

# Canton Observer

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY

**Newcomers:** The Canton Newcomers will hold their monthly meeting 7 p.m. at the Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford. The organization is designed for women living in or near Canton who are interested in civic, social and charitable activities. For information call (734) 451-5426 or visit the Web site at: [www.cantonnewcomers.com](http://www.cantonnewcomers.com)

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Newsroom: 734-459-2700  
 Newsroom Fax: 734-459-4224  
 E-mail: [tschneider@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:tschneider@oe.homecomm.net)  
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## Wanted: New chief for chamber

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER  
STAFF WRITER  
[tschneider@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:tschneider@oe.homecomm.net)

Ryan Ambrozaitis has resigned after 18 months as executive director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

Ambrozaitis, 30, stepped down to pursue other opportunities this week in a mutual agreement with the chamber's board of directors. His last day at work was Monday.

"I am proud of the major accomplishments the Canton chamber achieved over the last year and a half," Ambrozaitis said Thursday. We have a fabulous board of directors, great committees and a good staff."

A one-paragraph statement from the board Thursday praised Ambrozaitis for his many "successful accomplishments over the past one-and-a-half-years" and wished him "continued success."

Please see CHAMBER, A4



The first place to visit when you're looking for a new place to live? The Real Estate ads in today's

HomeTown Classifieds!



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

**Deadly decision:** Mazin Naim Khoory, the front-seat passenger in this 1989 Mercury Marquis, was killed when the car was struck by a train on Warren Road. Mazin's brother Ziad, who was driving, was injured in the crash.

## 1 killed, 1 hurt in wreck at Canton rail crossing

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
[sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net)

A 32-year-old Canton man was killed and his brother badly injured Thursday when a train smashed into their car on Warren Road.

Mazin Naim Khoory was pronounced dead on the scene at approximately 5:45 p.m. His brother, Ziad Naim Khoory, 35, also of Canton, is listed in fair condition at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

According to township police

reports, the elder brother was driving at the time of the accident. Khoory, police said, went around warning gates just east of Lotz Road and was struck broadside by a northbound train.

"It's clearly a situation where they made a fatal mistake by going around the gates," Canton Police Officer Leonard Schemanske said. "Because of the massive size of the train, it's hard to judge its speed."

A train was parked just north of the railroad crossing facing southbound, said Schemanske. A second train, which police estimate was

traveling at 40 miles per hour, came through the crossing heading northbound.

"Witnesses said they kept looking left (or north)," Schemanske said, "and never looked right."

The car was struck on the passenger side door. Force of the impact knocked the brothers' vehicle into a nearby ravine just north of Warren Road.

Mazin Khoory was trapped inside the 1989 Mercury Marquis while his brother was ejected into the ravine. Neither was wearing a

See WRECK, A2

## Player collapses at game, dies

Mark Bolger wasn't a star but loved to play basketball as Salem High School's '12th man' off the bench, said his father, Jeff. Family and friends were still struggling Saturday with the teen's sudden half-time collapse during Friday's game with Livonia Stevenson.

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Salem junior Mark Bolger loved being part of the Rocks basketball team. He was far from being the star player, but he loved the camaraderie with his teammates.

"He was the 12th man, but he loved being a part of the fight and the strategy," said his father, Jeff. "He'd only play about 30 seconds or a minute, and that was generally if the team was in a position that allowed for him to get in. But he knew and accepted his role."

Today, Bolger's family of Plymouth Township is struggling to understand why their son collapsed during halftime of Friday night's home game with Livonia Stevenson, before being pronounced dead at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

"He was one of my best friends, one of the best people I know," said Jeff Bolger. "He was very smart, and while not the best athlete, loved to compete."

Jeff Bolger was called by the public address



Mark Bolger

See PLAYER DIES, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BLUESCHMANN

**Pit stop:** A Cessna four-seater is backed into the maintenance hangar.

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
[sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net)

To borrow a phrase, Canton-Plymouth Mettetal Airport has come a long way, baby.

Since being purchased by the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics in 1993, the 63-acre facility at the corner of Joy and Lilley roads has undergone dramatic changes.

From improved maintenance and runway lighting to state-of-the-art weather tracking and a new plane taxiway, Mettetal has received much more than a cosmetic face-lift, according to state and local officials.

"A great deal of positive things have happened since the state purchased it," said Al Bosonetto, president of Experimental Aircraft Association chapter 113. "Management is more stable. Maintenance of the grounds is better. I don't think anybody sees long grass or things in disarray anymore. It has become a first-class organization."

One of the people most responsible for Mettetal's turnaround is Randy Collier. The bureau of aeronautics licensing and enforcement manager acts as supervisor of the airport.

He recently made a state-of-the-airport presentation to Canton's Board of Trustees. Collier outlined work done at Mettetal since 1993.

"I'm pleased with the progress we've made," he said. "I think we've

done what we said we would do."

The bureau, which is a division of Michigan's Department of Transportation, has completed more than 50 projects at Mettetal since taking over.

### Improvements

"It was in pretty bad shape when we bought it," said Collier. "There was a lot of deferred maintenance. Many of the hangars were in bad shape as well."

Enclosed counterweights for doors, roof replacement and other repairs have been done to the airport's hangars. A 14-unit "T-hangar," which cost \$450,000, was also installed.

Mettetal currently has 126 hangars. Collier said more will be added as soon as funding allows.

"I'd like to see more new hangars," added Fixed Base Operator Doug Kitze. "We have a waiting list of 200 plus."

Mettetal's runway was rebuilt and widened. Collier said drainage was improved and the runway enlarged from a width of 45 to 75 feet for safety.

"Forty five feet is very narrow," he added. "If there were significant crosswinds, it was difficult to land."

The taxiway adjacent to the runway was also redone. Pilots previously had to steer through several turns before taking off.

"It's a straight shot now," Collier said.

# PLANE AND SIMPLE

## Airport activity takes off with changes



FILE PHOTO

**Historical view:** The Mettetal Airport office building as it appeared in 1954. Recent improvements have updated the facility, thanks to an influx of funds from the state.

The runway's lighting system was modernized, too. Precision Approach Path Indicator lights were installed to, again, enhance safety, Collier said.

Beyond the runway, a 20,000-gallon fuel farm was installed. It allows pilots to fuel planes themselves.

Mettetal's terminal building was pruned up with new carpeting and painting. Collier said a key move was paving the parking adjacent to the building.

"That was the first thing we did," he said. "That went a long way to improving the airport's appearance."

**Jack-of-all-trades**  
Kitze wears many hats at Mettetal, including maintenance man.

When it snows he's the one who clears the runway. He'll also be the one who cuts the grass and does the landscaping this summer.

As fixed base operator, Kitze is responsible for collecting hangar rents and repairing airplanes when needed in short, if it needs to be done at Mettetal, see Doug.

"I'm generally here seven days a week," he said.

Kitze, who became Mettetal's FBO in 1994, also runs a flight school. His aviation school is currently working with about 100 students.

Would-be pilots range from early teens to late 70s, according to Kitze. Lessons are conducted every day at the airport.

Kitze believes in getting students off the ground - in a hurry.

"Many of our first lessons are in the air," he commented. "If you can drive to the airport, you can fly a plane."

Please see AIRPORT, A3

# 'Everybody wanted to be Mark Bolger's friend'

BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER

Quiet. Unassuming. And competitive.

Mark Bolger was all of these things. A highly motivated athlete, Mark would run almost every day. In the fall, he ran cross country. In the winter, he played basketball. In the spring, he ran track.

In all of these, he was a varsity-level competitor. Only natural for Mark. He was also a top-notch student.

"He was at the top of his class," said Rick Wilson, Bolger's junior varsity basketball coach and assistant to varsity coach Bob Brodie. Wilson was also Bolger's counselor.

"He took the most challenging classes we offered," Wilson added. "The kid could run like

the wind. "That's what's so puzzling about this."

The shock surrounding Bolger's death was palpable Saturday. "I've known him since third grade," said friend Ryan Haydon. "So did Jeff (Haar)."

Confirmation of his friend's death didn't come until after the game, when the team gathered at Nick Tochman's house. Brodie, Wilson and the rest of the Salem coaching staff brought the tragic news.

"I just started crying uncontrollably," Haydon said.

The team spent the night at Tochman's home. What else they might do to honor their friend and teammate was still being considered. A wristband bearing his jersey number - 30 - was one alternative. His health was not in ques-

tion. All athletes, from freshmen level to varsity, are required to have a physical examination on file, according to Salem athletic administrator John Robinson. "They don't even get to tryout unless they have a physical on file in our office," Robinson said.

"That physical must be signed by a physician; it must include the athlete's history and current condition, and it must be done annually. Bolger had no previous physical problems, Robinson said.

Bolger's cross country and track coach, Geoff Baker, was out of town Saturday. His wife, Sue, knew Mark.

"Everybody wanted to be Mark Bolger's friend," she said. "He was just a wonderful boy. What happened is just a shame. It's awful."

## Player dies from page A1

announcer to the boys locker room at halftime. When he arrived, he saw coaches attempting CPR on Mark.

"He was grasping for a breath, and then stopped breathing," said Bolger, who assisted in trying to resuscitate his son. "I tried as hard as I could, everybody did."

Canton Township EMS arrived and transported the 16-year-old student to St. Mary.

"He was at the hospital for about 20 minutes before he passed away," said his mother, Pam.

Rocks' coach Bob Brodie said Mark collapsed during his half-time talk.

"He was sitting down and then he slumped over," said Brodie. "We gently laid him down and began CPR. I stayed with him until the ambulance left."

The rest of the team was sent back onto the floor at the end of halftime to finish the game. The Wayne County Medical Examiner's office said it will take approximately 6-8 weeks to determine the cause

of death. "Mark was in very good shape. He was very careful about what he ate. He took good care of himself," his mother said.

Pam Bolger also described her son as "a teacher's dream." Mark had straight A's throughout his school career, and had just been accepted into the National Honor Society.

"He worked hard at school, and recently finished in the 98 percentile in the PSAT tests," she said.

According to his dad, Mark did a lot of research on college, with his early choices Michigan, Michigan State, Duke, Brown and Cornell. He considered studies in journalism.

What even makes his death stranger is that Mark was in good shape, participating in cross country, track and soccer along with basketball.

"Mark was a very personable young man, well-liked by his teammates, and always had a kind word," said Brodie. "He always gave a great effort. He'll be dearly missed."

The basketball players had begun a tradition of going to a player's home after a Friday night game, and oddly enough, the team was supposed to go to Mark's home after Friday night's contest.

"He cleaned the basement, had the cards ready on the card table," said Jeff Bolger.

Instead, the team assembled at another player's house, where they were told by coaches that Mark had passed away.

The players spent the night together, talking well into the night before falling asleep.

Mark Bolger is survived by his parents and brother, Bryan, 13, an East Middle School eighth grader.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete as of press time. Visitation is scheduled to begin Sunday at the Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township, from 6-9 p.m. Further information concerning arrangements can be obtained from Vermeulen by calling (734) 459-2250.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Planes sit on the runway outside the main hangar at Mettetal Wednesday.

## Airport from page A1

### Helping hands

If Collier and Kitz are Mettetal's glue, the citizens advisory board is the backbone.

The seven-person board was formed shortly after the state took over. Chairman Mark Merlanti says the board's most important function is to provide a forum for frank discussion about the airport.

"When airport issues come up," he said, "they can be heard in a public forum where anyone can attend."

The board consists of four state-appointed representatives, two Canton residents and one from Plymouth Township. Merlanti said the board is a "procedural animal" that has no binding authority.

The board meets monthly. Merlanti said his job is to run a smooth meeting and make sure the right federal, state or local officials are on hand to answer questions.

"We have the appropriate people at the meetings at the appropriate times," Merlanti said.

### Numbers up

From all indications, improvement and administrative efforts have paid off for Mettetal.

Since its takeover, "movements," which encompass take-offs and landings, have doubled. Mettetal registered about 30,000 movements in 1993.

That number jumped to about 85,000 by 1998, according to Collier. He said that's more than most similar-sized airports and nearly 20,000 movements more than Jackson's airport-which has two runways.

Mettetal's activity level could go even higher in years to come. While no plans are on the board, Collier said the possibility of adding a restaurant to the airport exists.

It would provide revenue and exposure for Mettetal, he explained. Bosonetto said its not uncommon for a group of pilots to fly to specific airports for breakfast or lunch just for the fun of it.

"We call it the \$500 burger," he joked.

### Aviation junkies

Bosonetto's Experimental Aircraft Association chapter has called Mettetal home for nearly four decades.

"Our organization is for people that love airplanes," he said. "We love to talk about them and work on them."

Besides pursuing their hobby, EAA members take an active role at the airport. Bosonetto said they help with maintenance and even don a paint-cap when needed.

In addition, Chapter 113 conducts safety seminars and awards scholarships to aspiring pilots. Then there's the Father's Day Fly-In/pancake breakfast.

"We've been doing it for 15 years now," said Bosonetto. "Part of the proceeds goes to the scholarship fund."

EAA is just happy that it can continue at Mettetal. Bosonetto thinks the state did the right thing in buying the airport.

"As an airport user in the community," he said, "if it had gone away it would've been a dagger in our hearts. We would've had no place to go."

## Big deals

### Canton Library kicks off annual used book sale

BY LAURIE HUMPHREY  
STAFF WRITER

Book aficionados and bargain hunters alike should mark Tuesday on their calendars.

Friends of Canton Public Library will start hosting its 11th annual Big Used Book Sale on that day during regular library hours. The sale continues through the end of the month.

"This is the usually the great big sale in May," said Marcia Barker, Friends and Volunteer Coordinator for Canton Public Library, "but with the new construction going on, the Meeting Room (where the sale is held) will not be available in May."

This event should not be confused with other sales held by Friends of the Canton Public Library. There are three smaller sales each year as well, but those sales focus only on specific items, such as compact discs.

Barker is excited about this year's Big Used Book Sale saying, "We probably have more books than ever before." She attributes the overflow of books to more people donating than ever before.

"Normally, the books are dropped off in the back, but with the construction, all donations had to be accepted right in the library. The donation boxes were put in the front of the library and more people saw them.

### The Big Used Book Sale begins Tuesday and continues throughout February during library hours.

Some people didn't even know we accepted donations before they saw the boxes."

As a result, the 225-member Friends group has hundreds of boxes of donated books.

"We have a wide variety to sell: mystery, non-fiction, biography, technical, romance, children's books - and we also have compact discs, audio tapes, books on tape and videos," said Barker.

"We run the gamut and sell just about everything that isn't nailed down," she quipped.

Most of the items will sell for 50 cents to \$1, but there are some specialty items which will sell for as much as \$10. "But that is rare," Barker admitted.

Money from the sale is used by Friends of the Canton Public Library to support special programs run in the library. Money is also allocated to support special enhancements which are not in the library budget, such as the two large giraffes in the youth section of the library.

While nobody has ever kept

track of how many people attend the Big Used Book Sale, Barker did say the event usually nets \$12,000 to \$15,000. "That's a week's worth of sales," she said. "This is the first time we've done it for a month."

The two most popular sellers at the book sale are children's books and mysteries according to Barker. However, the sales also draw book dealers who will buy all types of books.

Planning for this event is a huge undertaking, and it takes a year-round commitment from volunteers. Books need to be sorted; transported from the drop-off point at the library to the storage facility, which is a tool shed behind the historical Travis-Bartlett House; transportation back to the library for the sale; and workers are also needed at the sale.

"We have a wonderful crew of about 20-25 people," Barker said.

Admission to the event is free and open to everyone. Regular hours of the Canton Public Library, at 1200 S. Canton Center Road, are: 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Questions regarding the Big Used Book Sale should be directed to (734) 397-0999.

## Photo exhibit captures soccer players

Action photographs of local high school soccer players are on display through Feb. 29 at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., Plymouth.

Bill Dean, a professional photo-

tographer from Plymouth, shot the pictures of Plymouth-Salem High School "Rocks" and Plymouth Christian Academy "Eagles" players during their 1999 seasons. The Rocks were

state finalists in 1999 with a 23-2-2 record under head coach Ed McCarthy; the Eagles were regional finalists with a 15-4-4 record under head coach Rick Erickson.

### CLARIFICATION

A story about the WSDP-FM CATCH car raffle on Page A3 in the Jan. 23 Canton Observer

should have identified the contact person for tickets as Kelly Brown of Carron Industries.

Brown can be reached at (313) 730-9478.



### Senior Citizens Day

STOREWIDE SAVINGS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Shop at Parisian and enjoy these special privileges\*

- Savings of 15% for customers aged 50-59
- Savings of 20% for customers aged 60-69
- Savings of 25% for customers age 70 and over
- Register for your Parisian Generations card
- Doors open at 9:00 am

Visit our Fashion Jewelry Department where a Swarovski Representative will be giving away a Free Gift with Swarovski purchase • Limited to the first 20 customers • 9 am-12 pm Refreshments served



\*APPLIES ONLY TO SENIOR CITIZENS DAY AND IS BEHIND MAKE-IT-THAT-DAY. INCLUDING SALES PROMOTIONS AND CLEARANCE. SALES HOURS: FULL-TIME: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; PART-TIME: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. ALL POLYMER, LAUREN, PLYMOUTH, ALL CLAMMY, HILGERS, PLYMOUTH, TOMMY, BANANA, ALL LAUREN, KYLE, PRODUCTS, LAMBERLANE, BERRY, JONES, GOLF, LASSORNE, PERRY, ELLIS, JOSEPH, ABELLO, BARRI, BROWN, ROBERT, TALBOT, HICKY, FREEMAN, WIKING, RODRIGUEZ, TRAFALGAR, JANE, BAINES, SHARPER, BRADY, GIFFS, QUINN, NALFICA, KENNETH, LUCE, NORTH, AL, ADRIANO, MICHAEL, BLACK, EAST, SHIRAZ, JONES, NERBE, ELLIS, BIRNBAUM, NADY, MEDWICK, BRIDGTON, LOWE, HARRIS, E.C. TRANK, BROTHERS, PLYMOUTH, BRESLER, JESSIE, LANE, LUTY, SWACON, NATTIE, DONNA, KARAS, DINKY, CHRISTOPHER, BACIK, GIOVIA, ALL WATERFORD PRODUCTS, CALPHON, ALL CLAD, CAPRE, SIO, JUSTIN, SALON, AND DAY SPA PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. GIFT CERTIFICATE LINE, JEWELRY, SPECIAL ORDERS, AND PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS, CANNOT BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT, COUPON OR OFFER.