scheppele, Valerie Raspbury (Tony Lonigro), Kenneth (Anne) Scheppele, Michael (Barbara) Scheppele, and Stephen (Elaine) Scheppele. Dear grandmother to 18, several great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Robert Scheppele. Funeral Monday from Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, 12 noon. Visitation Sunday 1-6 p.m. Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society, Michigan Humane Society, or Plymouth Community Band. To view full obituary and leave a condolence, please visit schrader-howell.com.

STROPES

CLAIRE MARIE (nee LENEHAN) age 89, passed away at her home on December 2, 2016. Beloved wife of the late Don Stropes, loving mother of Mike (Holly), Steve, Greg, Jeff (Sandi) and Pat (Ruth), grandma of Kelly (Josh), Katie, Emily, Maggie, Caroline, Danny, Jake and Heath, great grandma of Luke and Owen. Claire was born on July 23, 1927 in London, Ontario, Canada. The only daughter of Leo and Marie Lenehan, she was one month old when the family moved to Detroit where she was raised. For the last 64 years, Claire called Redford Township her home. She will be remembered for her infallible memory, quick wit, and unwavering love for her family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society in Claire's honor. (Michiganhumane.org)

VENSKE



FRANCES ELAINE (nee MARTENS) passed away December 7, 2016. The memorial service will be Monday, December 12th at 11 a.m. at St John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. The family will greet friends at church on Monday beginning at 10 a.m. until the service. Inurnment will follow at Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. There will be no visitation at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans: Memorial Program, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250. Envelopes will be available at the church. To view the full obituary and leave a tribute of Frances, please visit www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

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Wishes of peace to you and yours in this time of sorrow.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WAYNE COUNTY

Living Nativity

The Living Nativity, a 15-minute outdoor walking tour depicting the story of Christmas will offer translation in Mandarin, Hindi, Spanish and Albanian. The lighted outdoor walking path passes through scenes of costumed characters of shepherds, angels, wise men and the manger. Real Life Farm's Don Fraser has provided the sheep, goats, donkey and calf. This year, for added realism, a camel named Humphrey will join the cast from his home in Grand Rapids. Scenes are added and changed each year, providing a new experience for people who have attended in

the past.

There is no reservation necessary. Guests can visit any time during the evening. For those with mobility issues a golf cart is available to enjoy the tour. The free event is 4:30-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, on the church grounds at 1240 N. Beck Road, one-half mile south of Ford Road.

Jingle Bells Batman Smells

Barefoot Productions Theatre brings to the stage author Barbara Parks' character Junie B Jones and the holiday spirit in "Jingle Bells Batman Smells." The show is at 2 p.m. Dec. 11. The cast is from Livonia, Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Redford and Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at www.justgobarefoot.com or 734-404-6889. Barefoot Productions Theatre is at 240 N. Main St., Plymouth.

Park Players perform

The Park Players Theatre Company presents "Almost, Maine" by John Cariani at 7 p.m. Dec. 16-17 in The Allen DuBois Little Theatre at Canton High School. Tickets are \$10 and available at www.tpptc.booktix.com or at the door beginning one hour be-

fore each performance.

Breakfast with Santa

The St. Robert's Mens Club will host Breakfast with Santa from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in the gym, 27101 W. Chicago Road at Inkster, Redford. The event offers All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast; Santa's Big Raffle: 1st Prize: Big Sled of Toys; 2nd Prize: 20" Bicycle and \$1 instant pictures with Santa. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$2 for ages 2-12; and free for children under 2. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Franklin High library teen book fair

The high school library will have a book fair through Dec. 13 at Barnes & Noble, 1711 Haggerty, Northville Township. Teens are encouraged to participate in the Harry Potter Magical Holiday Ball dressed in a favorite character and dance until they drop. The store and cafe will be open. A percentage of Barnes & Noble sales will benefit the Franklin High School library. If you can't make it and wish to donate, visit bn.com/bookfairs. Enter Bookfair ID12026894 at checkout.

Wayne County General Hospital reunion

All retired and former employees from Wayne County General Hospital are invited to attend the 32nd annual reunion in the party room at the Hibachi Buffet and Grill, 6539 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The event is set for 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13. Buffet price with without drink is \$12.75 and with a drink \$14.59. Reservations are not required.

Holiday decorating contest

"All American Holiday Decorating Contest" is underway and runs until midnight Saturday, Dec. 24. Residents can visit the city of Westland website to nominate themselves or a friend in one or all of the three categories: Best Traditional Display, Most Creative Display and Over the Top Display. Nominees will be asked to enter a picture with their submission.

You can also enter the contest by posting your picture publicly on Twitter or Instagram, tagging @CityofWestland and using the hashtag #westlandholidaypride. Anyone can go onto the website, view the entries and vote for the holiday deco-

rating display they think should win. Voting will close at midnight on Christmas Eve. Winners will be announced and awarded with prizes at the first council meeting of the New Year on Monday, Jan. 9.

Youth Christmas concert

The Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras of Michigan will host its Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at William F. Weber Performing Arts Center at Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft, Redford. Tickets are \$7 at the door, \$3 senior citizens.

The LYSO is a non-profit youth organization celebrating its 57th year in Livonia. It is comprised of school-age string players, winds, brass and percussionists, and dedicated parent volunteers.

Secondhand Prose closes for renovations

Canton Public Library's Secondhand Prose Bookstore will be closed for renovations from Dec. 23 to Feb 1.

In December hardcover books and children's book will be sold at reduced prices. A special \$6 Fill-a-Bag Book Sale

will take place Dec. 16-19. Friends of the Canton Public Library support the library through advocacy and fundraising for resources beyond the scope of the operating budget.

Wayne Memorial Parent Night

Wayne Memorial High School will host an 8th-grade parent night for those transitioning to 9th grade or interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2016-2017 school year. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend. The event will be held on Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium. Topics covered will include: scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extra-curricular activities, and much more. All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. Any additional questions should be directed to the Counseling Department at 734-419-2215.

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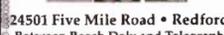
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NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2016

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2016 and payable through February 28, 2017 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page - www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Friday, December 23, 2016 and Monday, December 26, 2016 also Friday, December 30, 2016 and Monday, January 2, 2017. During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be OPEN on Tuesday, December 27, 2016, Wednesday, December 28, 2016 and Thursday, December 29, 2016, for our taxpayers' convenience.

Teresa Cischke, MiCPT CPFA City Treasurer

Published: December 8, 2016 and December 11, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting December 20, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

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

Published: December 11, 2016

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Bill passed in response to Ashley Court closure

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

New legislation would require the state to notify local officials if another emergency shutdown of a facility takes place, such as what happened at Livonia's Ashley Court facility earlier this year.

The changes, proposed by state Rep. Laura Cox, R-Livonia, is an amendment to other language that just changed some wording in previous legislation. The new changes would require the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to notify either the local clerk or the local fire chief of the municipality where the shut-down facility is located.

"It just makes sense, especially in communities that are so densely populated like ours," Cox said. "We want to make sure those situations can be mitigated."

The legislation is a result of the shutdown of Ashley Court, 32406 Seven Mile in Livonia, which took place in May. The state ordered an emer-



FILE PHOTO

Legislation is working its way through Lansing that would require the state to notify local officials if another shutdown of a facility, like Ashley Court, were to take place.

gency shutdown of the assisted living facility, requiring all its residents to evacuate the premises within a six-hour window. The closure caused some chaos in the area, drawing in Livonia public safety officials to help

manage traffic as people came to pick up their loved ones and move them to a new facility. Several residents were transported to other facilities by the Livonia Fire Department. The day after, several

local officials, as well as Cox, held a press conference regarding the shutdown. There, she expressed concern over the lack of notification over the shutdown then. The bill was approved unanimously by the state

House of Representatives and was set for a Senate hearing Wednesday morning. Cox said she was hopeful it would be passed through the Senate's Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee as well as the

full Senate before heading to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk during the lame-duck legislative session.

Since the shutdown, the facility on Seven Mile east of Farmington Road has remained quiet, though a white banner has been put up this fall concealing the name of the former adult foster care facility. As of last week, there was no license on file with LARA to operate and house residents at the facility.

Notifying local officials, including safety officials, is a move that can help answer some questions, especially if surrounding residents have questions about a shutdown. Cox said it was routine during her time as a federal official to at least notify the local police department if an investigation was taking place, even if the local agency was not involved.

"There's a very big advantage to letting them at least know," she said.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Michigan elector receives death threats over Trump



Michigan elector Michael Banerian has received death threats because of his support for Donald Trump.

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

Michael Banerian knew this year's presidential election would be divisive, if not downright brutal.

He never expected to receive death threats over the results.

Banerian, 22, a Bloomfield Township resident, is youth vice chair for the Michigan Republican Party. He's also one of Michigan's 16 Electoral College voters who will cast a vote Dec. 19 for President-elect Donald Trump.

While it's a pretty straightforward process, as Michigan electors are

required by law to vote for the winner of the popular vote, Banerian said he's received numerous threats from people who want him to switch his vote to Hillary Clinton.

Dec. 1, he responded to the threats by filing a police report in Bloomfield Township.

"I began receiving threatening messages a couple of days before the election and they trickled in the weeks following that," said Banerian, who's about to graduate from Oakland University with a bachelor's degree in political science. "All of these threats, death wishes and generally

angry messages were a direct response to my support for Donald Trump and being a Republican in general."

Bloomfield Township police declined to comment on the case Wednesday, saying it's still under investigation. Banerian said hundreds of people left intimidating messages on his Facebook page since the election and he's also received an average of six to seven angry post-election letters to his home each day. Nobody has threatened him in person.

"Unfortunately, one of the threats I received was from a student I

went to high school with," Banerian said. "I didn't know him well then and I haven't spoken to him in four years."

The nation's Electoral College vote is under a microscope after Clinton won the overall popular vote, while Trump won the 270 electoral votes necessary to win the presidency. It's a similar scenario to the 2000 presidential election, in which Al Gore won the popular vote and George W. Bush won the Electoral College vote.

Banerian said the Electoral College is still a sound system for presidential elections, since it

gives a voice to the smaller states. He also expects Trump to deliver on his major promises once he's formally elected as the nation's 45th president.

"My expectations are that he follows through on some of his biggest promises of the campaign," Banerian said. "I expect a full repeal of Obamacare and a subsequent replacement. I also expect a major tax reform, unlike anything we've seen in decades."

grossman@hometownlife.com
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Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart is a general dentist from Livonia, MI. Today, he answers a question about toothbrushes.

ARE ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSHES WORTH THE MONEY?

Dear Dr. Stewart: I am thinking about buying an electric toothbrush for my husband for Christmas. Are they worth the money?

Dr. Stewart: Many people are still apprehensive about purchasing electric toothbrushes and unfortunately, this is mainly due to the unreliability, cost, and bulk of early models. But modern electric toothbrushes remove more plaque than manual brushes and pose no additional risk to your gums or enamel. I believe they are a great way to invest in your oral health (and make an excellent gift). While there are definitely expensive models, know that many of the more affordable models (in the \$10 or less range) often work just as well.

If you have a question about your oral health or would like to schedule a complimentary cosmetic consultation, contact Dr. James Stewart.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Petersens' trek about sport, philanthropy

U-20 Women's National Team player and her parents make lasting imprint in Papua New Guinea

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Their three-week stay in Papua New Guinea did not end with a medal.

But for U.S. Under-20 Women's National Team soccer player Courtney Petersen and her parents, it was a winning experience to compete in the 2016 FIFA Women's World Cup and also reach out to help those less fortunate on the small

island.

"To compete against that high of a level really helped my grow as a player," said Petersen, 19, whose family lives in Canton. "It was a time that I will never forget. Even though we did not get to medal at the end of it all, we were given six games to play and we fought hard every game."

"To be able to play for my country was such an honor and I wouldn't have wanted to do

anything else."

The U.S. team placed fourth, finishing with a 1-0 loss Dec. 3 against Japan.

The midfielder, formerly of the Michigan Hawks Elite Clubs National League (based out of Livonia) and a graduate of Dearborn Divine Child, had to take time off from college in order to go on the once-in-a-lifetime soccer journey.

See PETERSEN, Page B3



Soccer and philanthropy were on the agenda in Papua New Guinea for Canton's (from left) David, Courtney and Lisa Petersen. Courtney competed with the U.S. Under-20 Women's National Team.

U.S.-CANADA WOMEN'S HOCKEY PRIMER



Carrying the puck behind the net for the Compuware 16U girls AAA team is Plymouth resident Jessica Carpenter.

THESE GIRLS GOT GAME

Area players pumped to watch U.S. women's heroes such as Keller, Darkangelo play Dec. 17 in Plymouth

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Whenever the subject of girls hockey comes up at Canton High School, Jessica Carpenter shoots straight and hits hard. "I feel a lot of people think that girls can't check," said Carpenter, 16, of Plymouth. "They think guys hockey is so much more aggressive and a lot tougher than girls hockey."



"So whenever people ask me about hockey, I always try to prove them wrong, saying girls can be just as aggressive as guys can."

Carpenter is a pretty tough cookie herself, playing defense for the Compuware 16-Under girls hockey AAA team.

She and her hockey-playing siblings, including Honeybaked AAA players Julia and Jenna (not to mention 10-year-old Carly), are raising their sticks and raising their voices about the growing phenomenon that is women's hockey in North America. And soon they'll be cheering loudly and proudly for their

See HOCKEY, Page B2



All pumped up to watch their idols on the U.S. Women's Select Hockey Team face Canada are sisters (from left) Jessica, Julia and Jenna Carpenter of Plymouth.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Chiefs can't get cooking

Dry spell in third quarter spells defeat

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

For the longest time Friday night, neither boys basketball team could find the target.

Canton trailed Belleville, 32-21, in the third quarter for what veteran Chiefs coach Jimmy Reddy said "seemed like four-and-a-half or maybe five minutes."

The spark of a slam, steal or trey never materialized, however. The Tigers finally closed out the quarter on a 6-0 run and went on to post a 54-31 victory.

"We were staying fast together, had six or seven stops in a row," Reddy said. "But we just could not score. We couldn't finish at the rim, we couldn't knock down open threes or make a free throw." Reddy's team (0-2) had trouble with Belleville's size and athleticism, plus early foul trouble by top defenders Colin Troup and Noah Brown did not help matters much.

"They both got two fouls in the first quarter and both of them sat out the majority of the first half and they're our two best defenders," Reddy said.

Even with that, the Chiefs were still within striking distance until Belleville's surge at the end of the third.

"If a three goes down, or if we get a steal and an easy layup, something to spark us when it was 11 for that long of a time, we could have at least challenged them in the fourth," Reddy said. "But that 6-0 run put it out of reach."

Vinson Sigmon led Canton with 11 points, while Chase Meredith had eight points and eight rebounds.

Another problem area for the Chiefs was shooting accuracy. Canton made just 13-of-42 field-goal attempts (30 percent) and only 2-of-8 from the free-throw line.

The Chiefs will look to bounce back with a game Tuesday night against Salem. Tip-off is 7:30 p.m. at Salem and it will be the second half

See CHIEFS, Page B3

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U.S.-CANADA WOMEN'S HOCKEY

They'll find a way to meet Team USA

Compuware U12 girls hockey team can't make Dec. 17 exhibition, but they have a Plan B

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Compuware U12 AAA girls hockey coach Drew Maliszewski made a phone call as soon as he found out Dec. 17 would be the day the U.S. Women's Select Team faces Canada.

Maliszewski immediately realized the girls on his team — many from Livonia, including his daughter Emily and goalie Katie Nowak — would miss the big game at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth due to a weekend showcase tournament in suburban Chicago.

"When we found out about the game and the date, we complained a little bit and tried to get our showcase changed," Maliszewski said. "They weren't willing to change it, so we were stuck not going (to the U.S.-Canada game)."

That indeed is very disappointing, he added. But no worries. The girls have a Plan B ready to roll.

"I'd like to pop in on a scrimmage, for sure," Maliszewski said, referring to one of three Blue vs. White afternoon scrimmages (5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday). "I'll tell our girls about it, too. Since they're not able to go to the Canada-U.S. game, this would be a good opportunity."

"We skate Monday (at 7:20 p.m.), so maybe we can catch it before practice."

Another plus for the team will be getting a chance to meet USA Hockey managers, coaches and players throughout the week. One of them is Kristen Wright, manager of girls player development.

"She's come to our practice before," he said. "Our girls are excited to see some of the national program directors and skaters come out."

At least being able to check out a scrimmage or practice is a huge deal for Emily Maliszewski, 12, who attends Holmes Middle School.

"I'm excited to meet them. I want to play for them when I get older," said Emily, who plays center for the U12 squad. "I think I could learn a lot from watching them play. I can learn better positioning."

Emily said she really doesn't know any of the current U.S. women's players by name yet, but she has "watched them play before on TV."

Also thrilled about meeting and watching the U.S. players is 12-year-old Katie Nowak of Livonia, a goaltender and daughter of U12 assistant coach Jim Nowak.

"I really want to ask what the goalies like to do for warm-ups," said Katie, a student at Riley Upper Elementary School.

But missing the Dec. 17 game, which is certain to be intense and exciting given the rivalry, is disappointing.

"I'm sad that we're going to miss it," Katie said.

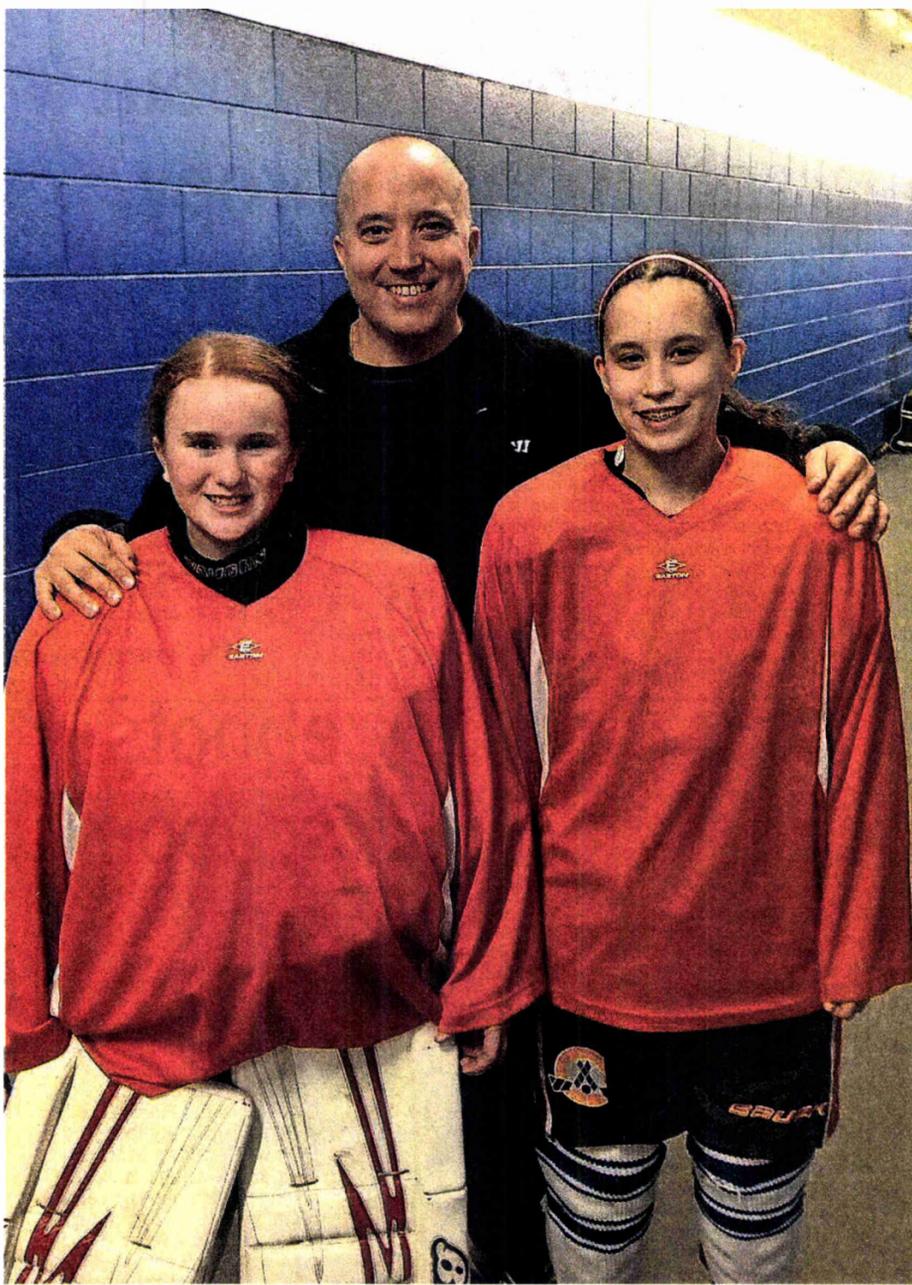
Both players and the rest of their teammates will have a second chance, though. That's in early April, when USA Hockey Arena will host the 2017 IIHF Women's World Championships.

And coaches Maliszewski and Nowak won't let another opportunity get away from the girls.

"This area has a good group of girls programs," Drew Maliszewski said. "The more you see upper-level girls play, like Team USA, our girls have dreams of making it to college. You see what hard work can get you."

"It's nice for them to see that and to see role models, instead of a bunch of dads telling them what to do all the time."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



Although unable to catch the Dec. 17 U.S.-Canada women's game, players on the Compuware U12 AAA team — like goalie Katie Nowak (left) and Emily Maliszewski of Livonia — still hope to meet players during the week. Also pictured is their coach, Drew Maliszewski.

TIM SMITH

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

heroes on U.S. Women's Select Team — scheduled to face Canada at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at USA Hockey Arena in an exhibition game that essentially is a teaser for next spring's Women's World Championship (March 31 through April 7, 2017, at the same venue).

In the house

The game provides the Carpenter sisters and other girls who play and love hockey an opportunity to get an up-close-and-personal glimpse of U.S. women's hockey standouts such as Farmington's Megan Keller and Brighton's Shiann Darkangelo.

"It's a really great opportunity for us," said 14-year-old Julia Carpenter, a center for the Honeybaked 14U team, coached by her dad Larry Carpenter. "It'll be important for girls our age to see their role models get to play on the ice, not just on TV."

Hockey fans of all ages might be in for a surprise when they see the high quality of action unfolding in front of them.

"In the past, you can't catch them on TV," Larry Carpenter said. "So you have to watch them when they're streamed over the Internet, maybe catch the finals when they play in the Olympics."

"So to see them in person, it's just so exciting to have them there. It's high-quality hockey and it's great to have people realize that women can play at that high level and deliver such a fun, entertaining game."

He added that even Detroit Red Wings fans "will be amazed at the quality of the hockey."

Agreeing wholeheartedly with them is Reagan Carey, USA Hockey's director of women's hockey.

"For those who haven't seen elite women's hockey, I think they'll be absolutely surprised and they'll be excited to watch one of the most competitive games in sports they'll ever see, let alone hockey," Carey said. "The rivalry between the U.S. and Canada is unmatched; they'll compete hard and they're out to win on both



Competing for the Honeybaked U14 AAA girls team based out of Suburban Hills Farmington Hills are sisters Jenna (back) and Julia Carpenter of Plymouth.

sides. "So we're looking forward to bringing that energy and exposure to our sport for these fans. I guarantee they're not going to walk out of there disappointed."

Buzz building

The arena on Beck Road in Plymouth is certain to be packed and filled with energy that afternoon. Bringing it will be clusters of girls teams from area organizations such as Compuware, Honeybaked (based out of Suburban Ice in Farmington Hills) and the Livonia Hockey Association.

Larry Carpenter estimated that a contingent of up to 200 Honeybaked players, coaches and families will watch the game.

"Of course, we got tickets as soon as they were available," he said. "The girls had skated with Kendall Coyne and Megan Bozek (among 14 players from the silver medal-winning 2014 U.S. Women's Olympic team). When we found out that they were coming, we knew we'd be going."

With a grin, 13-year-old Jenna Carpenter (who also plays on the Honeybaked 14U team) said she is "really excited to

see Megan Bozek play, because she's my favorite USA Women's Hockey player."

Jessica Carpenter added she'll be keeping tabs on Keller, an alum of the Honeybaked program and — when not playing for Team USA — a Boston College defenseman who she calls a personal idol. Jessica said she and her sisters also want to someday play at BC.

"It's really cool, because you dream about being in the highest level of hockey and the USA team is one of the places you want to be when you're older playing hockey," Jessica said. "It's really cool to see these girls coming to our hometown."

The Carpenters and others might be happy to learn that Carey also is a fan of Keller's. Carey described the 20-year-old as a "fairly consistent member of the National Team the last few seasons. She goes to Boston College and has been a terrific player for us on (defense)."

Representing

Teams wearing Compuware and Honeybaked jerseys are sure to rub elbows with girls players from Northville High School, Farmington Hills-based

FAST FACTS

What: The U.S. Women's Hockey Select Team faces Canada as part of the Winter Champions Series.

When: Puck drop is set for 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

Where: USA Hockey Arena on Beck Road in Plymouth.

Tickets: \$15, available through www.usahockeyarena.com.

Camp: From Monday, Dec. 12, through Thursday, Dec. 16, there will be 37 U.S. players skating in scrimmages and practices that will be free to the public. Blue vs. White scrimmages are 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Local players include defenseman Megan Keller (Farmington) and forward Shiann Darkangelo (Brighton).

Why now?: USA Hockey is hosting the exhibition game to help boost awareness about high-level women's hockey and also to determine the roster that will compete March 31 through April 7, 2017 in the IIHF Women's World Championships, also to take place at USA Hockey Arena.

Little Caesars and the Livonia Knights. All of those organizations have bought large blocks of tickets for the game.

"We've got five of our girls teams that have bought tickets in some quantity," the Livonia Hockey Association's Mike Featherngill said. "I think we'll have over 250 players and parents in our section at that game."

According to Featherngill, the 16U, 14U, 12U and 10U Knights will be represented at the Dec. 17 game. Players from the Livonia Stars and Livonia Hurricanes introductory girls hockey programs also are raring to go.

He said the U.S.-Canada contest provides inspiration for girls who want to live the dream of playing college, pro (yes, leagues are starting to gain traction on the East Coast) and, perhaps, international hockey.

"It proves that they have a higher level that they can continue to play at after they stop playing in their local associations," said Featherngill, who has a daughter on the 12U Knights. "There's not a lot of role models for them to look up to as far as older hockey-playing girls other than what we would consider beer leagues for guys and for women, too. "Outside of that, there is a

professional women's hockey league, but it's only really big on the East Coast right now. So this gives them some exposure to a higher level of hockey with some older girls and shows there's still an opportunity to keep playing past whatever they want to do in high school."

It's tough hockey

Girls hockey is "growing immensely" at all levels, he added. In the Livonia Hockey Association alone, there are about 575 boys and girls playing for various teams. Out of that number, an estimated 120 girls players are skating this winter.

The exhibition game and 2017 IIHF Women's World Championship, hopefully, will give fans visual proof of what the Carpenters already know: girls hockey players are no pushovers.

"Our league is really competitive. We always go to Canada and we play against their teams and they're really tough teams," Julia Carpenter said. "I think we play against them really well."

Julia, also a Canton High School student, added that she isn't a star player for Honeybaked 14U, but likes to get into the dirty areas to score goals.

"I like being the one that makes all the little things happen in order to get a goal and stuff," she said. "It's a little more aggressive than I thought, but I like it to be aggressive."

For the Carpenters and many other hockey families in the area, the Dec. 17 contest serves as an appetizer for the main course — namely the main course of high-level women's hockey still about four months away.

"We live two miles from USA Hockey Arena. Literally, in our backyard," Larry Carpenter said. "We know the rink inside and out, we've been in that rink so many times."

"It's just the excitement of the entire community, to have (the) tournament come to Plymouth is probably — outside of our own teams — the best part of hockey we've experienced so far."

They aren't alone in having that take, either.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Another important returnee for Canton is Kelsea Kernosek, shown from last season.

PREP GYMNASTICS

Canton squad reboots after top-notch season

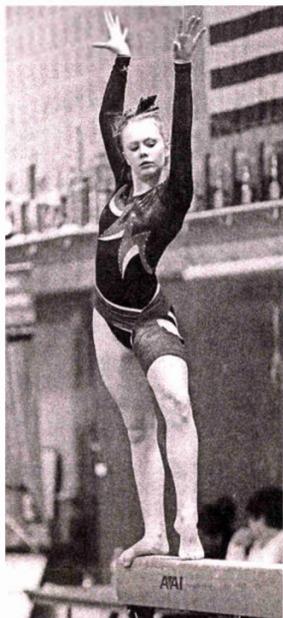
Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

After finishing fifth in the MHSAA last season, Canton's varsity gymnastics team is looking to get healthy first and shoot to the top second.

"Once we get through some early season injuries we will be tough to beat," veteran head coach John Cunningham said. "All the area teams will be strong, too, with Salem, Plymouth, Livonia Blue and Northville sporting top-level squads."

Canton passed an early test right off the bat with Thursday's 139.695 score at the Plymouth-hosted tri-meet. The Chiefs edged Northville (138.175) and Waterford United (125.875). The Chiefs have plenty of returnees who have had considerable success and those veterans will be called upon to keep rolling and try and offset the graduation of Haley Hodgson and Stephanie Cox from the 2015-16 squad that went 11-1 and earned KLAA and regional championships.

Those include senior captain Jana Hilditch, senior Kelsea Kernosek, juniors



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton returnee Jana Hilditch is one of the team's strong all-around performers back from last year's regional champs.

Rachel Socha, Katie Dickson and Annika Wang and sopho-

mores Katherine Najduk and Bree Kalinsky.

A group of promising gymnasts include newcomers between grades 9-11. Juniors Victoria Faber, Kendall Chemotti and Payton Cheslick, sophomore Jaymi Giardin and freshmen Zoe Graves, Nehal Harish and Kaitlyn Lutowsky look like they won't miss a beat.

"Canton will be even stronger than our 11-1 record team from last year," Cunningham said. "We will be a challenge for everyone and certainly aim at repeating as KLAA and regional champions and aim higher than fifth in the state."

Highlights for the Chiefs at the tri-meet included Dickson's first on balance beam (9.25) and floor exercise (tying with teammate Socha at 8.875), a 9.05 by Kernosek on vault, Faber's 9.2 on beam (second place), Najduk's consistency across the board (8.85 on vault, 8.475 on uneven parallel bars, 8.7 on beam) and solid all-around scores by Erim McCallum (34.45), Graves (33.775) and Faber (33.625).

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

USA HOCKEY

St. Cyr posts first shutout for NTDP

Pete Krupsky
Correspondent

U.S. Under-18 National Team head coach John Wroblewski often speaks of the process it takes for his team to learn to win.

On Thursday night at USA Hockey Arena, the U18 squad found out how to win in a different way, grinding out a 1-0 victory over the Cedar Rapids Roughriders – the first time the team had won a 1-0 game in its two-year-tenure.

Second star Logan Cockerill scored the only goal of the game at 10:45 of the second period, lifting a rising shot from the hash marks through traffic past RoughRiders goaltender Drew DeRidder (Fenton), the game's third star in stopping 37 of the 38 shots he faced. Setting up the goal was Scott Reedy.

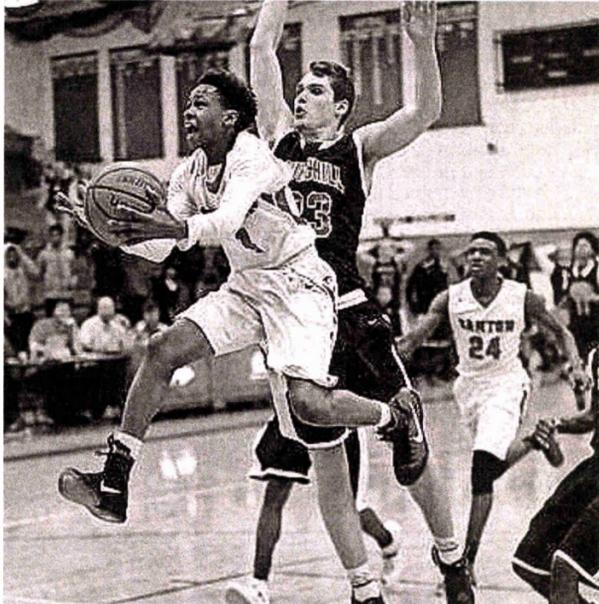
NTDP U18 goaltender Dylan St. Cyr (the game's first star) stopped all 15 shots he faced in recording his first NTDP shutout.

St. Cyr, a Northville resident, clinched the shutout in the third period, making excellent stops close-in on Bobby Hampton and Matt Kidney to preserve the victory.

Cedar Rapids game into the game 3-16-1-1, all of its wins coming in its last three games while allowing just two goals.

The same script prevailed Thursday. The U18 squad controlled the play for much of the game in outshooting Cedar Rapids, 38-15. The RoughRiders clogged neutral ice and packed it in front of their goaltender.

Meanwhile, St. Cyr played well in the third period and the U.S. held the fort defensively to earn its 12th win of the year.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton guard B. Artis White, shown in a game last season, and his teammates could not get untracked Friday at Belleville.

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

of a twinbill between the campus rivals.

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, Canton's and Salem's girls basketball teams will open the evening's festivities.

PCA stymied

On Thursday at Lutheran Westland, tough defense by the Warriors handed Plymouth Christian Academy a 65-46 defeat.

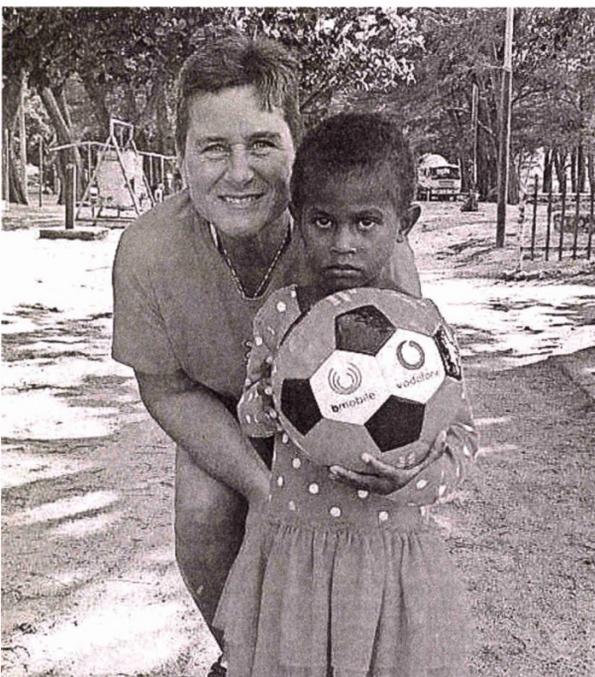
After a close first quarter, which ended with the Warriors up 12-11, a 19-point surge in the second opened up a 31-21 half-

time lead. The Eagles could not mount a comeback after that.

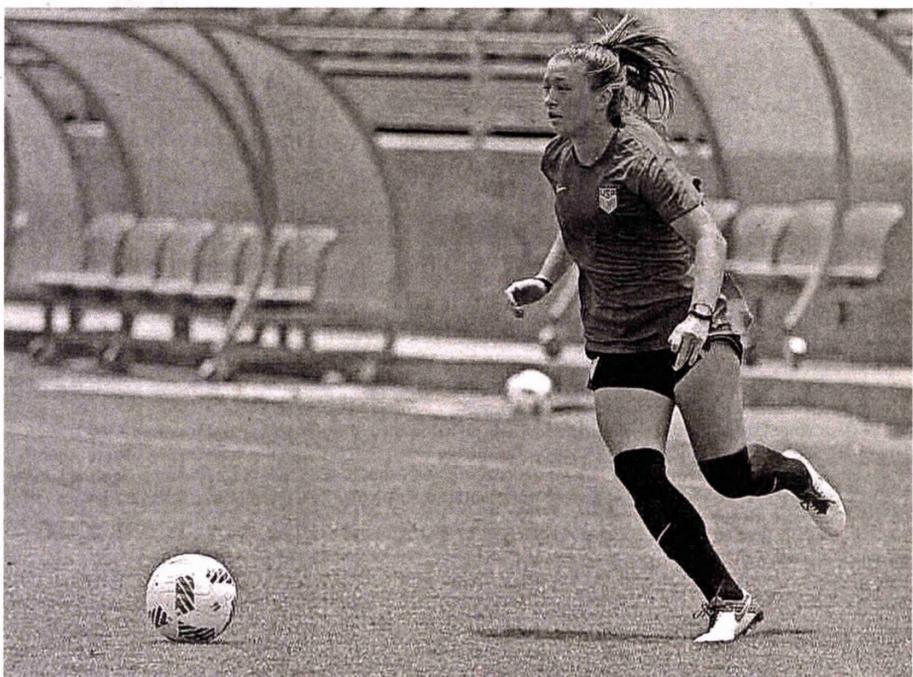
Zach Burk led the way with 21 points, while Luke Smith was stellar with 17 points, 18 rebounds and four blocks. Chipping in 12 points was Kyle Farley. Also solid with 11 boards and 12 assists was Kory Barikmo.

PCA's top performers were Max Okolo (10 points), Ian Hay and Brian Schlientz (eight points each).

"Our guys were very committed to winning this game on the defensive end of the floor," Lutheran Westland coach Jim Hoelt said. "We extended our lead in the second quarter and kept it at double digits from there."



Canton's Lisa Petersen poses with a Papua New Guinea child after giving her a soccer ball.



U.S. Under-20 Women's National Team player Courtney Petersen looks to send the ball to a teammate during action in Papua New Guinea.

PETERSEN

Continued from Page B1

"I did have to take this semester off from the University of Virginia," Petersen wrote in an email to the Observer. "But I had 32 players that had my back with it all. I wouldn't have been able to do it without my team back in Virginia."

Sharing the love

Her team in Papua New Guinea had her back, too. It included Petersen's philanthropic parents, Lisa and David Petersen.

"I was grateful to have my parents in the stands," she wrote. "To be able to represent my country is one thing, but to have my parents there supporting me with their jerseys was unbelievable."

"I for sure would not be where I am with out those two wonderful people."

People in Papua New Guin-

ea would agree with that assessment, as Petersen's parents did much more than watch their daughter's team — they went out and spread the soccer love.

Helping them to connect with people, plus give them smiles and soccer balls in the process, were Anne and Matt Bowen from the United States embassy.

"The culture here is very difficult and overwhelming at times," Lisa Petersen wrote, also via email. "But (we're) so

blessed to have been a part of it. Everyone is so friendly.

"We had some soccer balls. And every day on our walk we stop and give to one child a ball. Seeing their faces light up takes your breath away."

She added that such interactions are "so sad, but so rewarding."

Of course, the Petersens also were on Cloud 9 to share a big experience in Courtney's life.

"Seeing all this here in PNG has been very overwhelming,"

Lisa continued. "Seeing Courtney live her dream, there are no words to explain how blessed we are."

"Courtney has worked so hard, never giving up even when coaches and teammates seemed to have given up on her."

"God gave her a talent to play soccer at this level and we are all enjoying the experience."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

P-CCS WRESTLING TRI-MEET

Plymouth cohesive in opening win

New coach Leege optimistic that 2016-17 season could be 'fun' for squad

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Plymouth's new varsity wrestling coach, Josh Leege, came away from his team's first action of the 2016-17 season very encouraged about what the future might hold.

The Wildcats were strong throughout the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Tri-Meet at Salem, defeating the host Rocks, 53-25. Salem, meanwhile, dropped a 45-32 decision to Canton in the night's other match-up.

In fact, they took care of business quickly with six first-period pins against the Rocks. "Our wrestlers proved their hard work in conditioning and utilized the technique we have practiced leading up to this meet," Leege said.

Tyler Campbell (112), Jezan Sukhadia (125), Zach Lundberg (135), Artis Jackson (171), Ethan Shulaw (189) and Andrew Atallah (215) and each pinned their opponents in two minutes or less.

And 285-pounder Zach Lohrmann needed just 3:32 to bring down Salem's Jacob Giorgi.

Something that wasn't lost on Leege were the extra points collected by wrestlers gutting

out bouts for everything they could get.

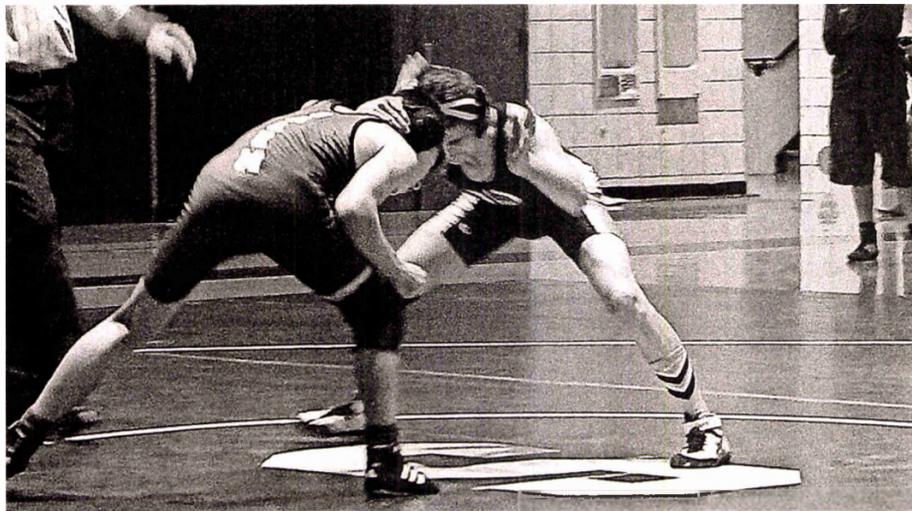
"Hunter LeForge (140) and Calvin Vos (152) both lost their matches," Leege said. "But they were able to hold off from being pinned, which helped our team from giving away too many points."

"We thought Calvin had his match won when he got a reversal in the third period and put Taj Traylor on his back. The clock ran out before he could secure a pin, but Calvin earned three near-fall points, bringing the match within two points."

Also ready to chip in were freshman Ian Udell (103) and Lucas Harden (145), but they won via forfeit for 12 extra points.

"The team is strong and very supportive of one another," Leege added. "I see this being a very tight-knit group and they are already displaying in practice room how important it is to them to challenge each other and themselves."

"I think, given the strong performance of wrestlers last night and their support of new additions to the lineup, this team already knows we are going to have fun this season."



Plymouth's Tyler Campbell (right) locks into battle with a Salem opponent Wednesday.

Rough going

Opening night was anything but fun for Salem, however.

"This was a tough night for us," Salem head coach Jeremy Henderson said. "We have 11 new guys in our lineup this year. We had 10 seniors graduate, but that is what proves your a good program — to year in and year out produce a winning team and we got to get better."

Salem bright spots included

160-pounder Bruce Haslitt (two pins) and 130-pounder Akash Rai, each coming away with victories.

Tyler Knop, who wrestled 140 in one match and 145 in the other, went 2-0 for the Rocks.

Collin Schultz (11-0 major decision at 112) and heavy-weight Giorgi (who who via pin against Canton) were other Salem victors (not including voids).

"We just have to eliminate

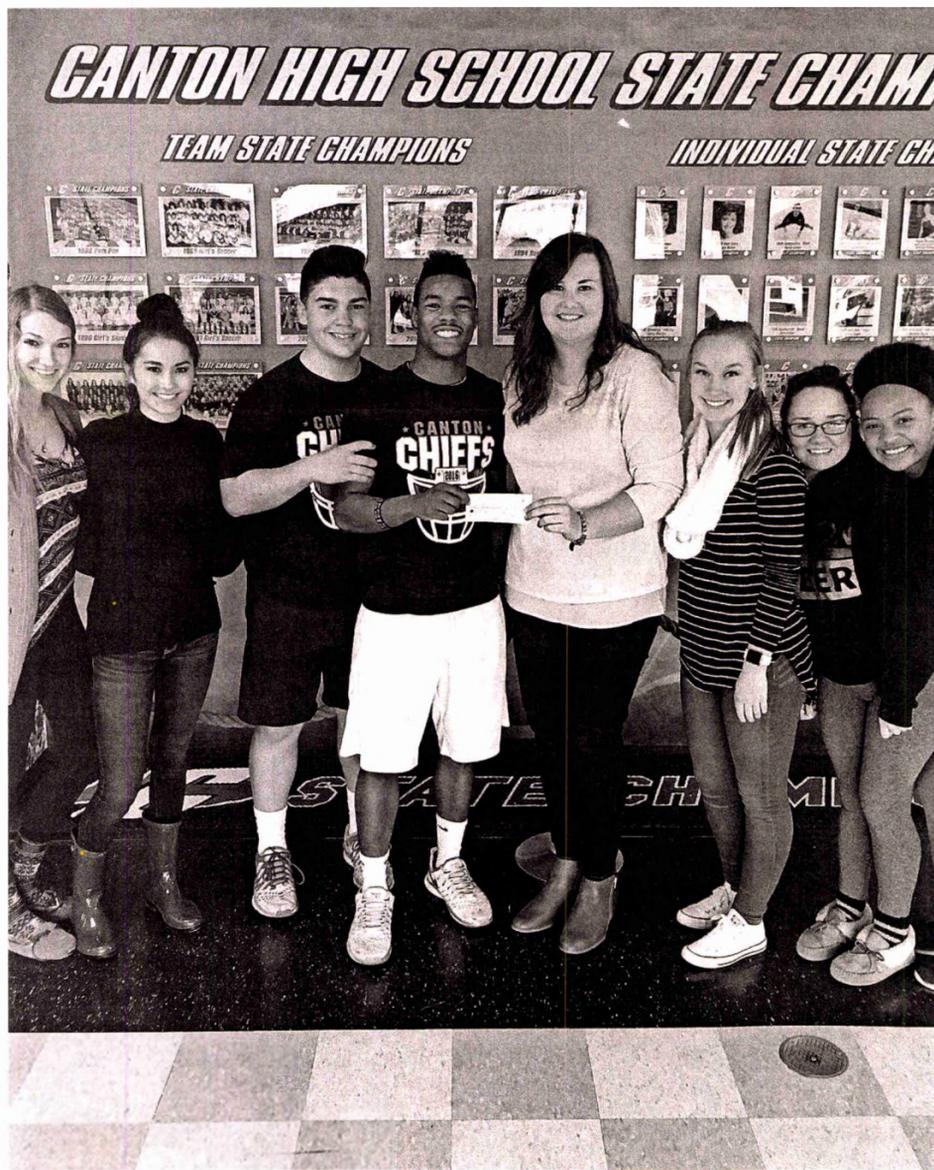
the tiny mistakes, get more aggressive and get better everyday," Henderson said.

Collecting pins against Salem for the Chiefs were Mitch Winnie (119), Justin Winnie (135), Zack Dehnke (140), Chris Little (171) and Noah VanBerkel (189).

Jonathan Valchine won a 3-0 decision at 215 for Canton.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

Chiefs fight cancer



VERNON CRUMP

Canton High School student-athletes from the football, pom and cheer programs recently presented a check for more than \$1,500 to the American Cancer Society. The money was raised through the "Coaches vs. Cancer" event during the football season. From left are Morgan Fillmore (pom), Grace Brekkie (pom), Lou Baechler (football), Julian Thornton (football), Megan Schaper (American Cancer Society), Jenna Milewski (pom), Claire Schomberger (cheer) and Jitte Okaybare (cheer).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Canton works OT for clutch victory over Huron, 50-47

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Unfazed by a long layoff, due to a scheduled game against Detroit King not being played Dec. 1, Canton's varsity girls basketball team played an inspired game Friday at Ann Arbor Huron.

The Chiefs (2-1) earned a hard-fought 50-47 victory over host Huron, coached by Lindsay Klemmer (formerly of Salem).

Canton got out early to 32-23 halftime lead thanks to the hot shooting of Erin Hult (10 points in the first quarter, 16 for the night).

But Huron ultimately went up late in regulation before Brianna Finn drained a triple to put the Chiefs up by a point.

Huron did force overtime, but Canton took control with Finn (18 points) and Alaina Heitmeyer (eight points) each scoring four points in the extra period.

A key to the win was the play of Madison Wolfbauer, who had 14 rebounds.

Plymouth bounced

Despite 15 points by Chantal LeDoux and a seven-point, 10-rebound night by Gabby Chouinard, the Plymouth Wildcats dropped to 0-3 with Friday's 51-39 loss to Saline.

Coach Drew Ballard said his team lacked intensity at the start of the contest and that put the Wildcats in a tough spot. In the second half, however, the team came together and played well — other than having trouble hitting free throws.

In addition to LeDoux and Chouinard, the Wildcats received solid games from Becca Przybylo (seven points) and Mikayla Rose (six points).

PCA WINS BIG: Plymouth Christian Academy improved to 2-0 Thursday with a resounding 50-18 triumph over host Lutheran Westland.

The Eagles took control early with a 17-0 first quarter and went up 31-5 at the intermission.

According to PCA head coach Rod Windle, it was his team's full-court press and "lights out shooting" in the first half (44 percent) that put the Warriors into a hole.

Kennedy Home led PCA with 11 points.

Other PCA scorers were Aliya Pries, Taylor Mistle and Jordan Reed with eight points each, Lydia Chapel (six), Robin Albert (four), Hannah Shulz (three) and Sarah Fernandez (two).

COLLEGE GOLF

Smith ready for Ramblin' Wreck

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Ben Smith can't wait to get to Georgia Tech next fall — because of the weather, more than anything else.

The Detroit Catholic Central High senior golfer from Novi, who recently signed an NCAA Division I letter of intent with the Yellow Jackets, also considered offers from Michigan and Michigan State.

But the warmer climate eventually won out.

"I think I chose Georgia Tech because being able to go down south and play year-round is a huge factor in golf," Smith said, "and not having to take that break in the winter or practice indoors, I can be outside on the grass the whole year is a huge asset."

Georgia Tech's men's golf has a storied history, not only in the ACC, but also nationally. The Yellow Jackets have qualified for the NCAA tournament 23 of the past 26 years.

"They always do really

well," Smith said. "Last year was probably their worst year. They didn't make NAAs for the first time in, like, 14 years, but normally they're really a good school. This year, they've got two really good freshmen that are starting in the top five right now, so they're doing really well."

Among Georgia Tech's alumni who were ranked in the top 125 in this year's FedEx Cup standings were Stewart Cink, Ollie Schniederjans, Cameron Tringale, Matt Kuchar and Roberto Castro.

Georgia Tech offers all the amenities for its men's golf team.

"They're making a new facility right now and it will be finished by the time I get there for my freshman year," Smith said. "They've got a really big outdoor facility there in the city, too."

Georgia Tech also offers a strong academic program. Smith, who carries a 3.75 grade-point average, plans to study either finance or go into engineering.

BOYS HOCKEY

Livonia teams win with ease

Spartans, Chargers roll in KLAAs twinbill; Canton wins in overtime

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Despite everything Livonia Franklin sophomore goalie Will Augustine could do to keep his team in Wednesday's varsity boys hockey game against Livonia Stevenson, the Spartans had too much firepower.

Six different Spartans put pucks past Augustine, but he was brilliant — stopping 54 of

60 shots at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

At the other end of the ice, Stevenson goalie Derek Dudek only needed to turn aside six shots by the Patriots.

Stevenson tallied two goals in each period, with single markers by Jake Beaune, Alex Walkuski, Seth Lause, Teo Gomaluk, Brendan Hall and Logan Dunham.

Beaune and Morgen Gray each helped the cause with two assists.

CHURCHILL 5, W.L. NORTHERN 1: In Wednesday's nightcap at Eddie Edgar, Livonia Churchill built a comfortable 4-0 lead after two periods and went on to post the victory.

The Chargers enjoyed a 51-15 edge in shots on goal. Andrew Broyles only gave up one in the third, to briefly cut the Churchill lead to 4-1.

Scoring two goals each for the Chargers were John Doyle and Jordan Venegoni. Recording the other goal was Josh Friend.

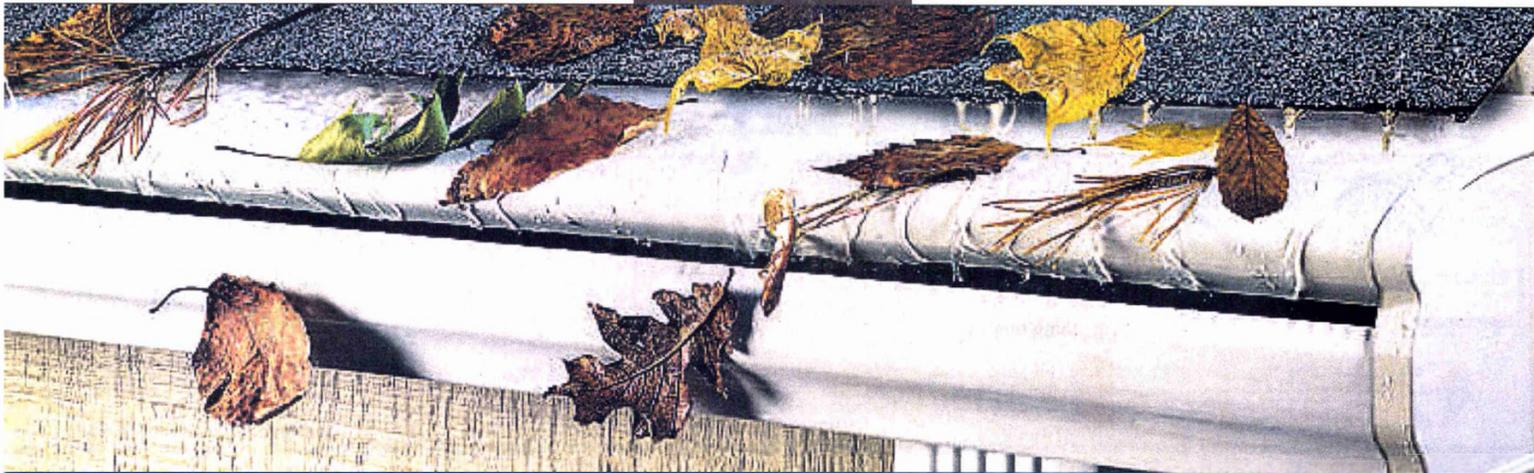
Doyle added two assists for a four-point night, while Venegoni chipped in an assist to go along with his pair of goals. Tyler Haydu drew a pair of assists.

CANTON 7, SOUTH LYON 6 (OT): On Wednesday, Emerson Taylor's power-play goal with 41 seconds in the final period forced overtime and his power-play goal with 2:02 in extra time gave the Chiefs (2-2, 1-1 KLAAs South) the Kensington Conference crossover victory over host South Lyon Unified (1-2-1, 0-2 KLAAs Central) at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

Taylor finished with a hat trick, while Brendan Kacic and Grant Davison both added two goals for Canton. Matt England scored twice for SLU, while Nick Allerton chipped in a goal and two assists. Grant Gardiner and Sean Millane both contributed a goal and assist, while Zach VanBoven had the other SLU goal.

Other assists went to Garrett Weyh (two), Aaron Caico, Anthony Bagnasco and Ashton Jones.

Bailey Dugan was in goal for the Chiefs, while Jared Paugh was SLU's goaltender.



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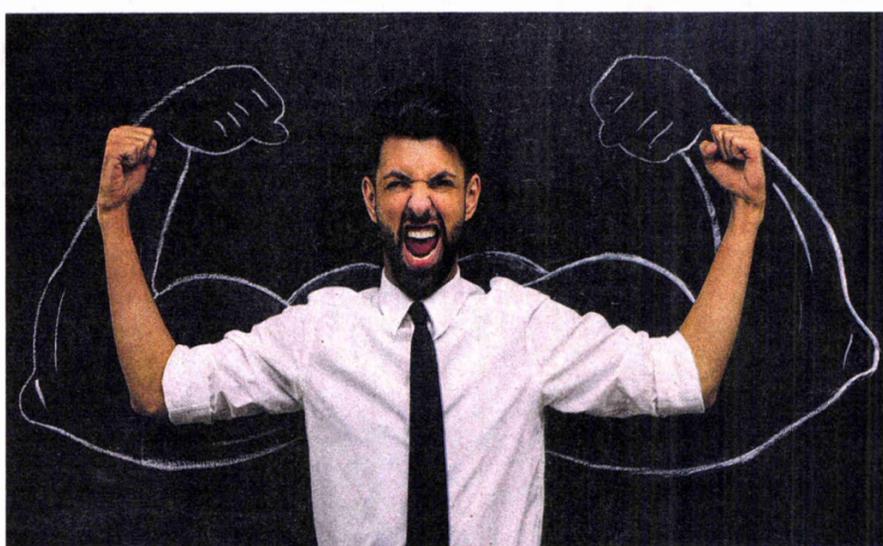
BY DEANNA HARTLEY
 CAREERBUILDER

Whether you feel stuck in a rut at work or are just looking for challenges to help you grow professionally, you're not alone — but it is up to you to take the first step toward revitalizing your career.

"Whatever you do, don't let yourself become stagnant," says Gayle Katz, a marketing professional and author of the "Grounded Girl's Guide" e-books. "If you're unhappy, uninspired or not challenged, make a thoughtful change. Ultimately, that will propel you further faster so you can be engaged and excited each day, have purpose and know you're on your way to accomplishing your dreams."

Consider these five tips to help you with your career development.

1. Accept responsibility by taking control of your career. "It isn't the job of your boss or your HR department or your company to have you be inspired — it is your job," says Ben Brooks, CEO of Pilot, a tech startup that helps managers retain their best talent. "In reality, we have a lot more flexibility in our jobs than we realize. Balance doing things on your own with involving your manager, and



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do both to optimize your job to be more inspiring."

2. Research solutions and involve people who can help. You still don't have to embark on your journey alone. If you're feeling stuck, identify the right person to approach within your company, keeping in mind that it isn't necessarily your boss.

"Schedule time with that person in order to start a discussion about how you can begin the process of learning or how you can continue to grow," Katz says. "Make sure to bring the ideas that you researched. Ask them for their thoughts and feedback. Make sure to come away from the

meeting with specific topics you can consider learning."

3. Brainstorm ways to integrate your passions into your work. Bianca Jackson, a career happiness expert, recommends thinking about how you can solve a company problem related to your own interests. "For example, if you're a Snapchat expert, you can help the marketing department include Snapchat in their social media strategy," she says.

4. Pursue learning opportunities whenever possible. You should never stop learning. Take this time to stretch yourself professionally.

"Think what would make you better at your job or give you a more nuanced perspective. Then, look for opportunities to invest in yourself and gain the skills that will help you get a deeper connection to your work," says Martha Schmitz, a senior adviser at Mentat, an organization that hires, manages and mentors candidates and employees. "By challenging your brain to learn something new in one area, you may feel reinvigorated in all aspects of your job as you figure out ways to apply your new learning."

5. Remind yourself why you chose your job in the first place.

Once you identify the reasons, you can try to integrate elements of that initial passion into your current responsibilities.

Erin Jump Fry, CEO of the Indianapolis-based bakery Fancy Fortune Cookies, says that when you get bogged down in the more mundane tasks, it can be easy to lose sight of what makes you passionate about your business — a problem she has experienced herself.

"That's when I remind myself to return to my earlier days with the company, when I spent much more of my time on creative tasks," she says. "When I actively participate in generating marketing ideas, I find the enthusiasm to implement them. When I get personally involved in styling our photos, that fires me up about our branding. When I take time to work on new product ideas, I notice I become much more engaged with promoting them on our social media sites. Stay connected creatively to your job and what it was that attracted you to do it in the first place."

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

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Car Report

BRANDS ACCELERATING INTO THE FUTURE: FORD WITH MOBILITY FOCUS, NISSAN WITH SERVICE CONNECTIVITY



By Dale Buss

For Ford, its new mobility strategy is more than just featuring a new float in the America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit, as it did this year.

And for Nissan, a new global service-connectivity strategy is attempting to move beyond a relatively passive platform that really hasn't advantaged the company's dealers all that much, despite the massive amounts of maintenance and condition data that are generated by every Nissan and Infiniti it has sold for the last several years.

Each company, like all its rivals, is addressing the challenges and opportunities that are being created by the rapid digitization of the automobile, which ranges from new uses for "telematics" systems to new definitions of the very nature of automotive transportation.

Ford, for instance, has been preparing for a different future for a couple of years now, since CEO Mark Fields abruptly pivoted toward self-driving as more of a growth engine for the company than as an afterthought.

This evolution is given more urgency by the fact that, after seven years of significant increases, it looks as though the US auto market finally has leveled off, likely the precursor to at least a gradual sales decline over the next few years.

So dramatic has the transformation in his viewpoint and priorities been that, at the Los Angeles Auto Show, it was Fields—not Elon Musk or the chief of a Japanese, German or Korean automaker—casting a vision of a future of "smart cities" full of mobility innovations.

And Fields said he wants Ford to provide the tools for a utopia where illegal parking is unknown, where eco-friendly bicycles help commuters get from parking lots to their final work destinations, where software and vehicle-to-vehicle communications help commuters avoid the choking traffic situations of today's

rush hours.

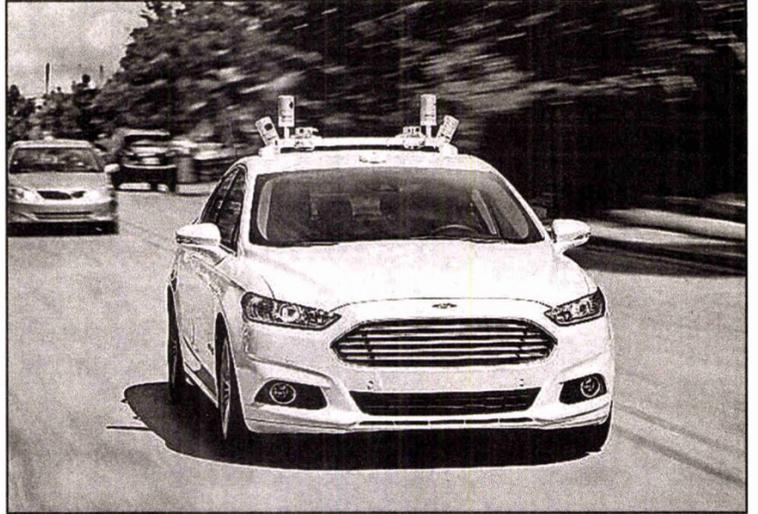
"We really are on the cusp of a mobility revolution," Fields said at the show last month. "From our vantage point, cities carry the biggest rewards and risks."

It wasn't that long ago Fields began describing a Ford Motor Co. that just as easily could be renamed Ford Mobility Co., a company whose traditional business of building and selling vehicles for individual consumers and businesses is gradually supplanted by one in which services that accomplish sustainable mobility goals—through ride-sharing, new apps and

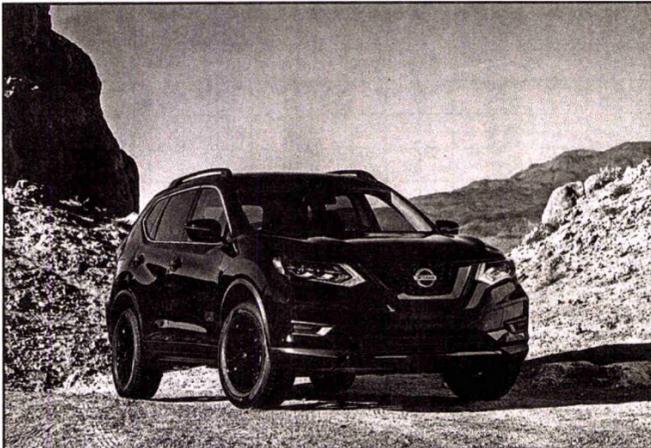
other solutions—make up just as important a part.

For example, earlier this year Ford bought Chariot, a crowd-sourced shuttle service that operates in California and soon will expand across the globe. Ford also has incentivized employees to come up with electric-powered bicycles as part of an urban-mobility future. And Fields has said that Ford plans to launch its own self-driving vehicle by 2025.

"Working together with cities is good for our business," he said in LA. "We'll see substantial revenue opportunity in providing mobility solutions to millions of commuters in the US and the growing work force in several major cities globally."



Ford projects its vehicles will have no steering wheel, gas, or brake pedals.



Nissan said it will begin its wireless service in Japan and India in 2017, followed by other countries through 2020.

Meanwhile, Nissan has joined the ranks of auto brands intending to use connectivity between itself and the owners of its vehicles to lock them in as service customers instead of losing them to third-party chains and other competitors.

For Nissan and its dealers, the company's plan to use wireless links to vehicles to provide information about the car's diagnostics and location could be a big boost to revenues because it opens up a new, largely untapped arena.

The ability to monitor each individual vehicle for its condition and needs—and to communicate with the owner on an ongoing basis—will essentially serve as "a giant customer retention and after-sales marketing program, while making sure that no outsiders such as Google or Apple get their hands on the data," reports Forbes.

"Nissan has a clear plan to develop its aftersales business by leading the industry in delivering the latest technology

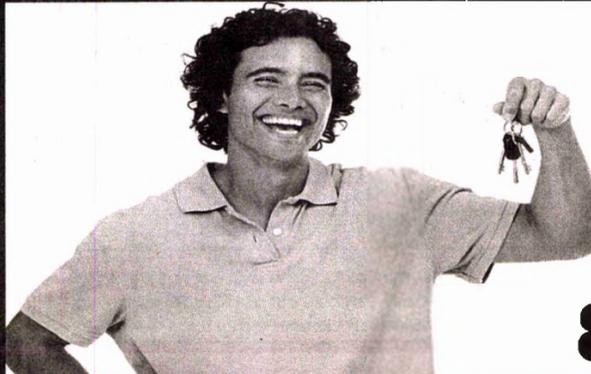
to our customers around the world," said Kent O'Hara, Nissan Corporate Vice President and head of the Global Aftersales Division.

"This strategy is about giving our customers more choices and new services to make the ownership experience better. It will also help us expand our connected-car, big-data and personalization innovations to improve the customer experience and open up new revenue streams for the company."

O'Hara added, "We'll know what's wrong with that vehicle, we'll know where the vehicle is, we'll know what parts are needed for the vehicle ... and we can provide convenient service and alternative transportation options."

In fact, Nissan expects the new connected-car strategy to yield 25 percent of aftersales revenue by 2022. It will begin the new services in Japan and India next year, then follow in other countries through 2020.

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