

# CANTON OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014 • hometownlife.com

## Company to create 150 jobs in Canton

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

feet of space on Baron Drive, in an industrial park near Koppernick and Haggerty.

"This is just one more illustration of companies choosing to locate in Canton because of our great facilities, quality of life and great location," Thomas said.

Advance Engineering's plans were announced Wednesday by the Michigan Economic Development Corp., which cited business expansions across the state totaling 494 new jobs and \$27.6 million in

new capital investment. "Michigan is the number one state for creating new manufacturing jobs," MEDC President and CEO Michael A. Finney said in a statement, "and these new expansions demonstrate that our economic climate is more business-friendly than ever and our manufacturing talent pool can compete with any place in the world."

Advance Engineering, founded in 1922 and headquartered in Redford, also has a plastic thermoform division.

The company is a supplier of deep-draw metal stampings to the automotive, home hardware, appliance and heating and cooling industries, among others.

The MEDC indicated only the metals divisions are involved in the consolidation in Canton.

The company is expected to have its metal divisions moved to Canton later this year. Corporate officials couldn't be reached for comment.

Thomas said Canton will be

working with the company for a 10-year tax abatement on personal property and a two-year, 50-percent tax break on real property investment.

The MEDC said Advance Engineering also is to receive a \$400,000 performance-based grant through the Michigan Business Development Program. It said Canton was chosen over a competing site in Ohio.

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Redford-based Advance Engineering Co. plans to consolidate its metal-stamping divisions from Redford and Ohio in an industrial park in Canton, creating 150 new jobs and generating up to \$6.5 million in capital investment. Canton Economic Development Manager Kristen Thomas said the company has bought a long-vacant building with more than 130,000 square



Mia Jakubik and Olivia Mulhern examine a sheep heart, identifying different parts and functions. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## HEART CONDITION

STEM students pass on passion for science

By Brad Kadrick  
Staff Writer

Sena Al-Ado has a passion for science she really wants to pass on to younger kids.

That's why Al-Ado and a couple of other students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park STEM

program were at the Plymouth District Library on Thursday, explaining how the heart, arteries and veins work in the body to about a dozen middle school-age children.

It's part of a monthly outreach program STEM students work on to impart their knowledge and love of

science and engineering to younger kids.

"I love science," said Al-Ado, a junior at Canton High School who serves as president of the STEM Student Council at The Park. "If I can get another moment in the day doing something I love, that's what I'm going to do."

The STEM kids make the trip to the Plymouth District Library monthly, in

learning sessions that are open to any middle school students in the Plymouth-Canton boundaries, including those in public, private and charter schools.

The classes alternate between biomedical and engineering lessons. For instance, in the April class, students will try to build the best cushion to save an

See STEM, Page A2

## Canton housing spurt continues

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Canton's spike in new housing continues to gain momentum amid plans to build a 94-home subdivision where the old Lucas farm and nursery once thrived along Ford Road between Ridge and Napier.

Pulte Homes expects to start work on the site later this year, ushering in new houses starting in the upper \$300,000 price range. The latest subdivision comes as Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said hundreds of homes already are in some stage of construction or planning in Canton. Real estate experts have said the township has a low housing inventory.

Faas said new subdivisions are mostly in the 100-home range.

"The sweet spot right now seems to be around 100 units," he said.

Pulte Homes received preliminary approval Tuesday from the Canton Township Board of Trustees to develop the old Lucas property. The company plans to build 74 homes on the north side of Ford Road and 20 on the south side in a subdivision called Parkside Estates.

The company plans to maintain a forested buffer between Parkside Estates and what eventually will become the township's Patriot Park to the east. Pulte plans to install a 12-foot-wide walking trail and a water main between the development and the park area.

"This (trail) is at no cost to the township," Faas said.

Real estate experts and Canton Assessor Doug Shaw have said housing demand is strong in Canton, leading to multiple new subdivisions and competition among buyers for existing homes.

Canton's home values spiked 5.4 percent for 2014, with Shaw saying "there seems to be a consistent rebound on all the single-family residential homes."

See HOUSING, Page A2

## Diaper bank founder stepping aside

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Detroit Area Diaper Bank founder Marybeth Levine of Canton spent five years of her life volunteering her time to collect and distribute more than 1.8 million diapers to nonprofit social service agencies across southeast Michigan.

She saw a void in government safety-net programs and

filled it. She worked long hours for no pay. She did it because she believes impoverished children and sickly adults who need diapers shouldn't go without.

She touched tens of thousands of lives of people who will never know her.

Levine is ending her diaper bank role and turning the reins over to the agencies she

See DIAPER, Page A2



Marybeth Levine worked year-round from a storage facility to distribute diapers to metro Detroit nonprofit agencies. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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### INDEX

Community Life.....	B6	Homes.....	C2	Services.....	C2
Crossword Puzzle.....	C3	Jobs.....	C1	Sports.....	B3
Education.....	A4	Obituaries.....	B8	Wheels.....	C1
Health.....	B9				



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# Township officials cut Relay ribbon

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

The annual Canton Relay for Life, one of the American Cancer Society's most successful 24-hour walks every year, has always enjoyed the support of Canton Township officials and organizations. That support will be

on display Thursday, Feb. 20, when a variety of township and civic organization representatives will be on hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony that will unofficially kick off the Relay for Life season (the official kickoff is Feb. 25).

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy,

Canton Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Paden and Charina Hansen, committee chair for the Canton Relay for Life, will cut the ribbon.

"The Relay For Life of Canton has long-standing support of the township, leisure services and community since 1997," said Abigail

Stonerook, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life specialist coordinating this year's walk. "Last year the American Cancer Society turned 100 years old; this year we move into the next century of fighting cancer and are pleased to see the community recommit to making this cancer's last

century and finishing the fight. The ribbon-cutting takes place 4 p.m. at the Canton Township administration building (1150 S. Canton Center). Canton Community Foundation President Michelle Malamis will be on hand, as will officials from the American Cancer Society, survi-

vors, team captains and others. The public is welcome. For more information, call 248-663-3404, email Stonerook@acancer.org or visit the Relay for Life website at www.relayforlife.org/cantonmi.

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## STEM

Continued from Page A1

egg dropped from different heights. Last month, they built towers out of spaghetti noodles and marshmallows. The idea, according to STEM coordinator Danielle Ramos, is to get kids interested in science at an early age.

"Kids can lose interest in science at an early age, so we're trying to keep them engaged," Ramos said. "Introducing them to

STEM lessons gives them a little glimpse of what the high school is going to offer."

That's one of the main reasons the STEM kids volunteer to do the teaching, according to Canton High School sophomore Maha Zahid, the STEM student council's vice president.

Zahid said the STEM students "do a lot of outreach."

"This is a way for us to share our knowledge and our passion for what we do," Zahid said. "We wanted to share it with these young kids so

they're ready for what they'll see in high school."

At Thursday's session, the middle schoolers got to handle actual sheep hearts to learn all about the heart. It's a hands-on way of teaching the students really respond to.

"In science... you have a theory or an idea and you get to implement it," said Barb Dinan, the teen librarian at the Plymouth District Library. "The kids love to be hands-on."

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Rachel Fagerman takes a close look at a sheep heart. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## DIAPER

Continued from Page A1

has helped as she prepares to move to Mexico with husband Steve and their sons John, II, David, 9, and Nathan, 7. Her husband, an auto industry purchasing manager, has a new job assignment.

Levine has taught her diaper bank recipients how to connect to donors. And her website, www.detroitarea-diaperbank.org, will soon steer donors directly to the nonprofit agencies. "We're trying to empower the nonprofits

with all the information we have and the lessons we have learned," Levine said. "Our goal is for them to embrace and take ownership of this and continue to beat the drum."

Mary Dekker, who coordinates food and baby-care distributions for The Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti, said Levine's diaper bank has had an immeasurable impact.

"It has been vital to what we're doing," Dekker said. "We run low, especially on large-size diapers. When we run low, we turn to the diaper bank. We don't have any funds to go out and purchase diapers. It's all

by donations." Dekker is hopeful diaper donors will continue their support through the diaper bank website for now - or go directly to www.thehopeclinic.org.

"We need that support. There's going to be a gap in that support when the diaper bank closes," Dekker said. "If we help people with diapers, that frees up money people can use for other things like food."

The Hope Clinic, which has a satellite medical clinic in Westland, is among more than 50 nonprofit agencies that relied on Levine's

help. Half of the clinic's clients are from Wayne County.

Levine has worked in Washington, D.C., as a congressional special assistant and as a higher education lobbyist. She once owned her own business as an employee recruiter. Yet she has said her volunteer role with the diaper bank was more fulfilling.

"She doesn't just point out a problem," Canton Public Library Director Eva Davis once told the Observer. "She looks inside herself and does something about it."

The library has routinely helped Levine with diaper collections.

Levine already has stopped accepting diaper bank donations. She still has diapers to distribute until they're gone, possibly through the fifth anniversary in April.

Levine never sought accolades for her volunteerism - yet others saw that she got it. She was named to the Canton Hall of Fame alongside local dignitaries.

"The way people all over metro Detroit embrace the diaper issue, I've been extremely happy, impressed, touched and grateful," Levine said.

Extra Space Storage in Canton gave her a place to store diapers.

M.S.A. Delivery Service, also in Canton, helped with large shipments of diapers from corporations.

"Canton has been an amazing base for us," Levine said.

Reflecting on her years running the diaper bank, she has no regrets.

"It has exceeded my expectations," she said. "Now we're empowering the nonprofits to take ownership of this very important need. We're trying to build a legacy through the nonprofits. The spirit will live on."

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## HOUSING

Continued from Page A1

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy has repeatedly said Canton is desirable because of its parks and recreation amenities, comparatively low crime rate and top-notch public services.

Faas said the Parkside Estates development is yet another sign that Canton continues to attract new residents. "It demonstrates the continued support for growth and the demand for housing," he said.

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**PALINDROMIC ARTHRITIS**

Physicians are aware that nature has curious ways; a good example is palindromic arthritis. In biology a palindrome refers to a phenomenon that starts and ends, but does so by reversing itself. A form of arthritis provides an illustration. There is an arthritis, appropriately called palindromic arthritis, in which the arthritis begins in a single joint, say the wrist. The wrist pain and swelling often is extreme, but if not treated may last one to three days and then lessen. However, while the wrist joint is recovering, the elbow or shoulder joint becomes inflamed. Physicians may next march across to the other arm going from shoulder to elbow to wrist. Or the condition may travel to the knee and then the ankle.

Resolution occurs in reverse. If the left wrist was just inflamed, but stops completely, then the person with palindromic arthritis knows that the left elbow will be the next site where the pain will end. The episode will keep rewilding back to the right wrist where the flare originally began and there it will completely end.

Physicians have no answer as to why palindromic arthritis takes on this pattern. Doctors can treat the most painful single joint with a steroid injection, but this procedure does not stop the condition from traveling to the next joint. In the effort to prevent attacks of palindromic arthritis, physicians have turned to treating the condition as if it were a variant of rheumatoid arthritis. But there are many drugs used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and a nearly infinite number of ways a physician can combine anti-rheumatic therapies. To date, no single anti-rheumatic drug or combination has proved consistently successful.

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# Lightning strikes another season

P-CEP robotics team unveils 2014 robot

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Lightning 862, the FIRST robotics team representing the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, opened the build season of the 2014 competition last month in preparation for defending its third-place finish at the 2013 world championships in St. Louis.

On Thursday night, the team unveiled the robot it will use to try and match that performance.

Neo, the robot whose name comes from a character in *The Matrix* movies, features a new drive train its creators say will be easier to maneuver over a course that has fewer obstacles than in previous years.

Neo isn't quite complete, but the team felt it was time to unveil him at the annual robotics kickoff ceremony at Salem High School.

"It was tough in terms of manpower at first, because everyone's schedules weren't matching," senior driver Matt Dunklee said of building Neo. "We built a brand-new drive train. We wanted to try something different."

Changes to the competition will also make it more difficult to repeat, according to Jay Obsniuk, the longtime adviser to the robotics team. This year's competition will feature more points for working together among the three-team clusters at the competitions, as opposed to teams being more "all for one."

Complicating the issue, according to Obsniuk, because the field has grown to some 200 teams across the state, nearly half of them first-year programs thanks to a grant obtained by the state.

"You're actually going to get more points if your robot passes to another robot than if it does something on its own," Obsniuk said. "You need to be able to do as much as possible

this year, because you can't count on the other robots being able to do it. You could be out there with two rookie teams."

The biggest challenge is being able to cooperate with your teammates," said Plymouth High School senior Julian Gabriel, one of Neo's drivers and the president of the robotics club. "It's going to have to be done quick, on the fly and in complete cooperation with your teammates."

As always in Plymouth-Canton — though not with other programs, according to Obsniuk — the students did all the building, including construction, wiring and programming.

The team does have about a dozen adult mentors, but the mentors are exactly that. They don't do the work, in accordance with the team's credo, "Student led, mentor guided."

"The adults could sit down and put the robot together in three or four days," Obsniuk said. "But that wouldn't do the kids any good."

And doing the kids some good is what the robotics season is all about. That's why officials at Bosch Corp. are so eager to be involved. Bosch, with offices in Farmington and Plymouth, sponsors Lightning 862, along with 10 other teams — and some 400 students — across the country.

Bosch, which adds 14 mentors to the team, sees its sponsorship of such programs as "an investment in a great talent pool." Charlie Ackerman, Bosch's senior vice president for human relations in North America, said Bosch recognizes "there's a labor shortage," particularly in science, math, engineering and technology fields.

"We want to help in any way we can to grow the talent,"



The Lightning 862 drive team — (from left) Abby Morningstar, Tyler Harris, Nathan Griwicki, Matt Malinak, Julian Gabriel and Matt Dunklee — unveil the drive train for Neo, the robot the team is building for the 2014 FIRST Robotics competition season.

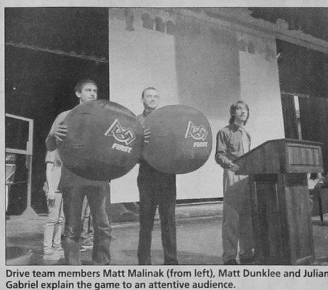
Ackerman said. "Even better, we're beginning to get these students back into our intern programs."

The team starts its competition season with a match Feb. 28 through March 1 in Southfield. Then, March 13, the team will travel to Escanaba to serve almost as a mentor team to a competition filled with first-year programs.

The team closes out its season April 5 at Bedford, then heads to the state meet at Eastern Michigan University a week later.

"There are about 200 teams now and only 64 get to go," Obsniuk said. "It's going to be a harder road than it was before."

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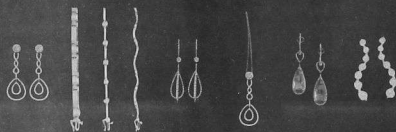


Drive team members Matt Malinak (from left), Matt Dunklee and Julian Gabriel explain the game to an attentive audience.

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ON CAMPUS

Albion College

The following local students were named to Albion College's dean's list for the fall 2013 semester. Students named to the dean's List must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester.

**Brett de Bear**, majoring in English education and minoring in history education, is the daughter of Robert and Jane de Bear of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School.  
**Cara Delaney**, majoring in mathematics education and minoring in physics education and art, is the daughter of Stuart and Beth Delaney of Plymouth and a graduate of Canton High School.  
**Grace Dougherty**, majoring in biochemistry and anthropology and minoring in cell and molecular biology, is the daughter of David and Lucy Dougherty of Canton and a graduate of Salem High School.  
**Erik Gulind** is the son of Robert Gulind of Northville and Sandra Wilkinson of Plymouth and a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.  
**Matthew LeFevre**, majoring in social studies education, is the son of Paul and Kathleen LeFevre of Canton and a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

**Leah Parker** was named a new Albion College fellow. She is the daughter of Richard and Loren Parker of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School.

**Jennifer Polinski**, majoring in biology and mathematics, is the daughter of Craig J. Polinski and Peggy A. Cummins of Plymouth and a graduate of Ladywood High School.

**Joseph Thomas**, majoring in chemistry and philosophy, is the son of Patrick Thomas of Plymouth and Nina Thomas of Belleville and a graduate of Canton High School.

**tishill; Stefanle A. Cesario; Kristen A. Childs; Paige E. Cornille; Kendall K. Groenewoud; Katherine J. Hagen; Morgan A. Hueter; Katelynn M. Krause; Katherine J. LaFever; Kayla D. Lagola; Jackson R. Lytle; Ashley R. Meadows; Kortney A. Ondayko; Kate L. Perry; Gunnar M. Savalox; Carolyn A. Scharf; Austin M. Schoeninger; Nicholas D. Schreiber; and Jacqueline A. White.**

Canton students named to the list included **Sherril E. Anderson; Alicia A. Ashton; Ryan L. Barrie; Morgan J. Benjamin; Matthew F. Blazo; David L. Blythe; Britany M. Brasseur; Sabrina L. Burcroft; Autumn E. Burin; Clare T. Cavichio; Valerie M. Clanton; Kirsten E. Clemans; Hannah N. Cobane; Matthew J. Dwan; Aaron D. Evans; Audra W. Gamble; Cary A. Girolamo; Danielle M. Gross; Amanda C. Hennels; Julia G. Hisey; Kristen P. Hollingsworth; Catherine R. Irwin; Grace E. Irwin; Christopher S. Jones; Max Julien; Valerie J. Kolesar; Sara K. Krahe; Jillian M. LaRoy; Ryan J. Liddane; Jonica M. Lister; Chelsea P. Manning; Adam D. Marthaler; Katrina R. Maynes; Megan E. McCormick; Patrick J. Miller; Justin J. Mongrain; Jordyn A. Moore; Bradley T. Mueller; Alice H. Munday; Michael S. Nadrowski; Kelsey J. Pullis; Nicholas R. Riva; Adam J. Rosenberg; Sarah C. Rudelic; Stefania C. Spambati; Molly A. Stavens; Jessica N. Soblelesky; Andrew P. Stafford; Sarah R. Stratford; David T. Strong; Sarah M. Thomas; Bryan J. Tolinski; Sommer A. Tuttle; Madeline G. Viergutz; Palge M. Visser; Joshua A. Walters; Nicholas R. Weber; Zachary C. Wilson; Brienne N. Winowicki; and Megan L. Zarem.**

**University of Delaware**  
 Phillip Flesh of Plymouth has been named to the University of Delaware's dean's list for the 2013 fall semester.

To meet eligibility requirements for the dean's list, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.33 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

**Marist College**  
 Freshman Rebecca Middleton

of Canton has been named a member of the women's volleyball team for the 2013-14 season. Middleton is a libero on the team.

Marist is an independent comprehensive liberal arts college with an enrollment of 4,700 full-time undergraduate students. For more information visit [www.marist.edu](http://www.marist.edu)

Trine University

» **Veronica Livingstone** of Plymouth has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester at Trine University in Angola, Ind.

Livingstone is a senior majoring in forensic science.

To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must have earned a semester grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.749 and carry a minimum of 15 credits.

» **Kyle Livingstone** of Canton was named to the Trine University president's list for the fall 2013 semester. To be named to the president's list, a student must have at least a 3.75 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale and carry at least 15 credit hours. Livingstone is a junior majoring in electrical engineering.

Wheaton College

Wheaton College student **Grace Walter** of Plymouth was named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester. Walter is majoring in English with teacher certification. Dean's list honors are earned at Wheaton by undergraduate students who carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade-point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

Alma College

**Lindsay Schmidt** of Canton and **Earl Carr** and **Katherine Greenough**, both of Plymouth, were among more than 400 students named to the dean's list for outstanding performance during the 2013 fall term. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade-point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the dean's list.

Michigan Tech

Michigan Technological University honored the achievements



The Stuart mile

Board of Education Trustee **John Barrett** (left) and Starkweather Academy Principal **Kevin Lane** congratulated **Rohanda Harris** (center) and **Angie Rivera-Watts** (not pictured) for their selection as **Mary Beth Carroll Extra Mile Award** winners. The pair were nominated for a variety of reasons, according to Barrett, including their customer service, welcoming attitude to families and the public and willingness to take on more and more to meet the needs of students and the district.

of more than 400 graduates at the school's recent mid-year commencement. Among the honorees was **Tyler Schroeder** of Plymouth, who

earned a bachelor of science in computer engineering. Michigan Technological University is a public research university developing new technologies

and preparing students to create the future for a prosperous and sustainable world.

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<sup>3</sup>National savings average based on savings products with a \$2,500 product tier as reflected on the FDIC.gov website dated 1/27/2014.

# Belleville man enters state House 21st District race

The Democratic primary for the state House 21st District seat being vacated by the terminated Dian Slavens got a little more crowded this week with the announcement that Cornell Mathis of Belleville is entering the fray.



Mathis

After living in and owning a business in the district, which encompasses Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township, Mathis said in a press release he'll "trumpet the campaign theme 'New Solutions for an Emerging Michigan.'" Mathis announced his candidacy Thursday. He

joins Natalie Mosher and Kristy Pagan, both of Canton, in the race. Re-

publicans Carol Ann Fausone and Geoff Bolch have also announced their candidacies.

Mathis is a series seven licensed securities broker, specializing in property, casualty and life insurance. Mathis graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Southgate, received both bachelor's and masters degrees from Western Michigan University and attended the University of Southern California.

His love of southeast Michigan brought him back to Belleville, where

he currently resides with his wife and two children.

As a financial planner, Mathis said he's seen far too many of the state's displaced workers having to opt for disability as employment opportunities have eluded them. However, their experience and proven work ethic are keys to bridging the void the state currently faces between recent college graduates seeking jobs and those forced into unemployment due to Michigan's economy.

In the release, Mathis' team said the announce-

ment event "set the tone for numerous community forums" hosted by Mathis leading up to the Aug. 5 primary.

The forums are designed to give voters a voice, insight and accessibility to the candidate as he takes to the campaign trail. Mathis cites a need to address the growing economic, employment and education concerns that have occurred since becoming a Belleville resident in 2004.

Mathis said the underutilization of many of the district's natural resources is "a catalyst for

driving economic growth and development opportunities."

In addition, Mathis will unveil his plan to stem the tide of the region's collegiate brain drain by providing employment and tuition incentives for high school students and employment opportunities for recent college graduates and displaced workers throughout the state.

Learn more about Mathis' campaign by calling campaign manager Harold Sullivan at 734-612-8205 or email support@VoteMathis.com.

## Celebrate Oscar™, enter for a chance to win prizes

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**CUTIE & THE BOXER (R)**  
11:55, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20  
FRIDAY 12:15, 2:30

**WINTER'S TALE (PG-13)**  
12:30, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10  
FRIDAY 12:15, 2:30

**ROBOCOP (PG-13)**  
D-RACK LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE  
11:05, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45  
FRIDAY 12:15, 2:30

**ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R)**  
11:55, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20  
FRIDAY 12:15, 2:30

**THE LEGO MOVIE (PG)**  
11:55, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20  
FRIDAY 12:15, 2:30

**MINIONS™ NEW (PG-13)**  
11:55, 1:40, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25  
FRIDAY 12:15, 2:30

**VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13)**  
11:55, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20  
FRIDAY 12:15, 2:30

**MON 9:35**  
TUES 9:35

ly identify the top seven Oscar™ categories and you could win a 12-month pass for two to Emagine Theatres, a \$1,000-plus value. Second-place winner will receive four movie passes. Deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

» **Double Play:** Enter by Feb. 14 and select "Double Play" and you will be entered for a chance to win a pass for two to a special showing of the 2013 Best Picture-nominated films at Emagine Novi. First winner will be selected no later than Feb. 14 to see movies playing Feb. 14-20 (*American Hustle*, *Dallas Buyers Club* and *Her*). The second winner will be selected by Feb. 19 for movies playing Feb. 21-27 (*Wolf of Wall Street*, *Nebraska*, *12 Years a Slave* and *Philomena*).

» **Triple play:** Enter by Feb. 26 and select "Triple Play" and you will be entered for a chance to win an Academy Awards™ Viewing and Dinner for up to four people at Star Lanes Restaurant and Sports Bar at Emagine Royal Oak. Watch the Academy

Awards™ show while you dine. Prize includes a light supper, champagne toast and dessert.

Go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) and select the Oscar™ Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website or go to [fb.com/hometownlife](http://fb.com/hometownlife) and click the Oscar™ Contest icon.

The seven contest categories are:  
» **Best Picture:** *American Hustle*, *Nebraska*, *Captain Phillips*, *Philomena*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Gravity*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

» **Best Actor in a Leading Role:** Christian Bale (*American Hustle*), Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave*), Bruce Dern (*Nebraska*), Matthew McConaughey (*Dallas Buyers Club*) and Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Wolf of Wall Street*).

» **Best Actress in a Leading Role:** Amy Adams (*American Hustle*), Judi Dench (*Philomena*), Cate Blanchett (*Blue Jasmine*), Meryl Streep (*August: Osage County*) and Sandra Bullock (*Gravity*).

» **Best Actor in a Supporting Role:** Barkhad Abdi (*Captain Phillips*), Jonah Hill (*The Wolf of*

*Wall Street*), Bradley Cooper (*American Hustle*), Jared Leto (*Dallas Buyers Club*) and Michael Fassbender (*12 Years a Slave*).

» **Best Actress in a Supporting Role:** Sally Hawkins (*Blue Jasmine*), Julia Roberts (*August: Osage County*), Jennifer Lawrence (*American Hustle*), Lupita Nyong'o (*12 Years a Slave*) and June Squibb (*Nebraska*).

» **Best Animated Feature Film:** *The Croods*, *Frozen*, *Despicable Me 2*, *The Wind Rises* and *Ernest & Celestine*.

» **Best Director:** David O. Russell (*American Hustle*), Alfonso Cuarón (*Gravity*), Alexander Payne (*Nebraska*), Steve McQueen (*12 Years a Slave*) and Martin Scorsese (*The Wolf of Wall Street*).

» **Best Breakout Category is Best Documentary Feature:** *The Act of Killing*, *Cutie and the Boxer*, *Dirty Wars*, *The Square* and *20 Feet from Stardom*.

» **Second tiebreaker category is for Best Original Story:** *The Book Thief*, *Gravity*, *Her*, *Philomena* and *Saving Mr. Banks*.



The Plymouth Community United Way is looking for volunteers for its April 26 Rake-N-Go event.

## Volunteers needed for annual Rake-N-Go

Want to make a difference by helping a senior citizen or person with a disability? Plymouth Community United Way is looking for volunteers to clean yards and do light chores Saturday, April 26, in Plymouth and Canton townships during its Rake-N-Go.

Volunteers can come alone, with their families or bring a team of co-workers or friends. Volunteers are asked to bring rakes, garden tools, hedge trimmers and gloves. PCUW will supply yard waste bags.

Plymouth Community United Way organizes two raking events a year - Make a Difference Day in fall and Rake-N-Go in spring. For an application, call 734-453-6879 in spring, or email [randi.williams@pcuw.org](mailto:randi.williams@pcuw.org) before April 11.

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# Commissioners have mixed views of county's deficit plan

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer



County Commissioner Shannon Price called the deficit reduction plan "bold and aggressive."

Wayne County commissioners are giving favorable reviews to a revamped deficit elimination plan that focuses on elimination of the county's accumulated deficit and elimination of the annual structural deficit.

The plan was developed by the county's new chief financial officer, former Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo.

"Fresh eyes and a lot of hard work from my executive team have resulted in a financial plan that we believe will resolve many of the long-term issues the county has been facing since the real estate meltdown in 2008," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said about the plan he presented last Wednesday to the Wayne County Commission.

"I think it's a great start to a conversation that hasn't taken place on a broader basis," said county Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, a Democrat whose district includes Garden City and Westland. "We were asked for an up or down vote only inclusive by April. We won't vote on all of it by April."

"I think (the plan) is bold and aggressive. I've been saying for the last year in order to fix the Wayne County budget, we're going to have to address collective bargaining, consent agreements, etc.," said Com-

missioner Laura Cox, a Republican who represents the Plymouth-Canton area. "The plan Mark Abbo put forward addresses not only the debt, but the structural deficit."

### 'All kinds of ideas'

Commissioner Laura Cox, a Republican who represents Northville, Northville Township and most of Livonia, said the plan is different than the ones that have been proposed in the past and she said she appreciates the thought put into it, but still is unsure about the wastewater treatment plant's inclusion.

"This plan is so different than other plans that we're used to presenting because it's got all kinds of ideas," she said. "It's got some good structural ideas."

The county is operating with property tax revenue that is \$100 million less than in 2008. The cumulative decline in property tax revenue since 2008 is approximately \$353 million. Property taxes are the

primary source of revenue for the county's general fund and support much of the operating expenses for state- and charter-mandated services. To eliminate the accumulated deficit, pegged at \$175 million as of Sept. 30, 2013, Abbo recommends two steps: including the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Unrestricted Fund Balance in the county's general fund balance and reorganizing and recapitalizing county-owned wastewater treatment facilities.

Elimination of the annual structural deficit is a multifaceted task encompassing many areas of county operations. They include savings generated from:

- » Revisions to the pension and health care plans, which will result in annual operational savings to the general fund, as well as virtually all county governmental and enterprise funds. There will also be estimated savings of up to \$38 million to the accrued pension liability and \$418 million in savings to the accrued other post-employment benefit liabilities.

- » Reductions in county-wide levels of compensation.

- » Changes to employee work rules.

- » Re-prioritizing and reductions to service levels now provided through offices of both the prosecuting attorney and sheriff.

- » Reducing the number of circuit court judges, as well as benefits provided to judges.

» Better utilization and leasing of county-owned facilities.

Noting that the changes proposed for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and the courts - none of which are controlled by the county commission - LeBlanc said he wants "to be part of the fix."

If the majority can be part of it - not unanimous - I'll be pleased," he said. "Whether it's the executive's plan or a commission plan that hasn't been identified yet or a hybrid, something has got to happen."

### Challenging items

A number of items in the proposal require action by other bodies and, most challenging, involve employee collective bargaining agreements, LeBlanc said. If Wayne County isn't able to get some relief through the labor contracts, he said, there will have to be services the county no longer provides, as well as fewer employees.

"Wayne County has lost significant management rights in bargaining in recent years," LeBlanc said. "I can't tell you how many times reasonable efforts to contain costs are prohibited by collectively bargaining agreements."

Price, however, said the plan should address the appointees more.

"Ficano and the sheriff still have too many appointees and this doesn't address that, that's

a big step," Price said. "I am concerned on the rape kit portion for the (county) prosecutor. We have to make sure we finish our commitment on the rape kits, make sure every lead is followed and every criminal is convicted. I'm a little concerned the plan might eliminate some of the funding for that."

"I've been pretty tough on a lot of things and I'm going to continue to scrutinize everything. But the truth is (Abbo) put out a plan that eliminates the deficit and starts to fix the structural deficit," he added. "You can't continue to have a two-to-one match on pensions. You can't continue to pay for people to have their birthdays off. Not when you're facing an emergency manager."

Cox is questioning the inclusion of the wastewater treatment plant in the plan. With several variables surrounding the plant, she said the figure provided by Ficano might not be the final number once a potential sale is finalized.

"I'm not sure we have a buyer," she said. "I don't know if it easily could be done. That bulk of this whole plan is based on the sale of a piece of property per se... and that part, I don't know if that's an appropriate item for a deficit elimination plan. That's where my issue is and my concern."

Staff Writers LeAnne Rogers, Brad Kadrich and David Veselenak contributed to this story.

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## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Church fundraiser

**Dates:** Feb. 21 through March 21  
**Location:** Abundant Life Church, 2100 Hannan, Canton  
**Details:** The youth department of Abundant Life Church of God is holding a Little Caesars® fundraiser to raise money for Summer Youth Revival & Community Service Activities. Pizza kits, cookie dough and pie kits range in price from \$12 to \$19 and contain all the ingredients to bake pizza, bread, pies and cookies at home in minutes.  
**Contact:** To order items from Abundant Life Church of God, contact Pastor Bobby Curry at 734-249-1801 before March 21.

### Briscoe fundraisers

**Dates/Times/Locations:** Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5-8 p.m. at Pot Belly, 25579 Plymouth Road, Livonia; Friday, March 7, 4-8 p.m., Jungle Java, 6481 Canton Center, Canton  
**Details:** American Cancer Society Relay for Life team Briscoe Family Ties holds a pair of fundraisers. Pot Belly will donate 25 percent of all sales to the team; Jungle Java is donating 50 percent of all paid admissions. Participants should mention they're there for the fundraisers.

### Love Thy Neighbor

**Dates/Times:** Through Feb. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday  
**Details:** The Salvation Army's Food Pantry is asking its neighbors to "Love Thy Neighbor" by donating specific items to the food pantry. Among items they're looking for are deodorant and shaving items, toilet paper, body soap, dish soap, detergent, shampoo and conditioner, Hamburger Helper, canned chicken and tuna.  
**Contact:** Email Laurie Aren at laurie\_aren@salvationarmy.org or call 734-453-5464.

### Mom-to-Mom

**Date/Time:** Saturday, March 8, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Bentley Elementary School, 1100 S. Sheldon, Canton  
**Details:** Tables are still available for the Bentley Elementary School Mom to Mom Sale. There's a \$1 entry fee and strollers are allowed after 10 a.m.  
**Contact:** Email Christine at rowegrzn@gmail.com

### Bingo night

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, March 5, 7:15 p.m.  
**Location:** Sunflower Clubhouse, 4500 Hanford, Canton  
**Details:** Canton Newcomers and Neighbors' Bingo Night features prizes donated by local businesses, a slice of pizza from Benito's, a raffle to benefit First Step and an opportunity to sign up for activities for the entire family at the next adult general meeting. Request a complimentary March newsletter at www.cantonnewcomersandneighbors.org.  
**Contact:** To RSVP, donate a small prize or with any questions, call Noreen at 734-981-0486 or email nrybar@yahoo.com.

### Winter workshop

**Date/Time:** Monday, Feb. 17, 7:18-8:5 p.m.  
**Location:** Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** New Hope Center for Grief Support sponsors an eight-week workshop for people who are grieving after the death of a loved one. The workshops are offered at no cost to participants and will be presented by New Hope executive director Karen Laing and New Hope's Speaker Team. Each session will begin with an informational presentation about one aspect of grief, followed by small group participation guided by trained facilitators



### Help wanted

Compassionate Care Hospice Volunteer of the Year Greg Green, with volunteer coordinator Justine Galat, was honored at the annual Michigan Hospice Volunteer Coordinators Association conference recently. Compassionate Care Hospice is looking for volunteers to help with office tasks, serve as friendly visitors for its patients and to sit vigil with patients at the very end of life. Their service area includes the counties of Oakland, Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston. Contact Galat with questions or to apply for a brief interview at jgalat@cchnet.net or 888-983-9050.

### Blood drives

**Dates/Times/Locations:** Monday, Feb. 17, 16:45 p.m., Church of Christ, 3301 Sheldon Sunday, Feb. 23, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth Monday, Feb. 24, 1:30-7:15 p.m., WVP Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth  
**Details:** The American Red Cross sponsors blood drives at the above locations. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.  
**Contact:** Call Diane Risko at 313-549-7052 or email Diane.Riskodcross.org to set up an appointment.

### Baby shower

**Date/Time:** Through the month of March  
**Location:** Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth  
**Details:** Plymouth Community United Way is planning a baby shower and everyone is invited. Individuals as well as companies, service clubs and churches can join in the fun by donating new bottles, formula, bibs, crib sheets, blankets (handmade accepted), diapers, baby clothes up to size 3T, convertible car seats, cribs, strollers, and monitors. The items will be distributed to low-income mothers in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County. PCUW is offering a range of ways to participate from dropping off items at the office to holding a special event like a baby shower. Donations can be brought to Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170.  
**Contact:** Randi Williams at 734-453-6879, ext. 7, or randi.williams@pcuw.org

### Youth spelling bee

**Date/Time:** Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford, Canton

**Details:** The Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council hosts a Youth Spelling Bee featuring local fourth- and fifth-grade students. The Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council is a local, non-profit organization that provides free tutoring to adults with literacy skills below a ninth-grade level. Proceeds from this spelling bee will benefit the group's adult literacy programs. Students interested in participating in the bee must register online <http://www.plymouth-cantonliteracy.org/get-involved/fundraising>. Participation is limited to the first 15 students to register.  
**Contact:** Questions may be directed to amy@plymouth-cantonliteracy.org.

### Vendor fair

**Date/Time:** Saturday, March 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Canton High School cafeteria, 9415 N. Canton Center, Canton  
**Details:** The Project Graduation vendor fair will feature a variety of vendors to address all graduation party needs, including tents, inflatables, photo booths, caterers, bakeries and more. There will also be a variety of vendors available for visitors to shop, including Taterfully Simple, Tupperware, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Scentry Fragrance Warmers, Mary Kay, Velata Chocolate Warmers and more. Proceeds will benefit the Senior All-Night Party. Admission is free.

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## PCA robotics team gets grant

The Plymouth Christian Academy Middle School robotics team has been chosen a winner of the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation's \$500 Robofest grant.

Robofest, sponsored by Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, is a variety of competitions and events with autonomous robots — programmed to act independently and not remote-controlled — that encourage students to have fun while learning principles of physical science, computer science, computer engineering, math, computer science and information and communication technologies.

Students design, construct and program the robots. Since 2000, more than 14,000 students have competed in Robofest.

The PCA team, an all-girls team that has been piling up the accomplishments, will be using a fully auton-



Plymouth Christian Academy students Sarah Fernandes (from left), Taylor Maxwell, Joy Chamberlain, Allie Kwang, Hadlee Chubb and Ann Stein, along with PCA secondary computer teacher Jessica Wash and robotics director Douglas Chubb, accept a \$500 grant from Barbara Kalbfleisch, foundation planner for the Michigan Council of Women in Technology.

mous robot it will program to accomplish a robotics mission.

The scenario goes like this: A nuclear power plant is in trouble and the mission is to avoid a nuclear meltdown. An autonomous nuclear responder robot has detected the problem and will instantly deliver up to three water balls (tennis balls) and a special ball (hard-boiled egg) into the plant (box) without human help in two min-

utes. The robot can carry only one ball at a time. The "learning objectives" of this challenge, according to PCA officials, are motion, navigation, manipulation, object detection, localization, logic, ratio, proportion, math operations, measuring and geometry.

The Robofest World Championship will take place May 16-17 at Lawrence Technological University.

## Umbrella liability policy: A smart option for some

**Q: Dear Rick: I own my own business and have liability insurance on the business. Outside of my business, I have a decent portfolio. I have homeowner's and automobile insurance and I have been considering extra liability insurance. What are your thoughts regarding umbrella liability policies?**

**A:** An umbrella liability policy covers you for additional liability above and beyond your homeowner's and automobile insurance.

The umbrella coverage would kick in after your policy limits on homeowner's or auto insurance limits were exhausted. Like all types of umbrella liability insurance, it is not for everyone. However, in your situation, I would consider a policy.

We live in a litigious society and if something did happen, the umbrella liability policy can protect you. Even though you have liability insurance for the business, it would not necessarily



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

protect you individually, nor would it protect your ownership of the company. Your business is an asset and someone can go after it in a liability situation. The umbrella policy would protect your assets and be used to cover legal fees.

Umbrella liability policies are relatively inexpensive. Typically, you purchase it in increments of \$1 million and it ends up costing a few hundred dollars per year. As a business owner, that additional liability protection can be valuable in cases of accidents. In addition, for

individuals who have substantial portfolios or other assets, an umbrella policy can be used to protect those items.

Typically, you purchase the umbrella liability policy from your homeowner's or automobile insurer. It is not unusual for a company to give you a discount on the umbrella policy.

I recommend shopping your homeowner's, automobile and umbrella policy together. You may find that by having all the insurance at the same company, there may be substantial cost savings. Good luck.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rickb@loamastmanagement.com](mailto:rickb@loamastmanagement.com).*

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Member of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal will explain annulments, convalidation and other Catholic teachings on sacramental marriage.

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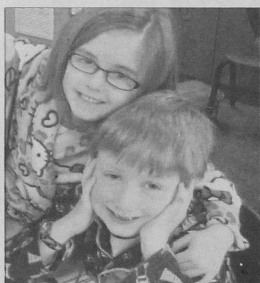
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## Got the spirit



Kenna Troust and Garrett Bousley-Dare enjoyed wearing their pajamas for South Canton Scholars Charter Academy spirit day. Students changed up their usual attire to enjoy spirit week. On Wednesday, students were encouraged to skip a step in the morning and wear their pajamas to school. The students were really excited for the "dress up" day. Other spirit days included decade day, team sports day and school spirit day.

# Statewide auto theft rates decline for sixth straight year

For a sixth consecutive year, thefts of vehicles are down in Michigan, according to the 2013 Michigan Automobile Theft Prevention Authority Annual Report. Despite the decrease, H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts), Michigan's statewide auto theft prevention program, is warning the community that auto theft-related crimes continue to rise. "It's good to see the number decline," said Terri Miller, executive director of H.E.A.T. "But thieves aren't going away, they're just changing gears. As whole-vehicle thefts decline, we've seen a sharp increase in auto theft-related crimes, including carjackings, online/

Craigslist fraud, computer theft and insurance fraud."

H.E.A.T. coordinates citizen action with law enforcement agencies through a confidential toll-free tip line for reporting information on stolen vehicles, chop shops and suspected auto theft activities, including insurance fraud, identity theft and carjackings. Since H.E.A.T. was founded in 1985, the organization has recorded more than 10,000 tips. Michigan residents have assisted in the arrests of nearly 3,700 suspects of auto theft-related crimes and have helped H.E.A.T. recover more than 4,600 vehicles, amounting to \$37.4 million in stolen property, throughout the past 28 years.

"Despite the continued decline in the number of vehicle thefts in Michigan, we must continue to increase awareness of auto theft-related crime in our communities," Miller said.

### Report highlights

Among the highlights of the 2013 ATPA Annual Report, which is the data from 2012:

- » Since 1986, Michigan auto thefts have decreased from 72,021 to 24,973 – a 65.3-percent decline – despite growth in both population and number of registered vehicles.

- » Michigan motorists are saving \$52 annually per insured vehicle as a result of lower theft rates.

- » According to the FBI, Michigan ranked seventh in number of motor vehicle thefts with 24,973 in 2012.
- » Though the Detroit Police Department saw the most vehicle thefts compared to other law enforcement agencies in Michigan, with 11,304 auto thefts, the number of thefts reported to DPD has decreased by 50 percent since 2006.

- » In 2012, Wayne County topped the list of Michigan counties with the highest reported motor vehicle thefts, with 15,352 (67 percent of total state thefts), while Macomb and Oakland counties accounted for 1,950 (9 percent) and 1,850 auto thefts (8 percent), respectively.

- » The 2000 Dodge Caravan once again topped Michigan's list of most stolen vehicles in 2012 and thieves' top color preferences for vehicles to steal remained black, followed by white and silver.

- » The months with the highest auto theft figures were August, October and September.

### Hope trend continues

"We hope the drop in auto theft numbers con-

tinues year after year," Miller said. "Fortunately, the partnership between citizens, the insurance industry, law enforcement, prosecutors and H.E.A.T. can help to put an end to all auto theft-related crime. Through our 24/7 tip line (1-800-242-HEAT) and website (www.1800242HEAT.com), tipsters can do their part and anonymously report auto theft-related crime. Some tipsters may be eligible for cash rewards up to \$10,000 for their information."

H.E.A.T. works with Michigan law enforcement agencies to follow up on tips. Tipsters are awarded up to \$1,000, if the tip leads to the arrest of or issuance of a warrant for a suspected car thief or a person suspected of an auto theft-related insurance fraud. H.E.A.T. offers rewards up to \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are issued, if a tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected theft ring or chop shop operators.

The H.E.A.T. tip line is monitored by the Michigan State Police and funded by Michigan's auto insurance companies. Follow H.E.A.T. on Facebook and on Twitter @1800242HEAT.

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## Arctic Edge hosts Olympic viewing party

The figure skating club at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton will have an Olympic viewing party from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Feb. 16-17.

The concession will be open.

The Arctic Edge, 46615 Michigan Ave., is a training site for ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, who won gold in the 2010 Olympics, and Meryl Davis and Charlie

White, who won silver. Olympic skaters Alex and Haia Shibutani also train at Arctic Edge. For more information, call Arctic Edge at 734-487-7777.

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## Super Saturday Sale expands, returns to Laurel Park Place mall

The Saturday Super Sale, which features Michigan-made items, began in April 2012 as a means to support the entrepreneurial spirit of people with disabilities.

Now in its third year, the event has grown to include Michigan-made items and services from any community member. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 8, Saturday Super Sale will be hosted once again at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Up to 100 vendors will display and sell their products including hats, jewelry, beauty products, gifts, ceramics, T-shirts and much more.

Several local agencies, including Community Network Services, Judson Center Redford, Lutheran Social Services, Preferred Home Care Providers and others, have sponsored vendor tables for their clients to participate.

As shoppers browse and visit with vendors, they are able to pick up a free Lucky Ticket that enters them in a

drawing to win one of 30 gift certificates from local restaurants, including Asian Too, Bar Louie, California Pizza Kitchen, Max & Erma's and more. One winner will be announced every 15 minutes during the event. Individuals may also register for the gift card drawings online at [www.SaturdaySuperSale.com](http://www.SaturdaySuperSale.com).

New this year is a community food drive. Gleaners Food Bank will be hosting the drive. A Lucky Ticket will be given for every two non-perishable items brought in during the event.

The public is encouraged to support the Saturday Super Sale, as it provides an inclusive community setting showcasing products and the abilities and self-determination of people with disabilities.

Admission is free. Laurel Park Place mall is at 3700 W. Six Mile, Livonia. For more information, visit [www.SaturdaySuperSale.com](http://www.SaturdaySuperSale.com).

## Police warn against IRS phone scam that bilked area resident of thousands

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Livonia police are warning residents to pay close attention to phone calls supposedly from the Internal Revenue Service stating they owe taxes and must pay them immediately.

The warning comes after a 69-year-old Livonia resident came into the police station Thursday night to report she had been scammed out of several thousands of dollars after receiving a phone call from someone claiming to be with the IRS. The man left a message on her phone Wednesday, saying she owed \$8,000 to the IRS in taxes and she needed to pay it immediately. If she didn't, he threatened her with

jail time and shutting down her business. She initially ignored the call, but then the man called back Thursday. She called the number back on her cellphone and was told again she owed money. She believed the caller and asked what she needed to do to settle the debt.

The suspect, calling from a number with an area code in California, told her to go to the bank and withdraw the money and purchases thousands of dollars in gift cards. She purchased \$4,000 worth of Visa gift cards at the Kroger at 33523 Eight Mile and was told by the suspect to scratch off the PIN and read the numbers to him. She repeated this process, purchasing \$4,000 worth of gift cards at a

pair of pharmacies, including the Rite Aid at 47300 Pontiac Trail in Wixom and CVS at 31250 Beck in Novi.

After the suspect received the information from the gift cards, he told her she would receive a call later with a confirmation number. He did call back Thursday afternoon to the woman's home, where her daughter answered the phone. The suspect immediately hung up after her daughter asked who he was. The victim also contacted her daughter in California, where she lives in the same area code as the phone calls kept coming from. Police in California were notified of the incident.

IRS officials warn taxpayers of similar scams happening and

encourage people not to fall victim to scams involving prepaid debit cards and immediate payment.

"This scam has hit taxpayers in nearly every state in the country. We want to educate taxpayers so they can help protect themselves. Rest assured, we do not and will not ask for credit card numbers over the phone, nor request a prepaid debit card or wire transfer," IRS Acting Commissioner Danny Werfel wrote in a release.

"If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and threatens police arrest, deportation or license revocation if you don't pay immediately, that is a sign that it really isn't the IRS calling."

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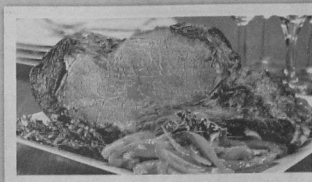
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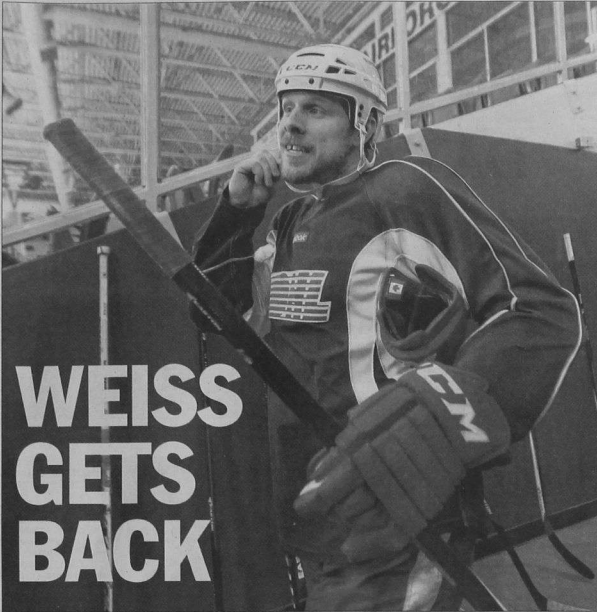
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# SPORTS

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## WEISS GETS BACK

Wearing his Detroit Red Wings hockey pants and gloves, Stephen Weiss gets ready to step out onto the ice for Wednesday's practice with the Plymouth Whalers.

### REHABBING RED WINGS FORWARD SKATES, REMINISCES WITH CURRENT WHALERS

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Going home week suits Stephen Weiss just fine, but being a major contributor to the Detroit Red Wings' playoff push would be even better.

Weiss — a standout player for the Plymouth Whalers from 1998-2002 and a 12-year National Hockey League veteran — last week returned to the place where he cut his teeth as a hockey player, including 2001-02 for longtime Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci.

Now on his way to full recovery following sports hernia surgery, Weiss is skating with the Whalers during the Olympic break and is banking on a quick return to the Red Wings. He added that he is feeling better every day.

"I've been on the ice for a few weeks now and was able to practice with (the Wings) on our last road trip." Weiss said in the Whalers' locker room Tuesday, following his first practice with the OHL team. "To be able to continue on this week and next week with the Whalers is fantastic for me.

"I didn't really want to be on my own for these two weeks, that's not a lot of fun. So to be in a team atmosphere and especially with a team that I played with before and haven't been back to this locker room for a while is pretty special."

#### Like old times

He kibitzed with folks he knew during his junior days, including the

See WEISS, Page B2



Stephen Weiss works in front of the net. In goal is Plymouth's Alex Nedeljkovic. PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

## Canton 'D' stymies Rocks

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

The road through the Kensington Lakes Activities Association playoffs can be a rough and tumble one.

And such was the case for Friday's KLAAs tourney girls basketball clash between Canton and host Salem.

In a contest where the players might have benefitted from wearing shoulder pads at times, the Chiefs hammered out a 42-26 victory to advance to Wednesday's conference title game (7 p.m. at Canton against Novi, who won 40-35 in overtime Friday against Plymouth).

"It's a Park game, and they're always way more intense than usual," said Canton senior forward Paige Aresco, who scored 11 points and added six assists. "We knew we had to come out and play aggressive, we knew they were going to play aggressive."

Salem interim coach Lindsay Klemmer even reminded her players during practices to expect a lot of physical play against the Chiefs.

"I felt we worked really hard this week on the physicality of the game because we knew it was going to be tough," Klemmer said. "We worked on trying to get contact, and embracing the contact. Not going away from it, trying to get a couple calls."

"They really sag it in, clog in the paint we did get some good looks and they just weren't dropping our way."

The Rocks did a good job limiting Canton players from getting inside, too.

But the difference was the Chiefs (15-3) were able to connect from outside, particularly senior guard Rachel Ventres. She drained three triples and scored 13 points.

"They really sag it in, clog in the lane," Canton head coach Brian Samuels said. "Which makes it tough for Paige to get to the basket, which

See HOOPS, Page B5



Canton's Paige Aresco gets past Salem's Shara Long to score. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Clutch 'Cats win first regional championship

Plymouth fights off Bedford to advance to D1 quarterfinals

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

An early nine-point swing by Plymouth's Dylan Dwyer got the Wildcats off and running against Bedford in Wednesday's Division 1 wrestling team regional final at Westland John Glenn.

Plymouth needed to rally late, however, in order to pull out a 32-29 victory over the Kicking Mules and earn the school's first regional championship in wrestling.

The Wildcats (36-4) celebrated with the team trophy, primed to advance to the D1 team quarterfinal Friday, Feb. 21, at Battle Creek (3:15 p.m. against an opponent to be determined).

And that will mean some changes to

Dwyer's personal travel itinerary.

"I was going to Cancun, but not anymore," Dwyer said. "I got to cancel the flights. ... I would way rather go to Battle Creek."

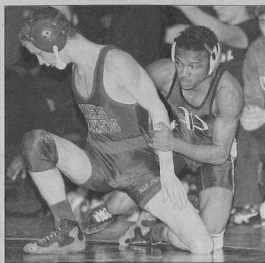
Dwyer was one of the most exuberant Wildcats, perhaps because he knew his escape act at 130 in the opening bout might have saved the day.

He eluded a first-round pin against Trent Allison and turned the tables to win 8-5. Instead of Plymouth trailing 6-0 the Wildcats had a three-point lead.

"Oh my gosh, he didn't get pinned," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "He knew his match was one of the big ones, one of the swing matches, that if we won that one we were going to be looking good for the rest of the day."

"It was just luck of the draw that was our first match and he stepped up. It was huge to fight off his back like that for about 40 sec-

See WILDCATS, Page B3



Plymouth's Brandon Harris (right), shown winning against Glenn's Cyle Sneed in the regional semi, later won against Bedford. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK



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# Penguins ice Northville, 5-0

## PCS gets big win on Senior Night

A four-goal second period Tuesday night propelled the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins to a 5-0 victory over Northville at Arctic Edge.

Getting the shutout in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League contest was PCS senior goalie Becky Lough. It also was Senior Night for the Penguins.

The Penguins (7-6-1) were paced by freshman forward Loren Hitch and senior winger Jenna Carter, who each scored two goals in the decisive second period.

Hitch and Carter now have eight and seven goals, respectively, for the season.

Scoring PCS's other goal, in the first period, was sophomore forward Megan Brace.

Assisting on Hitch's first tally, about five

minutes into the middle period, were senior defenseman Alexis O'Flynn and sophomore forward Kayla Savoie.

Carter then scored back-to-back goals four minutes apart to give PCS a 4-0 lead followed by an unassisted goal by Hitch with just 15 seconds left in the period.

Seniors honored were Lough, goalie Gwen Gadulka, Carter, Cusamano and O'Flynn. On Thursday, Hitch, Carter and junior forward Emily King each scored a goal, but it wasn't enough as the D2 Penguins lost 4-3 to Division I Ann Arbor Pioneer (11-3-0-1). Collecting two assists was senior forward Morgan Cusamano.

PCS was scheduled Saturday to play the Bloomfield Hills Black Hawks at Berkeley Ice Arena.



Northville's Kristen Frogner (No. 22) bears in on PCS Penguins goalie Becky Lough during Tuesday's game at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

# WEISS

Continued from Page B1

team's director of communications and play-by-play man Pete Krupsky.

"It's brought back a lot of nice memories," said the 30-year-old forward from Toronto. "Veluch is still here, Veluch was the coach my last year. And (athletic trainer/equipment manager) Dennis MacDonald was here my whole time here, too. And Krupper as well."

Although his billet faces is always fun and I get to reminisce. Talking about the old days has been fun."

(host) family from his years with the Whalers wasn't at the rink, Weiss said he has always maintained good communications with Plymouth's Tom and Rosie Alberti.

"Oh yeah, we've re-arranged my closet," Weiss said about the Albertis. "I'm godfather to their sons' kids now. We've remained very close. They're at a bunch of Red Wings games and we try and get together as much as we can, given both of our schedules."

"But certainly, they were a huge part of my time here. Getting to where I got wouldn't have been possible without them taking care of me and my roommate (Cole Jarrett) the way they did."

Weiss — who signed as a free agent with Detroit after 11 seasons with the Florida Panthers, the team that drafted him fourth overall in 2001 — then smiled when he recalled telling the Albertis he was going to practice with the Whalers.

"They were pretty excited when they heard I was coming back here," he said. "We were laughing about the old days. So real special memories, being back here, for sure."

### Suitable for framing

Before Weiss left the arena for the day, he and some Whalers players took a few minutes to take a look at the team's



Current Plymouth Whalers soak in the knowledge from Detroit Red Wings forward Stephen Weiss (center) during a practice break Wednesday.



Stephen Weiss definitely is enjoying being back with his old team. PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERITY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

"Wall of Fame" of Whalers who reached the NHL.

One of the many framed, color photographs was taken this year of Weiss wearing the Red Wings uniform. "It's pretty cool," forward Zach Lorentz said. "You see his picture on the 'Wall of Fame' for the Whalers here. He's definitely a veteran player in the show and it's pretty cool for him to be here."

Another forward with big-league aspirations, Carter Sandlak (recently signed by the Carolina organization), said it is an incentive to see the photos. He wants his own photo up there someday. "Seeing all those great players up there is pretty special," Sandlak said. "It's a good organization and a lot of players came from here that are playing in the NHL now."

### Just ask

Weiss said he would be happy to talk to any Whalers player who wants to get some insight into what it takes to get from Point A (the OHL) to Point B (the bigs).

"If anyone wants to chat or has any questions what pro hockey's like, I'm here for whatever they need," he said.

Today's Whalers plan

on doing just that, as well as seeing how a veteran of 680 NHL games goes about his business.

"He played in this league (OHL) and he knows what it takes to get to the next level," Sandlak said. "Just going to ask some questions and watch and see what he does."

Forward and Chicago Blackhawks prospect Ryan Hartman said it was "cool" to add Weiss to a list of NHL stars he has skated with.

"Yeah, I skated with guys like Sharp, Kane, Toews, all those guys," Hartman said. "I played two preseason games this year. It's always an honor to be on the same ice as the guys you watch playing on TV."

"And seeing guys like Steve Weiss, coming back to where he used to play and seeing that he's come through this program, it really means a lot for the Whalers."

### Then and now

Vellucci had a pretty good idea back then that Weiss indeed would adapt to being an NHL player.

"He was already taken fourth overall by Florida and I was a real good player," Vellucci said. "I think he was our leading

scorer that year, played in all the key situations and I definitely relied on him a lot."

Some 12 years later, Weiss isn't the only NHL player and Plymouth alum to have practiced with the Whalers.

"(David) Legwand skated quite a bit last year," Vellucci said. "(Chad) LaRose and (Canton native) James Wisniewski skated with us. We've had several, mostly in the lockout years."

But they all have the same attributes that he would like current players to pick up on.

"Like, how hard a guy competes in practice," Vellucci said, listing some of those characteristics. "What he does off the ice, how he maintains his body, makes sure he eats right. How he works out, not because the coach tells him, but because he wants to be better."

"Those are the things when you're a pro you have to take care of yourself, because if you're not, then somebody else is just going to take your spot."

And now, Weiss is almost in the same frame of mind, even though he is a NHL veteran. He is scrapping and working hard to get back to Joe Louis Arena and play on a top line, not sit in the press box while younger Wings perform.

Vellucci certainly wouldn't bet against him. "Obviously he hasn't been on the ice in a while," he said. "But it's like old times watching him skate out there. He's got great hands, great vision."

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# Spartans skate around Howell, 6-0

Senior Tyler Irvine collected a power-play goal and three assists Thursday as state-ranked Livonia Stevenson rolled to a 6-0 KLAAs cross-over boys hockey victory over host Howell at Grand Oaks Arena.

The Spartans, who improved to 20-5 overall, led 2-0 after one period and 5-0 after two as Dominic Luto chipped in

a goal and two assists, while Alec Allen contributed unassisted goal and one assist.

Other Stevenson goal scorers included Ryan Frazer, Cole Christie and Michael Sinclair (power play). Devin Kelly chipped in with two assists, while Ray Chartier added one.

Stevenson starting goaltender Andrew Rozebaum, who played the first 47 min-

utes and made 11 saves, combined with Brad Coats (two saves) for the shutout.

"It was a total team effort type win," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team outshot the Highlanders, 42-11. "We had six different goal scorers tonight and our team defense was outstanding. We shut down a pretty solid club who can score goals in

Howell. Overall, a nice solid road win."

The loss drops Howell to 15-6-1 overall.

**G.P. SOUTH 1, LADYWOOD 2:** On Thursday, host Center Point's South 18 & 19 pulled out the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League victory over Livonia Ladywood (4-12-1, 4-12-1) at City Arena in Detroit.

Brookman Kater Hayward notched her 21st goal of the season from Jackie Krasulka and Rachel Fradette, while Krasulka added Ladywood's second goal of the second period assisted by Cristina Rotondo and Hayward.

Goalie Samantha Erickson was making her second start in goal this season for the Blazers.

# Canton squad at 12-1

Canton's prowess in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association hasn't been challenged all season.

And that trend continued Thursday night, as the Chiefs varsity gymnastics team defeated Northville 145.95-124.4 to improve to 12-0 in dual meets.

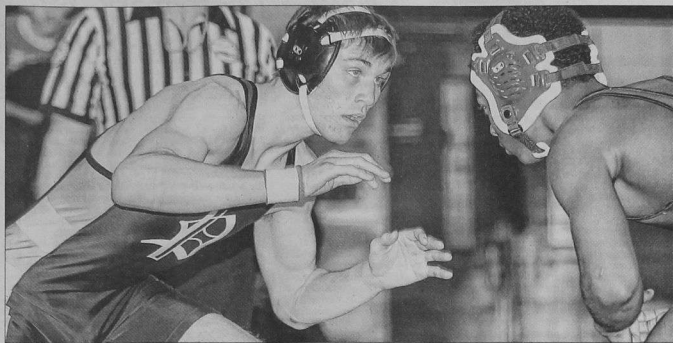
Head coach John Cunningham said that "resting Hailey Hodgson and Erica Lucas made the score much more impressive" and that overall team depth continues to shine.

He said the team has "started gearing up for the KLAAs (tournament and regionals)."

In the all-around, Jocelyn Moraw led the way with a 37.675, followed by Maddie Toal (36.65), Stephanie Cox (35.775), Melissa Green (35.375) and Ellie Bachman (34.15).

Moraw also placed first in three events (vault, 8.95; uneven parallel bars, 9.7; floor exercise, 9.625), while Toal was first on balance beam (9.55).

Green came in second on vault and floor (8.8, 9.55, respectively). Also eclipsing 9.0 in events were Cox (9.35 beam, 9.15 floor), Bachman (9.4 floor) and Toal (9.175 bars, 9.175 floor).



Squaring off in the 140-pound bout are Plymouth's Jon Conn (left) and John Glenn's Charles Anderson. DOUGLAS BARGER/STOCK

# Plymouth ray down Rockets Division 1 regional semifinal

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

The pendulum swung Westland John Glenn's way as the Rockets made a bid to defeat Plymouth in Wednesday's Division 1 team wrestling regional semifinal.

But the Wildcats grabbed it back just in time to post a grueling 39-32 victory and advance to the face Bedford in the regional championship match. Plymouth hung on 32-29 in the final.

After John Glenn individual district champions Jordan Brandon and John Siemacz took 11 out of a possible 12 points at 285 and 103, the host Rockets enjoyed a 32-29 lead, rallying from a 29-15 deficit.

Plymouth, however, stormed back. At 112, Brandon Harris scored a 17-7 major decision over Cyle Seend to put the Wildcats in front, 33-32.

And with the match on the line, Plymouth senior 119-pounder Mo Youssef took care of business by pinning Joe Bates in 1:52 to finish off the Rockets.

**Not enough**

"We knew we had to be up by more points going into the

last two bouts." John Glenn head coach Bill Polk said. "I knew they probably had it on paper going into 112 and 119. That's where two of their best guys are."

"So we bumped up early and we knew that could either come back to hurt us or work out to our benefit and it hurt us. But either way, we don't bump up and Youssef has beaten (Chase) Spanos a couple times already this year, so it really wouldn't have mattered. We had to gamble a little bit and we did and it almost paid off."

After Harris came through in the second-to-last bout, Youssef knew it was in his hands whether Plymouth would win the school's first wrestling regional trophy.

"It felt real good, knowing I did it for my team," Youssef said.

"We were down and they were counting on me to win. So I just had to get the pin."

Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey, meanwhile, said having two district champions in Harris and Youssef waiting to go in the final two bouts gave the team reason to believe it could hold off the Rock-

ets.

"We were nervous, but we were still a little confident," said Guernsey, whose team improved to 35-4 with the win over John Glenn.

"Brandon and Mo win a lot of matches for us and they're the type of kids we expect to win when they go out to wrestle."

The Wildcats got an early jump, with 140-pounder Jon Conn pinning Charles Anderson in 1:16 and Sofus Nielson defeating Tunde Alawode 11-3 in the 145-pound match to get 13-9.

Brad Speen then gave the Rockets (20-10) some life, rallying in the third period to pin Sam Campbell in 4:45 at 152. That put John Glenn up by two.

The see-saw battle continued in the 160-pound match. Plymouth's Joey Shaver earned a 14-1 major decision over Derrick Lester to make it a 17-15 Wildcats lead.

Plymouth's sideline thought Shaver actually pinned Lester in the final second of the opening period. Officials ruled time had expired.

Instead of six points for a pin, the Wildcats garnered four due to the competitive will

shown by Lester. Until the final bouts, those two points loomed large on the scoreboard.

## Fighting spirit

"You know what, we went through some rough patches this year," Polk said. "That was one of our problems half the season. We couldn't stay off our back."

"But the last three weeks, I couldn't be happier with the efforts from some of my young ones and guys fighting and staying off their backs."

Pins by Plymouth's Tarek Tamimi and Hussein Youssef (at 171 and 189) seemingly put the Wildcats in front to stay, 29-15.

Then came a bid by the Wildcats at 215, followed by the powerful Brandon's dominant pin of Plymouth sophomore Michael Jordan in 2:59 at 285.

When Siemacz registered a 24-9 technical fall against Reed, the lead swung back to John Glenn.

That turned out to be a short-lived lead and last hurrah for the Rockets.

When Siemacz registered a 24-9 technical fall against Reed, the lead swung back to John Glenn.

That turned out to be a short-lived lead and last hurrah for the Rockets.

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## WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

onds of a tight, tight headlock."

## Never say die

Of course, it took battles like that throughout the lineup to finally edge Bedford (28-9).

The arc of the Plymouth-Bedford match-up mirrored the way the Wildcats defeated Westland John Glenn, 39-32, in one of the semifinal contests (Bedford defeated Saline 49-24 in the other).

Plymouth led for a while, gave it up and had to charge back in the final bouts in both instances.

And how Dwyer gutted out his win wasn't the team's lone example of heart on display at John Glenn.

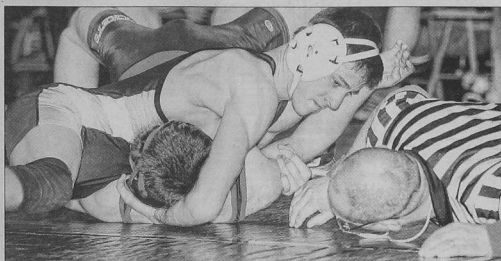
Bedford won by pins at 189, 215 and heavyweight to turn a 17-8 deficit into a 26-17 lead going into the final four bouts.

Collin Reed was awarded the win by void at 103 to move Plymouth to within 26-23.

That came another heart-stopper for Guernsey and the Wildcats at 112, in the bout between individual district champion Brandon Harris and Tyler Rogaliner.

Harris led 6-2 entering the third period, but found himself on his back. Like Dwyer, he wriggled off the hook and ultimately won by a 13-7 decision to even the final at 26-26.

"I'm not going to lie, I was a little bit nervous in that one," Guernsey said. "Especially when Tyler locked up that cradle, I was, 'Oh boy, here we



Winning the final and decisive bout in the team regional semifinals is Plymouth 119-pounder Mo Youssef. He pinned John Glenn's Joe Bates to close out a 39-32 win. DOUGLAS BARGER/STOCK

go."

"But Brandon did a great job of fighting off his back and working and almost got a major, which would have sealed it."

## Business plan

That set up the stage for 119-pounder and individual district champion Mohamad Youssef to face Kurtis Ortman.

Youssef quickly built a 10-2 lead and pinned Ortman in 3:36 to put Plymouth up by six with one bout left.

"Mo does what Mo does," Guernsey said. "He's going to go out and handle his business; he's going to pin the kids that I expect him to pin."

Bedford had one last chance to spoil Plymouth's dreams of Battle Creek. In the finale at

125, Brad Stewart needed a fall against Spencer Schiffr to even the score and force a tiebreaker.

Schiffr had a couple of dicey moments trying to avoid a pin, but he persevered. Despite a 14-10 loss, the Wildcats maintained their winning edge.

"It was getting close there a couple times," Guernsey said. "Spencer made me a little nervous, but he's a tough kid, he's hard to pin and he's really strong."

"We were confident in his ability to stay off his back and know that that was his job."

Other Plymouth victories were scored by Jon Conn at 140 (a 13-3 major decision), Sofus Nielson (6-5 at 145) and individual district champions Joey Shaver (6-4 at 160) and Hussein

Youssef (a 12-3 major decision at 171).

Guernsey also cited under-the-radar contributions from others who stayed out of pins, helping to hold down Bedford's score.

"We had a lot of guys who wrestled really well," he said. "Danny Ahearn, staying off his back at 135 against a returning regional qualifier (Jake Himminki). He got held to a decision, that was huge."

"Our 140 and 145 took care of those jobs. Sam Campbell wrestled really well at 152, he only got teched by a district champ (Blake Montre). We just had a lot of guys set up and know their jobs and executed them."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Canton's Jocelyn Moraw finished first on floor exercise and two other events against Northville. BRIAN QUIRTO

## THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Monday, Feb. 17  
(Kensington Conf./Regional Semifinals)  
South Lyon at Salem, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 20  
Plymouth at Livonia Westland, 7 p.m.  
Whitehaven at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 21**  
Macomb at Livonia Westland, 9:30 p.m.  
Caledonia at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 22  
Luth. Westland at Luth. South, 1:30 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Tuesday, Feb. 18  
Luth. South at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.  
Mooney at Ladywood, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 19  
Macomb at Livonia Westland, 9:30 p.m.  
Utah Prep at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 20  
Caledonia at Huron Valley, 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 21  
Caledonia at Huron Valley, 5:30 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Luth. South, 7 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**  
Tuesday, Feb. 18  
Canton of Nova TBA  
Wednesday, Feb. 19  
Churchill vs. Saline  
at Ply. Cultural Center, 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 21**  
Saline at Lygett, TBA  
Farmington vs. Plymouth  
at Arctic Edge, 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 22  
Ladywood vs. W.L. Central  
at Arctic Edge, 5:30 p.m.
- BOYS SWIMMING**  
Friday, Feb. 21  
Kensington Conference Finals  
at Novi H.S., 5 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 22  
Kensington Conference Finals  
at Novi H.S., 5 p.m.
- GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
Thursday, Feb. 20  
P.C.P. Meet at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
- PREP BOWLING**  
Friday, Feb. 21  
(MHSSA Team Regional)  
All Super Bowls, 9 p.m.  
Division 2 at Oak Lakes, TBA  
Division 3 at Cherry Hill, TBA
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**  
Saturday, Feb. 22  
Division 1 at Troy Adams, 10 p.m.  
Division 2 at Oxford, 7 p.m.  
Division 3 at Macon, 6 p.m.
- PREP SWIMMING**  
Tuesday, Feb. 18  
MHSSA at Alpine Valley, TBA  
Wednesday, Feb. 19  
NEMO'S COLLEGE HOOPS  
Wednesday, Feb. 19  
St. Clair at Skyway, 7:30 p.m.  
Makona at Lawrence Tech, 8 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**  
Wednesday, Feb. 19  
Makona at Lawrence Tech, 8 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 21**  
Saturday, Feb. 22  
Makona at Lawrence Tech, 8 p.m.  
Shoochout at Farm Mts., 1 p.m.
- ONTOARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
Monday, Feb. 17  
Ply. Whalers at Guelph, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 19  
Ply. Whalers at 50K, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 21**  
Ply. Whalers at Sarina, 7 a.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 22  
London vs. Ply. Whalers  
at Compuserve, 7 p.m.  
TBA - time to be announced



# Melcher joins elite club as Madonna women roll to victory

Junior guard Rachel Melcher joined both the 1,000-point and 500-rebound club Wednesday night, leading the Madonna University women's basketball team to an 80-57 win at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Melcher, a 5-foot-8 guard from Birmingham Marian, finished with a team-best 16 points and eight rebounds as the Crusaders improved to 12-14 overall and 10-9 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Added 10 points as 11 different MU players scored.

Brittany Teets and Jassica Williams paced the Wolves (2-22, 2-17), who trailed 39-24 at halftime, with 15 and 13 points, respectively.

Andrea Collins added 10.

**Schoolcraft falls**

Brittanna Berberet (Salem) scored game-high 27 points Wednesday, but Schoolcraft College (9-14, 5-8) fell in an MCCA Eastern Conference game, 80-73, to host Alpena Community Col-

lege (7-13, 4-9).

Tabittha Mann added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Lady Ocelots, who trailed by only one at intermission, 33-32.

Schoolcraft was unable to overcome 27 turnovers and 11-of-24 shooting from the foul line.

Asheigh Monticello paced the Lady Lumberjacks with 15 points, while Anna Carrick added 14.

Whitney Frazier chipped in with 13 points and 13 rebounds, while Courtney Holmes also tallied 13 points.



The Plymouth Wildcats recently participated in a community service project to help feed hungry children in Africa.

# Wildcats work to feed hungry

**By Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Every season since he took over as head coach of Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team, one of

Gerry Vento's priorities is for his players to give back.

And the Wildcats stepped up to the plate Feb. 8 so that hungry children in Africa literally will have the chance to do just that.

All 20 players were part of a team of people who went to Friendship Church in Canton to pack boxes of food to ship across the globe.

According to Vento, they helped packed enough boxes "to feed 106 kids one meal a day for a year."

National Honor Society students organized the project for the charity Feed My Starving Children ([www.fmc.org](http://www.fmc.org)).

"That charity is in need of volunteers to package and ship ready-to-eat meals to the hungry in Africa."

"We went there and actually put food in the packages, sealed it up, boxed it up. It was a pretty good experience," Vento said. "We had two-hour shifts set up and you worked two hours straight; you didn't stop."



Putting food items into boxes are Plymouth hockey players Josh Smith (left) and Charlie Supernis.

# Naubert sets mark, but Crusaders fall to Wolves

It turned out to be a bittersweet night for the Madonna University men's basketball team.

Senior Hobby Naubert became the first player in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference history to reach 700 career assists, but MU suffered a damaging 70-66 setback Wednesday night to host University of Michigan-Dearborn.

score in double figures with 13 points.

Jamie Strickland led the Wolves (7-20, 4-15) with 17 points, while Jeff Flick added 16.

Alpena outscored 15-11 in the five-minute OT, got a game-high 37 points from Traver Howard.

Naubert, a 5-foot-10 point guard from Livonia Stevenson, finished with 18 points and four assists, but it couldn't prevent the Crusaders from falling to 18-9 overall and 14-5 in the WHAC (now tied with Northwestern Ohio for third place).

Senior guard Travis Schuba was the only other MU player to

score in double figures with 13 points.

Michael Harvey came off the bench to score 18 points Wednesday, including the game-tying 3-pointer with only one second remaining in regulation, to propel Schoolcraft College (12-11, 5-8) to an 88-84 overtime victory at Alpena Community College (5-16, 3-10) in an MCCA Eastern Conference game.

Alpena outscored 15-11 in the five-minute OT, got a game-high 37 points from Traver Howard.

The Lumberjacks, who led 34-31 at halftime, also got 17 points from Khari Dailey and 10 points and 14 rebounds from Scott Hicks III.

Harvey's triple made

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Rocks baseball clinic

The Salem Rocks Dugout Club announced the annual varsity baseball clinic is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, in the Salem High school gymnasium.

Session 1 (players ages 7-10) is set to run from 9 a.m. to noon. Session 2 (players ages 11-15) is 1-4 p.m.

Cost is \$30 per session. A snack will be served after each session and each participant will receive a T-shirt.

Visit [www.rocksbaseball.com](http://www.rocksbaseball.com) to download a flier or call Anne Driscoll of the Dugout Club at 734-392-4901.

### Women's golfers

The Livonia Whispering Willows Golf League will be expanded to 18 holes for \$28 per week (includes greens fees and cart) beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, May 1.

Non-residents are encouraged to join the 20-week league.

For more information, call Beth at 248-473-9068 or email [tbw4boys@aol.com](mailto:tbw4boys@aol.com).

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Eric Grossman Deceased of Birth May 21, 1963

To All Creditors:

Notice To Creditors: The decedent, Eric Grossman, who lived at 42320 Pountif Ave. #14, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 died August 25, 2012.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Bruce Grossman, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, at 18905 Shumsky Lake Ave., Michigan 49650, (231)275-2041 or to both the probate court and the named/proposed personal representative within June 17, 2014 after the date of publication of this notice.

February 10, 2013

Bruce Grossman, Personal Representative for the Estate 18905 Shumsky Lake Ave., Michigan 49650 (231)275-2041

Publish: 2-16-2014

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**RECEPTIONIST PART-TIME**  
You must be a high school grad or better  
Exp. req. Call: [medoffice@mm.com](mailto:medoffice@mm.com)  
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**2 Positions Available**  
Attn: Kelly - @ hometownlife.com  
**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
20-25 hrs/week. Exp. Salary and health benefits  
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Experience Preferred  
Full Time. Exp. Salary and Health Benefits  
Lower letter. Resume + photo of references. **NOET** - included with resume  
FAX 248-932-0197

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**FRONT DESK**  
Part-Time for collaboration  
Office in Birmingham  
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**Help Wanted - Medical**

**Medical Assistant**  
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**Hiring All Positions WAIT & HOST STAFF, COOKS & DISHWASHERS**  
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**Rehab Manager, Diet/Care Coordinator, Person & Wait Staff**  
Exp. only  
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**Help Wanted - General**

**Automotive Equipment**  
**LUBE TECH**  
PT. Work. No exp. necessary.  
Mechanical ability and some computer skills a plus.  
Wages/Fuel Allowance.  
Apply at Lakeshore  
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Established Company in Brighton is seeking quick loaders to sort & inspect auto parts.  
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Please Call Brian - 3am-3pm  
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**Professional Sales**  
Must be one on one or business to business sales experience.  
Must have the ability to be a good listener and have excellent sales experience. This is a full time position.  
If you are a graduate of the following schools, including Jassica Williams and Benji. You will have the ability to be hired into multiple positions to see our clients.  
Only experienced drivers.  
Resume to [jobs@hometownlife.com](mailto:jobs@hometownlife.com)

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**Help Wanted - General**

**Direct Care Worker/PT**  
Position available in MI. Must have strong record. Start at \$7.00/hr. 7:30-3:30

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IT'S A CALLING

# Blessed: Redford woman marks 50 years in church music

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Pat Knorp was a high school sophomore when she made her debut as a church organist at her Pontiac parish.

"The music director had a full-time job and couldn't do the daily stuff. I started on the first Friday of Lent. It was Stations of the Cross. By that summer, I was doing the 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. Masses every day," recalled Knorp, now a Redford Township resident. "I'm not a morning person. It's just something I knew I had to do, so I did it. Back then, the organ was in the balcony. I remember a few times I went in with curlers in my hair."

In spite of the early morning hours and the challenge of singing in Latin, Knorp knew she had a calling in sacred music. She marked her 50th year as church pianist and organist on Friday, Feb. 14.

"I just feel so blessed because I'm so fulfilled by doing this," said Knorp, who has been married to her husband, John, for 45 years. He sings in her church choir at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia and serves as a "roadie" for her handbell choir, the Valentines. The couple has four grown children and 12 grandchildren.

"I just feel that God had chosen this for me and blessed me with it. I can't imagine not doing it. It's a big part of who I am. Every holiday, I have to be at church and not with family. You give up a lot, yet you get back so much."

## Juggling music duties

Knorp has been music director, pianist, organist and adult choir and handbell choir leader for St. Priscilla's three weekend Masses for the past three years. Before that, she worked at a dizzying number of parishes, sometimes handling duties at two churches simultaneously.

"I was younger then. I didn't know any better," she said, laughing, as she counted the jobs that had her playing at early morning daily Masses, followed by occasional funerals and then music classes in the afternoon, along with her church practices at night and weekend Masses.

After graduation from St. Michael's School in Pontiac, Knorp earned an undergraduate degree in speech and drama, with a music minor, from Mercy College. After leaving school, she began playing for daily Masses at St. Valentine in Redford—a job she held for 25 years—while also teaching music at St. Scholastica in Detroit. Teaching stints followed at St. Edith in Livonia



Pat Knorp of Redford Township is music director at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia.

and St. Valentine.

She took on the music director's position at St. Lawrence in Detroit, before moving to St. Hugh in Southgate, where she worked from 1977-87. Knorp also spent 14 years at St. Kenneth in Plymouth Township, one year at St. Mary Magdalen in Melvindale, before landing at St. Damian in Westland, and then St. Priscilla.

"When a new pastor comes in, many times he brings his own people," Knorp explained. "So, it's not just up to me to leave. I've just learned to trust God, that he has a plan for my life."

Sometimes, parishioners leave with her. She figures about two-thirds of her choir from St. Damian followed her to

St. Priscilla.

"They are a wonderful group. I feel so blessed," she said.

Highlights of her career have included writing special plays and variety shows, the formation of the Valtones and choir tours throughout Europe, including a visit to the Vatican in 1993 when she not only met Pope John Paul II, but also held his hand.

## Adding musicians

When Knorp first started playing for Masses, the congregational responses were in Latin. Generally the organ was the only accompaniment for vocals.

Now she tends to play more piano than organ music at Mass, which is said



Pat Knorp shows off the cake she received this week at her practice.



Pat Knorp holds hands with Pope John Paul II during a trip to sing at the Vatican, one of the highlights of her career.

in English. The musical accompaniment also includes parishioners Kevin Murphy on guitar, Tim Hayward on bass, his wife, Kathy on flute, and Dave Capman on drums.

"I have other musicians that are not parishioners who come in for special occasions," she added.

She chooses songs to suit the weekly readings at Mass.

Parishioners Joyce Kelley and Mary Morrison help her organize the music for the choir.

"I am blessed. They help me immensely."

Knorp also burns CD recordings to help choir members practice new material. She's learning how to distribute the songs to choir members via the Internet and she doesn't plan to retire any time soon.

"As long as they want me there and I have a thinking mind and hands that move, I'll be there. I really feel this is what I'm called to do."

Knorp and the Valtones will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Bostford Commons in Farmington Hills. Visit [www.bostfordcommons.org](http://www.bostfordcommons.org) for more information about St. Priscilla Parish, visit [saintpriscilla.org](http://saintpriscilla.org).

## OUR MENTAL HEALTH

# Choir therapy gets its own awareness week



Len McCulloch

open to the public.

This year's performance is sponsored by state Rep. Vicki Barnett, D-Farmington Hills. One year ago, Barnett worked with TCM pursuant to a legislative proclamation denoting the first week of March as Choir Therapy Awareness Week in Michigan. This work was successful and the proclamation was adopted. Since that time, TCM has been working with Barnett's office on a National Awareness Week. I'm pleased to announce that the national proclamation will be presented at the Capitol Concert. Henceforth, the first week of March will be proclaimed "TCM—Choir Therapy Awareness Week in America."

Choir therapy is the assembling of individuals who share a common challenge and that they can experience the joy of singing with others. (Good singing ability is not required.) While providing this pleasure, choir therapy also may aid an individual's adjustment in overcoming hardships. A therapy choir is composed of individuals with special needs such as people with traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, mental health issues, addictions and physical challenges, such as blindness, paralysis and orphan diseases. Typically, individuals in our society who live with these kinds of problems are in the process of overcoming difficult things. Choir therapy has been shown to assist people with unique challenges.

## Benefits

Choir therapy can increase self-esteem, improve memory and related cognitive functions and enhance social



Len McCulloch directs the Therapy Choirs of Michigan at a previous Capital Concert performance.

skills. In addition, choir members can gain the opportunity to construct interpersonal relationships and obtain personal enjoyment through membership in a group that is supportive, educational and congenial.

Again, good singing ability is not required! There may be some individuals who, because of stroke, speech impediment and other conditions, are unable to sing. In choir therapy, they may be able to hum, tap their cane, clap their hands, etc. In our experience over the past 15 years, we have found this use of music to be a wonderful experience for all participants and audiences.

TCM typically performs a *capella*. However, there are times when a tambourine, a keyboard or other musical instrument is employed. The musical repertoire ranges from traditional songs and folk music to patriotic songs and contemporary pieces. TCM's work is about more than just singing. Participants and audiences, as well as volunteers, have repeatedly reported posi-

tive effects in the way they experience themselves and their world. Beaming smiles of pride at the close of events are typical.

## Volunteer voices

Volunteers from the community, be they able-bodied or with their own special needs, are an important part of TCM. Volunteers assist in many ways. Some lend their voices for volume and modeling, some assist a member with turning pages of a songbook or help singers don their choir robes. Over the years, volunteers have included the chaplain of the Royal Oak Police Department, the director of outreach from the Michigan Opera Theatre, select members of the Finnish Choral Group and even a member of the Rockets song/dance troupe.

In addition to hearing a wide variety of musical tunes, audience members typically walk away with a new awareness of the fact that there is life after a tragedy. Awareness of choir therapy

simultaneously increases awareness of the misfortunes that many in our society experience. Members of the audience can go away with hope and take home compassion.

## Venues

TCM has been fortunate to perform at private and public functions statewide, at assisted living homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and rescue missions, as well as schools, from kindergarten through college. TCM has had the special privilege of singing for former President Jimmy Carter at a Habitat for Humanity luncheon. Its members have sung at a Detroit Tigers game, a Detroit Red Wings alumni fundraiser, the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament's annual Mass for the disabled, the annual Michigan Students Against Drunk Driving conference in Traverse City and even at the Fox Theatre for a sellout crowd of 5,000 patrons prior to Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker Performance.

We all know that song and music have long been known to have healing qualities and other benefits. Lullabies calm our infants, singing ABCs helps our children memorize them, cadence calls help prepare our military with discipline, the sound of *Taps* helps us grieve when we bury our loved ones.

As the Therapy Choirs of Michigan's website states, "It's about more than just singing." As an anonymous writer from Finland once said: "If you wish to sing, you will find a song."

Visit TCM's website at [www.therapychoirs.org](http://www.therapychoirs.org) for specific information about the Capitol Concert, call 248-476-9329 or 248-435-7031.

L.J. McCulloch is co-creator with Sherry Cantrell and director of the Therapy Choirs of Michigan. He is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association and credentialed in mental health, traumatic brain injury, addictions and social work. He has published nearly 200 columns for the Observer & Eccentric. These are archived at [www.familis.org](http://www.familis.org). He can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext.22.

## 'Downton Abbey' show inspires tasty tea tasting

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

It's tea time, *Downton Abbey*-style in downtown Plymouth.

TranquillTea, 904 W. Ann Arbor Trail, will serve English tea samples, including blends inspired by the PBS television series, *Downton Abbey*, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, the same day the show wraps up its fourth season. Fans of the series, which focuses on the family and staff in a British manor house in the early 1900s, will find *Downton Abbey* collector tea tins, tea cozies and jewelry for sale at the tasting event. Anyone who dresses in period clothing or correctly answers a trivia question will receive an additional ticket for a jewelry giveaway.

"We've done other tastings, but nothing like this," said Colleen Cannon, tea shop owner. "We got inspired when we got the tins. They were big sellers at Christmas. We sold out three times. I've brought in other official (*Downton*) goods that I don't normally carry.

"On the show, they serve the guests tea. They brought the kettle on, even in the servants' quarters," Cannon said, adding "some of



Brendan Coyle is Mr. Bates and Joanne Froggatt is Anna Bates in *Downton Abbey*, airing 9-11 p.m. Sundays on PBS. TranquillTea in downtown Plymouth will celebrate the show's season 4 finale with tea sampling, jewelry, period clothing and treats on Feb. 23. NICK BRIGGS/CARNIVAL FILM & TELEVISION LIMITED

the girls here watch the series." Her staff will dress in period clothing for the event.

"I do love watching the detail of the fashion. I started watching this season. I've got a lot of catching up to do," Cannon said. "I would say I am a fan of Violet (Maggie Smith), the grandmother. She's a hoot. I do enjoy her."

Cannon supplied the tea for a *Downton Abbey*-related talk at the Plymouth District Library a few weeks ago. She said the speaker canceled because of bad weather, but the show went on with screenings of a "behind the scenes"

video and a documentary about the manor house used in the television series.

"We learned a lot," Cannon said. She encourages customers to sample as many teas as possible at her tastings, "so they'll know what they like and what they don't." The *Downton Abbey*-themed teas include a ginger-spiced breakfast blend and an English rose tea with notes of hibiscus and raspberry.

"We thought we'd sample those and we'll also have treats."

For more information, call 734-459-9686.

## Workshop aimed at genealogy research

The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold the seventh in a series of genealogical workshops to help family historians of all levels research their American ancestors, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at the museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth.

This seminar features Dave McDonald, a certified genealogist and a past president and trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. His research specialties include the states of the old Northwest Territory, the Great Plains and New England; he also has done significant work in the British Isles and Germanic Europe. His articles have appeared in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and *NGS Magazine*, as well as in a



McDonald

will be:

- » **Document Transcription, Analysis & Research Plans**, which will go through the process of transcription, which leads to full evaluation of a document's clues and assertions.

- » **Enough Already! Start Writing!** Finding the Forest Amidst the Trees; or Completing a Genealogical Project will look at clues to bring a research project to a close and begin the writing process.

- » **New Yorkers to the Midwest** looks at the role and place in Michigan's

development.

- » **American Colonial Era Research** will consider the kinds of records available in New England, the mid-Atlantic, and the coastal South. The session also will reflect on the lasting impact of those early days in both the development of the American psyche and the records sought and used in genealogical research.

The fee for the day, \$40, includes the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the museum's exhibit, "Vintage Project Runway," during lunch and the afternoon break. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the museum's website, [plymouthhistory.org](http://plymouthhistory.org). For more information, call the museum at 734-455-8940.

## Get a blood pressure check, sign a T-shirt

"T-Shirts, Good Health, Unique Gifts and Red Hats" will combine blood pressure checks with T-shirt autographing, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at The Product Shop, 28465 Five Mile in Livonia.

Precise Home Health Care will be on hand at the event to offer free blood pressure checks and answer questions about hypertension. Agromontee Jefferson of State Farm will answer questions about the Affordable Care Act, homeowner, auto and life insurance. And staff from Franco Facchini, D.D.S., and Five Oaks Dental in Livonia will share tips

for good dental hygiene.

Signatures, a collection of autographs from proud Detroit Public Schools alumni, will have T-shirts for signing. The shirts sport photographs of public and private high schools in and around Detroit. Since November 2012, former students have signed their names on shirts that depict their alma maters. More than 11,000 participants have signed the shirts. Past signers include Sen. Carol Levin, who graduated from Central High School; Northeastern High School's Martha Reeves; and Mumford High School's Sam Bernstein.

The signed shirts will tour local shopping malls, libraries, office buildings and other public areas in the fall. Each shirt will be placed in an individual kiosks with an electronic tablet. The display will scroll through fun facts about the school's history, alumni and the names of those who signed the shirt. When the tour concludes, the shirts will be donated to the Detroit Historical Museum.

For more information call Michael Williams at 313-446-2262 or email [mewiii@authorcollective.com](mailto:mewiii@authorcollective.com); or Brenda Bennett-Scott at 734-525-9995 or email [detroitproductshop@aol.com](mailto:detroitproductshop@aol.com).

# The Oscars™ CONTEST

### 3 ways to celebrate the Academy Awards® Show and Win!

Go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) and select The Oscar™ Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website or go to [fb.com/oeohomeland](http://fb.com/oeohomeland) and click The Oscar Contest icon.

**GRAND PRIZE:** Correctly identify the top 7 Oscar™ categories and you could win 12 month Movie pass for two to Emagine Theatre (Grand Prize Valued Over \$1,000).

**2nd Place winner will win 4 movie passes**

**Correctly Identify the Top 7 Categories**

- Best Picture
- Best Actor in Leading Role
- Best Actress in a Leading Role
- Best Animated Feature Film
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role
- Best Director

**Tie Breaker Categories**

- Music (original score)
  - Documentary Feature
- One entry per person

All entries must be received by Saturday, March 1st, 2014 11:59 p.m.

**DOUBLE PLAY:**

Enter by 2/14/14 and select DOUBLE PLAY, you will be entered for a chance to win a pass to admit 2 for a special showing of the Best Picture of 2013 nominated films at Emagine Novi only. First winner will be selected by 2/14/14 to see movies playing week 1 (2/14/14 - 2/20/14), and the second winner will be selected by 2/19/14 for a change to see movies playing (2/21/14 - 2/27/14). See "BEST OF 2013" for movie titles and dates below. (Value: \$60.)

**TRIPLE PLAY:**

Enter by 2/26/14 and select TRIPLE PLAY, and you will be entered for a chance to win 4 tickets to the Academy Awards® viewing at Star Lanes Restaurant and Sports Bar at Emagine Royal Oak. Watch the Academy Awards® while you dine. Prizes includes a light supper, champagne toast and dessert. (Value: \$60)



Choose correctly and you could win!

## The BEST of 2013

**Emagine Novi ONLY**

(Films nominated for an Academy Award® for best picture)

**Only \$35 for One Day or \$60 for Two Days**

**YOU pick the days to attend!**

**Unlimited Popcorn!**

Limited Seats Available - Buy your tickets early!

**Week 1 Feb. 14 - 20**

**Week 2 Feb. 21 - 27**

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10:30 a.m. <b>American Hustle</b>   | 11:00 a.m. <b>Wolf of Wall Street</b> |
| 1:30 p.m. <b>Gravity 2D</b>         | 2:30 p.m. <b>Nebraska</b>             |
| 3:45 p.m. <b>Captain Phillips</b>   | 5:00 p.m. <b>12 Years a Slave</b>     |
| 6:30 p.m. <b>Dallas Buyers Club</b> | 8:30 p.m. <b>Philomena</b>            |
| 9:00 p.m. <b>Her</b>                |                                       |

## HOLLYWOOD'S BIG NIGHT OUT

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**STAR LANES**  
RESTAURANT & SPORTS BAR  
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Come watch the Academy Awards® while you dine in style!

Includes light supper, champagne toast, & dessert.

**When:** Sunday, March 2nd at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Star Lanes at Emagine Royal Oak, 200 N. Main St. Royal Oak, MI  
**How:** Reservations are required.

Make your reservations by calling 248.414.0000 x 238 or email [banquets@star-lanes.com](mailto:banquets@star-lanes.com)

**\$20 per person**

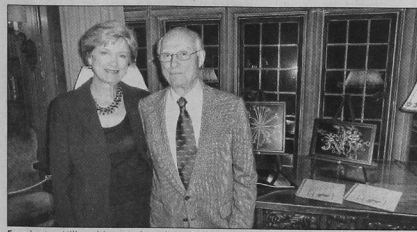
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## Winter in bloom



Farming Hills residents Julie and Ken Pardonnet attend the Winter in Bloom exhibition by photographer Laurie Tennent at Cranbrook House and Gardens in Bloomfield Hills. The exhibit features botanicals and photographic polykork on aluminum. The 19 pieces in the exhibit are based on the artist's work with Cranbrook's master gardeners. They're on display along the perimeter of Cranbrook House and for sale through Feb. 28. JULIE VOLLES



WEDDING

Gorte-Critser

Stephanie Lynn Gorte and Jeffrey James Critser were married July 20, 2013, in Ferrysburg. The bride, daughter of Tim and Sylvia Gorte of Livonia, is a 2004 graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia and a 2009 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in dietetics. She is employed as a registered dietitian with Intercare Community Health Network in Pullman.

The groom, son of Susan and Jeff Baker of Midway, Ga., and Jim and Lori Critser of Comstock, is a 2004 graduate of Comstock Park High School in Comstock and a 2008 graduate of Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in political science. He is self-employed and currently works in fundraising in the local Kalamazoo political arena.

Katie Gorte served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Sarah Brynner-McLean, Natalie Truba, Ashley VanTiem, Samantha Ulrich and Susmi Baker. Best Man Hallett served as best man. Groomsman



Jeffrey James Critser and Stephanie Lynn Gorte on their wedding day

were Tim Oliphant, Keith Court, Tyler Critser and Matt Voight. The ceremony was followed by a celebration

with friends and family at McFadden's Restaurant in Grand Rapids. The couple resides in Kalamazoo.

Messages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



BLOSSER, DR. CHARLES "CHARLIE" RUSSELL

81 of Royal Oak, Michigan, passed February 9, 2014 lovingly surrounded by his family. Born to the late Charles and Cordelia Blosser in Shelby, Ohio, Charlie earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Industrial Arts from Kent State University and a Ph.D. from Wayne State University. Charlie was a dedicated educator for 54 years. He retired in 2010 from the Ceramic Technology Center at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Campus, where he trained hundreds of ceramic professionals. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Bridget (Hawthorn) Blosser, his two daughters, Melanie (Alvaro Perea) Ryan, Van Allen of New York City and Amber (Christopher) Galia of Ann Arbor Township, his sister Glenna (Don) Coffey Dunkin of Columbus, Ohio; his late sister Tina (Ken) Coffey of Royal Oak, his large extended family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Charlie Blosser Foundation (education scholarship) or the Royal Oak Animal Shelter, No Kill Rescue at 1515 North Edgewood, Royal Oak, MI 48067. A memorial service will be held at the funeral home. February 22, 2014 from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Royal Oak Funeral Home, 18 W. 46th St., Royal Oak, MI 48067. For funeral information please visit www.remeinbergcharlieblosser.wordpress.com

ELLIS, NANCY PAULINE DALEE

89 years of age, of Indianapolis, passed away February 6, 2014, at her home March 3, 1923, to Williams and Pauline Dalee in Chatham, Ontario, Canada. She loved the nearby Erie shore and her lifelong retreats to the family cottage at Rondeau Park. She now passes that gathering place and her lifelong retreats to the family cottage at Rondeau Park. She was a devoted wife and mother and an active volunteer. She gave her time to UNICEF, Children of the United Methodist Church, Nancy's friends included her regular bridge partners and sisters Kappa Kappa Gamma. Survivors include her husband Byron and her devoted children, Elnes Byron (Bartholomew), Richard Williams (Nancy), Charles Dalee (Susan), Katharine Ann Copen (Terry), Nancy Jean Henry, and Barbara Jane Moore (Daniel) and nine grandchildren. An urn interment will be at a later date. For information check www.annecremation.com. Those wishing to honor Nancy's life are requested to contribute to a charity of their choice.



HATTON, WILLIAM EARL

January 28, 2014. William Earl was a chemist at Dow, American Can, Federal Alloys, XV Industries, and U of M. He was a lifelong advocate for civil rights, equal access to education, and poverty relief. He was the family cook, developed his own phony "fresh" vegetables, tutored chemistry, and could repair, wire, build or program virtually anything. He was a longtime member of the Democratic Club, the ACLU, and Unitarian church of Farmington. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Elizabeth (Shorthand) of Traverse City, daughters Lydia and Rebecca, sons Nathan and Dayli, daughter-in-law, Shert, sister Martha Burns, grandchildren Matthew and Joe Fordon, Thea Toker, Kelsey, Kolin, and Julia Hatton, and Lizzy Hatton. He was predeceased in death by his son Andrew in 2013, his parents (1936 and 2002), niece, Robin Hatton (1969), and sister, Wylene Stone (2007). A memorial will be held May 17 in Traverse City. Contributions can be made to the Traverse City Pavilions or the ACLU of Michigan. See [lifestorynet.com/memories/9120](http://lifestorynet.com/memories/9120) for more info.

KUS, JUDITH ANN (nee ARMENTROUT)

Born May 11, 1924, passed away peacefully January 18, 2014. Loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Jane was retired from the CSX Corporation after more than 30 years of service. She was a long time resident of the Detroit area and most recently of Coleriville, TN. Judy will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Memorial contributions in her honor can be made to Disabled Sports USA, East, www.dsusa.org. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.georgiacremationcenters.com](http://www.georgiacremationcenters.com)

NIMMO, PHYLLIS MARIE

Age 71, of Westland, Michigan, passed on, February 9, 2014, at her home. Born June 6, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois, daughter of the late Dr. Roy Kenneth and Eleanor Marie (Stanton) Quamme. Survived by daughter Jennifer (Rhonda) Filly of Westland, son, Jamie Nimmo of Livonia, 12 grandchildren, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Cremation rites accorded. Memorial Service Monday, February 17th Noon with a gathering 1 hour prior, at David C. Brown Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Memorials to Alzheimer's Association appreciated. [davidcbrownfunerals.com](http://davidcbrownfunerals.com)



PRICE, JOHN ARTHUR

Age 86, February 9, 2014. Loving husband of Sarah, Dear father of John (Lori) Price and Michelle (Christopher) Manross. Proud grandfather of Brian and Matthew Price and Connor and Emma Manross. Formerly of Livonia, John retired from Bequa Corporation and moved to Tennessee. He enjoyed volunteering for the Knights of Columbus and Habitat for Humanity and was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Fairfield, Gladwin, Tennessee. Visitation Sunday, February 16 from 4-8 p.m. at Vigil Service at 7 p.m., at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37099 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Funeral Service Monday, February 17 at 10:30am at St. Michael Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Offer condolences at [www.harryjwillfunerals.com](http://www.harryjwillfunerals.com)

SEXTON, MARIAN

Age 90, February 11, 2014 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Lawrence; Loving mother Ellen (Tom) Williams, Regis (Sally) Sexton, Phyllis (Don) Smith, and Robert Sexton. Proud grandmother of eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of the late Ruth Louise Inhoff. Visitation Sunday 3-6 p.m. with a 5 p.m. Vigil service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd. (between Ford and Cherry Hill), Westland. In state Monday 10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at St. Theodore of Canterbury Catholic Church, 8200 N. Wayne Rd. (between Warren and Joy), Westland. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holiday. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association. To share a memory, please visit [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com)

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RELIGION CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11  
**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** Monsignor Ronald Brown, D.D., canon lawyer and member of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal, will explain the often-misunderstood concept of annulment as well as convalidation, a process that brings an established marriage into full union with the church. Free admission  
**Contact:** 734-261-1455, Ext. 200; [www.livoniastmichael.org](http://www.livoniastmichael.org)  
**AUCTION**  
**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16  
**Location:** Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland  
**Details:** Concordia Lutheran School's annual auction, "Winter Wonderland," will include appetizer, dinner, desserts, beer, wine and soft drinks, in addition to an auction. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$270 for tables of 10.  
**Contact:** Racann Kush at 248-474-3991  
**BREAKFAST**  
**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 16  
**Location:** 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, applesauce, ham, coffee, tea, milk, juice, \$3 adults, \$1.50 children, 2-10.

**Contact:** 734-425-4421  
**JUDAICA ON DVD**  
**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Wednesday, through Feb. 26  
**Location:** Congregation Beth Aham, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield  
**Details:** Howard Mitchell delivers his four-part series, "Sacred Remnants: Rediscovered Treasures of the Jewish Past" on DVD. Topics are "The Aleppo Codex and the Rest of the Torah," Feb. 19; and "The Soviet Archives: The Unknown World of Eastern Europe," Feb. 26.  
**Contact:** Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931; [nancyellen8796@aol.net](mailto:nancyellen8796@aol.net)  
**PURSE AUCTION**  
**Time/Date:** 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22  
**Location:** Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** The auction includes purses filled with "mystery" items. Participants will get a chance to look at the purses — but not at their contents — before the bidding begins. Bidders must be over 18 years old. Bidding open to men and women, starts at \$5. Laura Schroll from Home In Service Ministries is the guest speaker.  
**Contact:** Mary at 248-471-1322  
**SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30 p.m. Feb. 26  
**Location:** Ward Presbyterian Preschool, 40000 Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** Meet staff and see the facility during this informational meeting for the 2014-15 school year. Programs for children ages 2-5.  
**Contact:** 248-374-5911  
**WHY BE CATHOLIC**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17

**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** Steven Piskowski, co-founder of Army of Apostles, will share the story of his journey from cradle Catholic to Evangelical Protestant to avid anti-Catholic and disciple of Dave Hunt, to the faith of his childhood. The program is free.  
**Contact:** [www.livoniastmichael.org](http://www.livoniastmichael.org) or e-mail [whybecatholic@livoniastmichael.org](mailto:whybecatholic@livoniastmichael.org).  
**WIDOWED FRIENDS**  
**Time/Date:** 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, through March 9  
**Location:** St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia  
**Details:** This weekly bereavement support series is designed to help deal with emotions, loneliness and other issues experienced after the loss of a spouse. Widowed Friends is a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit.  
**Contact:** Priscilla at 734-591-7879

**MARCH**  
**AUCTION**  
**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Saturday, March 1  
**Location:** St. Damian Catholic School, 28891 Joy Road, Westland  
**Details:** "Totally 80's" auction with dinner served at 7:15 p.m. and the auction at 8:45 p.m. Cash bids includes jelly-o shots and pudding shots. Tickets are \$30, available only in advance from St. Damian parish office at 734-421-6130; St. Theodore at 734-225-4421; Divine Savior at 734-455-3620; and St. Damian School at 734-427-1659.  
**Contact:** [www.stdamianauction2014.weebly.com](http://www.stdamianauction2014.weebly.com)  
**CHILDREN'S CONCERT**  
**Time/Date:** 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 2  
**Location:** Sacred Heart Banquet and Conference Center, 29126 Five Mile, just east of Middlebelt, Livonia  
**Details:** "The Doughnut Man" Rob Evans and his sidekick Duncan will perform original Bible story songs such as *In The Beginning* and *The Miracle Song*. Families are encouraged to sing along with the aisles. Tickets are \$5 at the door; children under 2 are admitted free.  
**Contact:** the Rev. Joseph Marqui at 734-522-3166  
**GRIEF SUPPORT**  
**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, beginning March 12 for five consecutive weeks  
**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** "Grieving with Great Hope" is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. It is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy. Register through the ministry's website or through the church  
**Contact:** 734-261-1455; [goodmourningministry@stmic.org](mailto:goodmourningministry@stmic.org)  
**GRIEFSHARE**  
**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Sunday, beginning March 16  
**Location:** Faith Community Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** This 13-week, nondenominational

program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Includes a video seminar featuring grief experts and real-life stories; support group discussion and workbook-based personal study and reflection. Grief-related handouts available weekly. Fee is \$15 and includes the workbook.  
**Contact:** pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491  
**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6  
**Location:** St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights  
**Details:** Al Kresta, author and host of the radio show, *Kresta in the Afternoon* on AM 990 WDEO will talk about the New Evangelization: Build the Church, Bless the Nation."  
**Contact:** 313-274-4500  
**SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**  
**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 8  
**Location:** Concordia Lutheran School, 9600 Laverne, Redford  
**Details:** Tour the school and visit the annual spring carnival. Includes carnival games, book fair and more. New students can receive a coupon for \$5 in free carnival tickets by calling the campus or visiting online.  
**Contact:** 313-937-2233; [www.concordial-s.org](http://www.concordial-s.org)  
**ONGOING**  
**CLASSES/STUDY**  
**Men's Bible Study**  
**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.  
**Location:** Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township  
**Contact:** John Shulberger at 734-464-9491  
**Our Lady of Loretto**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday  
**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daley, Redford Township  
**Details:** Scripture study  
**Contact:** 313-534-9000  
**St. Michael the Archangel**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.  
**Location:** School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Catholic author and Bible scholar Gary Michaluk leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.  
**Contact:** 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or [www.livoniastmichael.org](http://www.livoniastmichael.org)  
**Ward Presbyterian**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Mondays  
**Location:** Room A101, 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township  
**Details:** Learner's Bible study is held  
**Contact:** 248-374-5920  
**FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL**  
**Time/Date:** 5-6 p.m. every Thursday  
**Location:** The Salvation Army, 27500 Shiaswassee, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Free meal March 16, 2014. [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)  
**Contact:** 248-447-1153, Ext. 12

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

hood of developing atrial fibrillation increases with age and increases the risk of stroke. Pre-registration is recommended by calling 888-751-5465.  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at Our Lady of Loretto's Church Family Center, corner of Six Mile and Beech Daley, Redford. Walk-ins and appointments make an appointment by

**UPCOMING ATRIAL FIBRILLATION**  
**Dr. Dipak Shah, M.D.,** a cardiologist, will offer a free seminar on atrial fibrillation, the most common abnormal heart rhythm, Feb. 25, in Tuesday afternoon, 6-7 p.m. conference room A at Outpatient Center, Providence Park Hospital, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi. He'll talk about diagnosis and treatment options. The likeli-



## New standards aim to make children's compound prescriptions safer

A statewide initiative led by a University of Michigan team aims to reduce pediatric medication errors and make Michigan the first state to standardize concentrations for children's liquid prescriptions.



Stevenson

Pharmacy. "The drastic differences in concentrations patients could receive depending on which pharmacy compounded their prescriptions were deeply concerning, and these uniform standards are essential for patient safety."

U-M and the Michigan Pharmacists Association have announced the release of the new standards published on [mipeds.compounds.org](http://mipeds.compounds.org) as part of a campaign to educate prescribers and pharmacists. The move comes after a survey of 200 Michigan pharmacies revealed potential safety risks posed by the lack of standardization of compounded pediatric oral liquids for more than 110 different medications.

In Michigan, more than half of the compounded drugs had at least three different concentrations being compounded by various pharmacies. Some concentration levels were up to 30 times higher than others.

"One of the greatest dangers associated with this variation is that children may switch pharmacies but continue to take the same volume as always — even though parents or other doctors realizing that the drug's concentration has changed and that a new dose volume should be prescribed," said project lead James Stevenson, Pharm.D., chief pharmacy officer of the MHS Pharmacy Services Department and an associate dean at the U-M College of

Pharmacy. "It has been gratifying to see this statewide collaborative effort and we encourage all prescribers and pharmacists to adopt the standard concentrations in the interest of improving medication safety in our pediatric population."

The initiative has prompted standard concentrations for nearly 120 drugs that are available on the new [mipeds.compounds.org](http://mipeds.compounds.org) website.



Victory Band will play March 3 at the VA Healthcare System in Detroit.

## Victory Band brings music therapy to veterans

The Victory Band, which helps military veterans cope with illnesses, will perform at 1 p.m. Monday, March 3, in the atrium at the Detroit VA Healthcare System, 4640 John R, Detroit.

The band was formed out of a need for music therapy to aid veterans in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center at the facility.

"In this unique program, we are focused on recovery and rehabilitation, not just treatment," said Michelle Abela, a psychologist at the De-

troit VA Healthcare System. "We see everything from PTSD to severe depression and schizophrenia. Eighteen months ago, as staff was brainstorming ways we could help our patients, a veteran in the program suggested that we start a band. We had been thinking about ways to incorporate music into our program and we knew that music can offer a number of benefits, so this seemed like a good concept."

Steve Munafo and Matt Thomas supplied

the instruments and the music through their Jam for Vets project. They also offered to teach some of the patients how to play the instruments.

Abela said music can help patients with their coping skills, stress management, expressing feelings, leadership and team building.

"We have seen some amazing changes in these veterans. They are so enthusiastic when it comes to their twice-a-week rehearsals, along with the opportunity to perform in front of peo-

ple. It's truly eye-opening," she said.

Daniel Beever, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Germany during Vietnam, plays keyboard in the band.

"I've made new friends and it's helped me out greatly. And, it makes me happy to entertain my fellow vets," he said.

For more on the Victory Band, visit [www.detroit.va.gov](http://www.detroit.va.gov). For more on Jam for Vets visit [www.jamforevets.org/index.html](http://www.jamforevets.org/index.html).

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## WHY WAIT? Start A Healthier You Now

At Garden City Hospital, we believe both a healthy mind and body are essential to healthy living. Whether you are just starting out or an experienced fitness buff, GCH offers a variety of wellness classes to meet your needs. In honor of American Heart Month, GCH is offering a 2 For 1 Special on the following fitness classes throughout the month of February. Discounted rates are also available.

- FITNESS BARRE (Tuesdays, 6-6:45 p.m.)**  
Fitness Barre is a 45 minute class that fuses core conditioning, Pilates, yoga, orthopedic stretching, and isometrics into one powerful, body shaping experience.
- YOGA**
  - Slow Flow Hatha Yoga (Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m. or Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.)**  
Tuesday classes are held at GCH  
This playful series is designed to bring movement, energy, and breath back into your body. Suitable for all levels. Modifications are offered for body type, fitness level and ability. Bring a sticky mat and any other yoga prop you may need.
  - Hatha Yoga (Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.)**  
Experience the fullness of your practice by slowly merging asanas (postures) and breath to create a powerful, meditative flow, Vinyasa style. Six months of yoga experience required. Bring a sticky mat and any other yoga prop you may need.
  - TAI CHI (Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.)**  
Tai Chi is a mind-body exercise that can improve heart health, balance, and flexibility, no matter what your age or ability level. Tai chi combines aerobics, flexibility, balance, and with deep breathing and meditation through a related series of movements.
  - ZUMBA TONING EXPRESS (Tuesdays, 7:30-8 p.m.)**  
Zumba Toning Express features exotic rhythms set to high-energy Latin and international beats all while toning with the use of weights.

To register for classes or for more information, call 734.458.3242. Classes are privately held in Westland Mall's Community Room unless otherwise noted.

For a complete list of scheduled classes:  
Scan the QR code  
Visit GCH.org  
OR call 734.458.3242

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36 highway  
MPG**



**\$198**  
PER MONTH  
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- This Vehicle Features:**
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EPA-estimated rating of

**22 city /  
34 highway  
MPG**



**\$225**  
PER MONTH  
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lessees\*

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
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- This Vehicle Features:**
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  - AdvanceTrac® with Electronic Stability Control
  - SYNC® with MyFord® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System\*
  - SecurCode™ Keyless-Entry Keypad
  - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
  - Upgraded Heated Exterior Mirrors with Signal Indicator and Puddle Lamps

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EPA-estimated rating of

**23 city /  
32 highway  
MPG**



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PER MONTH  
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- This Vehicle Features:**
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EPA-estimated rating of

**19 city /  
27 highway  
MPG**



**\$265**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE

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current A/Z plan  
lessees\*

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and license fees extra.

- This Vehicle Features:**
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  - Front-Wheel Drive (FWD)
  - Reverse Sensing System
  - AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
  - SecurCode™ Keyless-Entry Keypad
  - Voice-Activated SYNC®
  - Remote Keyless Entry System

## 2014 TAURUS SEL FWD

EPA-estimated rating of

**19 city /  
29 highway  
MPG**



**\$295**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE

For 24 months for  
current A/Z plan  
lessees\*

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.

- This Vehicle Features:**
- 3.5L Ti-VCT I-6 Engine
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# OBS

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**Dobra Auerbach**  
CareerBuilder writer

Persistence is something we're taught at a young age. If we get rejected from a sports team, we're encouraged to practice until we improve and try out again. If we get a low grade in class, we're taught to study until we bring our grades up.

Persistence is an attribute that continues to be important as we get older, playing a part in everything from our relationships to our health to our careers.

When it comes to careers, persistence can certainly pay off, employers want workers who are truly interested in and passionate about their jobs. But what about when a job seeker gets rejected from a company that he really wants to work for? Can he continue to pursue employment at that company, or could his persistence work against him?

Joshua Siva, co-author of "BOLD: Get Noticed, Get Hired," says that job seekers shouldn't be discouraged from applying again to a company that's turned them down. "When an applicant has taken the time to understand the company, the people and the customers, getting rejected the first time around should never discourage that applicant from applying prospects with the firm," Siva says. "Any number of reasons could have led to the rejection."

## Applying to a company



## that has previously turned you down?

### What to do before re-applying

Siva says there are three things applicants should do before applying again to the same company. The first is to understand the gap in their previous application. How? "Ideally this comes from the company through a contact involved in the hiring process, but if not, the applicant needs to be honest with themselves: 'Did I have the experience, did I speak the company's language, did I sell myself the right way?'" Make a list of these things, and spend whatever amount of time is needed to close the gap, and be sure to have it documented and readily demonstrated.

The next move Siva recom-

mends a job seeker makes is to connect with someone at the company in a related function. "This is in order to learn everything about their role, their background, how they fit in, company trends, etc.," Siva says. "It's amazing how far asking questions can take the applicant, because at the end of it all, the potential applicant will likely get asked about their own ambitions, and when shared, who knows what doors may open via the employee."

Finally, Siva suggests following up periodically with the human resources manager involved in the hiring process from the original rejection. In your follow up, Siva says to remind the HR manager of your resume on file, share what progress you've made since and

reiterate your passion for the company. "It's always a favorable position when an applicant is on the mind of an HR professional involved with recruiting, because they constantly have visibility and support requests to fill roles."

### When it's OK to apply again

After you've been turned down by a company, you may be tempted to re-apply right away, especially if there's another job that interests you. But it may be in your best interest to wait it out a few months, to ensure that you're in a situation where it would make sense for them to potentially consider you again.

Lisa Rangel, managing

director of Chameleon Resumes, an executive resumé-writing and job-search service, says that in general, it's good to wait a minimum of three to six months. "There needs to be enough time to allow for a possible change in the company situation and for the person to amass additional and/or relevant skills that are different than before."

### Applying the second time around

Depending on what you're looking for, and how important it is to work at the company versus in a particular position, you may wait until a similar position comes along, or you may be willing to work in a different function or department just to get a foot in the door. Based on what type of position you're applying for the second time, you should adjust your application materials as needed. But regardless of whether the position is the same or different from the original job you applied for, you need to show the company that you've grown.

"To be taken seriously for the competitive and coveted positions in the marketplace, those who are and aren't currently employed need to be advancing and improving themselves as time goes on," Siva says. "If applying for the same role, that improvement needs to speak to closing the gaps in their previous application. If applying for a different role or function, that progress needs to demonstrate the pivot in knowledge and the commitment to pursuing the new function of focus."

"Above all else, the applicant needs to be bolder and more creative the second time around in order to stand out from other applicants, in addition to their former self and application," Siva says.

Debra Auerbach is a writer and editor 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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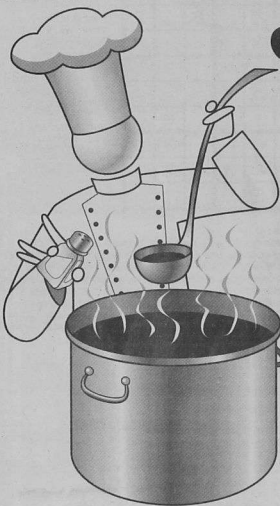
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