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## St. Paddy's Day stories

With St. Patrick's Day coming up, the Canton Observer staff is looking for stories.

Does the holiday mean anything special? Is it a special way you celebrate it? Did anything special happen to you in conjunction with the holiday?

If so, please let us know. Email your stories to editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

## Student scholars

The March 22 deadline is approaching for students to submit applications to receive the Student Citizen Scholarships from the Plymouth Community and Canton Chambers of Commerce.

The two chambers award the scholarships based on community service only, not grade point. There will be a selection committee who will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, Starkweather Academy and a non-PCCS high school student who lives in the district. Scholarships will be at least \$1,000 apiece. Applications can be downloaded from a link on the front page of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools website (www.pccs.k12.mi.us). To apply, return applications to: Community Relations, 454 S. Harvey St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

Deadline is 4 p.m. March 22.



## NCAA touney ticket contest

We are giving away tickets to the men's NCAA basketball tournament at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The tournament is at The Palace on Thursday, March 21 and Saturday, March 23 and we have tickets for both days. To enter, visit our web site, hometownlife.com and click on the Don't Miss module on the right-hand side.

This is a Facebook contest so you can share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest. The drawing is Monday, March 18 and you can enter once every day. Good luck!

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# CANTON OBSERVER

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## One hearing waived, others delayed in Verizon robbery

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Antonio Jerome Porter, one of three defendants charged after police say gunfire erupted during a Canton Verizon store robbery, is facing trial after he voluntarily waived his preliminary examination Friday afternoon in Plymouth's 35th District Court.

Two other defendants, Eric James-Lee Wilkins and Dantez Lamar Boykin-Johnson, had their court proceedings delayed until March 18 amid indications their defense attorneys may challenge weapons charges against them.

Outside the courtroom Friday, Mark Brown, Boykin-Johnson's attorney, said



PHOTO COURTESY CANTON POLICE  
Charged in the Verizon store robbery are (from left) Dantez Lamar Boykin-Johnson, Antonio Jerome Porter and Eric James-Lee Wilkins.

there has been no indication Boykin-Johnson or Wilkins carried weapons when police say a semiautomatic assault rifle was used to

shoot open a sliding glass door of the Verizon store on Ford Road east of Sheldon.

An employee had locked the door as he attempted to thwart an incident that Canton Police say unfolded about 11 a.m. Feb. 25, leading to the arrest of the three defendants. Police say no one was injured as a bullet shattered the glass.

At question, Brown said, is whether Boykin-Johnson and Wilkins should face charges such as felony firearms and discharging a firearm into a building. Ronald Lowe, 35th District judge, cited a "legal issue" as the reason for Friday's adjournment of their preliminary examination.

Please see ROBBERY, A2

## DIGITAL LEARNING K-12

# Meeting kids where they are

Students learn with technology, so district aims to teach that way

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

The need to prepare Plymouth-Canton Community Schools students for life in a digital world is just one of the driving forces behind a bond

**IN THIS SERIES**  
**Today:** The tax impact and bridging the digital divide

**Thursday:** Parental acceptance and what other districts are doing

It is imperative that the schools provide students with the skills to be competitive in a technology-driven global marketplace, as well as develop an



Plymouth-Canton officials believe kids in the technology era learn using electronic devices such as the iPad, and want to move teaching in that direction.

Please see TECHNOLOGY, A4

## School officials: Bond rate will hold steady

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

When Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators decided to recommend the Board of Education seek a \$114.4 million bond issue in a May election, they decided the only way to do it was without

raising the tax rate for district taxpayers.

As they embark upon a campaign to convince the voting public they're right, administrators believe they've done just that.

While acknowledging taxpayers will pay more taxes with the bond than they will without

it, the district's financial staff believes it has devised a plan that won't see the 4.1-mill debt levy raised.

"The board is committed to never going higher than 4.1 (mills)," said Brodie Killian, the district's executive director for

Please see BOND, A5



## Plans for 92-home Canton sub 'a good sign'

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

In yet another sign Canton's housing market is rebounding, a developer intends to construct 92 single-family homes southeast of Cherry Hill and Sheldon Road, township officials said.

Township Building Official John Weyer said the Sheldon Estates subdivision is similar in size to developments that sprang up in Canton before housing starts began to tumble around 2005. "It's very positive, that's for sure," Weyer said. "It's a good sign." Community Planner Jeff Gou-

let said Lombardo Homes — one of Michigan's largest builders — is expected to start the first of two home-construction phases later this year, though a precise start-up time isn't yet known. "We don't see too many 100-lot subdivisions come in anymore," Goulet said. "We're seeing a lot

of demand for new residential (development) this year. There are no houses out there. The inventory is low right now."

## Market share

Bartley Patterson, Realtor for

Please see SUB, A2

# Colbeck: Think differently on roads revenue

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

As Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to increase fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees to raise an additional \$1.2 billion a year for Michigan's roads fails to gain traction, a local state senator has proposed alternative measures he says can achieve the same ends without burdening motorists.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, talked up his plan last week, saying a combination of measures such as reappropriating expenditures, paying down debt, selling advertising and offering concessions at state facilities, and building better-quality, longer-lasting roads, would result in enough money, and savings, to easily match the revenue Snyder said is needed.

Colbeck, a first-term senator who also represents Plymouth and Plymouth Township, said his ideas haven't been put into bills yet but that the Legislative Service Bureau has been asked to draft four related bills. In all, perhaps 18 bills incorporating his road-funding ideas will be introduced, Colbeck said.

Colbeck said his main goal was to start a conversation about the state's spending pri-



Wayne County road crews fill potholes along Hagerty Road.

BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

orities.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "What we're really trying to do is get people to think differently and consider alternatives to raising taxes. It's actually pretty exciting to be a part of it."

Colbeck's idea is he is working with several Senate colleagues on the proposal, but declined to name them. "I don't know if they want to plug in on that right now," he said.

## Tax alternatives

Colbeck's ideas, as explained in a press release and a phone conversation, include:

- Funneling the state's rising revenue — the general fund is anticipated to grow by about \$500 million — to the Michigan

Department of Transportation. Colbeck, calling the increasing receipts an "economic growth dividend," said that if roads are a really a priority, spending increases for other departments, aside from increases to adjust for inflation, should be frozen. "You should be making an investment based on your priorities," he said.

- Paying down debt to save debt-service costs, some \$238 million a year for road bonds alone and \$833 million overall. This would be done over several years, Colbeck said, and could be done only instead of, not along with, the spending freezes he described.

- Generating revenue from state assets, including selling advertising at state facilities

and on state websites, selling contracts for concessions at state parks and highway rest areas, and selling naming rights. He estimated such moves could bring in up to \$462 million a year.

- Ensuring longer-lasting roads by having them built with concrete to higher standards, such as the 40-year lifespan Colbeck said are the norm in Europe and Canada. While those roads would cost more initially, he said, they would save money in the long run. Road-building contracts, he added, should also include a long-term maintenance provision, which would prompt companies to build higher-quality roads at the outset to avoid having to spend more on maintenance when those roads get older.

## Snyder seeks quick cash

Snyder is asking for a 14-cent increase in the gasoline tax and a 19-cent increase in the diesel fuel tax, which would bring both taxes to 33 cents a gallon. He also seeks a 60-percent increase in vehicle registration fees.

The Legislature is showing little interest in the plan, however. Colbeck is adamantly against asking taxpayers and motorists

for more money to fix roads. "I think that would put an unnecessary burden on a lot of our citizens," he said.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, said he wants to see Colbeck's proposal in bill form before weighing in on it. But he isn't ready to support increased taxes either, saying those who do need to make a better case. Meanwhile, he said, alternatives are being explored.

"I think people will be more comfortable paying more if they feel like they're getting the best value for their tax dollars, and we're not there yet," Heise said.

A spokesman in Snyder's office said Colbeck's ideas are welcome and will be part of the discussion, but that the state also needs "an immediate fix" for roads.

"Investing now will prevent further decline in pavement quality and greater costs to taxpayers later on," said Ken Silven, Snyder's deputy press secretary, in an e-mail. "The governor will continue working with his legislative partners so we can tackle this critical challenge in a responsible manner that respects the needs of taxpayers."

mjchman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

## ROBBERY

Continued from page A1

Porter, however, waived his hearing on those charges and other counts of armed robbery, breaking and entering a building with intent to commit a crime, first-degree

retail fraud, receiving and concealing stolen property over \$1,000 and illegally entry with the building owner's permission.

Porter's decision prompted Lowe to send his case to Wayne County Circuit Court for disposition. Porter was brought

into Lowe's courtroom Friday separately from Boykin-Johnson and Wilkins.

Police have said all three defendants are 18 years old. Porter and Wilkins are Inkster residents; Boykin-Johnson is from Westland.

Each of the three men has been jailed with a \$1 million cash bond earlier set by 35th District Judge Michael Gerou. Not-guilty pleas have been entered for them.

A large number of spectators attended Friday's court proceedings. All three defendants could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if they are convicted as currently charged.

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## SUB

Continued from page A1

Canton-based RE/MAX Classic on Ford Road, has estimated Canton has 200 or fewer houses on the market, down sharply from 500 not that long ago.

A developer had planned to construct the Sheldon Estates subdivision a few years ago, but Goulet said those plans became a casualty of the housing market collapse. The latest plans have been referred to the township's planning department for review, starting what will be a three-step process leading to final plat approval. The plans also require approval by the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

The latest housing market news follows a sharp increase in new home starts in Canton. During his State of the Township address Wednesday afternoon at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Supervisor Phil LaJoy said local officials processed 214 new residential permits in 2012, up from just 75 the year before.

Moreover, Assessor Doug Shaw has said Canton's home values for 2013 have increased 3.6 percent, a long-awaited turnaround from four straight years of steady decline.

## Revenue levels

Even so, an outside auditing firm, Plante Moran, had warned during Canton Township's audit last year that, even

when property values start to increase, it will take years before they reach levels that generate the level of property tax revenues the community once collected.

On the commercial side, Busch's market is moving ahead with its request for a site plan and special land use approval to occupy the long-closed Farmer Jack store southeast of Cherry Hill and Canton Center roads.

Goulet said the company plans to make modifications to the front of the building, partly to accommodate an outdoor display area. He said preliminary indications are Busch's hopes to open by late summer or early fall.

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# School board picks new chief

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer



The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Thursday voted to hire Dr. Michael Meissen, currently working in the Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Schools, as the district's new superintendent.

die Kilian. Ultimate, the board settled for Meissen's experience, particularly in the area of curriculum, over Kilian's financial prowess and familiarity with the district. Prior to his current position, Meissen spent six years as the superintendent of the Glenbard Township High School District #87 in Glen Ellyn, Ill. That district has some 9,000 students and serves nine different municipalities.

He's also been a principal at the high school, middle school and grade school levels, as well as having experience as an athletic director.

While six of the seven voted for Meissen, there was a lengthy discussion about the qualities both men bring to the job.

"I'm not coming down hard and fast (for either candidate)," Treasurer Sheila Paton said. "(Kilian) has the qualities of being a real-

ly strong leader. (Meissen) has the edge because of his experience, especially in the area of curriculum."

## Generation X

Secretary Adrienne Davis was the most vocal in support of Kilian. She noted his inexperience in school administration, but pointed out he understands school funding in Michigan and said his youth makes him an attractive candidate.

"If we're going in the direction we're going (financially) in Michigan, (Kilian) is respected," Davis said. "There's no learning curve when you're talking about finances. The relationship is established."

"We don't see Generation X engaged in our school district. I think (Kilian) would attract them."

Meissen earned his bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-White-water in 1981, got his master's in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 and earned his Ph.D. in educational administration in December 1990.

"I like the fact (Plymouth-Canton) is a district that has a demonstrated record of excellence and wants to continue to achieve greatness," Meissen said. "I want to get into a district with a board that wants to continue working toward greatness. This is a really strong district."

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# Sam's Club slasher gets prison time

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer



Robinson

a repeat offender. Robinson was charged following allegations

he attacked 41-year-old Theodore Sheets of Saline last Sept. 30 and cut him with a knife during a dispute outside the Sam's Club store. Sheets had an injury that required at least 20 stitches near his left wrist.

Robinson has been free on bond awaiting the outcome of his case.

Prior to the court hearing last October, defense attorney Marc Lakin had said Robinson was defending himself. Lakin alleged Robinson "was victimized, harassed, spit on, name-called and then threatened" by a man much larger than he is.

Robinson, however, has since decided to plead guilty to one of two charges. Sheets was never charged.

A Canton man who slashed another man with a knife outside the Sam's Club store on Ford Road is facing two to four years in prison after he accepted a plea agreement to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Harry Robinson Jr. has been ordered to start serving his time in prison in May after he accepted the plea and averred trial—and a potentially longer sentence—for a now-dismissed charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm, less than murder.

The outcome of Robinson's case was confirmed by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ulysses Boykin has given Robinson until May 14 to start serving his sentence, handed down Feb. 25.

Canton authorities have said Robinson, if convicted as charged, could have faced penalties ranging up to life in prison, because he was considered

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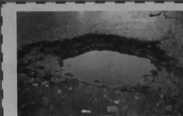
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## TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page A1

infrastructure capable of supporting the demands of the new state online testing requirements that begin in the 2014-15 school year, school board President John Barrett said.

"This is the way of the future, it's the nature of the global world," Barrett said. "We have to give kids what they need to meet the demands of the job market. We need to make sure our students have the critical skills that are now demanded by colleges and employers."

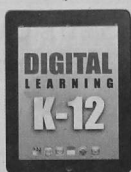
The proposed technology plan is part of a \$114.4 million bond issue that will also allow the district to build a new middle school, replace an aging vehicle fleet and make improvements to some of its facilities.

Approval of the bond issue will give students increased access to educational technology tools by providing each student with a personal digital learning device, allow for upgrades and additions to technology and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) labs in schools across the district and allow for the creation of a district-owned broadband network to accommodate the growing need for wireless and online services,

said Brodie Kilian, executive director for business services. "There has been a digital divide in the way students need to be engaged and the way we have been instructing them," Kilian said. "We need to arm our teachers and students with the right tools to make them productive."

### Right tools

Providing students with personal digital devices, "whether they are iPads



or laptops," aligns with a nationwide 1:1 technology initiative aimed at putting technology into the hands of each student to enhance effective teaching and learning, Kilian said, adding that he believes students need to have every advantage to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

"Putting digital devices into the hands of the students will provide us with the ability to propel our students into a new era of success," he said.

In addition to providing students with the technology skills they will need in the job market, it is key educators remain current with the way students currently learn, said Jeanne Farina, assistant superintendent for instructional services.

"We need to adapt to the way students learn now," Farina said. "They are plugged in and online. Why would we ask them to turn off and unplug when they come into the classroom?"

Using technology for teaching and learning is "extremely motivating and engaging" for students, allowing for more individualized instruction, as well as giving the students the opportunity to move at their own pace and take charge of their own learning, she said.

Technology allows students to become the drivers of what they want to learn. They now have the ability to take it to levels they could not have before with the simple



Hoban Elementary School Media Specialist Jolie Valentine works with students learning how to use the iPads off the school's new iPad carts.

push of a button, Farina said.

### Motivating students

"When students are motivated and engaged, we see increases in student achievement," Farina said.

Plymouth High School student teacher Taylor Pratt agrees. A 20-year-old University of Michigan senior, Pratt is a product of the digital age himself, growing up with technology much like today's high school students.

A recently taught lesson on neurobiology illustrated the immense possibilities that educational technology can provide students, he said.

Rather than watching a teacher flip through a slideshow on the board and listening to the teacher while taking notes, students were given iPads that allowed them access to an app featuring a 3-D brain, which they were then able to manipulate and explore while learning the brain's functions.

"It is just so different from the way that I was taught," he said. "It was hands-on, very engaging."

Using the iPad allowed for a level of individualized learning that (traditional) direct instruction cannot provide, Pratt said.

"Students can learn at their own pace and engage with the material on their own terms," said the political science and psychology major, who will graduate with his teaching degree in April. Under the district's plan, there will also be an equalization of technology resources throughout the buildings, ensuring that each student "has the same access to technology regardless of which school they attend," Barrett said.

This includes additions to tech labs and STEM labs at the middle school level, which will allow for more project-based learning.

Currently, there are some variations in tech-

nology access between the schools, creating equity issues between the newer and aging facilities.

### Evening out access

Under the new plan, "regardless of where you go to school, you will have the same access," Barrett said.

Plymouth Township parent Tonya Barker said she was encouraged that district leaders "are aware and acknowledge that there have been some issues regarding inequity, and they are ready to address it."

"I believe that there should be the same technology and same accessibility for all students regardless of the age of the school," she said.

Plans also call for the creation of a district-wide broadband network to support the increased use of technology, which will occur with the new state-mandated Smart-E-Balanced Assessment, an online test that will be implemented during the 2014-15 school year,

replacing the MEAP. That not only includes providing the hardware on which the students need to test, but providing a network to handle the increased online activity as well.

"In order for the district to align to the new state standards, which require each student to take their tests online, we need to provide the tools and the infrastructure capable of supporting them," said Jim Casteel, the district's director for integrated technology systems.

If voters do not approve the bond, the district will be unable to provide digital devices to all students, Kilian said.

"We will strive to include more technology, but it will become the burden of an already-stretched general budget," Kilian said.

### Other priorities

The district also will not replace aging buses or repair the aging infrastructure.

The plan does not include "wants," Kilian said. "These are 'needs.' We have made a decision that these are top priorities for our students."

Additionally, the tech upgrades will "give us a competitive advantage and help us attract other families to the district," he added.

There can be no doubt that technology has fundamentally changed the way that people teach and learn, Barrett said.

"The stronger the schools, the better the property values. This will help make the district a leader in educational technology and bolster our ability to attract new families to the district," he said. "All of this is crucial to being leaders in 21st century and continuing to make the district one of the strongest in the state."

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# BOND

Continued from page A1

business services. "We are not raising (taxpayers') tax rate. What was on your tax bill in July 2012 will be on your tax bill in July 2013."

That's one of the reasons district officials pushed for the May 7 bond election. The debt levy millage rate had been scheduled to drop by 0.35 mills — to about 3.66 mills — when taxes are assessed July 1. A later election date, officials said, would mean the district would have to hike that rate back up to 4.1 in order to capture the \$114.4 million in bond.

## Steady rate

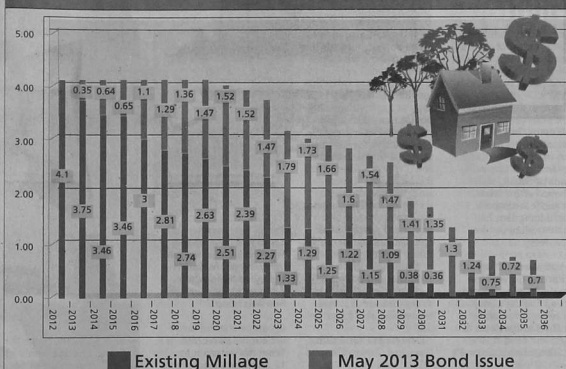
Instead, the district is asking its taxpayers to continue paying the 4.1 mills. For a \$200,000 home with a \$100,000 taxable value, that means the loss of some \$35 in savings taxpayers would have realized in the first year.

"We recognize that, absent the bond issue, the rate would go down," Killian said. "We understand we're asking taxpayers for some sacrifice. But we refinanced as much of our debt as possible (first), and we kept the bond package we're asking for as lean as we could so we didn't have to raise the debt levy."

Without the bond, the district's debt levy would drop every year until creeping below 1 mill in 2030. If the bond passes, the debt levy will remain at 4.1 through 2019, and doesn't drop below 1 mill until 2033.

That means the average debt levy for the bond alone is 1.22 mills, a fact school board Trustee Mark Horvath wants to make sure is clear to the voters. Horvath points out that, over the life of the bond, taxpayers with a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 are going

# HOW THE BOND BREAKS DOWN



Over the life of the 20-year bond issue, the average millage rate will be 1.22 mills for the new bond issue. This 1.22 average millage rate will cost taxpayers an average of \$122 annually for a home with a \$100,000 taxable value.

Source: Plymouth-Canton Community Schools



If the May bond passes, Plymouth-Canton officials plan to have an electronic learning device, such as an iPad, in the hands of all of the district's teachers and students within five years.

to pay some \$2,400 more in taxes than they would without the bond.

"The key message is, and what I want to be clear about — and don't

get me wrong, this is a great thing. I want to be very clear that this

bond comes with a tax increase. ... It's just not a rate increase," Horvath said. "Your rate will never go higher than it is now, but it's still going to cost about \$2,400 over a 20-year period (for \$100,000 taxable value). There are costs associated with borrowing money and paying that back."

## Conservative estimate

Even so, Killian believes the numbers will be better than early projections. He said the projected millage rates were figured using "conservative estimates" about property values, including the use of a small decline this year. Recent reports showing residential property values in Plymouth Town-

ship, the city of Plymouth and Canton Township on the rise would seem to bear out Killian's confidence.

The bonds will be sold in two series, \$60.8 million in Series I and the other \$53.6 million in Series II. Killian said if the economy performs better than projected, it could benefit the district by pushing some of the "critical needs" currently to be served in Series II into the Series I sale. "When there is an opportunity to borrow money now, when interest rates are historically low, you should borrow as much as you can," Killian said. "We could borrow more in Series I and less in Series II if the values go up."

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# Young local artist gets her first break

**By Brad Kadrich**  
Staff Writer

Jordan Baer of Canton figures she's been drawing since she was maybe 8 or 9 years old, when she started taking part in art camps.

All that work began to pay off — in exposure if not in cash — for Baer, a 17-year-old Plymouth High School junior who recently illustrated the first book of her young career.

Baer, the daughter of Michelle Baer of Canton and Jim Baer of Dearborn, contributed sketches of the four main characters in Monica Jo Carusi's first book, "Cross the Veil and Near Me Dwell," the story of a young girl who can

communicate with her ancestors in the ethereal realm but struggles to talk to her own family and peers in the real world.

She also designed the book's cover.

"(Carusi) knows my aunt, and I guess my aunt talked about me," Jordan said. "She said, 'Read the book,' so I did and I drew what I thought the people should look like, and (Carusi) liked it. She chose me."

**Leaps and bounds**

That aunt, Lisa Nelson of Livonia, offered to read Carusi's book and offer some editing and feedback on it. When she read it, she felt like it being Carusi's

first book, it also provided an opportunity for her niece to show what she could do.

"(Jordan) has been taking art lessons and been improving by leaps and bounds, and I thought this would be a great opportunity for her to sketch a few things and see if Monica liked them for her book," Olson said. "She's actually a writer as well as an artist. I thought someday she'd write a book and illustrate it herself. When this opportunity came up with (Carusi), I thought it would be a great chance for her to try and see if it was something she'd like to do."

Drawing is something Baer has always liked to



Jordan Baer says her art has picked up more color recently, perhaps a result of having her horizons expanded during three summers at the Blue Lake Fine Arts camp.

do, since she did those art camps as a child. When she was about 12, her mom said, she grabbed a baby picture and did a self-portrait. Michelle Baer's house is resplendent with Jordan's artwork.

As time has worn on, Jordan said, her art has improved.

"It hasn't been overnight," said Jordan, who admits she picks up a pen and paper and draws at the drop of a hat. "I think practice makes perfect. I've drawn so much, my style has grown."

**Brain waves**

In addition to her drawing, Baer does some writing and plays the piano. Her artistic side is something that's been coaxed and prodded by her mom.

"She's definitely got the art side of her brain going," Michelle Baer said.

While Baer points to pen-and-ink as her favorite medium, her artistic designs have been



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jordan Baer of Canton, a 17-year-old Plymouth High School junior, recently illustrated her first book.

expanded by three straight summers at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

She said the camp experience has her experimenting in areas she'd normally leave alone.

"They really expanded on things I normally wouldn't have done," Baer said. "They like to broaden your horizons. They expand on your artistic ability and get you to be the best you can be."

Her best was enough to convince Carusi to let the teenager illustrate her first book. The author said she'd seen Baer's work and thought it was good. She said she was looking for a teenager's perspective on the

book and figured letting Baer illustrate would give her that.

"I thought, 'she's really good,' and it might be nice, since this is my first book, to give her a chance, too," Carusi said. "I told her, 'I don't want to tell you what to draw. I want you to draw what you see.' I thought she did a great job."

Michelle Baer said watching her daughter grow with this experience has been "exciting."

"I knew she could draw, and that she had some talent," Michelle Baer said. "I was hoping someone would see that talent and appreciate it the way I do."

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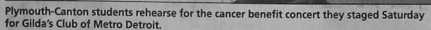
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**By Brad Kadrich**  
Staff Writer

So the enterprising young students put together a concert and silent auction Saturday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Partnering with Gilda's Club of Met-

The event, "We're All in This Together," included a variety of musical, dance and spoken word performances, as well as

You can still donate to the cause by contacting Morgan at (734) 582-5595 or emailing Amy.morgan@pccsmail.net

It's all intended to raise money for the St. Patrick's Church food pantry in Detroit, which every month feeds 350-400 low-income people in the Cass

To be sure, the event includes a corned beef and cabbage dinner, beer, wine and soft drinks, but a festive atmosphere is expected as the church welcomes entertainment by the Kish Celtic Band.

Mike Kelly, a Livonia man who is president of the United Irish Societies, is co-chairing this year's parade with Sam Aldridge of Plymouth. Following the Corktown Races at 11 a.m. that draw thousands, the parade starts at 2 p.m. at Michigan Avenue and Sixth Street.

For more, go to [www.detroitstpatriksparade.com](http://www.detroitstpatriksparade.com).

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Chaired by Commissioner Laura Cox, (R-Livonia), the Committee on Ways and Means reviews financial issues that relate to allocation of resources, which include the budget, compensation, bond issues, retirement, tax matters, and the assessment and equalization of property.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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, Library Secretary  
Plymouth District Library  
223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI  
734-453-0750 x 217

Publish: March 10, 2013

AT0705631 2X3

"Around Town" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to [bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com).

### PRICE HOURS

**Date/Time:** Monday, March 11, 11-1 p.m.; Friday, March 22, 8 p.m.

**Location:** March 11 at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth; March 22 at the Crescent Academy International, 40440 Palmer in Canton.

**Details:** Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price will hold office hours at those locations. His constituents are welcome to visit with him at either location.

**Contact:** For details, call (734) 729-1000.

### MAD HATTER TEA

**Date/Time:** Sunday, March 10, 2-4 p.m. **Location:** Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth

**Details:** It's tea time ladies! Grab your gals and come to the Plymouth Historical Museum for the annual Mad Hatter Tea where ladies wear their craziest hats! "Mad About Hats—100 years of Wearing Hats, 1860-1960" will be presented by Sandy Root, a Civil War reenactor and period milliner. Before the presentation, enjoy sumptuous delicacies from Joan Dell of Plymouth and the Museum's signature "Mary's Blend" tea—a taste bud tingling cherry and almond black tea in honor of

Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase in the Museum's store. Tickets for the Mad Hatter Tea are \$20 for Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by March 1 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date), and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html> using PayPal.

**Contact:** For further information, call (734) 455-8940.

### SEWING GUILD

**Date/Time:** First Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth

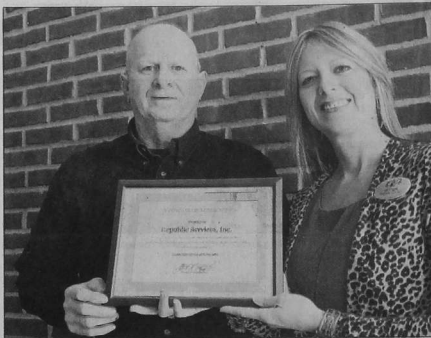
**Details:** This Plymouth-Canton neighborhood group is open to sewists of all levels. The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer," followed by "3D Flying Geese—hands on" on March 7; "Charity auction" April 11 (note date change); and "Machine or Hand Applique Quilt Block—hands on" on May 2.

**Contact:** For more information email [asgp@comcast.net](mailto:asgp@comcast.net)

### MASTERING MEDITATION

**Date/Time:** Saturdays, March 16 and 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Center - Massage, Yoga Wellness Studio, 1200 Ann Arbor Road in



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Supporting the arts

Jill Engel, Executive Director of the Partnership for Arts and Humanities, presents a certificate of thanks to Scott Johnson, Division Manager, Sauk Trails-Republic Services, for their \$10,000 contribution that funded the P-CCS school's 5th grade field trip, "African American History Through Artist's Eyes." It's the third straight year Republic Services has made the donation.

### Plymouth

**Details:** Dr. Kapila Castoldi offers a free introductory series on mastering meditation. Topics include concentration, relaxation and meditation techniques; creating a meditative lifestyle; self-awareness through meditation. Castoldi has studied meditation under the guidance of Indian spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy for 27 years. It is offered free of charge by the Sri Chinmoy Centre of Ann Arbor as a community service.

**Contact:** For information call (734) 994-7114.

### BIPOLAR SUPPORT

**Date/Time:** Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608 in Plymouth.

**Details:** The Depression Bipolar Support Alliance is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group.

**Contact:** Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 for directions.

### HOSPICE SUPPORT

**Date/Time:** Third Saturday of the month,

10-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

**Details:** Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

**Contact:** To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email [achristensen@ccnet.net](mailto:achristensen@ccnet.net).

### MOPS MEETINGS

**Date/Time:** First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

**Details:** The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speaking, crafts, and group discussions.

**Contact:** Heather at (734) 437-9517 or email [stekmops@gmail.com](mailto:stekmops@gmail.com), or visit [www.stekmops.org](http://www.stekmops.org).

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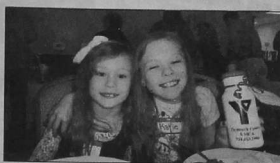


# YMCA launches 'Strong Kids' campaign

With an emphasis on developing strong community partners, fostering healthy lifestyles and being accessible to every child, the Plymouth Family YMCA launched its Strong Kids Campaign at a community breakfast Tuesday.

"Strong Kids is our annual fundraising campaign, but it is much more than that," said Sage Hegdal, the YMCA Director. "This kick-off also gives us the opportunity to let the community know that the Y is very active with current youth and adult programs, but is also looking toward the future as we develop new programs to better serve the community."

Last year, the Y conducted a survey within the Plymouth, Canton and Northville area to help determine what people are looking for from their



Ellie Russell, (left), 7, and Katie Russell, 9, got up early to attend the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign breakfast.

local YMCA. Results of this effort are essential to the Y, as the organization looks at how they can best serve the area.

"The survey was valuable in many ways," said Hegdal. "We learned, for example, that developing programs to create healthy lifestyles and deal with the growing youth obesity issue are areas we need to investigate. As we do this future

planning, we also keep in mind that we need to bring all kids along with us, and that is where donations to Strong Kids come in."

Donations to the Strong Kids Campaign provide scholarships to young people whose families cannot afford YMCA programs. For families who cannot afford childcare or recreational programs in the summer, for example,

YMCA scholarships cover the cost of summer camp for those in financial crisis. For many parents these scholarships mean peace of mind, knowing that their child is in a safe and engaging environment, Hegdal said.

Speakers at the breakfast provided powerful testimony to the benefits of YMCA programs and activities.

"I first got involved with the Y in high school," said 19-year old Ben Spreitzer, currently a sophomore at Michigan State University. "To be honest, my mom thought the YMCA Youth Volunteer Corp would keep me busy in the summer and give me something to add to my college applications. Once I started

though, I kept going back for more. I got so much out of the volunteer experience, seeing how good it felt to help others and how much fun it was too."

Spreitzer told those at the breakfast that his time with the Y isn't over. Last summer, he worked as a Program Coordinator for the Youth Volunteer Corp and will do so again this year.

"We participate in programs like working in community gardens and helping at soup kitchens. We even volunteered at Bat Zone at the Cranbrook Institute of Science," said Spreitzer.

Russell knows the value of the Y — both as a kid and as a parent.

"My first experience with the YMCA was 40 years ago when I was an

Adventure Guide with my dad," said Russell. "It has come full circle now that I am the dad and participate in Adventure Guides with my daughters Ellie and Katie. I have seen firsthand what a positive impact YMCA programs can have. So I can speak with confidence when I say that giving to the Strong Kids Campaign means you are helping other families have a growing, positive family experience, like the one I had with my father and I am having with my girls now."

To learn more about Plymouth YMCA programs and the Strong Kids Campaign take a look at the website at [www.ymcadeloit.org/plymouth](http://www.ymcadeloit.org/plymouth) or call (734) 453-2904.

## Council offers hospice series

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging Hospice of Michigan present a series of workshops designed to teach participants everything they wanted to know about hospice, but were afraid to ask.

"Hospice 101" is an informative presentation designed to answer questions such as what hospice is, what services hospice provides, who can receive hospice care, where hospice services are provided and who pays for hospice care. Classes in the series include:

"Caring for the Care-

giver, noon, Thursday, March 21 — This talk will walk you through the caregiver kit that Hospice of Michigan has developed. This kit will offer caregivers practical suggestions, tool and resources to assist them with caregiving.

"Have You Had the Talk?, noon, Thursday, April 4 — This talk will walk you through the Have You Had the Talk kit that Hospice of Michigan has developed. This kit offer worksheets, tools and resources to assist you should you ever need to rely on someone else for your

medical care and decision making. The best time to plan and prepare is when there is no emergency, no crisis, no scrambling.

"Except for Six," noon, Thursday, April 25 — Hospice of Michigan documentary film called, "Except for Six."

This one-hour film takes a subject most of us would rather ignore and humanizes it. It is a reflection on the time of a person's life that everyone must eventually deal with — the end of it.

The workshops will be held at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer in Plymouth. To RSVP, call (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law, Attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: [www.plymouthtp.org](http://www.plymouthtp.org). They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates in 2013: March 12 & 26, April 9, May 14 & 28, June 25, July 23, August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and December 10.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman  
Township Clerk

Special Meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Published: March 10, 2013

### Advertisement for Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will accept sealed bids for the following Project:

**ANN ARBOR ROAD CORRIDOR  
2013 DDA IMPROVEMENTS**  
Details are described in the bid documents.

Bids for the above Project shall be accepted no later than 3:00 PM Local Time, on Monday, March 25, 2013, at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read.

General Description of Work: Installation of DDA streetscape improvements, including stamped concrete, ornamental fencing with brick piers, landscape plantings, street trees, an irrigation system, shredded hardwood mulch, topsoil, sod, and pavement and vegetation removals.

General Description of Project Area: The DDA streetscape improvements will be installed along Ann Arbor Road from just west of Sheldon Road to General Drive, in Plymouth Township.

Copies of the bid documents, consisting of a bid specification book and engineering plans, are available only for pick-up (no mail delivery) starting on Monday, March 11, 2013, at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. A non-refundable check, in the amount of \$50.00 and made payable to Spalding DeDecker, Associates, Inc., must be deposited for each set of documents obtained.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon receiving a bid award, the contractor shall furnish a performance bond as security for the faithful performance of the Contractor's obligations under the contract. The performance bond must be in the Michigan Standard Form issued by an approved surety company.

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The Township reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject any and all bids in whole or in part, and to waive any defect or irregularity in any bid if it is deemed in the Township's sole discretion to be in the best interest of the Township. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

ANY INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS BID ARE TO BE FAXED NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM ON MARCH 20, 2013, TO:

The Office of Clerk  
Attn: Ann Arbor Road Corridor 2013 DDA Improvements  
(Fax) 734-454-1643

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO:

Nancy Conzelman, Clerk  
Charter Township of Plymouth  
9955 N. Haggerty Road  
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Published: March 10, 2013

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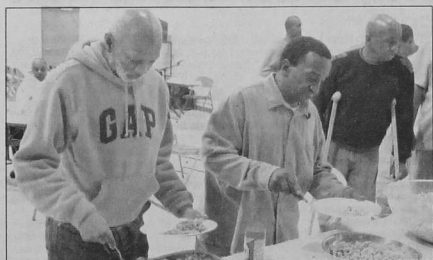
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# Local Methodist church helps homeless get back on their feet



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Michael Finney (left), Benjamin Bowers (center) and others line up for dinner on Feb. 24 at Northville's First United Methodist Church. The dinner, sponsored and hosted by the church, and volunteers from Northville Kiwanis and Civic Concern, was for a group of homeless people from Detroit's Cass Community Social Services. The group lived at the church through Feb. 28 and have been guests of Nov's Holy Family Church earlier in the month. The church's offer the group beds for the night, meals, eye care, a clothes closet, and various social services to help them get back on their feet.



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By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

It may only be a week, but it was an important one for the guests of Northville's First United Methodist Church. Around 50 individuals who are currently homeless sought shelter and food with the local church each day from Feb. 23 to March 2 as part of Metro Detroit's Inter-Faith Rotating Shelter.

This shelter service has been administered by Cass Community Social Services in Detroit since 1991, and First United Methodist Church has been part of it since it began 20 years ago. Each year the church located at Eight Mile and Taft roads has been receiving help from its members and other local churches in trying to make a difference in a lot of people's lives.

The co-coordinators of the week for First United are Deborah Southworth and Kandi MacDonald. In one form or another, Southworth has been with the program basically since the start. It's become an annual commitment for her and the church, but it's one, like the many other mission works, they look forward to doing.

Last Tuesday evening was evidence of this. Even with a snow and sleet storm making things difficult on everyone, dinner and shelter were still provided at First United.

"We are so fortunate to have a wonderful congregation and beautiful facility that is sort of made for this," Southworth said. "We have every advantage and we are in a perfect position to help, and if we can keep 50-plus people from being



Katherine Pinnel, 16, helps to cut the food of Tyrone Hamilton on Feb. 22 at Northville's First United Methodist Church as the church hosted a group of homeless people from Detroit's Cass Community Social Services. Hamilton, blind from birth, was not with the group but was at the church to play piano, sing and entertain the gathering.

out in the cold for a week, and make them feel safe and warm and welcome then ... it's what our faith leads us to do."

From October to May, Southworth said churches of all sizes and denominations throughout the metro area select a week to host this shelter for the homeless. After being screened by CCSS and agreeing to abide by the program's rules, the guests are bused to Northville late in the afternoon for dinner at 6 p.m., with evening activities to follow and then a warm bed to sleep in.

More than 100 volunteers help during the week with things like dinner, breakfast, activities and night monitoring. The church puts forward a small amount of money to make the program work, but the many donations make it possible. From clothing and food to haircuts, church and community members come through, according to Southworth.

Northville's Civic Concern and other churches from Northville, Livonia and Plymouth have

helped First United during the week. Nov's Church of the Holy Family also hosts its own week.

Southworth said the guests come from a variety of backgrounds and situations. Some of the previous guests have included police officers and senior citizens. This year she said a 19-year-old man has been at the shelter.

"These are people who are homeless, they are not homeless people. We don't define them by their current situation," she said. "They are just people and they have fallen on some hard times. We want to help them out, so they can get back on their feet."

As part of the overall program CCSS provides counselors to the guests to help find more permanent housing and assist with health care, job training and social service benefits to help them become self-sufficient.

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# Students tell lawmakers about Schoolcraft's benefits

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

Lilly Franklin of Canton believes her culinary training at Schoolcraft College in Livonia would be further enhanced with a four-year baccalaureate degree from the college.

The college will go beyond the second-year training and expand into more advanced training beyond the traditional a la carte, international cuisine and pastry chef II classes, the second-year student said.

"With a four-year program, we could have a wide range of classes that could be offered to help with the business end of culinary arts," Franklin said. It could help her pursue her dream of opening her own bakery



Lisa Pisaneschi of Westland, a second-year nursing student at Schoolcraft, testifies Friday before the Joint Senate & House Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Colleges.

and cafe.

Franklin and Lisa Pisaneschi, a second-year nursing student from Westland, testified before the

Joint Senate & House Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Colleges on Friday at the VisTaTech Center at

Schoolcraft College. The students talked about the benefits of a Schoolcraft education after the lawmakers received a tour of the culinary arts and nursing instructional facilities.

Pisaneschi said students have a great chance of passing the state board exam in nursing because "instructors are so precise" at Schoolcraft. "When you walk into a classroom at a clinical site, you have the bar set high," Pisaneschi said. She was drawn to Schoolcraft because people she knew told her it was the college to attend to best prepare for the state exam.

The hearing was conducted by state lawmakers who will be studying Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed 2014 budget. Snyder proposed a 2-percent increase for community colleges.

Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress wel-



Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress is pleased with the 2-percent increase for community colleges Gov. Rick Snyder has proposed for his 2014 budget.

comed the committee and talked about the proposed budget. "While everyone wants it to be more, I'm not going to say that," Jeffress said. "Two percent is a good number as far as we're concerned. We can live with that."

Jeffress said he was worried about two potential financial hits to colleges: paying more for employee pensions and the Affordable Care Act. A liability of \$100 million from pension costs will impact a college's operational budget in terms of interest expenses. "A chance of getting a break on interest for borrowing is zero," Jeffress said.

If the Affordable Care Act went into effect, costs to Schoolcraft will increase \$3 million. "These costs will be passed onto the students and the public," Jeffress said.

Jeffress encouraged lawmakers not to put restrictions on the colleges.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, said the students who appeared

were excellent examples of the role community colleges play and "where they fit as institutions in this state." Anderson served on the committee. The meeting was also attended by Sen. Patrick Colbert, R-Canton. State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

Jeffress said the college was about 18 months away from developing a four-year program in culinary arts. Instructors were working on it now, he said.

Other college officials attended. Curtis Ivery, chancellor of Wayne County Community College, told the committee that the college could serve the community better if the school had more resources. WCCC officials said they were working on new programs and initiatives to better serve students and enter them into the workforce.

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SECTION B • (CP)  
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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC  
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# SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR  
tsmith@hometownlife.com  
734-469-4128

## CLASS D GIRLS HOOPS

### Eagles rally, win regional

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Another halftime deficit, another victory for Plymouth Christian Academy.

Thursday night's second-half rally lifted the Eagles to a 41-35 victory over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist in the Class D regional girls basketball championship game played at Huron Valley Lutheran.

PCA (18-6) moves on to the state quarterfinal, set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Battle Creek Central, against defending Class D finalist Athens (21-3).

Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis said the team trailed 21-15 at halftime, but came out determined to overcome the Chargers' tough-to-break zone defense.

"We went into the locker room and I said, 'Hey guys, six points to us is nothing. The last two games we've been down 10, 11 or 12,'" Gerulis said. "I told them to just go out and play their game."

#### Turning it up

The Eagles went to a full-court press and forced Inter-City Baptist into turnovers and foul trouble.

"We missed a lot of shots (in the first half), so we full-court pressed them in the second half," Gerulis said. "I didn't want to do it early because I didn't want to get my kids in foul trouble in the first half. I only rotate six kids. We got them to turn the ball over, we got some steals."

PCA outscored the Chargers 15-4 in the third quarter to take a 30-25 lead into the fourth. All but three of those points came on free throws, with the only field goal a trey by Jenna Abraham.

"We held the ball a lot in the fourth quarter, trying to pull them out of their zone," Gerulis said. "We just kept the ball up top and moved it to try and get them to go to man (defense) so we could play a little more freely. But the never came out, they stayed in their zone."

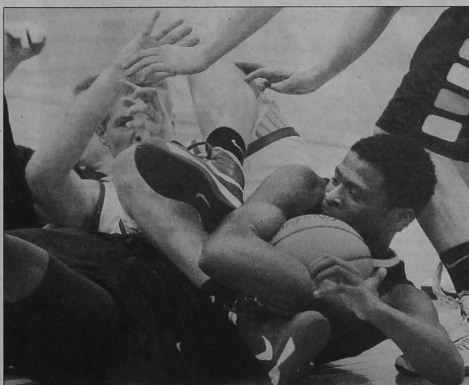
Still, the Eagles kept the lead by taking time off the clock with each possession.

"They were forced to foul us," Gerulis said.

Karen Windle led PCA with 14 points and contributed eight steals. Every other player chipped in. Helping the cause were Emily Gerulis (nine points, five rebounds, two assists), Jenny Malcolm (four points, six rebounds), Rachel Smith (six points), Mar-

Please see EAGLES, B2

## CLASS A BOYS BASKETBALL



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

During one of Friday's typical scrambles, Canton's Greg Williams (No. 22) and Plymouth's Deji Adebisi (No. 5) battle for the basketball.

### Chiefs grind way to title

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

For a while during Friday night's Class A boys basketball district final at Northville High School, Canton seniors Scott Gring and Matt McKoy must have thought they were in the middle of a football game.

Gring, in particular, went hard into traffic for two offensive rebounds that extended a possession midway through the second quarter with Canton hanging on to four-point lead against Plymouth.

Thanks to Gring's hustle, the Chiefs went up 10-4 moments later when Ryan Planey knocked down a jumper from the left corner.

That blue-collar work went a long way toward Canton's 47-32 victory over the Wildcats to win the district title for the first time in six seasons.

Canton (17-6) will now face Ypsilanti at 5 p.m. Monday in a Class A regional opener at Ann Arbor Huron.

"The past couple games, I haven't been shooting very well," said Gring, who had eight rebounds. "So I just wanted to go out and attack the boards, that would be the



Canton's Ryan Planey (No. 21) is all smiles while celebrating with teammates following the district title win over Plymouth. Also pictured are Shaine Keyandvny (No. 5), Jordan Nobles and Adnan Bayz (No. 11).

best way to get a put-back or an offensive rebound. That's my game. I do the dirty work."

So does McKoy, also Gring's teammate on the varsity football team.

Please see TITLE, B3

## BOYS HOCKEY D1 QUARTERFINAL

### Loss doesn't spoil 'Cats' special year

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Winning Wednesday's Division 1 boys hockey quarterfinal and qualifying for the Final Four would have made the trip to Ann Arbor's Yost Arena particularly sweet for the Plymouth Wildcats and a large contingent of their fans.

But the Wildcats, despite an early lead, were unable to match the tournament-seasoned Shamrocks of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central — ultimately falling 5-1.

Catholic Central (21-7) now will face East Kentwood (15-12-2) on Friday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth, needing just one more victory to play for the D1 title Saturday evening. (Both games are set for 6 p.m. starts.)

"They're bigger, they're faster, they're just a highly skilled team," said Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento following the quarterfinal played in the legendary barn on the University of Michigan campus. "CC's a different animal but our guys had a great experience at it. I thought we did well."

#### Making history

Senior forward and team captain Mitch Claggett stressed what a "great experience" the game was, for the Wildcats and the fans who turned out in full force.

"We made school history tonight," Claggett said. "We got the opportunity to come out and play in front of a lot

Please see SPECIAL, B3

## GYMNASTICS STATE FINAL

### Chiefs come in second yet again

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Canton's march toward a rematch with Grand Ledge on the state's biggest stage in Division 1 gymnastics has been loud and pronounced all season.

But the Chiefs could not quite make that final step, falling 149.350-145.750 at Friday's D1 team finals at Plymouth High School. It marked the second year in a row that Canton finished second to Grand Ledge.

Placing fifth out of 13 teams with 139.875 was Plymouth, while Salem

finished 11th with a total of 136.600 points.

"It went the way I expected it to go," Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "We had some exceptional performances. We still took first and second place on beam. Melissa (Green) won beam and Maddie (Toal) was second."

Green and Toal registered scores of 9.525 and 9.475, respectively. Cunningham pointed out some statistics underscoring just how tough Grand Ledge is.

Please see CHIEFS, B3

## MU softball spring report

After Friday's triple-header in the Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational Games, the Madonna University softball team stands 7-9 overall.

The Crusaders lost 4-3 in eight innings to Dickinson State (S.D.), while defeating Ashford (Ky.), 8-4 and Valley City (Calif.) State, 4-3.

Other wins last week came against William Penn (Iowa), 3-1; Viterbo (Wis.), 7-3; Calumet St. Joseph (Ind.), 2-1; and Robert Morris (Ill.), 3-0.

Meanwhile, losses have come against Northwestern (Iowa) College, 5-3; No. 12-ranked Olivet Nazarene (Ill.), 2-1 and 6-3; Hope International (Calif.), 6-2; University of Great Falls (Mont.), 5-2.

Top hitters for the Crusaders include Kristen Drabek (.349) and Jackie Barley (.343).

Carlee Meek has a team-high nine RBI.

Pitchers Angela Pielinski and Bree Crampton are both 3-4 with earned-run averages of 2.11 and 4.72, respectively.



## MU baseball Florida wrap

The Madonna University baseball team stands 10-5 overall after taking a much-needed day off Friday from the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational.

On Thursday, MU swept Olivet Nazarene (Ill.), 9-3 and 6-3, after falling Wednesday to Bethel (Ind.) University, 4-0.

On Tuesday, MU swept 19th-ranked University of St. Francis (Ill.), 6-2 and 13-3.

On Monday, Madonna split with Point Park (Pa.), 3-2 and 1-5, while beating Trinity International (Ill.), 13-1 and losing to Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.), 5-2.

Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) leads MU in hitting with a .452 average including six extra-base hits, while Spencer Sarel has a team-high 13 RBI and a .364 mark. Freshman Jeff Beckles is also batting .417 (10-for-24).

## Pens bounced

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team lost 4-3 to Walled Lake Thursday night in the Division 2 semifinals of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.



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# Blazers' duo keys regional title win

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood's senior backcourt duo of Andie Anastos and Shelby Walsh can only be described as "Peas and Carrots."

The two meshed wonderfully Thursday night bringing home the Blazers' first girls basketball regional championship since 1992 with a 48-34 victory over visiting Flat Rock.

The victory puts Ladywood, now 17-7 overall, into a Class B quarterfinal matchup against defending state champion Goodrich, 22-3 overall, beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Lake Fenton.

Walsh and Anastos proved to be a one-two scoring punch once again combining for 36 of the Blazers' 48 points against the 22-2 Rams.

Ladywood made a total of 10 three-pointers on the night, including six from Walsh (to account for all 18 of her points), two more from Anastos and one each from Sara Even and Andria Gietl.

"We've been best friends for the past four years here in high school, so I think we just know how to play together," said Anastos, who also finished with a game-high 18. "I've known her like since seventh and eighth grade when we played together. We just play well together. She's one of my best friends and I just love her. That's like a normal game for her. I expect her to score that many 'threes.'"

Walsh had a pair of 'threes' in the opening quarter as the Blazers led 15-14.

Ladywood then out-scored Flat Rock 12-4 in the second period to take



MONROE EVENING NEWS

Ladywood seniors (from left) Kiley Gorski, Andie Anastos and Shelby Walsh are all smiles following Thursday's 48-34 Class B regional girls basketball championship win over Flat Rock. It was Blazers' first regional title since 1992.



MONROE EVENING NEWS

Ladywood's Andie Anastos (left) tries to take Flat Rock's Paige Villeneuve off the dribble during Thursday's Class B girls basketball regional final.

*The victory puts Ladywood, now 17-7 overall, into a Class B quarterfinal matchup against defending state champion Goodrich, 22-3 overall, beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Lake Fenton.*

control thanks to 15 first-half points from Anastos.

Walsh then went on fuego, connecting on three more triples during the third quarter, as Ladywood put it away with an 18-10 scoring spurt to make it 17-point advantage, 45-28.

"Amanda and I have been playing all the way back-and-forth in high school and in AAU together," Walsh said. "So, we just know each other. I think I hit six once in a preseason game before the Catholic League."

Flat Rock got 11 points from 6-1 sophomore Paige Villeneuve and eight from Haley Boyer.

"It's tough because they're such good ball-handlers, to try and pressure them ... it's a different style with no post," Flat Rock coach Mark Villeneuve said of the Blazers. "It was a little difficult for us to match up. We were just hoping to keep her (Anastos) in front of us and hope we get some misses and leak out in transition. It seemed like when we got a miss, we didn't execute properly and we had a couple of turnovers that cost us. You can't do at this stage of the game. When you're in the regional final you've got to be clean."

Meanwhile, the Blazers broke through the regional barrier after winning 14 of their past 15 district titles.

"It's unbelievable — our group of seniors," Lady-

wood coach Anthony Coratti said. "The only thing worrying me this game was me saying something to screw them up because our seniors had our kids so men-

tally prepared and we just competed on a very high level on the defensive end, and got us some good looks offensively."

It was awesome, but 100 percent of the credit goes to our seniors.

"It's been too long of a time. We've had some great teams roll through here and it's a huge point of pride for our kids. They wanted this regional championship."

The Rams committed 15 turnovers and shot only 14-of-46 from the floor (30.4 percent).

"Going in, we always say 'It's just about us,' that truly is," Anastos said. "We play good defense and know how to stop a team. We play really good teams, so we knew it all started with our defense and our offense just comes to us."

The victory was particularly sweet because Ladywood did it in its home gym.

"We just like to do it for our school and it brings so much school spirit, I have no words," Walsh said. "We had it written up on the board — 1992 and 2013 — to win that after 21 years. So that was our motivation."

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## EAGLES

Continued from page B1

tha Mullett (three points) and Abraham (five points).

For the Chargers, Rachel Muscat and Alyssa Saene tallied 13 and 11 points, respectively. Makayla Thome scored nine.

### Fired up

According to Gerulis, a big assist for the win went to idled junior Rachael Fuller, who is out for the rest of the season after arm surgery.

"I'm just so proud of my kids, they never got down on themselves when we got down in the first half," Gerulis said. "They were totally motivated at halftime. Rachael Fuller was awesome in the locker room. She's not even going to play, because of having that blood clot and surgery."

"She just gave them a great halftime pump-up speech and they went out on the floor and took care of the game for her. It was really awesome."

The Eagles won the school's first regional championship in girls basketball with the win and have now posted the most victories in a season during Gerulis' eight seasons as the team's coach.

Gerulis added that it was great for the team to win the title for Windle and Abraham — both were on the team as freshmen when PCA lost to Adrian Lenawee Christian in a regional final.

"We lost in overtime by a bucket," Gerulis said. "So those two kids wanted to get back there and win themselves a regional championship. They really fired this whole group up."

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Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team celebrates after winning the Class D regional championship Thursday at Huron Valley Lutheran. In the back row (from left) are junior varsity coach Rod Windle, Danielle Witkowski, Raina Postma, Rachel Smith, Jenny Malcolm and varsity head coach Carol Gerulis. In the front row (from left) are Rachael Fuller, Martha Mullett, Jenna Abraham and Karen Windle.

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# TITLE

Continued from page B1

"That's exactly what (football) coach (Tim) Baechler taught me playing football, just being tough," McKoy said. "I just bring that over to basketball and do the exact same thing."

## Mixing it up

They aren't the only Canton basketball players who mix in a little football mindset out on the floor.

Sophomore point guard Greg Williams, who scored eight points and tallied six assists Friday, is the Chiefs' quarterback, for example.

Williams also had another tough assignment, one he carried out almost to perfection. He had to shadow Plymouth senior guard Josh Priebe, and held him to just two points in the first half when Canton rolled out to a 10-4 halftime edge.

Priebe wound up with 12 points to lead the Wildcats, with most of those coming after the Chiefs had a double-digit lead. "Plymouth's been playing really well," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "They switched to a 2-3 zone late this year, and it's been solid and it affected us early."

"But we guarded. We defended our tails off tonight. We rebounded well. That's essentially how we won. Greg Williams had a heck of a job on Priebe."

## Out of sorts

Plymouth (11-12), com-

ing off victories over Northville and Novi. Detroit Catholic Central, could not get untracked partly because of such defensive coverage.

"We were out of sorts with our offense. We were doing too much, pressing and forcing," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "In a big game we needed to execute and we just didn't get that done tonight. It is what it is. I couldn't be more proud of this group of young men."

With 4:30 to go in the third quarter, the Chiefs were up 19-15, following a basket by Williams.

The Wildcats then sliced that deficit to 22-15 with 1:15 remaining on the second try in two minutes by senior guard Jake Divens (seven points).

Plymouth's Josh Reynolds (five points) came up with a defensive rebound, giving the Wildcats a chance to get even closer. But after losing the ball out of bounds, Planey (13 points) sank a trey from the left corner, opening up a 25-15 advantage going into the fourth.

The closest Plymouth got in the fourth was eight, as the Wildcats had no choice but to put Canton players on the foul line.

"We won our first district games ever in the history of our program," Soukup said. "The kids didn't quit, heck they could have packed it in there in the middle of the third quarter."

"But they kept fighting until the bitter end, and



Plymouth's Jake Divens (No. 4) tries to get past Canton's Josh Mayberry (No. 2) during Friday's Class A district final at Northville.

that's what we've been all about. We're not the most talented group in the world, but we'll battle you for 32."

Plymouth was hampered by poor shooting all night, however. The Wildcats made just 28 percent of their field-goal tries (11-of-39) and sank just 6-of-19 from the charity stripe.

## Trifecta

For Canton, 6-8 forward Jordan Nobles tallied 12 points and six boards before leaving late in the game after getting an elbow above the eye, opening up a gash.

Senior point guard Josh Mayberry chipped in with five points, five rebounds and three assists.

Reddy, in his fourth season as Canton's head coach, said winning the district following the KIAA South Division and Kensington Conference championships "means a lot" to the program.

"Division, conference and now district, that's a heck of a season and it hasn't been done here at Canton since 2007," Reddy said. "I'm

really proud of the kids. You don't do it without good players or a good coaching staff like I have."

And as far as McKoy is concerned, that season at least continues into this week: "It feels great just to make it another week to play basketball."

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# CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

Although Erica Lucas scored an impressive 9.450 on vault, it was only good for third place behind a trio of Grand Ledge gymnasts. Winning that event was Sara Pelletier, with 9.600.

Other strong efforts were turned in by Jocelyn Moraw (9.550), Green (9.475) and Nicole Lasecki (9.000) on floor exercise. Moraw also finished with 9.0 scores on bars and beam despite having her left thigh bandaged after falling during one of her events.

"We had to hit and we just had a good meet instead of a great meet," Cunningham said. "I hate to complain about coming in second in the state. But we had a shot at them." Plymouth's top showings were on floor, with Jane McCurry's 9.200 leading the way. Sarah Uhlman and Brenna Connolly tallied 9.150 and 9.075.

Freshman Rebecca Simu finished with 9.025 on floor and 8.900 on balance beam.

## First impressions

"I would be happy if we finished in the top 10,"



The Canton girls gymnastics team finished second at Friday's Division 1 team finals at Plymouth.

Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey said, with one round left in the meet. "This is the first time Plymouth has ever gone to a state meet. And so it's a big first for everything. The girls are wonderful."

Yockey said the team "worked so hard for this, and it's such a new thing for the school, once they get used to being here maybe we'll get here again."

That would be fine with Plymouth freshmen Rachel Auer and Megan

McCurry, who rooted their teammates on.

"It's really different than anything else I've ever experienced with gymnastics but it's really exciting too," Auer said.

Concurring was Megan McCurry, Jane's younger sister.

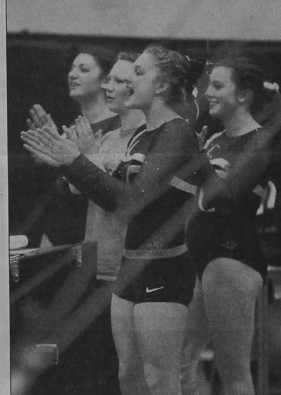
"I'm really proud of the team, we've really worked so hard to accomplish getting to states," Megan said. "We all cheer on our team so well."

One of Salem's performers was Morgan Soper,

who noted that the Rocks "had a few rough spots, but for the most part we're doing good. Today is more about fun, it's about team spirit and team unity."

Soper tallied 9.125 scores on vault and floor. Also crossing the 9.0 threshold for Salem were Andrea Merlotti (9.075 on vault) and Brittany Ramirez (9.025 on vault).

In third behind Grand Ledge and Canton was Farmington (141.45), followed by Rockford/Spa-



Plymouth gymnasts root a teammate on during Friday's Division 1 team finals. The Wildcats finished fifth.

ta (140.675), Plymouth, Forest Hills (138.575) and Livonia Red (138.575).

Despite the Chiefs not getting the final curtain call they envisioned, Cunningham still sees a

bright future. "We're going to be better next year," Cunningham said. "Their aren't many teams in our division at our level that can say that."

# SPECIAL

Continued from page B1

of fans. We played CC for the first time, we gave it our all and every kid in there is holding (his) head high knowing we gave it our all and had a great run."

"It's unfortunate how it turned out, but sometimes things don't go your way. They didn't go our way tonight but we still had a heck of a season."

Plymouth (22-6-3, No. 6 in D1) was the first boys hockey team from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to win a state regional and thus compete in the quarters.

No matter what happened on the ice, that fact was something Vento pointed to with pride.

"It was a fantastic season," Vento said. "I couldn't be prouder of the guys for what they accomplished bringing the first (regional) championship to the Park, get-

ting 22 wins.

"It all started with great leadership from our captain (Claggett) and the rest of our seniors. We made a little bit of history for Plymouth and I'm thinking it's going to continue."

The Plymouth cheering section got downright raucous just 5:45 into the game, when sophomore forward Michael Scarpello scored to put the Wildcats up 1-0.

A CC player made an errant clearing pass that Plymouth junior forward Corey Smith intercepted near the blue line.

Smith slid a pass into the low slot for Scarpello, who while twisting into the ice like a corkscrew lifted the puck over the trapper of Shamrock's senior goalie Derek Moore.

"We put the puck up the boards, we had a young winger that moved the puck to the middle of the ice assuming he had a guy open and he didn't hit him tape-to-tape, and

the next thing you're pulling it out of your net," CC head coach Todd Johnson said. "I credit Plymouth's forecheck, their structure. We had to adjust to it and get used to it. We don't see it very often in our league."

Catholic Central, however, needed just 1:13 to respond.

Following a face-off in Plymouth's zone, junior forward Domenic Mancinelli snapped a feed from senior forward Evan Kearns past Wild-

cats' sophomore netminder Jared Maddock.

"When you score a goal you like to hold on to the lead for a while," Vento said. "But we knew they were going to come and we knew going in one goal was not going to win it or lose it."

Johnson called the quick equalizer a big moment in the contest, largely because it helped the Shamrocks settle down as they moved into the second tied at 1-1. Plymouth also helped

CC get going by being whistled for a slashing penalty with just 20 seconds left in play in the opening frame.

That cost the Wildcats when Shamrocks' senior forward and captain Michael Babcock jammed a rebound past Maddock at 53 seconds of the second.

## Mix and match

The Wildcats had other penalties to kill off in the middle stanza. Only some stellar goalkeeping by Maddock, who stopped 28 of 33 shots in the game, kept it close until later in the period.

"You don't get your lines out, you're mixing and jumbling guys trying to kill it off, and you can't get in any flow," Vento said. "You're just trying to hopefully tread water and it's hard to generate any offense, that's for sure."

Babcock — whose dad, Detroit Red Wings head coach Mike Babcock, was in attendance — finally

upped the CC edge to 3-1 when he scored at 15:17.

The winger cut in from the right boards into the slot, maneuvered in front of Plymouth defenders and sent a drive over Maddock's blocker. On both of Babcock's goals, senior linemate Charlie Green and junior defenseman Carson Gatt drew assists.

"Obviously, us tying the game early right after we fell behind was critical," Johnson noted. "So now we're back tied, everybody relaxed and coming out in the second period Babbs scores two big goals."

"He's a very deserving player, a hard-working guy. Way more skill than people give him credit for."

In the third, CC kept pressuring the Wildcats and tacked on goals by senior forward Danny Middleton (at 7:20) and junior winger Wade Orlovski (on a screen shot at 15:39).

"I thought Jared played

great," Vento said. "As a sophomore, playing in an environment like this, I couldn't say I could blame him on any goal."

CC's win was tempered somewhat by a dislocated left kneecap sustained by junior defenseman Austin Linville following an altercation behind the Shamrocks' goal with just over five minutes left. Johnson said it didn't appear surgery would be required, but ruled Linville out for the rest of the state playoffs.

For the Shamrocks, that boils down to one or two games at Compuware.

"It's what makes the tournament great," Johnson stressed. "You can't have any emotional lulls. We'll obviously be real high the rest of the night, and real excited, and tomorrow will be a down day and kind of regroup. Start preparing for Friday. It's easy on Saturday."

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## Whalers clinch OHL West Division

It's not often that the Windsor Spitfires do a favor for their arch-rivals, the Plymouth Whalers.

But that's what happened on Thursday when the Spitfires defeated the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, 7-4.

The Hounds' loss to Windsor mathematically eliminated the Soo from winning the OHL West Division and gave the Whalers their 12th division championship in the team's 23-year history (and first since 2006-07).

The Whalers didn't back into the West Division title. Using an effective combination of balance on all ends of the ice, Plymouth (38-17-5-4) has gone 24-6-0-1 since Dec. 27.

Although the Whalers lead the OHL with 269 goals scored, defense led to the division title. In all but one of Plymouth's victories did the opponent muster more than three goals.

### SKATE WITH THE WHALERS

After Sunday's 2 p.m. game against Saginaw, fans will have to chance to "Skate with the Whalers."

Parents must sign a waiver for their kids and receive a wristband for each of their skaters from the Fan Assistance Center, located behind section 120. Skates are available for rent.

Rookie goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic (2-11 GAA, .928 save percentage, 17-2-1 won-loss record) has been red hot over the second half of the season and was recently named OHL Rookie and Goaltender of the Month for February. In addition, Nedeljkovic is the current Vaughn Canadian Hockey League Goaltender of the Week.

Offensively, Plymouth features eight play-

ers with at least 20-goals scored (Matt Mistele, 32; Garrett Meurs, 27; Ryan Hartman, Tom Wilson, Stefan Noesen and Vince Trocheck, all with 23 each; Cody Payne, 22; Rickard Rakell, 21). Meanwhile, the Whalers have qualified for the OHL playoffs for 22 straight seasons, which is a current league record. Plymouth will start the 2013 playoffs at Compuware Arena on Fri. Mar. 23 or Sat. Mar. 24 against an opponent to be determined.

Playoff tickets can be purchased in 12-game packages for \$120 for Executive Reserved or \$168 for Center Ice Seating. Tickets for individual playoff game will be available once an opponent and dates have been confirmed.

For more information, please call the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400 or check online at [www.plymouthwhalers.com](http://www.plymouthwhalers.com).



The Victory Honda 19-plus women's hockey team celebrates last Sunday after winning the MAHA Senior B championship. VH plays its home games at Arctic Pond in Plymouth.

## Finally, Victory!

### Overtime goal puts Victory Honda Sr. B women icers into nationals

shots for the win.

On March 2, VH posted a 5-0 win over Mission. Goaltender Mary Beth Trainor got the start in that game and was strong in goal to earn the shut-out. Glenn and Kelly Gittenman scored on the power play, with Justine Cigna scoring twice and Emily Nelson once.

"We knew Mission's record and who they did play against and we know some of the players on their team," Victory Honda head coach Brad Johnson said. "They upgraded in goal as well, so we knew not to take them lightly. I was extremely pleased with our effort as we came out and played, arguably our best game of this entire season."

That win put VH into that evening's match against the O'Leary Hawks, Senior B champions.

Johnson said it was a typical, defensive battle between the rivals.

"We have been playing these ladies (O'Leary) for years now," he said. "We have beaten them before, but always lost to them in the state championship." O'Leary outshot VH 15-13, but could only beat Trainor twice which would prove to be enough thanks to goals from Gittenman, Nikki Betz and the overtime winner from

Jenna Donnelly.

**Battling back**  
Then came the March 3 championship game against Mission, and VH fell into a 2-0 hole after two periods. Mission scored early in the third to go up 3-0 with 11:48 left.

Johnson then called a timeout and the team refused.

"VH decided that they would not be denied a championship without an epic battle," Johnson noted.

The top line of Nelson, Kristen Schwan and Bethany Crockey took over the hockey game and Crockey netted two goals to make it 3-2. Nelson fired in the equalizer with 1:45 remaining to force OT.

Johnson said "unbelievable goaltending" from Mission's Francesca Santi (48 saves) kept the contest 3-3 until the third overtime. That's when Crockey completed her hat trick and sent VH into the nationals.

"Santi did everything humanly possible to give Mission a chance," Johnson continued. "But in the end, it was that top line once again and a completed hat trick from Crockey that would bring an emotional end to a great tournament."

## Madonna beaten in NAIA tourney opener

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University men's basketball team — making its inaugural appearance in the NAIA Division II National Tournament — met its match Wednesday in Southern Oregon.

The No. 18-seeded Raiders punched their ticket into Friday's Round of 16 with a convincing 83-66 opening-round victory over No. 14-seeded MU at the College of the Ozarks' (Mo.) Keeter Gymnasium.

Southern Oregon was led by sophomore forward Eric Thompson, a former walk-on from Oregon State and minor league baseball player in the LA Dodgers farm system.

The 6-foot-8 Thompson scored 20 points in 30 minutes, going 5-for-6 from beyond the arc.

"He's a great player and I thought we didn't do enough to slow him down," MU coach Noel Emmerichsen said. "Once he got a rhythm, he was hitting shots — tough shots, open shots — he made everything. But we kind of let him get away from us and get open a lot more than we would have liked to."

Kyle Fedder also drained five three-pointers en route to a 25-point effort, while David Sturmer added 10 points and six rebounds.

Tied at 11, Southern Oregon opened up a 25-14 lead behind its three-point shooting, draining three during a three-minute stretch in the first half.

The Raiders led 51-38 at the break, while shooting 50 percent (7-of-14) from beyond the arc.

## Eagles fall short, 55-36

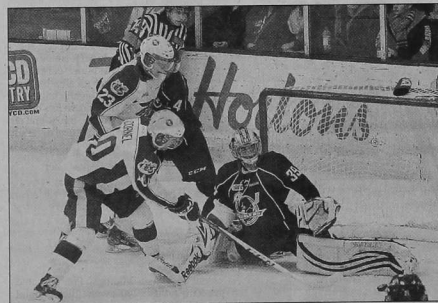
Plymouth Christian Academy lost 55-36 Wednesday night to Allen Park Intery City Baptist in a Class D district boys basketball matchup to finish 12-10 for the season.

Scoring 15 points for the Eagles was Drew Busch, with Mick Nelson contributing 10.

"We kept the first quar-

ter pretty close," Eagles head coach Dominique Washington said. "We wanted to slow the game down and play as close to perfect as possible."

"We only eight turn-overs but basically they converted all of these (into points). We played a good game, but they played better. Almost perfect."



MANDY GETSCHMAN

The goalkeeping of Alex Nedeljkovic (No. 39), shown from a game earlier this season, is a big reason why the Plymouth Whalers just clinched the OHL West Division title.

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## Silent art

### Orchestra conductor gives women a lesson in her craft

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Nan Washburn makes her job look easy. During a demonstration on orchestra conducting earlier this week, she traced up, down, from side to side, the baton in her right hand sweeping through the air, as her left arm circled gracefully in an opposite direction.

"All of it is about conveying emotion and energy and it becomes a personal art form as a result," said Washburn, the music director and conductor of the Plymouth-based Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra.

"But the basic thing is like a traffic cop. It's tempo, who's coming in, who's playing too loud, starting and stopping, cueing. The left hand is supposed to be free to do other things at the same time. It's that left-brain, right-brain thing. 'You have to translate it so that it doesn't just look good to you, but it actually produces the sound you want. I realized very early on in conducting that it's not as easy as it might seem.'"

Washburn taught members of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Greater Detroit Section, a lesson in conducting 101 during her presentation as a featured speaker at the group's Nosh & Knowledge Lunch and Lecture Series in Southfield.

Her students agreed there's more to conduct-

ing than waving a baton in the air.

"It was very interesting. My arm was hurting already," said Marlene Goodman of Farmington Hills, after imitating Washburn's moves.

Washburn said she keeps in shape by bicycling and walking, but pointed out that conducting does build muscle. Her legs, rather than arms, are more likely to tire first.

"There are women conductors who like to wear high heels. I don't know how they do that," she said.

Washburn said she trades beauty for "something cushy" when wearing footwear on the podium.

Judy Goldwasser of Birmingham laughed at her own attempt to follow Washburn's lead.

"It's the same way dancing is for me—I can't do it," she said. "Conducting is something we don't know anything about, so it was fascinating."

Shayna Silverman, NCJW Detroit board member and a Farmington Hills resident, arranged for Washburn to speak during the lectures after watching one of her presentations elsewhere.

"I always kept her in mind for programming because I thought she was so wonderful," Silverman said. "I don't know how she does it. I definitely will have a new awareness of what a conductor's responsibilities are."



Marlene Goodman (left) of Farmington Hills, Ruth Klueger of White Lake, and Judy Goldwasser of Bloomfield Township hold invisible batons as they work on their orchestral conducting skills.



Nan Washburn, conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra shows a slide of herself in action, during a presentation last week.

#### Audience questions

Washburn is in her 14th season as music director and conductor for the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra. She's also artistic director and principal conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. She had already attained undergraduate and graduate degrees in flute perfor-

mance when she decided to study conducting.

Her presentation on conducting reflects some of the questions she has been asked about her career.

"Mostly it's 'what do you do?' If the musicians are looking at their music and they don't look like they are looking at you, you can't be doing anything." It's some-

thing that's a little mystifying."

Washburn said good people skills and physical coordination are essential.

"I have to thank my father who taught me softball and all sorts of things at a young age. I never thought that later on I'd depend on being that coordinated today." Mental agility is impor-

tant, too. A conductor follows a musical score that includes all parts—woodwind, brass, percussion, strings, solos, piano and harp—on each page. Washburn uses red and blue pencils, along with yellow marker, to highlight changes in tempo, phrasing, note duration and other cues on the musical score.

#### Like party planning

As music director, she selects performance pieces that underscore the orchestra's identity. For the Michigan Philharmonic, that means lots of contemporary music and ethnic and cultural diversity.

"My programming process isn't that much different than if you think about planning a dinner party and you have different friends that have different likes. You're trying to shape something to appeal to everyone. It's like a big puzzle."

For more about the Michigan Philharmonic, visit [www.michiganphil.org](http://www.michiganphil.org).

See Washburn's website at [nanwashburn.com](http://nanwashburn.com). Learn more about the NCJW Greater Detroit at [ncjwdetroit.org](http://ncjwdetroit.org).

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# Get ancestry research tips from museum event

The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold the fifth in a series of genealogical seminars on March 23, to help family historians of all levels research their ancestors. Loretta Szucs and Juliana Szucs Smith, a mother-daughter duo will lead the workshop, sponsored by Ancestry.com.

Szucs has worked for Ancestry.com for 20 years and has served on national and state advisory boards and boards of five genealogical societies, including the Federation of Genealogical Societies. She also has worked for the National Archives in Chicago, Ill., and authored and edited several books, including *The Source, They*

*Became Americans, and Chicago and Cook County Sources.*

She'll talk about "Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com" and "Beyond The Federal Census: Using Non-Population and State Censuses to Find Your People."

Smith has worked for Ancestry.com for more than 14 years. She began her family history journey trolling through microfilms at the tender age of 11 with her mother. She has written many articles for online and print genealogical publications and penned the "Computers and Technology" chapter of *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*.

Juliana holds a certificate from Boston University's Online Genealogical Research Program, and is working towards certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

She will speak about "Common Surnames" and "What to Do With Your Discoveries."

The seminar begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Seating will be limited. The fee for the day is \$50, includes the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the Museum's special exhibit, "Made in America," during lunch and the afternoon break. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the Museum's website at



Juliana Szucs Smith (left) and her mother, Loretta Szucs, will talk about genealogy, Saturday, March 23, at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

plymouthhistory.org. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at

155 S. Main St., one block north of downtown Plymouth.

For more information, call the Museum at (734) 455-8940.

## GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

### Butterflies

"Monarchs — their Journey South and Journey North," is the topic of the next meeting of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The program will cover the annual migrations with emphasis on Monarchs' roosts, people, towns, and tag recovery in Mexico. Parking on Hines Dr. or Ann Arbor Trail.

Admission is \$3 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 223-5510 or visit [www.sembabut-flyrio.com](http://www.sembabut-flyrio.com).

### Master Composter

Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) in cooperation with Rouge Watershed municipalities offers a series of classes in master composting beginning March 11 at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road at Telegraph. Classes run from 6:45-8:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$40. A Master Composter is a community gardening volunteer who understands how to make compost, soil

health, compost benefits, natural mulches, environmental lawn care, and more. In addition to "Composting... For Earth's Sake" on March 11, other classes in the series are:

- Soil testing and fertilizer options, March 18
  - Healthy lawn care, April 8
  - Youth education and schoolyard gardens, April 15
  - Sustainable landscapes and rainwater recycling, April 22
  - "SOCWA gardens open house, May 4
  - Class wrap up, May 6
- In order to earn their Master Composter name badge,

volunteers attend six classes, build a working compost pile, complete written assignments, and volunteer 12 hours of time. For more information, e-mail to LFDean@aol.com, visit [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org), or call (248) 546-5818.

### English Gardens

"Learn about perennial gardening at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at a free presentation. Get a list of best garden performers and tips on selecting plants. "The Secrets to a Beautiful Lawn" will provide information about keeping lawns green, healthy and growing, at 1 p.m. Saturday,

March 23. Free.

• Get tips on pruning and dividing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 27 and 1 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at free presentations.

• A free presentation will offer suggestions on keeping insects, small and large animals at bay in the garden, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

## REUNIONS

Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Got a class photo or yearbook picture to go with the information? Send it along as a jpg attachment.

### BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1963

50th reunion will be held Sept. 28. Contact Kathy (Toth) Hay at [khay@reinhardtrealtors.com](mailto:khay@reinhardtrealtors.com) or Diana (Basnaw) Mc-

Daniel at [djmcDaniel45@comcast.net](mailto:djmcDaniel45@comcast.net).

### DETROIT BURT ELEMENTARY

Classes of 1960-79: A reunion is planned for April 20 at Big Tommy's Parthenon, 40380 Grand River Ave., Novi. A limited number of tickets are available. They will not be sold at the reunion. Presale tickets are \$25; 5-7 p.m. March 15 at Panera at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia. [Pattypure@yahoo.com](mailto:Pattypure@yahoo.com) or

Burtureunion@yahoo.com for more information.

### DETROIT GESU CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1956: A reunion is planned for Aug. 17. Call Jack Sayed at (810) 231-9230.

### DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASSES FROM 1964-67

Family & Friends Day bowling fundraiser runs 2-6 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at Oaks Lanes, 8450 N. Middlebelt, Westland.

Cost is \$20 per person and includes three games, shoes, pizza and beverage. Open to adults and children. Call Rita Whitley at (313) 281-8001.

### PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963

A 45-year class reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 7. For information contact Susan Keith Johnson at [sjohnson4@comcast.net](mailto:sjohnson4@comcast.net).

### SOUTH LYON

#### CLASS OF 1963

A 50th class reunion is planned for July 20. For more information, contact Barbara Cook at (248) 349-5982.

### WAYNE HIGH SCHOOLS

#### ALL REUNION

The Alumni Association's 29th Annual All Reunion Banquet is 5-10 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m., Friday, May 17, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born,

Wayne. For more info contact Sharon Scott at (734) 722-4651 or [sscott@wcccd.edu](mailto:sscott@wcccd.edu). The class of 1964 will be honored at the event.

### WESTLAND JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1963

6 p.m. midnight, Saturday, Oct. 26, at Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center, Livonia. For more information, e-mail to Linda Harbin at [jghs.1983@gmail.com](mailto:jghs.1983@gmail.com).

## ONLINE PHOTO GALLERIES

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### Attention Boys, Girls, Teachers and Parents!



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## Nominations accepted for senior volunteers

The search is on for Michigan's outstanding senior volunteer.

The Salute to Senior Service program, sponsored by Home Instead, Inc., the franchisor of the Home Instead Senior Care network, honors the contributions of adults 65 and older who give at least 15 hours a month of volunteer service to their favorite causes.

Deadline for nominating an outstanding senior volunteer is March 31. State winners then will be selected by popular vote at SaluteToSeniorService.com.

Online voting will take place from April 15-30. A panel of senior care experts will pick the national Salute to Senior Service honoree from among the state winners.

Home Instead, Inc. will donate \$500 to each of the state winners' favorite nonprofit organizations and their stories will be posted on the Salute to Senior Ser-

vice Wall of Fame. In addition, \$5,000 will be donated to the national winner's nonprofit charity of choice.

"We all know seniors who do so much for our community," said Jeff Huber, president, Home Instead, Inc. "These silent heroes give selflessly, expecting nothing in return. And yet, their contributions often make a difference not only to the organizations they serve, but in changing how the public views growing older."

To complete and submit a nomination form online for a senior age 65 or older who volunteers at least 15 hours a month, and to view the contest's official rules, visit [SaluteToSeniorService.com](http://SaluteToSeniorService.com).

Completed nomination forms also can be mailed to Salute to Senior Service, P.O. Box 285, Bellevue, NE 68005.

## Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.

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### PAIN THAT COMES UP IN THE NIGHT

Learning from patients the timing of their pain is important for doctors. In conditions of the bones and joints, the presence of pain at night is particularly significant.

For example, a feature of gout is not only that it comes on at night, but that it awakens a person from sleep. That patient experience practically defines that the problem is gout, and allows the doctor to start therapy immediately and undertake only a minimum of tests to confirm the diagnosis.

Of nearly equal importance is the patient's experience with shoulder pain. If rolling over on the shoulder during sleep awakens the person with pain, the physician can surmise that the basic problem is a muscle tendinitis. In contrast, a person with shoulder arthritis would find that bedrest brings relief from pain.

Problems such as gout and tendinitis worsen at night because these conditions are in part dependent on body heat. At night, the body's basal temperature decreases; at the same time blood supply to the arms and legs decreases because movement is less. Gout is a crystal that dissolves in the heat and precipitates in the cold. Deep into the night, when body heat is at its least, is the best time for gout to strike.

In tendinitis, the problem is injury. At night with lack of movement and less blood supply to tendons of the arms and legs, areas of injury build up. The result is tendon pain and leg cramps.

When dealing with problems of bones and joints, physicians first ask where the pain is, but the next question is: when is the pain?

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# Canton home improvement show is first class

By Joe Gagnon  
Guest Columnist

For the past 12 years I have been spending time with dozens of exhibitors at the Summit in Canton broadcasting my radio show and talking with several hundred homeowners. The city puts on this event in a beautiful facility and the police department and the inspectors are right there on site to answer questions from homeowners about a variety of sub-

jects. It really is quite impressive. They set me up in the show with a nicely-covered table and a banner and I sit there dressed in my doctor smock with a stethoscope wrapped around my neck and answer questions. Newcomers to the area will sometimes ask if I'm there to take blood pressure readings or give medical advice. I never pretend to be a real doctor and am only a doctor of appliances. I would like to thank the many people who read this column and say the nicest things to me. You make it all worthwhile!

Most people know how I feel about the quality of major appliances produced today and all of the negatives I've written about. That was reinforced by the lady who stopped at my booth and told me she had a 1971 Whirlpool washer in Washington. She has never had service on the machine and she said it has certainly paid for itself in soap savings. Now the save funds working and the part is no longer available and she is very skeptical about buying a new washer.

Other people were listening to her conversation and asked her how this so called Saver Saver. They didn't know what she was talking about and so she explained. Today, the wash system is controlled by electronics that are very expensive in repair costs. The washer controls the

water temperatures and the amount of water that enters the machine. It all has to do with energy savings and water conservation. The average life of a clothes washer today is 10 years, not 41 years of trouble-free usage.

Another homeowner asked about a dishwasher which won't operate because the accusensor light keeps blinking. She wanted to know what an accusensor is on a dishwasher. It's a sensor mounted to the side of the pump which senses how clean the water is in a dishwasher. Does the average homeowner really need this feature or is this just an electronic component prone to failure and the cause of a needed service call?

I talked with many people about their problems with clothes dryers. I know that I solved problems by telling them to clean the dryer vent lines. When it takes too long to dry a load of clothes you should go directly to the plugged vent line and clean it out completely. Remember, while the vent line is plugged up with lint, you are living in a home that is very prone to disaster. Your dryer is a very serious fire hazard and it's just a matter of time before you see the results. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1060. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twm1.com](mailto:appldr@twm1.com).

## Churches offer rum, brunch, egg hunts

Learn about Salvation Army programs while your children meet the Easter Bunny at a Bunny Brunch, Saturday, March 23, at The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps.

Or hunt for eggs, make crafts and hear stories that same day at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church or Faith Community Wesleyan Church, both in Livonia.

Then head to the annual Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, March 30 and let them hunt for some of the 13,000 eggs that will be scattered around the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville.

The events are among many Easter Bunny programs and egg hunts planned locally and throughout Metro Detroit.

The Salvation Army Plymouth Brunch will run 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plymouth Corps Community Center, 9451 S. Main St. in Plymouth. There is no admission charge.

Don't forget to bring your Easter basket to the Eggstravaganza on March 30 at the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville.

Youth ages 1-12 can participate in crafts and activities and will receive an Easter basket they can fill with treats and decorated crafts. Parents and other adult guests will receive information about Salvation Army programs, including Men's and Women's Ministry, Summer Day Camp, Tiny

Tots Pre-School, Youth Programming, Emergency Disaster Services, and The Kwon Do. Families interested in attending the Bunny Brunch should RSVP at (734) 453-5464 no later than Wednesday, March 20.

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps is accepting donations of Easter baskets and individually-wrapped candy, along with money to buy crafts and food. Donations may be mailed to the Plymouth Corps at 9451 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. Contributions also can be dropped off at the center, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.

Volunteers also needed to assist with set-up, cooking, serving food, craft stations, and clean-up. To volunteer for the Bunny Brunch, call Sandy Kollinger at (734) 453-5464, Ext. 24.

**In Livonia**  
Easter Fun Day runs 10 a.m.-noon, March 23 at St. Paul's, located on Five Mile, one block west of Lake Road in Livonia. Youngsters, ages 12 and under, will hunt for eggs, play games and participate in other Easter-themed activities at this free event. For information, or to sign up, call the

church office at (734) 422-1470.

The church also requests donations of white socks, Chapstick, chewing gum, individually-wrapped bread and waffles, snack bars, pocket Bibles and pocket-sized tissue packs for Comfort Kits for the homeless.

Youngsters can hunt for eggs, participate in games and crafts, enjoy snacks and hear the Easter story, 12:45-4 p.m. Saturday, March 23 at Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman. The event is aimed at ages 1-11. Parents may stay and join in the fun. Children should bring their own baskets. For more information, call Melissa at (734) 765-1827.

### Eggstravaganza

First Church of the Nazarene's annual egg hunt is a party. Easter Bunny meet-and-greet, entertainment show and

egg search all rolled into one big event.

Admission is free, but pre-registration is required and closes on March 27 or when it totals 600 children, located at [www.dmcnazarene.org](http://www.dmcnazarene.org).

Youngsters, age 1-11, will collect eggs in five separate age groups, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event is located at 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. Participants should bring their own baskets.

Youngsters will get a chance to pose for photos with the Easter Bunny, play games, get prizes, watch a juggler, have fun with puppets and participate in song and dance.

Hot dogs, chips, cookies and lemonade will be available for everyone.

For a list of other local egg hunts and breakfasts and brunches with the Easter Bunny, visit [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) and click on the Observer Community Life section.

## Guide to Employment

To place your ad here contact us at [careers@hometownlife.com](mailto:careers@hometownlife.com) or call 1-800-574-7355

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section

<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>APPOINTMENT SETTERS</b> HIVAC COMPANY Looking for individuals who are outgoing, have good communication skills, and like to talk to customers. We are looking for individuals who are flexible, hard working, and have a positive attitude. Please send resume to <a href="mailto:hr@hivac.com">hr@hivac.com</a> or call 734-464-0052</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY</b> Dynamic manufacturer in Plymouth is looking to increase production and we are eager to learn. Dependable, hard working individuals who can demonstrate a strong work ethic and positive attitude. Entry level, full time position, day shift, excellent benefits. High school diploma required. We are flexible around school schedules. Competitive wages and a generous benefit package including 401k, EOE. Email resumes to: <a href="mailto:hr@hivac.com">hr@hivac.com</a></p> <p><b>Auto-Inspector/Manager</b> 12 yrs looking for an Auto-Inspector/Manager with 3-5 yrs experience. 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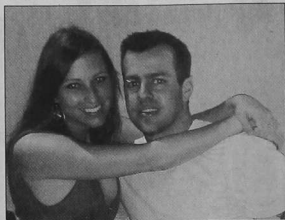
**For details call 1-800-574-7355**

View Online  
www.hometownlife.com

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

## Waldecker-O'Connor

Her fiancé, son of Mike and Sandy O'Connor of Phoenix, Ariz., is a native of California and was raised in Arizona. Tim entered the Navy in



broker with Wells Fargo. An October 2013 wedding is planned in Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Details:** The church will offer a discussion group on the History Channel miniseries, "The Bible"  
**Contact:** (248) 476-8222

**FASHION ADVICE**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 20

PAYING TRIBUTE  
TO THE LIFE OF  
YOUR LOVED ONE

# Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

## Science is Fun!

### Science Photo Contest

Mail your photo entry to  
Scoop The Newshound,  
41304 Concept Drive,  
Plymouth, MI 48170 or email  
to cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Boy or Girl: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

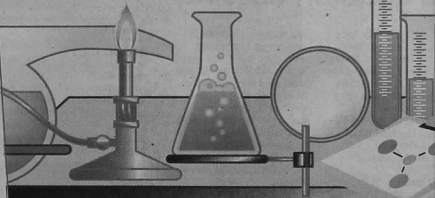
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Show and Tell Contest

Tell Scoop why learning about science is fun.  
Send a picture of yourself and you could win  
free admission for four to the Michigan Science  
Center or to the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum.



March is a great time to explore science.

Maybe you are preparing for a science fair project for school or you just love to learn. Science is so much fun and conducting a scientific experience is not only loads of fun but it could be very helpful as well.

Let's try an experiment.



**Gift Sponsor**  
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Michigan Science Center

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**Gift Sponsor**  
Ann Arbor  
Hands On Museum  
Approximately  
\$40 VALUE!

Ann Arbor Hands on Museum

5020 John R Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

### Wanted!

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about? Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.



### Join Scoop's Birthday Club!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Boy or Girl: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

\* Required for Birthday Club

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Michael Ledbetter  
Ryan Sumner  
Laela Lawrence  
Grace Lajonczewicz  
Ryan Finley

Livonia  
Milford  
Novi  
Walled Lake  
Livonia

March 3  
March 3  
March 21  
March 27  
March 28

**f Visit Us on Facebook**

facebook.com/ScoopTheNewshound

Coordinator/Contributing Writer:  
Chaya Jordan, Marketing Manager  
Design/Layout:  
Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?  
Email cbjordan@hometownlife.com

### TASTE TEST EXPERIMENT

Did you know that your nose can affect your taste? Smell plays a big part of taste. Close your eyes. Hold your nose while tasting a slice of a potato and an apple. Can you tell them apart? Your nose and mouth are connected through the same airway and therefore you taste and smell foods at the same time. When you can't smell the food that you are tasting it becomes harder to differentiate between foods. That's why food tastes differently when you have a stuffy nose.



THIS TYPE OF STORM BRINGS WITH IT TORRENTIAL RAINS, HIGH WINDS AND LARGE WAVES.

ANSWER: HURRICANE



THIS FIRST NAME IS SHARED BY TWO OF THE THREE FOUNDERS OF APPLE COMPUTERS.

ANSWER: STEVE



HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER DOES THE AVERAGE ROUND, ABOVE-GROUND POOL HOLD, DEPENDING ON WIDTH?

ANSWER: BETWEEN 8,000 AND 17,000



WHAT IMPORTANT COMPONENT DOES FIRE NEED TO BURN?

ANSWER: OXYGEN

Courtesy of Metro Creative

## I love my pet Photo Contest WINNERS!

Winners from February 2013 Photo Contest



Kristina Kahn, 11 years old of Milford with foster dog Coco.



Sarah Walrath, 12 years old of South Lyon, with bunny Buggy.



Cory Router, 13 years old, of Westland with cat Bell.



Briana Karalis, 11 years old, of Livonia with dog, Maggie.

**Deadline for submissions:**

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, MI 48170  
All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Media by close of the business day on **March 29**  
or email your form to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

## Hospital sleep center moves, doubles in size



St. Mary Mercy Hospital has moved its Sleep Disorders Center from the hospital campus to this building on Farmington Road in Livonia.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold an open house at its relocated Sleep Disorders Center, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19. The center moved from the hospital campus to the Heritage Commons complex, 14600 Farmington Road, suite 101 in Livonia. That's about two miles from its previous location.

The new location doubles the size of the Sleep Disorders Center and has increased the number of private rooms from four to six. At the Open House, visitors can tour the new building, meet staff and learn more about its services.

St. Mary Mercy has offered sleep services since 1998. The Sleep Disorders Center is accredited

by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and its staff includes registered polysomnographic technologists and physicians certified by the American Board of Sleep Medicine specializing in critical care, pulmonary medicine and neurology.

The center treats many sleep disorders, including obstructive sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy, night terrors, and REM sleep behavior disorder.

Sleep studies are offered every day. Call (734) 655-4640 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday to schedule an appointment. Patients can be referred by their doctor or may call for more information.

## Study: We're good on flossing

According to the newly released "Look Who's Flossing" Survey by DenTek, a company that sells oral care products, Metro Detroit has a lot to smile about. The area ranks third out of 20 cities surveyed about flossing in a study conducted by an independent marketing research firm in January. Just over 40 percent of those polled in the Detroit area reported that they floss at least once a day.

Detroit-area residents are the fourth most likely in the nation to floss because it is good for their overall health (41 percent). Equally as practical, Detroit flossers are No. 1 in the nation for flossing in their home bathroom. "We commissioned their consumer opinion survey to drill down into flossing habits and behaviors in America's biggest cities," said

Charlotte Havelly, vice president of marketing for DenTek. "About 35 percent of people we talked to are frequent flossers, which is very encouraging."

The survey's best cities for flossing are:

1. Los Angeles
2. Boston
3. Detroit
4. Miami/Ft. Lauderdale
5. Atlanta

Worst flossers:  
1. Cleveland  
2. Seattle/Tacoma  
3. Dallas/Ft. Worth  
4. San Francisco/San Jose  
5. Chicago

So why not floss? Twenty-seven percent of individuals said they just don't think about it. One in 10 individuals who responded to the survey also said they never floss.

Three quarters of flossers reported floss-

ing in their home bathroom, but 11 percent said they will floss anywhere. Thirty-seven percent said they floss for overall health; 25 percent said they do it because it's recommended by their dentist or hygienist; 19 percent floss because it protects their dental investments.

"Health benefits usually come to mind when it comes to flossing, but more and more people are starting to understand the money savings aspect, too. If you take care of your teeth, by brushing and flossing regularly, you can alleviate pain down the road, in your mouth and your wallet," said Havelly. Mizouri, LLC, conducted the survey of 20 major metropolitan areas in the U.S. to learn more about consumer views on flossing and oral care.

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### March

#### BLOOD DRIVE

St. Valentine Church will hold a blood drive, 8 a.m.-1:45 p.m. in the school gymnasium, 25875 Hope, Redford. For more information contact Cecil Gallagher at cgalredcrlblooddrive@gmail.com.

#### BLOOD PRESSURE MANAGEMENT

Susan Stiegerwalt, MD, a nephrologist on staff at Providence and Providence Park Hospitals, will talk about keeping blood pressure under control, 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 in the Fisher Auditorium at the hospital, 22255 Greenfield, Southfield. Includes a free blood pressure screening. Call (888) 751-5465.

#### HEALTH SCREENING

Get free balance, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), hearing, height and weight, lung function, memory, and vision testing at Project Healthy Living, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, March 22, at the Costco Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Enter through Door A. Bone density screenings will run from 9:30 a.m.-noon. For nominal fees, blood testing and analysis (\$5-\$50) and ultrasounds measuring blockage of the arteries and EKGs of the heart (\$25 to \$199) also will be available.

The event is sponsored by Farmington Area Commission on Aging, the City of Farmington Hills Senior Division, and Botsford Hospital. For more information or to pre-register and pay for the tests and services you want, visit <http://projecthealthyliving.org>. Or call (248) 473-1830.

#### JOINT REPLACEMENT

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars with orthopedic surgeons and expert staff who will answer your questions, discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures, and available implant options. An upcoming session is 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 27 with Jeffrey Mendelson, MD. All meetings are held in Classroom 10 at the hospital, located on Five Mile and Levan in Livonia. Register by calling (734) 655-2345.

#### LUPUS SUPPORT

The Michigan Lupus Foundation will hold a support group meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. The meeting is designed to assist individuals with lupus and their family and friends to get connected with each other and to get a better understanding of the disease and how to fight it. For more information visit [milupus.org](http://milupus.org) or call (800) 705-6677.



## YOU ARE INVITED TO AN...

# EASTER EGG HUNT

## Saturday, March 23rd

### Livonia Branch

37401 Plymouth Road

(SW Corner of Newburgh & Plymouth)

11:00 a.m. Sharp: Ages 6 and Younger

11:15 a.m.: Ages 7 - 12

Eggs are filled with candy and tickets for special prizes.



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734.464.8079



[communityalliancecu.org](http://communityalliancecu.org)



Women's Services

## WOMEN AND PELVIC HEALTH

- Wednesday, March 13
  - Wednesday, April 17
- 6-8 p.m.

Roma Banquets  
32550 Cherry Hill Road  
Garden City, MI 48135



Featured Speaker:

Paul R. Makela, MD  
Medical Director  
Gynecological  
Robotic Surgery,  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital

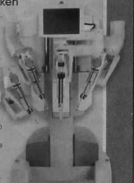
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## JOBS

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## Quiz: Is your cover letter like a bad handshake?

Susan Ricker,  
CareerBuilder Writer

A cover letter serves a specific purpose in the hiring process. While potential employers can turn to your resume to see your work experience, a cover letter is an introduction to who you are and why the prospective employer should invite you in for an interview.

Handshakes are another form of introduction, so think of your cover letter as a handshake. While you may think you're offering a warm handshake, your cover letter could actually be strong-arming you out of a job. Take this quiz to find out what type of handshake your cover letter is most associated with and the impression it's giving to potential employers:

## 1. Your cover letter's opening sentence is:

A. "I want to tell you why you should hire me for this open position at your company."

B. "I'm interested in the open position at your company and would like to submit my qualifications."

C. "I was surprised to hear of the open position at your company and was hoping you could look at my resume if or when you get a chance."

## 2. If you're currently employed, do you mention your job in your cover letter?

A. Yes, I explain that my current job should pay better, and I'm interested in receiving a better title or promotion.

B. Yes, I relate my current job to the open position and explain why I'm ready to assume

more responsibilities.

C. No, I don't want the hiring company to think I'm not ready to leave my current job.

## 3. Your experience matches about 90 percent of the job requirements. Do you address the requirement you don't meet in your cover letter?

A. Sort of. I tell them how experienced and smart I am and how impressed my past boss was with how quickly I picked things up.

B. No, I address the requirements I do meet and include my relevant experience; I can mention the other requirement if I get asked about it in a later interview.

C. Yes, I point out that I don't know how to do it and say I hope I get the chance to learn it.

## 4. Where in your cover letter do you write about the company of interest?

A. Briefly in the middle: Most of the room was used for boasting about my qualifications and why I'm the best choice.

B. After the introduction paragraph about my interest and experience, I write a short paragraph about why I admire the company and the values I share with it.

C. Most of the cover letter is about them. I only included a few sentences about why I'd be lucky to work there.

## 5. How do you end your

## cover letter?

A. Thank you for your time, and I know you'll make the right choice.

B. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

C. Thank you for your time, and it'd be so incredible to hear from you.

## RESULTS

## Mostly A's: Death-grip handshake

Being assertive and confident are great qualities, but you're coming on too strong. If your cover letter were a handshake, you'd break a few bones with that death grip. Keep your cover letter balanced with the qualities that would make you a great pick for the job as well as why you're interested in working there. You want to build a

relationship with the potential employer, not muscle them into a decision.

## Mostly B's: Confident and approachable handshake

You may be getting a call for an interview soon, because your cover letter made a great first impression, just like a confident and approachable handshake. You clearly understand what it takes to write a great cover letter, expressing a genuine interest in the position and the company and relating your past experience to the new role. By presenting yourself as a strong candidate, you set the stage for a more in-depth conversation about if the job is a good fit for both parties.

## Mostly C's: Dead-fish handshake



You'll need to muster up more courage in your cover letter, because your writing is the equivalent of a cold, limp handshake. It's wonderful that you're impressed by the business and you're trying to be polite, but that won't help the hiring manager understand who you are and why you're a good fit. A cover letter is an introduction, but it's also a tool to help the company make an informed hiring decision. Focus on the key points that company should know about you — why should they hire you over everybody else?

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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City Hall, 3rd Floor, 33000 Civic Center Dr., Livonia, MI 48150

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**Help Wanted - General**  
**AUTOMATIC PRESS OPERATOR**  
Needed in the Belleville area. Must be able to operate progressive presses, set calls, load coils, plan heat & working knowledge of programmable logic controller, electrical and safety. Phone: 734-422-2422  
Email resumes to: [hr@automaticpress.com](mailto:hr@automaticpress.com)

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For positions at the Ford Store please contact: Bob Pauls, General Sales Manager or Jim Karpis, Service Manager at 734-721-0000.

**Help Wanted - General**  
**AUTO PARTS HELPER**  
Full Time for Motor area shop. Some light body work. Must be 18 yrs old. No experience necessary. As well as some light body work. Clean record. No drug tests. Email resumes to: [hr@autoparts.com](mailto:hr@autoparts.com)

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Gordon Chevrolet is looking for an auto salesperson for our used car Dept. Sales team. Health Insurance, 401K, Pension, employee only. A great working environment. This is a great opportunity for the right person. We will respond to your resume. Call Al Denomme for a confidential interview. 734-628-5342

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**CNC LATHE MACHINE OPERATOR**  
Must be able to operate progressive presses, set calls, load coils, plan heat & working knowledge of programmable logic controller, electrical and safety. Phone: 734-422-2422  
Email resumes to: [hr@cncmachine.com](mailto:hr@cncmachine.com)

**Help Wanted - General**  
**CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
Ideal for anyone who can't get used to working. We are looking for an individual to join our team. Must be 18 yrs old. No experience necessary. As well as some light body work. Clean record. No drug tests. Email resumes to: [hr@customerservice.com](mailto:hr@customerservice.com)

**Help Wanted - General**  
**DEALERSHIP SERVICE ADVISOR**  
Hines Park Ford is looking for an experienced and motivated individual to join our team. Must be 18 yrs old. No experience necessary. As well as some light body work. Clean record. No drug tests. Email resumes to: [hr@dealership.com](mailto:hr@dealership.com)

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Large contracting company looking for experienced individuals. Dependable individual, experience preferred. Must have a valid driver's license in good standing & dependable transportation. Must pass our employment drug test.  
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Experienced maintenance person needed to work for a mid-size apartment complex. Must be able to handle all aspects of maintenance in all aspects of maintenance. Competitive salary & benefits.  
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E.O.E. For more info call: 213-287-3781  
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Email resume to: [hr@sales.com](mailto:hr@sales.com)

**Help Wanted - General**  
**SEASONAL LABORER- PARKS**  
Charter Township is now accepting applications for Seasonal Laborer: Parks. Application Deadline: April 1, Thursday, March 21st, 2013. All applicants must be highly motivated and have the ability to provide excellent and friendly member services as well as assist in the maintenance of the parks. The credit union offers a bonus for advancement. Send resume to: [hr@seasonal.com](mailto:hr@seasonal.com)

**Help Wanted - General**  
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15 Pirate's coin  
17 Workbench  
18 Moose feature  
19 Garbo and  
20 Iris locale  
22 Toon Olive  
23 Restaurant handouts  
26 Now  
30 Thai neighbor  
31 Bad hair -  
32 Xiffin kin  
33 Was fizzy  
36 Likewise  
38 Be on the sick list  
39 Almost-pardon  
40 Fair maiden

**DOWN**

1 Wagner's Earth goddess  
2 Androses' pal  
3 Comme il  
5 Michael or Dudley  
6 Major leaguer  
7 Kind of deprivation  
8 Mean dwellings  
9 Term paper abbr.  
10 Winning margin  
11 Joey and Kiki  
16 Roquefort hue  
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**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

BBS FLIT PONY  
AYE EROO ARA  
MUCI LAGE JAC  
LODE E TALKS  
PREENS CAM  
OURS BECALMS  
DIG SWEET YOU  
SNOOPED KNOB  
FOB BRANDS  
GRAFT UREY  
EASE PROO SAL  
AKIN EDIT AGO  
READ PULL SEW

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23 Diamond oar  
24 de Cologne  
25 San Francisco hill  
26 Water lily leaf  
27 Attend a banquet  
28 Wrench target  
29 Bowling win  
31 Erases from memory  
34 Chiquita product  
35 Carry-out drink  
36 Talked on and on  
37 Egyptian goddess  
39 Percentage  
40 One of the Mavericks  
41 Stead  
42 Valhalla  
43 noncho  
44 Metro haze  
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46 Cherry leftover  
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6 3 8 5 7 1 3  
2 4 7 1 3  
9 5 3 2 8 1  
4 3 5 8 9 3 7  
2 5 7

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

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

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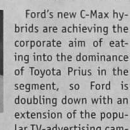
S Y G U E N C N L P X G G X  
Y Y R N A O F H A A L F N U Q  
G G E I B G I M G W I I Y A  
K C A N T I K N D X F W O K J F  
N U S T D T O E R E T Y O A G  
I H W U I E O S G H S O H N  
T V V J C S C P B P Q K C M I  
T U G C P E L O A P M G O K  
I C R A F T Y R U O A M T D R  
N N N Q M T G R H P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

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



## Car Report



By Dale Buss

campaign that launched the vehicle.

Ford's share of the U.S. hybrid market grew by nearly 9 percentage points between December 2011 and December 2012, mostly from the October launch of C-Max, the company said, while Toyota's share of hybrids dropped by 8 percentage points even though last year was the first complete year on the market for the company's expanded line of Prius models.

Additionally, initial sales data show that C-Max is stealing hybrid sales away from other brands at an impressive clip: Its conquest rate is about 64 percent, with the Prius and the Honda CR-V ranking as the top nameplates abandoned by customers in favor of C-Max.

"We clearly sought to go head-to-head with Prius" in introducing C-Max, Ford's first nameplate reserved only for electrified vehicles, C.J. O'Donnell, marketing and strategy manager for Ford Electrified Vehicles, told me. "C-Max is, all around, just a better car."

To that end, of course, Ford's first ads for C-Max last fall made dramatic comparisons in fuel economy, passenger roominess and other areas with Prius V, the slightly larger version of Prius that Toyota introduced last year.

Soon, C-Max advertising — retaining the "La Linea" character introduced in

its first spot — will pivot to some playful poetry readings designed to highlight C-Max features. C-Max pops up in the new ABC reality cooking show The Taste and will be a key part of challenges on the March 8 episode. The car also will be visible this season in the course of Ford's regular sponsorship of American Idol on Fox.

"Unlike typical launches, we're going to continue to invest in 2013 in C-Max to extend the launch," O'Donnell said. "Spending in media and creative and on grass-roots efforts will remain strong for nine to 12 months since the introduction rather than the typical three to six months."

O'Donnell said that Ford is encouraged by the fact that the C-Max Hybrid and the C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid, launched at the same time, have been helping the company exceed its usual market share in important electrified-vehicle markets such as California.

At the same time, about one-third of C-Max sales are occurring in the Midwest, typically among the worst markets for hybrids — but, of course, the historical

strength of the Ford franchise.

"Leading with this technology is a great entree to markets where we're striving to improve share, on the East and West coasts, but it's great to be able to use it to retain our strength in the Midwest also," O'Donnell said.

O'Donnell said that one of the most gratifying aspects of the sales patterns for C-Max so far is that the car has been able to steal significant numbers of customers who owned CR-V, Honda's compact SUV. "It's packaged with enough versatility to compete with that segment," he noted.

In fact, within the Ford brand, many C-Max buyers migrate down in size from previous versions of Escape and Escape Hybrid — even though there's a significantly refreshed new Escape SUV available now — as well as move from the Ford Focus compact sedan.

While Toyota has focused its electrified-vehicle efforts on conventional hybrids, and General Motors has emphasized its Chevrolet Volt plug-in hybrid, after a long and unspectacular record of offering conventional-alternative versions of some of its most popular conventional models Ford has begun determinedly fielding a wide variety of new electrified vehicles. At

## Advertising Feature



Battery packs for C-Max come together at Ford's plant in Rawsonville.

this point they include not only the two C-Max models but also the Focus Electric.

"As a company, we're now second [in electrified vehicles] and pecking at Toyota because of the range of our products," O'Donnell said. "We don't have a single entry that we're trying to put all our weight behind. We provide choices to customers in what electrified product best suits their driving styles and personal needs."

Still, about 70 percent of electrified vehicles sold by Ford this year will be conventional hybrids, he said; about 25 percent will be C-Max or Focus Energi plug-in hybrids; and the remaining 5 percent will be Focus Electric.

Ford accelerated its plans for C-Max as it reported that its U.S. February sales grew nine percent with 195,822 vehicles sold. That marked Ford's best February sales in six years — with cars up six percent, utilities up 21 percent and trucks up four percent.

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Auto Misc.

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Runs great, 100,000 miles,  
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Runs great, 100,000 miles,  
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Runs great, 100,000 miles,  
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DVD, showroom new!  
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Adventure, 4x4, \$11,999  
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1.9L, 4x4, \$11,999  
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20K, \$23,995. Certified, 1.9L,  
NORTH BROS.  
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FORD ESCAPE 2009  
4x4, full power, 4 cylinder,  
fully equipped, \$12,899  
DEALER  
734-261-6000

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FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2006  
4x4, \$11,599  
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FORD EXPLORER  
LIMITED 2008  
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Printed \$14,999  
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AWD, \$21,495-495  
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Silver, 20K, \$22,995  
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GMC ACADIA 2010  
White, 20K, \$21,495  
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Gray/Black, LTZ, and sunroof  
Ready for the winter elements  
Reduced to \$14,599  
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remote start. Ready for the  
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Black, 4x4, \$21,500  
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GMC TERRAIN 2010  
Silver, leather, 4x4, \$21,500  
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Silver, 4x4, \$21,500  
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23K, New Key, \$15,495  
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White, 3x4, \$21,495  
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and remote start. \$19,999  
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Jeep WRANGLER 4x4 2006  
4x4, 4x4, \$11,495  
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Jeep WRANGLER 4x4 2006  
4x4, 4x4, \$11,495  
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Jeep WRANGLER 4x4 2006  
4x4, 4x4, \$11,495  
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4x4, 4x4, \$11,495  
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Jeep WRANGLER 4x4 2006  
4x4, 4x4, \$11,495  
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Leather, moon, showroom  
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TORRENT GP 2000  
AWD, V6 engine, Cam Metal  
Gray, w/ Tan Cloth interior,  
Sunroof, heated seats, third  
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phone link. All scheduled  
maintenance, all records,  
always parked and in excellent  
condition. Fully loaded. One  
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maintained 36,000 miles.  
Asking \$15,500  
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