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## Parents start online petition to stop district's schools of choice program

By Brad Kadrich  
Correspondent

Last year's decision by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education to open the door to 200 schools of choice slots to K-2 students turned out to be one of the most controversial decisions in recent years.

This year's recommendation to expand it to 300 students in grades K-3 is already following the same controversial pattern.

A group of parents has started an online petition to try to convince board members not to move forward with the administration's recommendation. Kristen Perkins is

one of several parents behind the petition drive.

"I ... do not feel it is right for our community," Perkins wrote in a letter to board members. "I believe it will create further contention which is already lingering from the issue of redistricting and lack of school choice for in-district students. (Schools

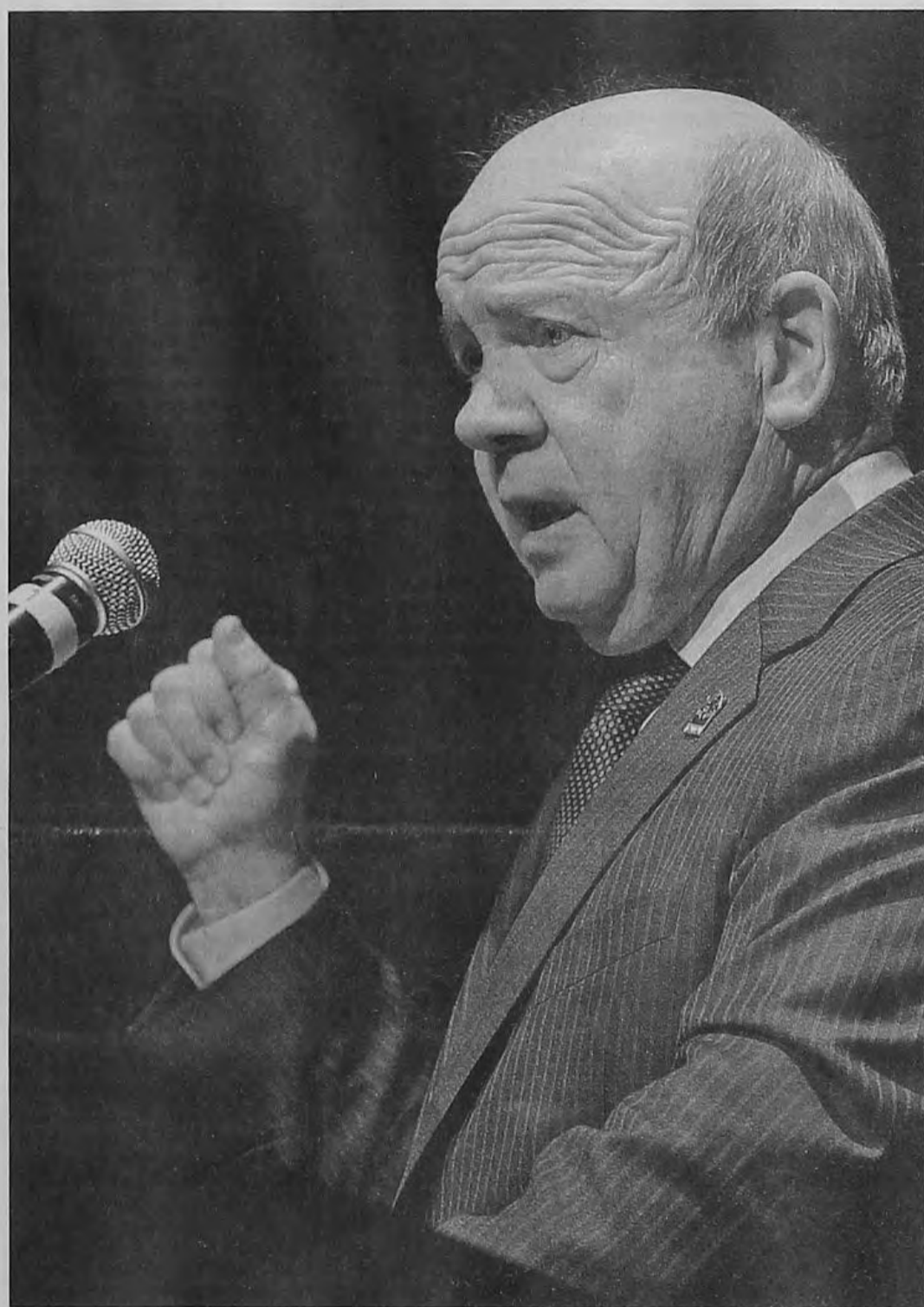
of choice) has the potential to increase our class sizes, which is certainly not beneficial to the students we currently have in our schools."

As the district began considering its budget issues for the 2015-16 school year, Michael Meissen, the district's superintendent, said the SOC option is designed "to increase

school enrollment during a period of significant enrollment decline."

Meissen and his staff have estimated the district will lose some 400 students each year for the next five years, citing a falling Wayne County birth rate and competition primari-

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy delivers the State of the Township address.

## LaJoy's annual address praises 'great' Canton

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Supervisor Phil LaJoy touted Canton's post-recession position as strong after the community emerged "bruised, but not broken" from financial challenges that he said forced spending cuts and tax increases.

LaJoy, delivering his sev-

enth State of the Township address Wednesday, hailed Canton as home to thriving businesses, a burgeoning arts hub, top-tier municipal services and comparatively low crime.

"I can tell you now, with certainty, that the state of Canton Township, financial and otherwise, is absolutely great," LaJoy told a crowd

inside the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, adding, "We are on solid ground and poised for a stellar future."

It was a message welcomed by Canton resident Kimberly Smith, who owns the local Mathnasium Learning Center with business partner Rashonda Arnold.

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## Canton home expo offers fix-it help

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Thousands of area residents pondering home improvement projects are expected to gather this weekend for one-stop browsing in Canton, where they can find a contractor or get advice for fixing a leaky roof, building a backyard deck or replacing a cracked driveway.

Whether inspired by DIY Network's *Kitchen Cousins* or Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor from the old *Home Improvement* sitcom, anyone waiting to usher in spring with a growing to-do list can find help.

In its 15th year, Canton's Home Improvement Expo is expected to draw 3,000 to 4,000 visitors to Summit on the Park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 8.

"It has been getting bigger and bigger," said Renee DeVos, a building department employee who helps to coordinate the event, which she called an antidote for "the winter blues."

The expo gives homeowners access to nearly 100 companies and municipal officials. Some home improvement shows charge hefty admission and parking fees, but not Canton's - it's all free.

"We make this very accessible for the residents," Canton building official Rob Creamer said.

Visitors can get advice from window-makers, remodeling experts, financial institutions, roofing companies - even find a chiropractor if home projects

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CANTON TOWNSHIP

Home Expo vendors and homeowners get a chance to talk shop.

## Police seek to build trust with upcoming public forum

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Citing "a growing anxiety nationwide between communities and law enforcement," Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler has seized the moment to try to strengthen relations between Canton police and residents.

"Canton is not facing some of the issues that some other communities in the country are facing," Mutchler said. "We have a long tradition of trust between the Canton police and the community, but we want to

continue to build on that."

His remarks came after police in Ferguson, Mo., New York City and Cleveland have drawn criticism amid accusations they used excessive force in the deaths of three African Americans, including a 12-year-old boy playing with a pellet gun.

Mutchler has announced plans for a community forum



Mutchler

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## EXPO

Continued from Page A1

strain the back. They can learn which home-improvement permits they need from township and county officials while seeking out a cable TV provider for post-renovation down time.

Joe Gagnon, known as

The Appliance Doctor, has plans for a live broadcast from WAAM-FM (1600), while expo organizers have confirmed a flurry of activities such as wood-carving demonstrations, hands-on children's projects and multiple raffles throughout the weekend, including wood projects made by Canton Construction Corp. and the

Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters.

DeVos said Home Improvement Expo organizers had to stop accepting additional vendors because the event became so popular.

"We're pretty close (to 100 companies)," she said. "We are full."

Visitors are encouraged to stop by a welcome station to pick up a

free booklet featuring a map of the expo, workshop schedules, vendor coupons and home improvement tips. Creamer said he believes the event can help homeowners.

"I hope they find a contractor for doing what they want to do to their home and get some ideas of how to fix up their home," he said.

The main parking area

is just west of the Summit, though DeVos said spillover parking will be allowed in a parking area east of the Summit and at the nearby Pheasant Run Golf Course. The expo is hosted by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. For a complete list of

vendors or more information on workshop schedules, go to [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org) and look for the Canton Home Improvement Expo links. For more information, call 734-394-5200.

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## ADDRESS

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"I think I'm pretty excited about the direction Canton is going in," she said, adding it's a prime location for families and businesses. "It's a good place to be."

LaJoy credited elected leaders, employees and residents for a team approach to battling budget problems that ushered in contract concessions, furlough days, lean budgeting and two township-board imposed

public safety tax hikes within four years.

"These decisive steps ensure that Canton remains the safe, vibrant community we have all come to expect," he said during the Canton Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event.

LaJoy called the measures critical to absorbing a \$20 million revenue loss amid recession years. He said employee concessions saved Canton \$7.5 million and began to chip away at legacy costs, last pegged at nearly \$100 million for health care and pensions.

LaJoy compared Canton's approach to financial challenges to a household budget.

"You prioritize expenses," he said. "You may need new carpet, but keeping the electricity on takes precedence, so you budget accordingly."

Dominique Williams, leasing manager for the Cinnamon Pointe apartment complex near Lotz and Cherry Hill, lauded LaJoy's remarks about road projects this construction season, especially the paving of pot-hole-plagued Lotz between Ford and Cherry Hill.

"I think it's great," she said. "Lotz Road is horrible. I can't wait until it's paved."

LaJoy also mentioned

lane widening and resurfacing along Ford, from Lotz to west of Haggerty. Still, he said a bigger fix to Ford traffic woes still needs attention - and funding - from state and federal transportation officials.

LaJoy also said Wayne County's new \$1.5 million allocation for subdivision street will help, though many repairs still need funding.

In other highlights of his State of the Township:

» LaJoy singled out business expansions involving new or growing companies such as 3-D printing company Voxeljet, Fraza Forklifts, Greenfield Die & Manufacturing, Advance Engineering Co., Standard Die & Manufacturing

and IKEA.

» He praised work by the Partnership for the Arts as it moves forward to create an arts complex on the site of the old Henry Ford property in Cherry Hill Village - a project slated for completion by 2017, complementing the Village Theater.

» Putting public safety tax dollars to use, LaJoy said the police department intends to revive a crime data analyst position, a Special Enforcement Unit and a so-called TEAM program involving elementary and middle schools. He said the fire department replaced a failing aerial ladder truck and used \$362,000 in grant money to purchase new accident-scene Jaws of

Life equipment, cardiac monitors and defibrillators.

» With a nod to recreation, LaJoy said Canton now has 15 miles of connected trails after the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail was extended last year to Flodin and Griffin parks.

In closing, LaJoy alluded to a survey conducted last year by an outside, independent firm that revealed 98 percent of residents gave Canton high marks - a rating he expects to be sustained. "I think it's the greatest place you can live, work and raise a family."

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# CANTON OBSERVER

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## FORUM

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7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, pooling the resources of Canton police, 35th District Court, prosecutors, Michigan State Police and the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards. The setting is Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in the PDC Room.

Mutchler hopes residents will bring questions or concerns and expect straightforward answers on issues such as proper use of force and on-the-job practices used by Canton police.

"This is the first time we've ever done anything like this in Canton," he

said. "This is open engagement. ... We want to hear from the community."

Mutchler has said he hopes to "build a bridge of unity between law enforcement and the citizens and organizations of Canton."

The community forum is free and open to the public.

Mutchler acknowledged that police practices have come under increasing scrutiny. That said, Canton has received its share of accolades from outside, independent agencies.

After reaching out to minority groups and creating a coalition to combat hate crimes, the Canton Police Department reached a milestone in 2010 by earning a civil

rights award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Canton captured the IACP's Civil Rights Award after Mutchler, then a lieutenant, spearheaded efforts to create the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition. It was formed as Canton, with an increasingly diverse population, had witnessed a slight uptick in bias-motivated incidents, though the numbers remained comparatively small.

Canton's coalition was formed with ties to Equality Michigan, which pushes for LGBT rights; the Council on American-Islamic Relations; Plymouth-Canton Community Schools; the NAACP's western Wayne County branch; the American

Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; the Canton Public Library; Growth Works, which deals with chemical dependency and other family problems; the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes; the American Indian Family Services; and select community leaders.

Canton's coalition has drawn praise from the likes of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, whose spokesman, Harold Core, once told the *Observer*, "I think it's definitely a good thing. When there are people in the community who want to express hate or intolerance, the community itself has to speak louder than those who want to voice that hate or intolerance."



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# Brother releases heartfelt music to benefit cancer research

By Robin D'Angelo  
Correspondent

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." — Mother Teresa

One year ago, 17-year-old Salem High School senior Sidarth Raghunathan wasn't aware of the lack of funding for certain types of cancers nor the impact of the disease when it strikes a young person unexpectedly. That is, until his 23-year-old brother Rohit was diagnosed with stage 3 testicular cancer.

"He was having back pain, but none of us expected it was cancer because it is so uncommon for his age," Raghunathan said. "As a result, he didn't get diagnosed until it was very advanced."

A Seattle resident at the time, Rohit moved back to Michigan with his family and quickly began chemotherapy at the University of Michigan.



Sidarth Raghunathan worked on the CD with his music teacher Lauren Erickson.

"He lived with us for a few months and it really made me more aware of the struggles he was facing," Raghunathan said. "As I became more involved, I also became aware of how underfunded some aspects of cancer research are."

A flutist since the sixth grade, Raghunathan was already volunteering his musical talent at the same hospital, so when his brother began treatment, he decided to take it a

step further and raise money for cancer research by recording a CD of his music.

"Rohit actually used to play flute a long time ago, so he thought it was a very interesting endeavor. He helped me pick out my music," Raghunathan said.

Musician and flute teacher Lauren Erickson said she was introduced to Raghunathan when he came looking for flute lessons in eighth grade and has been teaching him ever since.

"What's been really cool is I've been able to watch him grow from an unsure young boy into a very confident young man," she said. "He's committed — when he makes a decision to do something, he sees it through and he really cares about people a great deal."

"Was I surprised that he wanted to use his gift of flute to benefit others after his brother got cancer? Not one

bit. That is Sidarth. I was more than happy to work with him and see the project through to completion."

Creating the CD was both challenging and time-consuming, Erickson said, but Raghunathan was entirely committed.

"First he had to learn the music and some of his song choices were challenging for him, so it took him a while to get some of the songs under his fingers," she said.

"Secondly, we had to get together and rehearse with other musicians. Along with me, he also had a pianist and a harpist that were involved. We not only had to rehearse, but schedule an actual recording session. So he was coordinating with all of us and a recording engineer and we had to contact two of the composers to get their permission for their music to be on his CD."

Raghunathan's *Flute Journey* consists of 11 songs and

includes Bach's *Siciliano* and *Polonaise*, Debussy's *Deuxieme Arabesque*, as well as *Danse de la Chevre*, *Istanbul* and *Capriccio*.

"The CD represents a lot of different time periods and different styles, some Baroque, some classical, some modern. I like all of them in different ways," he said.

The CDs are \$10 each, tax-deductible, and all proceeds to go benefit Indiana University Cancer Research, where Rohit underwent several operations.

Raghunathan said his brother had his final surgery several months ago and is now back at work in Seattle, where he plans to enter graduate school for a degree in biostatistics.

Erickson said when she received the final cut of the CD, she wept for joy.

"Sidarth surprised me by showing up to his flute lesson with the final product and I just gave him a big high-five. We were all giggles," she said.

# Family physician Fonde gave back to community, loved ones

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

It was a proud moment for Karen Rhea Fonde when at age 40 she received her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School.

Dr. Fonde died March 1 at age 65 of complications of Alzheimer's disease.

The Plymouth resident, who became a family medicine physician and U-M assistant professor, had earlier been a teacher. She and her husband, Joel Thurtell, had been Peace Corps volunteers in Africa.

"That's what she really thrived on was basically being able to help people," Thurtell recalled of his wife. Dr. Fonde and her husband had a philosophy: "We're a team and we're going to get it done and she did," he said.

Dr. Fonde was valedictorian of her 1967 Ann Arbor High School class. She was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of U-M in Russian studies and was a health educator with the Peace Corps in northern Togo.

## 'I want to be a doctor'

"I think she always wanted to go to medical school," Thurtell said. "Karen had this drive to help people." Her mom had been a nurse, but Dr. Fonde's reaction to that suggestion in girlhood had been, "No, I want to be a doctor."



Dr. Fonde

Thurtell said, "At that time, young women were not being encouraged to go into the sciences or medicine. In the late '60s, there was definitely that prejudice."

Her undergraduate work at U-M found her intrigued with eastern Europe and Russian studies, as well as French language and literature. She was a presidential scholar and shook hands with President Lyndon Johnson at the White House. She was high school editor of the *Ann Arbor News* and, while studying at U-M, was an intern reporter at that newspaper.

She was joined by Thurtell in Togo while he was a U-M doctoral student. Dr. Fonde was a health educator in Togo for the Peace Corps, while Thurtell did school construction work.

U-M friends introduced the couple. "We got to be friends," Thurtell said. "I used to say we never really had a date."

Dr. Fonde and Thurtell were married in 1974. For three years, she taught at the Berrien County Juvenile Center, working with emotionally impaired students. After the couple's first son, Adam, was born in 1980, she decided to attend medical school. She and Joel had a second son, Abe, in 1983.

Dr. Fonde took a work leave when Adam was born, then worked for a time at a local chamber of commerce. Her duties there included job training and help employing an aptitude test, which she took.

"She came out really high in science," Thurtell said. "She sprang this idea on me that she wanted to go to medical school."

While studying science at

Western Michigan University to prepare for medical school, she won the Freshman Chemistry Prize at age 32. At U-M Medical School, she was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society. She received her M.D. from U-M in 1990 and graduated from the U-M Family Medicine residency program in 1993.

The couple bought a home in Plymouth in 1985, when Dr. Fonde started at U-M Medical School. "She had full confidence," her husband said. "As it turned out, she knew."

## 'She loved medicine'

She helped open a new U-M family medicine clinic in Ypsilanti, where she treated patients and taught until 2008. "She loved medicine. She really wanted to help people. That's why she went into family medicine," Thurtell said.

She liked the work with lower-income patients, he added. As a new doctor, she worked to help other physicians cope with the job's stresses.


By 2008, she herself was a

physician in difficulty, with memory and cognitive problems that eventually were diagnosed as Alzheimer's disease. "She had a rough time the last few years," Thurtell said of his wife's illness, which also impacted their family.

In addition to her husband and sons, Dr. Fonde is survived by two sisters, Julia Davis (Max) of Howell and Anne Potter (William) of Dayton, Ohio; and a brother, Charles Fonde (Linda) of Carmel, Ind.; a second brother, Mark Fonde (Stacey) of Ann Arbor, died a week earlier, Feb. 22.

Memorial visitation will be 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 6, at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Township. Friends are also invited to gather with the family at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 7, until the 11 a.m. memorial service to be held at the Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor.


Memorials may be made to Arbor Hospice or Planned Parenthood.



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## CANTON CRIME WATCH

### Man claims shooting threats made over dog

Amid threats he would be shot, a Canton man who lives in the Sherwood Village mobile home park told police he gave back a dog that had been given to him.

Police went to Sherwood Village, near Michigan Avenue and Haggerty, after a 48-year-old resident said a male suspect came to his door shortly before 9:30 p.m. Sunday and demanded he turn over a dog given to him earlier by a female neighbor.

A police report indicated the 33-year-old suspect, described as having tattoos on his face, threatened to shoot the resident or return with a group of bikers to confront him. This happened even though the suspect apparently wasn't the owner of the dog.

The resident told police he turned over the dog to the suspect to diffuse the situation, though he said no gun was actually revealed. Another witness at the scene confirmed hearing threats involving a gun.

The police report didn't indicate what kind of dog was at the center of the dispute.

It did, however, reveal a tangled web that led up to the incident: One woman had given the dog to another woman, who in turn gave the dog to the resident who was threatened. It was the first woman's boyfriend who was accused of making the threats.

The suspect denied making the threats and told police he didn't even own a gun.

### Wallet woes

A Romulus woman who illegally tried to shave \$2 off the cost of a \$12 wallet could now be facing hundreds of dollars in fines, police said.

Employees of the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue, near Belleville Road, told police they saw the 33-year-old suspect remove the price tag, take the wallet to the cash register and tell a worker it was on sale for \$10.

The incident happened early Monday morning.

Police learned the suspect had been involved in a similar incident in 2008 at another Walmart, though she wasn't charged. She denied the latest incident, but a surveillance video obtained by police apparently told a different story

and prompted authorities to issue her a citation for simple larceny.

### Tax fraud

A 55-year-old Canton man who tried to file his tax return learned he had become a victim of identity theft by a savvy criminal who apparently beat him to the punch.

The man told police he learned what had happened in late February. He contacted police to document the identity theft as he worked with the Internal Revenue Service to resolve the problem.

### Email hacker?

A 46-year-old Canton woman has accused her ex-husband of hacking into her email account and stealing real estate information she uses in her affiliation with a real estate company, a police report said.

The woman - who was the fourth wife of the suspect - said she has had no direct contact with him for over a year, yet she told police she suspected him of stealing personal information from her email account.

The woman told police she had reason to believe private information had been turned over to other real estate agencies in an attempt to deprive her of business, a police report said.

The woman, reportedly on leave from a teaching job, told police she wanted to file the police report to document her suspicions.

### Neighbor troubles

A Canton man who confronted a couple in an upstairs apartment, claiming they were making noise, was warned by police to refrain from such behavior and to make any future complaints with police.

The warning came after the couple told police the man came to their door about 9 p.m. Monday, saying he lived downstairs and was upset over loud noises he had heard. The upstairs couple denied making loud noises.

The suspect was accused of putting his hands up in a boxer stance with the man who lived upstairs, though no fight actually occurred. The suspect told police the loud noises have been an ongoing issue.

- By Darrell Clem

## PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

### Purse theft

Police arrested a 45-year-old Canton Township man on a larceny charge Friday night after he took a purse and an iPhone belonging to a waitress at the Courthouse Grille.

The phone and the purse, plus the cash inside, were recovered and returned.

The suspect was on his first day on the job as a dishwasher at the restaurant on Plymouth Road, but quit about two hours into his shift, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. He later confessed to the larceny, police said, and said he left the dishwashing job because the workload was too great.

The theft occurred around 7 p.m. Friday. The victim said she had seen the dishwasher, shortly after he quit, near where she kept the purse and phone and that she later noticed her belongings were gone. She went outside and confronted the man as he left

in a friend's car, pleading with him to return the purse; he was concealing something in his jacket, she told police.

The woman said she stood in front of the car until the driver appeared about to drive into her, then got out of the way. The suspect left; the waitress called 9-1-1.

Police went to the Canton address the suspect had provided on his employment application, but no one answered the door, police said. Meanwhile, police found the purse in a Dumpster near that address and returned it to the victim, police said.

The iPhone was found in a pitcher of water at the Courthouse Grille, along with the waitress' identification and some credit cards, police said.

Police later located a second Canton address for the suspect, went to that address and arrested him. He had \$11 cash in a pants pocket, police said.

In his confession, the suspect said he had only taken the cash and that he planned to retrieve the purse later

from the Dumpster and mail it back to the waitress.

### Shoplifting arrest

A 25-year-old woman was arrested on a retail fraud charge Feb. 23 when she tried to take dog food and beer from the Kroger at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon.

The woman admitted to the theft, police said, and said she sold shoplifted goods to local gas stations and convenience stores. She had no money, she said, and was about to lose her home.

The incident occurred about 5:30 p.m. A Kroger security guard told police he confronted the woman after seeing her put two bags of dog food and four cases of beer in the bottom of a shopping cart and take it past the store's cash registers. Police were called.

The items had a retail value of \$107.54, police said.

### Ditched car, pants-less driver

Police responded early Sunday to a report of a car in the ditch along I-275 near Ann Arbor Road, with a driver nearby who was intoxicated and wearing no pants.

The report was called in about 4:30 a.m. Sunday by a passerby. Police said the man was gone from the abandoned 1998 Saturn upon their arrival.

### Wheels, tires stolen

The tires and wheel rims were stolen from a 2014 Ford Taurus late Feb. 26 or early Friday as the car sat in the driveway of a house on Jo Ann Lane, police said.

The wheels and rims were reportedly worth \$4,000, police said. The incident occurred between about 8 p.m. Feb. 26 and 6:30 a.m. Friday; the Taurus had been left sitting on landscaping blocks.

- By Matt Jachman

at Bill and Rod's  
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FOR THE WAY IT'S MADE!





# Tuesday fire destroys Northville Montessori Center

By Lonnie Huhman and Cal Stone  
Staff Writers

The Northville Montessori Center on Haggerty Road was severely damaged by a fire early Tuesday morning.

According to Northville Township Director of Public Safety John Werth, the fire department got the call of a fire at the location at 15709 Haggerty Road at 5:57 a.m. The first responding units got there at 6:06 a.m.

Werth said firefighters were able to save the front of the building, but lost the whole back side. There were no reported injuries.

"Fully engulfed upon arrival, flames through the roof," Werth said of the scene encountered by first responders.

As of 8:30 a.m. firefighters were still at the scene. The cause is unknown at this time.

The Northville Montessori Center was established by Lynn Gall in 1976. It's a state-licensed, self-sufficient private school, offering an alternative in preschool and elementary programs.

Typical enrollment at the center stands between 80 and 90 students. The present site was purchased in 1981 and the center began offering classes there in 1982. The campus is 5.3 acres in size and offers a large playground and a nature trail through the woods.

## One parent's loss

Dr. Pat Moylan, a neuro psychologist who lives and practices in Northville, was saddened to hear the news. Both of her children - Hannah, 19, and Max, 26 - attended the school for 15 years.

"It is a wonderful, marvelous place," Moylan said. "They really helped me raise my kids. As a single mom, it was always wonderful to have a place like that."

Moylan taught at the Washington Montessori Institute in D.C. and one of her students was Gall.

"I can say it was an exemplary school," Moylan said. "It's been run by Gall and her son Keith. He came back from California and took over running the school and



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Firefighters at the Northville Montessori, which was destroyed by an early morning fire Tuesday.

## HELP REBUILD

Shortly after the fire, a fund was established for donations to help the school rebuild, buy classroom materials and rent temporary space in light of this disaster. Go to <http://www.gofundme.com/nnuyfc>.

Lynn still teaches there."

Both Moylan's children are adopted from South America. When she went there to adopt her daughter, Keith Gall house sat for her. Max stayed at his grandparents' house and Gall would bring the 6-year-old boy home every Wednesday so he could sleep in his own bed at least once a week.

"It's just a great place," Moylan said. "I always tell people, they helped me raise my children. It was like having a religious education without the religion. Highly moral."

Moylan said the Montessori concept of meeting children at their education level has been around for long time. Students spend three years together: ages 3-5; grades 1-3 (lower elementary); and grades 4-6 (upper elementary).

"Some kids even stay through eighth (grade)," Moylan said, adding that her son left after sixth and her daughter after fifth.

She said at Northville Montessori, there were around 20 students per class in the lower grades and 12-18 in the upper,

with two full-time teachers for those.

"Lots of individual attention," Moylan said. "Once in a while a kid was referred there. Some might be incredibly bright; others maybe have a health issue or an issue at another school. But a lot of parents who pulled their kids out then said, 'Maybe they should stay another year.'"

Moylan visited three Montessori schools in the area before choosing Northville's for her two kids. Max is now finishing up his nursing degree at Grand Valley State University and Hannah is studying at Central Michigan University.

She talked to her son about the fire and she said he was very sad. Moylan wanted to wait to tell her daughter because she knew she'd be upset, but she had already learned of it through a CMU classmate who also had attended Northville Montessori.

"Hannah told me that she felt like a part of her childhood died," Moylan said.

Moylan said the facility was a "very unassuming" place, adding that the township never allowed it to put up a sign so a lot of people never knew it was there. The original school was in a house, which was then added on to with four classrooms, a library and an office.

"Hopefully, it wasn't a total loss," she said.

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# Know your rights when a collection agency calls

The other day when I listened to my messages, there was a call from a collection agency. The message said the normal stuff - that I was seriously delinquent and if I don't immediately contact them and submit a payment, my credit rating would be ruined.

Normally, if I get a call like that, I know it's bogus and I don't return it. However, I thought for research purposes I would call and try to find out the story.

I contacted the collection agency and was given the name of the company that supposedly I owed money to. I recognized the company as my old cable provider. I had not used that cable provider for a decade. In addition, I never in the last decade have received an invoice from the company. When I was a customer, I used the automatic billing program.

I knew that I did not owe the money. I told the rather forceful person on the phone that I doubted the legitimacy of the bill and that before I would proceed further, I would need a copy of the original bill. Not surprisingly, I have yet to receive a



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

copy of the bill. I don't think I ever will.

There are legitimate collection agencies that attempt to collect debts on behalf of companies. Sometimes, however, these companies will buy old account receivables that companies have written off and attempt to collect.

Just because a collection agency contacts you doesn't mean it is legitimate. Even if the agency is legitimate, the debt may not be valid.

Remember, despite a company's threats and strong-arm tactics, you do have rights. Don't let a collection agency intimidate you into paying a debt that is not valid.

Collection agencies must comply with federal and state laws. These include things such as protection against harassing phone calls and phone calls that come all hours of the day.

If you are being harassed by a collection agency, keep a diary of information. Keep track

of the name of the person who called you, the time and the content of the conversation and if any threats were made.

If you decide to pursue an action against the debt collection agency through legal or administrative action, having the diary will be helpful.

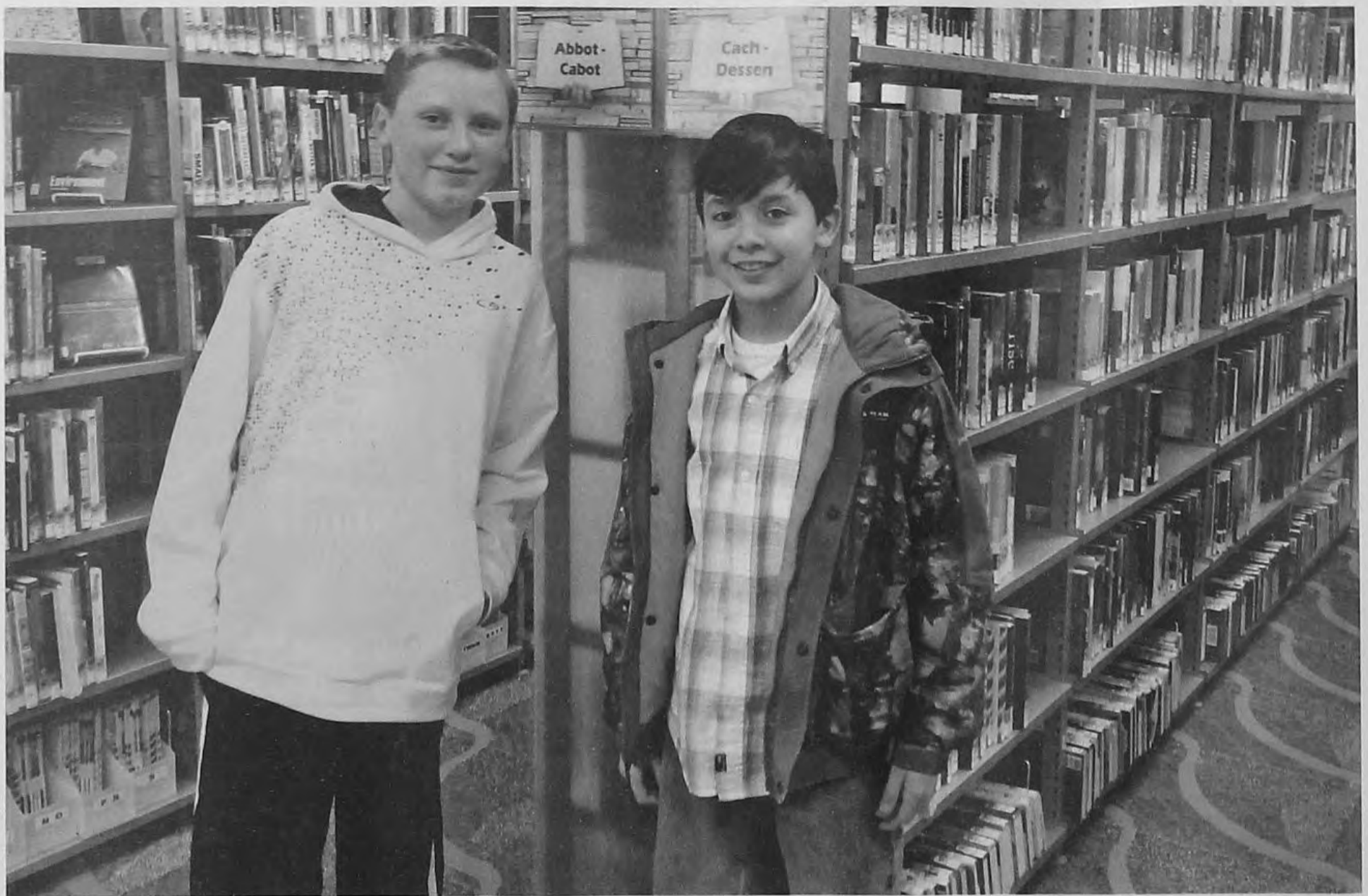
One threat that collection agencies make is putting something on your credit report to ruin your credit scores. Remember, when someone puts something on your credit report, you have rights. I recommend that everyone review their credit reports at least once a year.

Go to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) for a free copy by each of the three major credit reporting agencies - without strings attached.

We should all pay our bills. However, don't let a debt collection agency coerce you into paying a bogus debt.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).



Friends Seamus Kish, 11, (left) and Grayson Hammonds, 12, are sixth-graders at Central Middle School who like Mix It Up at the Plymouth District Library.

JULIE BROWN

# Plymouth-Canton students 'Mix It Up' at the library

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Friends Grayson Hammonds, 12, and Seamus Kish, 11, both Central Middle School sixth-graders, were glad to show up March 2 at the Plymouth District Library.

"I'm probably going to play Minecraft first," said Grayson, a Plymouth Township resident, as he arrived with friend Seamus for the library's after-school Mix It Up program for middle school and high school students. "I like how you can make the Chromebook cases" with duct tape. "And food."

Plymouth resident Seamus added, "Sometimes he plays Uno and I play my game."

Mix It Up is relatively new at the library in downtown Plymouth and usually runs 3-5 p.m. each Monday and Thursday. "All kinds of things," Amanda Seppala, a Wayne State University master's student in library science and PDL intern, said of what the program entails.

Snacks and card games, including Uno, are featured. Minecraft is a favorite, said Seppala, 26, a Ypsilanti resident.

"It's a really cool video game. It's kind of like digital LEGOs," she said. "It's a super-popular game."

A recent Thursday Mix It Up was busy, she said, with one session near a school break up to about 15 students. Mix It Up tends to draw more middle schoolers, including from Central Middle across the street from the library, as well as East and West middle schools, which also have walkers attend Mix It Up.

"We try and have things for a wide variety of ages," Seppala said. Mix It Up is meant to be both educational and fun. Sessions are sometimes pre-empted by other library teen programs.

In March, students have movie-making equipment available to "make a YouTube video that looks at least semi-professional," Seppala said. Some Dr. Seuss books were displayed



Barb Dinan of Plymouth, teen librarian, and Canton High School senior Kevin Melcher, 17, of Canton set up computers for Mix It Up.

JULIE BROWN



Amanda Seppala, a Wayne State University master's student in library science, gets some Mix It Up help from National Honor Society member Kevin Melcher, a Canton High School senior.

JULIE BROWN

March 2 to start students with film ideas. They were also welcome to create their own ideas.

"I've got a stepbrother who just turned 16. I still remember it pretty well," she added of teen

years. Seppala noted with a smile a recent ACT college admissions test workshop prompted a local parent to ask her when she would take the ACT.

Kevin Melcher, 17, is

a Canton High School senior who lives in Canton. He was at the Plymouth library March 2 as a National Honor Society volunteer.

"It's really cool," Melcher said of Mix It Up. "I

think it's a really good idea. It's a lot of fun."

He was setting up Minecraft on computers in the Teen Zone. Melcher noted multiple students can play Minecraft together during Mix It Up.

"We have different stuff every day," said Barb Dinan, teen librarian. March includes both Movie Madness and Games.

April's focus is Minecraft, with May's music. The Community Federal Credit Union gave a grant for audiovisual equipment, Dinan said, adding the Friends of the Library are also great Mix It Up supporters.

Dinan, a Plymouth resident, showed duct tape cases for phones and tablets Mix It Up students made. A special Mix It Up will feature "Learn To Knit" with a library staffer 3-5 p.m. Friday, March 6.

"We just wanted to do something for kids casually," Dinan said. Student

suggestions are welcomed, such as one from a teen who played the Phase 10 card game over the holidays and that game was added.

"It's been a huge hit," Dinan said.

Melcher played a spirited game of Uno with Seppala before the middle school students arrived. He's weighing his options for after graduation and will likely start at community college.

"I'm shooting for petroleum engineering," possibly at Texas A&M, Melcher said.

Seppala had checked a couple of library websites, including The Library Network, for her internship, part of her master's work.

"I love it here," she said. "This is a great library and it's a great internship program."

For more on Mix It Up and other PDL programs, go to [plymouthlibrary.org](http://plymouthlibrary.org).

[jbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jbrown@hometownlife.com)

# Village Theater will host quilt exhibition

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is pleased to exhibit "Narrative Quilts: Works by Pauline Parker," a solo show of wall hangings and watercolors, through March 31.

Visual storytelling meshes with exuberant design in Pauline Parker's unique exhibition, featuring quilts and watercolors created between 1987 and 2003. Using a collage style of appliqué design to delve into epic themes from biblical narratives to women's tales to contemporary scenes, Parker portrays these timeless stories with a fantastical sense of humor.

Hailing from Alton, Ill., this lifelong painter currently calls Minneapolis home and is still a prolific artist working well into her 90s. As a student of the Art Institute of Chicago, Parker studied landscape painting in the 1930s and continued to create plein-air paintings throughout her life. Several of Parker's paintings have been shown at the Art Institute of Chicago; both her paintings and quilts have also been exhibited around the Midwest.

Sixteen narrative quilts will be on exhibit at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, as well as six



This is titled "Swan Lake."

framed watercolor paintings, which are also available for purchase, from her range of work spanning 50 years.

An opening reception will be held 7-9 p.m. Thursday March 5, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill and is free and open to the public.

This current art exhibi-



Parker

it at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, one hour prior to and during public performances at the theater, as well as by appointment. The Gallery@VT is closed holidays. The gallery is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. For more information about this latest exhibit, call 734-394-5300 or go to [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org).



This work is titled "Anita Hill."

## Comcast makes donations to community groups

Comcast, the nationwide cable television, phone and Internet provider with a regional headquarters in Plymouth Township, announced Monday donations totaling \$275,000 to Michigan nonprofits.

The money is coming from the Comcast Foundation, which the company founded in 1999 to help nonprofits have a positive, sustainable impact on their communities.

The gifts support the foundation's three main goals: promoting service, improving digital literacy and building community leadership.

"The tireless work these nonprofits do is so incredibly important to our communities," Maria Holmes, director of community investment for

Comcast in Michigan, said in a press release.

"We not only feel it's our obligation, but also embrace the opportunity to give back in the communities where our customers and employees live and work."

Awardees include the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Detroit, City Covenant Church in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood, the Cranbrook Institute of Science, the Grand Rapids Urban League and Focus: HOPE.

Comcast also supports community development through various local sponsorships, employee volunteerism and providing equipment and services.

## Spotlight Players to perform 'Casserole Casanova' at Canton's Village Theater

Spotlight Players will perform *Casserole Casanova*, a comedy with musical interludes, March 18-22 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

*Casserole Casanova* follows the story of Roger, a recent widower who after the death of his wife begins receiving meals from the ladies in town who are concerned that he isn't eating properly. As the story unfolds, we discover that it is not Roger's nutrition they are interested in. Each caller has a fantasy all her own, which she eventually reveals.

*Casserole Casanova* takes place in the Biltmore Studio Stage for six performances running March 18-22, with Wednesday and Thursday performances at 1 p.m., Friday and Saturday



The Spotlight Players are taking on the comedy "Casserole Casanova."

performances at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday performances at 2 p.m. Seating for *Casserole Casanova* is general admission and doors open a half hour before

show time. Run time is 1:30, with a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets are priced between \$14 and \$16 each and can be purchased by calling the box office at

734-394-5300 or at [www.spotlightplyers-mi.org](http://www.spotlightplyers-mi.org).

Tickets are also available for purchase at the box office one hour prior to show time.

## Greenmead hosts vintage wedding dress display

Happily Ever After, an event showcasing antique and vintage wedding gowns and photos, will take place from 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

The gowns will be from the 1890s to 1974. The exhibits will include the wedding gown, shoes and wedding planning book from the 2002 movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Attendees will begin at the decorated Historic

Newburg Church for a presentation of wedding music and traditions, followed by a "reception" at the Alexander Blue House featuring hors d'oeuvres, sparkling beverages, wedding cake and coffee.

There will also be door prizes from area businesses.

Tickets are \$15 each, and must be purchased in advance.

Proceeds benefit Greenmead Historical Park. Call 248-477-7375 for more information.



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## Keep data safe, follow password etiquette

When the Sony Pictures Entertainment hack became public in fall 2014, leaked emails and accusations of North Korean involvement dominated headlines. But the most egregious error of the fiasco was that a collection of employees had saved company passwords in a folder named "passwords."

Inside the Sony "passwords" folder were endless documents such as "YouTube log-in passwords" that were as descriptive as they were dangerous. The set-up was a data thief's dream and likely aided the crooks in acquiring data and compromising social media accounts.

It was also a reminder that even large corporations are sometimes oblivious to following



Jon Gunnells  
TECH SAVVY

proper password etiquette. But if a multinational media conglomerate fails at properly developing and storing its passwords, what does that say about the general public? I'm led to believe many people do not treat their passwords with the extreme care they deserve.

If you fall into the category of someone who has neglected passwords over the years, follow these steps to lock down your computer, social networks and, most importantly, financial accounts.

### Make your passwords

**strong:** Most companies require employees to create passwords that are at least eight characters in length and include a letter, number and a character, so why shouldn't you do the same for personal accounts?

Some online banking sites or social networks already require certain measures like one number or one capital letter in each password. The more challenging you make your password by including numbers, capital letters and special characters, the harder it is for a hacker to compromise your account.

**Change passwords regularly:** You don't necessarily need to switch your passwords every 90 days like many people must do at work. But it certainly doesn't help to

keep the same password for years on end, especially if the site has recently been hacked. For example, if you find that Facebook has a data breach (which it has in the past), change your password, just to be safe.

**Use different passwords:** Having one of your accounts unlawfully accessed due to a data breach is bad. Having all of them unlawfully accessed would be the worst.

Having different passwords for different sites may protect you if one password gets into the wrong hands.

**Protect your email:** Your email password is the most important password you will ever have. So take proper precautions. If someone gains access to your email, they can begin request-

ing "password reset notifications" for social networks, banking sites and more. In no time, someone could conceivably reset passwords and even email addresses, leaving you vulnerable and not in control.

**Store passwords safely:** It's safe to say you may have too many passwords to remember. If so, write them down on a piece of paper and put them in a safe or a safe place. If you store password reminders on your computer or phone, store them in a manner that you understand, but a thief will not. For example, avoid naming documents or folders "password" just as Sony did.

**Use password managers:** One tactic to help remember many passwords and also avoid

storing them inappropriately is to use a free password manager such as LastPass. The free service allows you to use one master password to log into the site. Then, as you log on to secure sites, it saves your old password and re-encrypts it to something much more secure.

LastPass will also change your passwords regularly for added safety measure. With LastPass, a consumer only needs to remember a master password - which should be strong and stored properly.

Be safe, not sorry, when it comes to passwords.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager for a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com.

## Canton library rolls out business-boosting series

Moving to help Canton business owners or entrepreneurs, the Canton Public Library has announced three programs in March in hopes of helping companies boost their bottom line.

They're free and attendees don't need to register. They don't even have to own a library card.

Here's the lowdown:

» **Business Research with ReferenceUSA.** It happens 10 a.m. to noon Monday, March 9. Through a series of case studies, Rick White, a training expert at ReferenceUSA, shows how to use this tool in practical business settings. It involves how to access

the database, how to create searches, how to manage the results and explore the features that make ReferenceUSA a unique tool for business research.

» **Topics include** locating hard-to-find vendors, both locally and nationally; creating marketing lists; understanding community demographics; surveying locations for expansion; and conducting competitive analysis.

» **Social Networking for Small Businesses.**

It's set for 7-8 p.m. Monday, March 23. Learn the basics and etiquette of social networking for small businesses. Content includes how to leverage social

networks to spur business growth while reducing marketing costs. The benefits, disadvantages and tricks of Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn will also be discussed.

» **Where's it Hanging? Keys to Selling More Art**

It's scheduled for 7-8 p.m. Monday, March 30, and should appeal especially to artisans, creators and crafters. The purpose is to think about art in business terms and to market creative works so they will sell. Issues explored include marketing art and engaging customers in a new and dynamic way.

## United Way unveils book drive to encourage childhood reading

Plymouth Community United Way and Chuck E. Cheese in Canton have launched a month-long children's book drive at the restaurant on Ford Road.

The drive runs through March 31 and coincides with March is Reading Month.

Plymouth Community United Way is collecting books in an effort to get area children to read this summer to prevent what educators call the "summer slide" - when reading drops off.

Studies show that children, especially those from low-income families, lose up to two months of reading skills

# United Way



## Plymouth Community United Way

over the break.

Customers will receive 20 tickets for each new children's book that is brought into Chuck E. Cheese, the drop-off site for the drive at 42001

Ford Rd. Tickets can be used toward the purchase of prizes.

For more information, email randi.williams@pcuw.org or call 734-453-6879, ext. 7.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH TRUST.



### Under New Leadership, Mass Mutual Southeast Michigan Seeks Growth Through Community Outreach

Southfield, Mich., Feb. 22, 2015 -When Colleen Schueneman took over full leadership of MassMutual Southeast Michigan last summer, she immediately set about building relationships with different segments of the community.

Schueneman, the new General Agent, and a growing staff of financial professionals are intent upon building meaningful connections, whether it's meeting with leaders of the Detroit Economic Club, local African-American organizations, or the Belle Isle Women's Committee.

"The fact is, you need to build trust in a community before you can start doing business there," Schueneman said. "We have been working very hard to get our feet firmly planted here."

"We are very excited to have Colleen at the helm of MassMutual Southeast Michigan," said John Vaccaro, Senior Vice President and Head of USIG Sales & Distribution for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual). "Colleen is an innovative and visionary thinker who will be a strong leader for her agency, as well as the larger community."

For Schueneman immersion in the community has been a winning strategy. When she became Managing Director at MetLife in Chicago, Schueneman quickly realized that the company was not adequately serving the large multicultural community in the area.

Schueneman reached out to top leaders in the African-American community, invited them to a meeting, and just listened. The leaders told her they felt that the company had no presence locally, and that their constituents weren't being adequately supported or educated about financial matters. Schueneman continued to hold meetings over the next several months to hear about what they wanted and needed. From those conversations, Schueneman

began to support various community groups, sponsored art and theater events, and backed educational events through the African-American Chamber of Commerce.

The goal was both to provide important support to the community and to recruit new African-American financial professionals.

Schueneman learned valuable lessons from that endeavor and is employing a similar approach to her leadership at MassMutual Southeast Michigan.

"We recognize that in general, the multicultural market is vastly underserved," Schueneman said. "Just as I did in the Chicago area, I am meeting with leaders in this community and just listening to what their needs are."

In her new position, Schueneman has spent considerable time meeting with leaders of the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce.

"What came out loud and clear is that the community needs more education about basic financial planning, debt reduction, college funding, and the danger of overusing credit cards," she said. Schueneman is working to develop an educational series through the chamber on these topics.

In addition to multicultural groups, Schueneman also is reaching out to women and to Millennials. She has recently brought on five women for staff positions and another nine women as financial professionals. Schueneman has spoken at various women's organizations and events in hopes of recruiting more women.

"A lot of our top producers are women," she said. "The job is appealing to women because it offers a lot of flexibility and opportunities for development, growth and advancement."

Under Schueneman's leadership MassMutual Southeast Michigan also is reaching out to Millennials, both in terms of recruiting and to develop a younger clientele. She has spoken at college campuses and to alumni groups, and is using newer technologies, such as video conferencing and social media to reach this tech-savvy audience.

Overall, Schueneman is creating an innovative vision that brings MassMutual Southeast Michigan squarely into the 21st Century. She has created a one-stop shop at her agency, where clients can access an array of services under one roof.

She and her staff have also thrown themselves headlong into community service projects, including volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Race for the Cure, and at Genesee Resources, a program that helps homeless women in the area. Schueneman also is active with The Make A Wish Foundation, Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House, the Judson House, Jewish Vocational Services, Cal's Angels and WASCO Development of Girls, among other charities. Schueneman also serves on the Board of Trustees for the GAMA Foundation for Education and Research, where she develops research to educate future leaders in the financial services industry.

"I have been out and about in the community, building trust and rapport among people because that is the starting point," she said. "If you want to be engaged in the community, you also need to give back."

But for all the new relationships she is building, Schueneman's role as the new General Agent of MassMutual Southeast Michigan is a homecoming of sorts. A Michigan native, she has been in the financial services industry for nearly 30 years. Schueneman began her career as a financial services representative and has represented Prudential, Mutual of New York and MetLife, and headed her own firm before joining MassMutual. After spending 20 years in the Chicago area, Schueneman has returned to the area with her husband and three children. She is an avid golfer and sports enthusiast, and enjoys her time as a Fast Pitch softball coach.



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# Knights of the road: UPS drivers honored for 25 years of safety

Several western Wayne County UPS drivers were recently lauded for 25 years of safe driving.

They are William Beveridge of Westland, Paul Cutsy of Westland, Thomas Haar of Canton, Bryan Laskowski of Livonia, Keith Michalak of Westland and Michael Wheeler of Livonia.

UPS recently announced 57 elite drivers from Michigan are



Wheeler

Michalak

Cutsy

Beveridge

Haar

Laskowski

among 1,445 newly inducted worldwide into the Circle of Honor, an honorary organization for UPS drivers who have achieved 25 or

more years of accident-free driving.

Michigan boasts 251 active Circle of Honor drivers with a combined 7,015 years of accident-

free driving. Thomas Camp of Livonia is the state's senior safe driver, with 52 years of accident-free driving under his belt, ranking him the

safest driver among 102,000 drivers for UPS. There are 2,894 total UPS drivers in Michigan.

Globally, 7,878 active UPS drivers are members of the Circle of Honor. Collectively they've racked up more than 221,000 years and more than 5.3 billion safe miles during their careers. That's enough miles to travel to Mars and back 36 times.

"My thanks go to all

of them for their dedication and focus and for the countless lives they've saved," said Stefan Wilson, president, UPS Great Lakes District.

UPS's 102,000 drivers are among the safest on the roads, logging more than three billion miles a year and delivering more than four billion packages safely.

## PCCS School Council to meet Friday

The Parent Community School Council, a group of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools parents who meet regularly to discuss district issues and hear from people from the district and the community, will meet at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the district's E.J. McClendon Building, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

On the agenda is a presentation from Don Soenen, one of the leaders of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex group, which is pushing for the redevelopment of Central Middle School into a community recreation and cultural center. Central is closing as a school at the end of the year and the district last month reached a deal for the sale of the site to Mark Malcolm, who is buying it on PARC's behalf.

PARC activists hope to form a taxing authority that would help fund the complex, which is already used by many sports leagues, classes and community groups.

The academy, planned for Tuesday, March 10, will feature ThinkFirst, a program of the National Injury Prevention Foundation. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital staffs will offer discussions, demonstration and educational materials about keeping adolescents safe in vehicles, away from potentially harmful medications and protected from concussions.

The academy, which is free, is 7-8:30 p.m. in the Canton High School media center, 8415 Canton Center Road, Canton. To register: <http://communityeducation.pccs.k12.mi.us/>. The class number is 745. To arrange free child care, call 734-416-2937.

## PETITION

Continued from Page A1

ly from charter schools. "(With) the corresponding increased per-pupil revenue (SOC) brings, we're able to remain viable and support strong and innovative programs," Meissen said.

Perkins and other petition supporters have grown weary of hearing the funding argument.

"At what point do we stop relying on money generated from taking kids from other districts and start finding real solutions to the revenue

problem?" she wrote in her letter. "When do we correct the real issues that people are leaving our district (for)? It is very obvious that we are not as competitive as we should be."

The online petition (it can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/school-board-member-vote-no-on-school-of-choice>) had drawn nearly 220 supporters by Wednesday morning. There is also a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/623476857782527/>) regarding the effort.

Supporters call schools of choice a "slippery slope."

Meissen disagrees, citing the success of the 66 students who entered the district this year as schools of choice students.

"We analyzed information about student attendance, behavior and achievement," Meissen said. "These results affirm what was believed, that this cohort of students - with their parents - are experiencing school success."

But Perkins believes the redistricting effort the board approved late last year was put forth to the community as a way to account for declining enrollment.

She also believes the

district is being somewhat hypocritical in its pursuit of out-of-district students.

"Ultimately, we, as a district, condemn the charter schools for taking our students and reducing our revenue," Perkins wrote in her letter to the board. "Yet, by taking out-of-district students, this makes our district no better than the charter schools we condemn. The board is not OK with another district taking our students ... yet the board approves taking revenue from other districts that are facing similar budget issues? It seems to be an example of 'calling

the kettle black."

Meissen points out the expanded schools of choice proposal is "in a preliminary and planning stage as we begin our budget development."

But he believes the "key criteria for decision-making is the ability to fill open seats without additional staff."

"Our community is very engaged with our schools," Meissen said. "This is our strength. We are in a growth mode seeking to maintain academic excellence, fiscal solvency and contemporaneous programming."

## Wayne-Westland revamps alternative high school program

School district converting Tinkham into school of choice

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has decided to restructure its alternative high school program to make it more cost effective and bring in more students.

Housed at the Tinkham Educational in Westland, the high school has provided an alternative program for about 60 at-risk Wayne-Westland students. However, faced with a decrease in the availability of state at-risk money to run the program, Tinkham is being converted to a school of choice as of the 2015-2016 school year.

"The district has significant limited resources to run the program," said John Albrecht, assistant superintendent for Educational Services. "Tinkham has to become self-sufficient with the foundation allowance provided. The program simply must reduce costs."

### Over budget

In a presentation to the school board, Albrecht acknowledged that the state per-pupil funding isn't enough to run the program with costs exceeding revenue by \$654,000. That deficit is being covered by the

district's general fund and 31a at-risk money from the state, both of which have grown in the past few years.

As it is currently set up, Tinkham class sizes average about 15 students and there are more than 13 staff members. The district has a foundation allowance of \$7,251 per student and spends \$7,575 per at-risk student. At Tinkham, however, the figure is \$18,476 per student.

Tinkham has only 1 percent of the high school enrollment but receives the lion's share of at-risk funding. Of the 19 percent of at-risk money spent this school year on secondary support, the middle schools receive 28 percent, the high schools 28 percent and Tinkham 53 percent.

Building and central office administrators, members of the Tinkham staff and union leadership have been meeting since November to develop a plan for the school. The committee researched state and national alternative programs, and did site visits to local best practice programs.

The end result is a restructuring of Tinkham to service 16-19-year-old high school completers. As of the 2015-2016 school year, the program will be expanded to serve 200 students, have optimal class sizes for learning, focus on credit recovery and potentially offer

online learning.

"We will define a mission and a vision and provide an education for the non-traditional student," Albrecht said. "We will define staff needs, rebrand the school, reimagine it through public relations and market it to local and surrounding school districts through schools of choice."

### Build up program

He added that the goal for the first school year is to build capacity and refine the instructional program.

"We will market, recruit, refer and retain students," he said. "We will evaluate our procedures several times during the school for effectiveness and modify as needed. The second year, our plan is to maximize operating capacity."

The plan was well-received by the school board.

"I think it's very important to capture those students and to respect and understand the need of those alternative education resources to keep moving forward and creating more opportunities," Trustee Sally Madison said.

"Money aside, this looks like an exciting time to find new things that service our kids better," board President Thomas Buckalew said. "I envy that opportunity."

The district has already started making changes. As of last week, it began accepting school of choice applications for the restructured Tinkham program. To register, students must be residents of Wayne County.

Enrollment can be completed at the district's administrative offices at 36745 Marquette in Westland for residents of Wayne-Westland Community Schools. Non-resident Intra-County Schools of Choice applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning April 27 at the administrative offices.

Enrollment information is available online at the district's website at [wwcsd.net/new-families](http://wwcsd.net/new-families), then click on "How to Enroll my Child." There also will be a link on the same page for non-residents.

For more information, call Wayne-Westland Community Schools at 734-419-2083 or visit the Instruction Department at the administrative offices.

### CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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\$5,415.00	1994	CHEVROLET	S-10	BLACK	1GCCS14ZXRK109184
\$4,865.00	1995	FORD	TAURUS		1FALP52U4SG218108
\$1,375.00	1993	TOYOTA	CAMRY	BURGUNDY	4T1SK12E5PU297461
\$1,165.00	2006	FORD	FOCUS	SILVER	1FAFP34N06E180833
\$785.00	1996	FORD	ECONOLINE	RED	1FDEE14N6THA67254
\$605.00	1996	HONDA	ACCORD	SILVER	1HGCD5633TA224587
\$1,825.00	1998	FORD	F-150	BLUE	2FTZX18W7WCA10964
\$2,078.50	2010	FORD	ESCAPE	WHITE	1FMCU0EGXAKD05661
\$655.00	2004	FORD	EXPLORER	BURGUNDY	1FMZU73KX4UA08196
\$555.00	1996	CHEVROLET	SILVERADO	MAROON	1GCCG29R6TE148051
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## OUR VIEW

# Mandate results in few fines

The 2009 Congress sure made it sound simple: Require Americans to obtain health insurance or face a financial penalty. Of course, there is nothing simple about the Affordable Care Act's individual insurance mandate. Millions of Americans are being reminded of that this tax season.

If any member of your household was uninsured last year, filing taxes includes filling out a worksheet providing month-by-month details about coverage. More than 6 million Americans obtained insurance through exchanges created by Obamacare. The vast majority of them received subsidies in advance to pay for the coverage. Because those subsidies were based on projected income, people may have to repay Uncle Sam if they earned

more. And claiming tax credits for insurance requires filling out a form with 72 boxes.

Not complicated enough? Well, you might qualify for one of more than 30 exemptions to the penalty authorized by the federal government over the past few years. For example, if you're poor and your state chose not to expand Medicaid, you might be able to avoid the fine. If you're not exempted, the fee for being uninsured can be as much as 1 percent of your household income. It must be paid by April 15 and the penalty next year increases to as much as 2 percent of your household income.

(If you have questions about what to do, good luck getting a hold of someone at the Internal Revenue Service. Cuts to the agency's budget means there

may be no one to help when you call.)

While a single-payer health insurance system is looking pretty good right about now, the Obama administration can't create that on its own. So it's considering crafting more exemptions so more Americans can avoid paying penalties. The White House is concerned the complexities and fines will create additional frustration about the health-reform law.

People may certainly be frustrated. Health insurance and taxes were complicated enough before all this. However, the Obama administration should not work unilaterally to shelter Americans from unpopular aspects of ACA. The mandate is part of the current law. Penalties are part of the

revenue intended to help pay for the law. Americans should pay them unless Congress revisits the ACA, nixes the mandate and finds a way to make up for the loss of revenue to the government.

That is certainly an idea worth considering.

Requiring Americans to purchase health insurance was a bad idea from the beginning. If people have access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance, they don't need to be forced to buy it. The mandate was a gift from Congress to private insurers. It doesn't get any better than the government requiring Americans to buy your product and even using public money to help them pay for it.

Many aspects of the reform law can work without the insur-

ance mandate. Americans will be protected from unfair insurance practices. They will still have the option of buying affordable coverage, regardless of health problems. Adult children can remain on their parents' plans. Millions of poor Americans can be covered by Medicaid if they choose to sign up. And on and on.

For the past five years, the Obama administration has bent over backward to try to smoothly implement the health-reform law. Yet its power is limited and lawmakers have refused to make even the simplest of tweaks to help. Until Congress is willing to revisit the law, the administration should follow it. Like it or not, that means enforcing the mandate and imposing penalties on the uninsured.

## LETTERS

### Clerk not helpful

When watching the video from the Feb. 10 Plymouth Township board meeting, something caught my attention that should cause every single township voter grave concern. Why? Because it affects you and your ability and potential rights as a voter. Are you listening now?

In short, Trustee Curmi was trying to find out why we didn't have a link on the township website to an absentee voter application that a person could download as a pdf, complete, and return to the clerk's office so they could expedite getting a ballot for an upcoming election. The clerk stumbled, but basically ended up saying that you could go to the state's website to download the application, mail it to the office of the clerk and they would send the ballot, although I think she said she would look into having a link put on the township site. Clerk Conzelman asked Trustee Curmi if he was going out of state and laughed, she mentioned overseas/military procedures briefly and said she could mail an application. In typical lawyer speak - none of these answered his question.

I called Trustee Curmi to tell him what he needs to do to expedite the process because you have to sign the application before you get the ballot. I then learned the deputy clerk had also referred him to the state's website.

Plymouth Township voters, if you need an absentee voter ballot, you can obtain one by writing a note to your township clerk. The address is 9955 Haggerty Road. You must state the reason you need the ballot and it has to be one of the six reasons allowed by law, most

generally because you expect to be out of town, are over 60 or can't attend the polls without assistance. In the note, you must also tell the clerk where you want your ballot sent and sign it. You can even fax it in at 734-454-1643.

It is their job to check your signature and immediately process your ballot. I strongly recommend you check with your clerk's office within a few days if you do not receive your ballot. That number is 734-354-3228 or 734-354-3224.

In this case, the person Trustee Curmi was inquiring for did not get to vote in the last election. That was one vote lost. How many others are we losing? Our clerk and deputy clerk have been in their jobs for over two years and they don't know this most basic provision of the law. They administer our elections. Do you care now?

Sandra J. Groth  
Plymouth Township

### Not a fan of proposal

It appears that our esteemed politicians in Lansing have managed to fill the \$325 million hole in our current budget. This was accomplished by raiding the school aid fund, shorting the retirement system, slashing departments that help our neediest citizens and other cuts.

You might wonder how they plan to pay for the next \$532 million due starting Oct. 1 and continuing in each of the next 15 years, thanks to allowing corporations to double dip with tax credits plus tax cuts.

Well believe this, you won't hear a word until after the May 5 election is held to raise the sales tax.

That ballot proposal is so poorly written and contains so many loopholes, it would take a

scholar fluent in Mandarin Chinese to decipher it.

The defenders of this monstrosity claim the schools and local governments will benefit, along with our roads. To that I say, hogwash! That \$532 million shortage will come out of the general fund dollars that currently go to those entities and they will not gain diddly-squat.

I hate being on the side of tea partiers who oppose the ballot proposal, but believe me, it's for entirely different reasons.

Mine being I know these "sleight of hand" artists. I don't trust them and neither should you.

James Huddleston  
Canton

### Special political interest funds

The O&E reports that "Elected officials: Major funding increase needed to fix roads." It also reports on the need to preserve funds by opening up the bidding for the garbage/trash removal services (Waste Management). Another increased expense is the higher than expected cost of resurfacing some of our local roads.

Two years ago, Livonia saved about \$34,000 by calling off a primary election, thereby denying some residents the right to vote. Does anyone know how those election dollars are used today?

The concern of our elected officials seems to be identifying the source of more money (higher taxes, higher fees or perhaps more canceled elections) to meet the everyday needs of the Livonia community - its residents, businesses, shoppers and the people who work here.

I suggest that each one of us

readers, voters and interested parties - should research the work of nonprofits such as the Mackinaw Center for Public Policy and the State Policy Network. They have identified millions of dollars (on the way to billions) at the state, county and local levels of government set aside for special political interests. Why not use these already collected monies to meet existing community interests?

Orville H. Kappen  
Livonia

### Supports ballot proposal

The Michigan Townships Association supports the May 5 transportation funding ballot proposal and will encourage its members to do the same.

MTA's Executive Committee believes a funding increase is in the best interest of townships and the state as a whole. Townships already spend more than \$186 million a year on roads and bridges even though they aren't required to do so by law.

Quality roads are a critical driver for Michigan's economic prosperity and for the safety of our residents. MTA plans to work with other organizations in the coming months to actively support this proposal and ensure its approval.

Linda Preston  
2015 MTA president  
Pokagon Township supervisor

### Two hits on education

Public education in Michigan took a double hit in February - first from our governor's budget proposal and second from our state House. The governor announced an increase in funding to schools of \$75 per student. In what must be attributed to Tough Nerd Math, he didn't account for (or mention) the cuts on the other

side of the ledger. Novi, Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, and I'm sure many other districts, will see their funding cut by another \$25 per student this year.

The second hit came from the state House of Representatives through House Bill 4110. Given an opportunity to show support for our schools and let the School Aid Fund maintain a positive balance going into the next funding cycle, 62 House members, including one Democrat, voted to transfer \$500 million from the SAF to fill the \$456 million state general fund deficit. The gigantic state deficit was estimated well before the November elections, but the governor told us he balanced the budget in his re-election advertising. The House bill to empty out the School Aid Fund was supported by almost all Republican House members, including Novi's Kathy Crawford, Walled Lake's Klint Kesto and Plymouth's Kurt Heise.

Speaking of the November elections, it's often said "you get what you vote for." That's usually true, but not always. Gov. Snyder clearly won re-election, just as Gary Peters clearly won the U.S. Senate seat, replacing Carl Levin. The Michigan House is a different story. The Democrats didn't get "trounced" in November. They actually won more statewide votes than the Republicans. Democrats won 51% of the vote while Republicans won 49% of the vote, yet the R's took a 63-47 seat majority in the House. That's because our districts are so gerrymandered. In Michigan, the voters don't always get to choose their legislators - the legislators choose their voters.

Kathleen Hood  
Novi

## GUEST COLUMN

# Fix Michigan's dangerous roads; vote yes on Prop 1

On May 5, you can vote to fix Michigan's unsafe and embarrassing roads and bridges.

Lousy roads are hurting Michigan's economic recovery and are putting safety at risk for all. Fillings from my teeth are being rattled lose and front end alignments, blown tires and destroyed rims are as nearly a painful occurrence as filling my gas tank was when gas topped \$4 per gallon.

The May 5 ballot question, Proposal 1, hikes the state sales tax to 7 percent from 6 percent, while removing the sales tax from fuel sales and replacing the sales tax with wholesale fuel tax that would be spent on roads.

This change is expected to raise an additional and much-needed \$1.2 billion a year for roads, \$300 million for public schools, \$100 million for mass



Tom Watkins

transit and about \$95 million for local governments. The proposal would fully restore the Earned Income Tax Credit for the working poor. All would greatly benefit the citizens of Michigan.

It is essential that everyone is aware of the benefits of the proposed gas reform tax, but also understands the ramifications if the proposal fails.

As citizens of Michigan, we have a vested interest in promoting the health and welfare of all. Supporting Proposal 1 does just that.

This proposal goes beyond simply fixing our crumbling, unsafe roads. Our children will

be supported through additional funding for public education, many low-income families will benefit from the restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit and our communities will prosper with a modest restoration in state revenue sharing. Investing in the people of this state is a wise investment.

### Benefits if passes, consequences if fails

There is fear in the health and human services community that if Proposal 1 is voted down in May, the state Legislature may turn to reducing funding previously allocated to programs that help support some of the state's most vulnerable citizens - children with emotional disorders and those with serious mental illness, substance use disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cuts to vulnerable people to fill potholes should be avoided at all costs.

Clearly it is necessary to repair our crumbling roads, invest in public education and help stimulate job growth. However, mental health care for those most in need should not be collateral damage if the measure fails.

I am dedicated to ensuring the success of Proposal 1 and

will educate teachers, social service workers, mental health therapists, PTO groups, first responders, business leaders and anyone else who will stand still long enough to listen.

We need to fix our broken roads and bridges for obvious reasons - they are a mess. Yet failure to pass Proposal 1 could have devastating consequences to the people most in need of government's help: our children, our communities and people who work 40 hours a week, play by the rules and don't earn enough to escape poverty.

### Leaders lead

Gov. Rick Snyder is to be commended for his leadership to push for funding that invests in our collective future as a state. We applauded all legislators, Republican and Democrats, who are supporting safe roads.

The plan and vision of Proposal 1 offers aid in so many ways to Michiganders. We owe it to ourselves to be educated on what supporting Proposal 1 means and the many lives that may be impacted by the outcome. Put simply, Proposal 1 strengthens the great state of Michigan.

Increasing transportation funding is a crucial investment

in moving Michigan forward and will produce continued economic growth, while putting people to work.

Better roads and a reliable transportation infrastructure are critical to a thriving economy. Investing in education, villages, townships, cities and the working poor pays dividends for us all.

### Investing in people

To my friends in education and the health and human services community - and for all citizens of this great state - there are positive and negative reasons to support the passage of Proposal 1.

A society that invests in itself prospers; ones that don't, remain in a rut. Start to educate yourself about Proposal 1 at <http://www.saferoadsyes.com/> and <http://taxfoundation.org/blog/michigan-voters-consider-complex-tax-package>.

Pass the word: Proposal 1 will fix much of what needs fixing in Pure Michigan.

Northville resident Tom Watkins served the citizens of Michigan as state superintendent of schools and state mental health director. He can be reached at [tdwatkins88@gmail.com](mailto:tdwatkins88@gmail.com) or follow on Twitter: [tdwatkins88](https://twitter.com/tdwatkins88).

# Waza FC, area soccer community mourn coach

Farmington's Seamus Rustin earned love and respect of his youth players

By Dan O'Meara  
Staff Writer

The Waza Football Club and soccer community are mourning the loss of Seamus Rustin and remembering him as a dedicated and caring coach, following his untimely death.

Mr. Rustin, 38, collapsed and died of a heart attack Monday evening at the conclusion of a U-13 boys soccer practice at a Redford elementary school.

A resident of Farmington and native of Dearborn Heights, Mr. Rustin was a full-time, professional soccer coach for 17 years and worked for the Waza FC organization for 10 years.

"Anybody who knew Seamus knew he was a very strong-willed person who brought inspiration and energy to everything he did in life," Waza FC owner and director Mario Scicluna said. "He left a legacy for teaching youths to live like War-



Seamus Rustin is pictured with his family: wife Regilene and children Mila (front), Silas (right) and Lucian (rear).

riors and to be the best they can be. He wasn't for the faint-hearted. He gave you love and he gave you tough love. He inspired thousands of young people."

Former Detroit Rockers player Dan Diac, a Waza goalkeeper coach and head of the Olympic Development Program in Michigan, worked with Mr. Rustin for seven years.

"He was a very ded-

icated coach," Diac said. "He was very passionate about what he was doing. He was very professional, a demanding coach.

"He touched a lot of kids' lives and made those teams better. The kids loved him and respected him. He was a very committed guy, putting in extra time. He was always there for them. It's very sad."

Mr. Rustin also was the director of the Waza

FC Developmental Academy and the director of coaching for the U8-U12 age groups. He had recently completed training and received his U.S. Soccer coaching license.

In addition to being a professional coach, Mr. Rustin also worked in the family tile business and was a member of the Bricklayers and Allied Trade Union.

Mr. Rustin, who was married and had three

children, was a forward in his playing days. He helped Detroit Country Day High School win four state championships and he was a four-year starter at Madonna University.

"He came from the highest soccer pedigrees in Michigan and continued to educate himself," Scicluna said, adding that Mr. Rustin was an ambassador for the game. "He developed some of the best teams in the state at the younger ages that are going to compete for state cups."

Regis Bielski is one of Mr. Rustin's former players, adding they became "best friends and brothers ever since" and later worked with him in coaching.

"He treated everybody like family," Bielski said. "He made sure everything he taught was a life lesson. The end result was about being a good person, caring about family and always working toward a common goal.

"You always knew where you stood with him. He always let you know he loved you, but he was always pushing you to be better, to be what you should be."

Mr. Rustin was talking

to his players at the end of practice Monday when he was stricken. He had no known medical issues.

"It's a bummer for everybody," Diac said. "Nobody saw it coming. That's why everybody was caught by surprise."

Scicluna said the players and their parents were receiving grief counseling and Waza members were helping to comfort them, too. All training sessions were canceled Tuesday in honor of Mr. Rustin.

A memorial service is planned for 2-5 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia.

Mr. Rustin is survived by his wife Regilene and three children: Silas, 11, Mila, 9, and Lucian, 6. Waza FC has started an online memorial fund to assist the family with its needs.

People can contribute to the Seamus Rustin Family Memorial Fund at [www.gofundme.com/nn3f4o](http://www.gofundme.com/nn3f4o). Waza also plans to have a dinner fundraiser at a future date and a soccer tournament in Mr. Rustin's honor later this year.

[domeara@hometownlife.com](mailto:domeara@hometownlife.com)

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### CHINESE NEW YEAR

**Date:** Saturday, March 7, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton  
**Details:** Celebrating a tradition that is thousands of years old, the Canton Commission for Culture Arts and Heritage Multicultural Committee will host the 2015 Chinese New Year Celebration. Joining the festivities are a Peking Opera performance by Fang Shubo, the Canton Philharmonic Choir, the March Wind Choir and the Michigan Chinese Choir. Audience members will also enjoy beautiful duets by Yangtze Melody Group and the Spring Group and the energetic sounds of the Desert Island Band. This special celebration will also include a Chinese fashion show, tai chi and a traditional Chinese instrumental performance by the Shangarila

**band.**  
**Contact:** For more information, go to [www.CantonVillageTheater.org](http://www.CantonVillageTheater.org) or call 734/394-5300.

### HOSPICE SUPPORT

**Dates/Times:** First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman

**Details:** Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care

Hospice Bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email [achristensen@cchnet.net](mailto:achristensen@cchnet.net).

### BRAIN NEUROBICS

**Date/Time:** Second and Fourth Thursday through May 2015, 11 a.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

**Details:** Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Waltonwood Cherry Hill.

**Contact:** To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

### PAGAN HOURS

**Dates/Times:** Fourth Monday of each

month, 7 p.m.; fourth Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.

**Locations:** Monday, Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road, Canton; Saturday, Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road, Belleville

**Details:** State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, announces the schedule for her monthly coffee hours. Pagan invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents. Pagan encourages interested residents to sign up for her e-newsletter, which will provide updates of her work at the Capitol and in the community.

**Contact:** To sign up, interested individuals should go to [pagan.house-democrats.com](http://pagan.house-democrats.com). Residents can also contact Pagan in her Lansing office at 517-373-2575.

### PFLAG MEETING

**Date/Time:** First Sunday of each month, 3-5 p.m.

**Location:** St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Plymouth-Canton PFLAG meets for discussion, education and sharing. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of families, friends and straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

**Contact:** Email [laurie.mayers@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.mayers@gmail.com)



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DIVISION 1 BOYS HOCKEY PRE-REGIONAL



Salem goalie Dillon Phillips (left) celebrates with teammates Bailey Thompson and Nate West (right) after the Rocks tied the game late in the third period.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# REDEMPTION

Rocks turn postseason tables on Wildcats, win 4-3 on Walker's OT goal

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Late in overtime of Monday's Division 1 boys hockey pre-regional, the puck caromed off the right-wing boards in the neutral zone and Salem senior forward Liam Walker retrieved it.

Walker quick-footed his way around a Plymouth defender, who lost an edge and went tumbling. Then he zoomed in on Wildcats senior goaltender Jared Maddock.

After Maddock came up with a clutch stop, Walker extended out for the rebound and lofted his second shot over Maddock to give the Rocks a 4-3 victory at Arctic Edge Arena.

For Salem (12-10-4), the victory turned the tables on the KLAAs South Division champion Wildcats (15-8-3) — who in the 2013 and 2014 beat the Rocks in the pre-regional in double OT each time.

"A nice pass (by junior forward Zach Goleniak) to Liam, a good individual effort," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "The goalie made a great save on the first chance and he followed up his play and buried the rebound."

"So good for Liam. He's played well for us this year. It was a total team effort."

Salem was scheduled to face state-ranked Northville on Wednesday. The winner of that game will move on to Friday's regional final at 8 p.m.

"Our (defense) blew a tire, partial breakaway," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "Maddock made the first



Salem players mob senior forward Liam Walker after his game-winning goal in overtime Monday against Plymouth.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



After going to the D1 state quarterfinals two years in a row, the Plymouth Wildcats are stunned their season ended in Monday's pre-regional.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

save, which is all you can ask for. Give their guy credit, he stuck with it and got the rebound up and in.

"I thought for the whole game we carried the play; the

puck was down there the whole overtime. But at the end of the day it doesn't matter, it's who puts the puck in the net."

Vento said the Plymouth-

Salem tilt at Arctic Edge continued what is becoming an early March ritual.

"It's a great setting. It's what makes hockey at the Park great," Vento said. "It's a fantastic rivalry. It started since I got here four years ago and it just doesn't seem to change."

### Following it up

This time, the only change was the team coming out on top.

Walker, who was mobbed by his teammates along the boards in the Plymouth zone after his game winner (at 7:02 of overtime), chalked up the goal to being persistent.

"Just getting it to the net, getting a quick shot and getting a rebound off," Walker said. "Just like practice, we play our rebounds. ... Just stayed with it, stopped and shot it back in."

With a smile, Walker added that his team had a feeling the third time was going to be the charm: "We just had it in us that we weren't going to let them beat us three times in a row, in overtime."

Walker's goal touched off a wild celebration among the Salem faithful, too. Arctic Edge was overflowing with Plymouth-Canton Educational Park hockey fans, with those spectators unable to find seats in the bleachers lining the boards at each end of the rink.

Maddock (16 saves) noted it was a brutal way for the season to end.

"It was just a bad bounce and it went their way," Mad-

See HOCKEY, Page B2

KLAAs TITLE PREVIEW



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Plymouth senior Randall Aikins (right) makes a move against Salem defender Calin Crawford.

# 'Cats won't back down

Plymouth boys cagers set for Warriors in KLAAs final

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

As soon as Randall Aikin's through-the-lane buzzer-beater gave the Plymouth Wildcats a huge victory over Canton in early February, things began to change for coach Mike Soukup's team.

"That was the turning point where our leadership kind of (shifted), holding each other a little more accountable than they have in the past," said Soukup, whose varsity boys basketball team visits Walled Lake Western at 7 p.m. Thursday for the KLAAs championship.

Plymouth (14-5) seemed to gain some steam with that victory over the KLAAs South Division champion Chiefs and continued to shine during the Kensington Conference tournament with wins over KLAAs Central Division champion Salem and Livonia Churchill.

Now, the Wildcats will try to topple the Warriors (18-1), led by senior forward Marcus Bailey and solid back court depth.

"Walled Lake Western's only dropped one game the whole year," Soukup said. "I think it goes without saying that they're going to be a tough match."

"But I think we're jelling and rounding into a very good team at certainly a great time of the year."

Spearheading the Wildcats during their recent success have been senior forwards Deji Adebisi and Josh Reynolds and senior guard Aikins.

Augmenting them have been junior wings Brent Davis and Armani Tate. Providing grit off the bench has been junior Pete Carravallah.

"We're not going to lose for

See WILDCATS, Page B3

CLASS A GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICTS

# Petree's late triple lifts Rocks

Salem girls cagers nip Plymouth in closely contested district opener

By Evan Paputa  
Correspondent

Among the bright lights of the win-or-go-home state tournament, there was pressure building between Plymouth and Salem.

In Monday's girls basketball district quarterfinal, things did not go according to the Rocks' script.

Despite the Rocks' struggles, with the game tied at 29-29, they held possession with 35 seconds to go. Jamyra Wilson dribbled the clock

down to five seconds before darting into the lane and dishing a pass to the right corner.

Freshman Lasha Petree was there to catch Wilson's pass and knocked down her fourth 3-pointer of the game with 1.8 seconds remaining to put Salem up 32-29. Salem held on to win after Plymouth's inbound pass to half court was deflected.

"They told me to get open out of the timeout and we were holding for the last shot," said Petree, who led all scorers with 14 points. "(Wil-

son) went in for the drive and got stuck, so I was open. She made a great pass and I shot and I made it."

According to Salem head coach Lindsay Klemmer, whose team improved to 17-4 overall, Petree is "a great shooter and an even better kid. There's so much to look forward to with her. She's one of those kids that if she's off, I tell her to keep shooting."

"I said to Jam, 'If they collapse and she's in the corner,

See ROCKS, Page B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The player who made the game-winning shot, Salem freshman Lasha Petree (left) dribbles around Plymouth defender Elise Wehmer during Monday's Class A district contest.

D1 BOYS HOCKEY PRE-REGIONAL



Watching the puck sail past the goal post are Canton goalie Nick Borg (right), Northville forward Anthony Solack (center) and Chiefs forward Marcus Cook.

# Pesky Chiefs put late scare into Northville

Hat trick in third by Canton's Kiddle makes life uneasy down stretch for Mustangs

**By Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

For the first two periods Monday night, Northville bombarded Canton senior goaltender Nick Borg, yet had only a paltry 2-0 lead to show for it. And because Borg kept the Chiefs in the Division 1 boys hockey pre-regional at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton — not to mention Canton senior forward Tommy Kiddle scoring three goals in the final period — the No. 7-ranked Mustangs had to sweat out the conclusion of their 4-3 victory.

Northville improved to 16-7-3 and was scheduled Wednesday to play Salem, which won 4-3 in overtime earlier Monday over Plymouth.

Kiddle scored goals at 14:44 and 15:15 to suddenly make it a one-goal difference. The Chiefs pulled Borg for an extra skater and were one tip or deflection away from forcing overtime.

“We ran for 49 miles; we didn’t run the full 51,” Northville head coach Clint Robert said, referring to the 51 minutes a regulation high school game requires. “And I think we were thinking offensive, we were up 4-1 and guys were looking to pad stats.”

“Canton, to their credit, never gave up. They kept coming and coming and coming, crashing the net. They pushed harder than we did the last two minutes.”

Canton head coach Brad Barath, whose team was out-shot 48-22 (12 by Northville freshman defenseman Jack

Sargent), was proud of the way his team battled.

Barath cited how Borg, Kiddle and the rest of the Chiefs (4-18-3) performed with heart and hustle against a heavily favored opponent. “He’s a third-year senior captain on this team, I know he didn’t want his season to end,” Barath said about Kiddle. “None of them wanted their season to end. It’s unfortunate that we waited until the last eight minutes of the third period to really dig deep.”

“Had we done that the whole game, it probably would have been a different story. But amazing effort out of the guys to score three goals like that in the third period against a top 10 team in Northville and make it a game like that.”

As for Borg’s acrobatics, which have been a nightly occurrence the past two seasons, Barath merely smiled and nodded.

“The game could have been 6-0 after the first period,” Barath said. “He kept us in there.”

Borg’s counterpart, Northville’s Chance Boutin, needed to make only 19 stops.

But one of them in the third period was as big as they come as he waffle-boarded a dangerous shot by Canton senior forward Connor Wherrett, who broke in with 3:30 remaining.

### Dangerous unit

Northville’s top scoring line of Jack Meacham, Nick Strom and Alec Morgan carried the Mustangs’ offensive load. Meacham tallied two goals

and two assists, while Morgan (one goal, two assists) and Strom (two assists) also were a major pain in Borg’s side.

With Borg diving, sliding and thrusting his body in front of shots, the game remained scoreless until the 13:09 mark of the first. Strom took a slap shot from the right point that Morgan tipped home from the slot.

Northville upped that edge to 2-0 with 6:31 to play in the second period, when Meacham scored.

The Chiefs sliced that deficit to 2-1 when Kiddle redirected Wherrett’s point shot with 12:34 remaining in the third period. Also assisting on the power-play goal was senior forward Cooper Rice.

That seemed to awaken the Mustangs, however, as Kevin O’Connell poked in the rebound of a Meacham shot just 1:23 after the Canton goal.

Meacham’s second of the night, at 14:07, opened up a 4-1 Northville lead. But Kiddle and the Chiefs would not go quietly.

With 2:16 to play, Kiddle got one back. He got another back less than a minute later to give the Chiefs and their fans hope.

Assisting on both was senior defenseman Hunter Schlamp, while sophomore blueliner Michael Testani also collected an assist.

But Canton could not maintain possession in the Northville zone with less than 30 seconds to play and that was that.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

OHL HOCKEY



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS  
Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic makes one of his 37 saves Saturday night against Ottawa’s Travis Konecny. At right for Plymouth is defenseman Sean Callaghan. The Whalers wore specially designed uniforms to benefit the Michigan Humane Society on Pucks and Paws Night.

# Whalers keep gaining ground

Plymouth starting to gain serious momentum in OHL playoff chase

**By Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Now the fun begins for the Plymouth Whalers.

With key defenseman Yannick Rathgeb finally back in the lineup after a lengthy absence due to injury, the Whalers have started to make a push in their quest for an OHL-record 24th consecutive playoff appearance.

Saturday night kept the ball rolling, as Rathgeb and the Whalers defeated Ottawa 3-1 before 2,906 at Compuware Arena in the inaugural Pucks and Paws Night.

Since Rathgeb returned Feb. 21, Plymouth (22-32-3-2, 49 points) has won three of four games and now trails eighth-place Saginaw and Windsor by just two points.

“Yan certainly helps; he gives us depth back there,” Whalers head coach Don Elland said. “We’re not running four (defensemen) all night long because the kids are young.”

“It’s Yan’s second year in the league and, let’s face it, Yan played in the World Junior tournament and he’s a good player. He helps us.”

Elland added that the Whalers, playing their third game in three nights, came away with five of a possible six points largely because of the Rathgeb-fortified defense.

“If we didn’t have him and we’re running short (on defense), it would have probably been a different result tonight,” he said.

Rathgeb, playing in only his 25th game, said he is “pretty happy the way we played the last couple weeks. We’re playing great hockey and we finally got a full defensive lineup.”

That defense — backstopped by stonewall goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic, who was outstanding Saturday with 37 saves — might need to carry the load the remaining three weeks, however.

One of Plymouth’s top scorers, right wing Connor Chatham (16-20-36), will be shut down for the rest of the season following Tuesday’s game at Saginaw. Chatham has a wrist injury that will require surgery.

### On a mission

The Whalers, wearing specially designed jerseys to benefit the Michigan Humane Society, played with energy and purpose, as they have during their recent stretch of solid hockey.

A plus was getting a lead, which forward Connor Sills took care of with just 3:56 left in the first period.

Defenseman Mathieu Henderson took a slap shot from the left point that Sills — standing near the right post — tipped past Ottawa goalie Leo Lazarev (25 saves). Also drawing an assist was forward Francesco Vilardi.

### WHALERS CATCH SAGINAW

As of early Tuesday afternoon, the Plymouth Whalers were back to square one in the race for an OHL playoff spot.

Plymouth blanked host Saginaw 4-0 in a morning contest, with goalie Alec Nedeljkovic making 34 shots and the Whalers getting goals from Mitch Jones, Sonny Milano, Will Bitten and Connor Chatham (in his last game of the season before undergoing wrist surgery at the behest of the NHL team that holds his rights, New Jersey).

Whalers head coach Don Elland, in a text exchange later Tuesday, joked that he “wished” the Devils would reconsider and let Chatham continue playing. But he confirmed that Chatham, who finished the season with 17 goals, had skated for the final time for Plymouth.

With the win, the Whalers and Spirit were tied with 51 points with eight games remaining for each team. Also tied with them, with a game in hand, is Windsor. All three will go down to the wire in the drive for the eighth and final playoff position in the OHL Western Conference.

Late in the second period, Compuware fans started chanting “we want two” and, within moments, the Whalers obliged.

With 3:11 remaining in the period, a centering pass by forward Ryan Moore (Troy) was buried by forward Mathew Campagna for his 22nd goal of the year.

Plymouth played the 67s even through two periods (shots were 22 each after 40 minutes), not showing any signs of fatigue until the third — when Ottawa held a 16-6 edge in shots on goal.

Although Ottawa turned up the offensive pressure in the third, Nedeljkovic was ready.

Perhaps the Carolina Hurricanes prospect’s best save came with about 6:45 left, when he kicked out a shot taken from the right circle by Evan de Haan.

His shutout bid finally was spoiled with 3:22 to play. Ottawa tallied a power-play goal, when Dante Salituro ripped a high shot home from the slot to make it 2-1.

### Insurance goal

Ottawa then pulled Lazarev with two minutes left, looking for the equalizer.

Instead, Vilardi pocketed an empty-netter at 18:15 to seal the victory. Setting up the tally were forward Victor Crus Rydberg and defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto.

“Now that it’s fun, it’s contagious,” Elland said. “And they know know if they keep playing this way, they got a good shot.”

Meanwhile, there definitely was a buzz in the building that’s been missing too many times this winter.

“That (crowd) was good to see,” Elland said. “Tonight they were all jacked up that there was a big crowd.”



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS  
Deflecting Saturday night’s first goal past Ottawa goaltender Leo Lazarev is Plymouth Whalers forward Connor Sills.

## HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

dock said. “He just put home the rebound. He (Plymouth defenseman) lost an edge, it was unlucky and just gave him a lot of time.”

### Absolutely huge

The game might not have even reached overtime if not for the stop Salem senior goalie Dillon Phillips (27 saves) made against Plymouth junior forward Alex Bump to thwart a breakaway with less than 10 minutes left in the third and the Wildcats up 3-2.

“I told our guys on the bench, ‘There’s your save,’” Ossenmacher said. “You need a goalie to make a save to keep you in the game and that was the save he made. ... If he doesn’t make that save, who knows what happens.”

Moments before the Bump breakaway, a blast by senior forward Josh Smith rang off the crossbar behind Phillips.

Salem, still hanging in there, then went on the power play with about 3:30 to go in regulation.

Then came the power-play goal at 14:20 that kept the Rocks alive. Walker, stationed at the right point, slid the puck over to senior defenseman Noah Saad at the left point.

Saad took a stride toward the Plymouth net and uncorked a slap shot that beat Maddock, expertly screened by junior forward Zach Goleniak. Also drawing an assist was senior forward Noah Willer.

“I didn’t believe it,” Saad

said about his shot hitting twine. “But I was happy we were back in the game and I was hoping for the team to score another one.”

“I was hoping for a rebound so one of the forwards could put it in. But I’ll take the goal.”

In overtime, Phillips had to make yet another sensational stop with the season on the line. Phillips and a defenseman got their wires crossed behind the net and Plymouth’s Ricky Covault retrieved the puck, starting at a half-empty cage.

But Phillips dove desperately to his left to flag down the Covault shot.

“It was just a miscommunication between the two of us,” Phillips said. “It happens in hockey and you got to react to it.”

Less than a minute later, Walker scored and Phillips skated the length of the ice to join the mob scene.

“Oh my God, it was the greatest feeling ever, skating the entire way down,” Phillips said, smiling. “Luckily I didn’t fall over with excitement. It was just amazing.”



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
It’s a collision course for Salem’s Austin Marthaler (left) and Plymouth’s Ricky Covault on Monday at Arctic Edge Arena.

### Trading goals

The end of the game was dramatic. But there were twists and turns earlier, too.

Salem broke a scoreless tie with two goals early in the second, by senior forward Zach Newsom (from senior forward Rich Corso and junior forward Nick Callegari) and Goleniak (off a feed from Walker).

The Wildcats responded quickly, however. With just one second left on a Salem penalty, junior forward Jake Silvester knocked a rebound past Phillips. Drawing the assists were senior defenseman Jared Merandi and Smith.

Plymouth then scored two more goals to go up 3-2 after two periods. Getting the equalizer with a roof shot was senior defenseman Ben Chafin (from senior Jake Zaborowski), while junior forward Zack Wiener ripped a high shot into the Salem net with 5.7 seconds to play in the period.

Of course, the game wasn’t over just yet. Rocks would find a way to draw even and ultimately prevail, to Vento’s dismay.

“It’s not only tough that it’s one and done, but it’s just unfortunate that there’s no type of seeding yet in high school hockey,” Vento said. “You look at our entire region, it’s a meat grinder.”

“We were looking at it, nine of the top 10 teams are going to be eliminated just between two regions before you get to quarterfinals.”

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DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL FINALS PREVIEW

# WITHIN THEIR GRASP

P-CEP wrestlers one great weekend away from reaching The Palace podium

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

The Palace of Auburn Hills awaits six stalwart wrestlers from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, who look to climb the mountain — and the podium — at the Division 1 individual state finals.

After months and months of endless battles on the mat, not to mention the demands of staying physically fit in the wrestling room, the dream is ready to unfold for the sextet: Canton's Ty Jasman, Plymouth's Hussein Youssef, Dylan Dwyer and Brandon Harris and Salem's Mitchell Gross and Roy Foster.

Of that group, only Jasman (36-6) arrives with a 2015 individual regional championship. He won in the 140-pound weight class Feb. 21 at Saline and will face Troy's Andrew Ellicott (29-8) in the first round.

That doesn't mean he is the only Park wrestler with a good chance to finish with a state championship.

"At this point of the season, everyone is a strong wrestler," Canton head coach Cory Mancuso said. "The wrestler that has the best weekend will be the champion come Saturday night."

"The wrestler that prepares the best physically and mentally will give himself the best chance to win."

Mancuso, however, said Jasman enters the finals with a strong desire to follow 2014 Canton champion Ben Griffin to the top of the podium.

"Ty is a senior; it is his final chance at this tournament," Mancuso said. "So I expect he will go out there and leave it all on the mat and if he does that, then he will have no regrets."

The two P-CEP individual regional runners-up are Plymouth senior Youssef and junior Dwyer.



Jasman

## INDIVIDUAL FINALS WRESTLING SCHEDULE

**When:** Thursday through Saturday.  
**Where:** Palace of Auburn Hills.  
**Who:** Competing from the Park will be: Canton's Ty Jasman, regional champion at 140; Plymouth's Hussein Youssef, Dylan Dwyer and Brandon Harris; and Salem's Mitchell Gross and Roy Foster.  
**Thursday:** Round 1, 2 p.m.  
**Friday:** Round 2, 8:30 a.m.; Semi-finals (Round 5), 7 p.m.  
**Saturday:** Round 6, 8:30 a.m.; Consolation Finals (Round 8), approximately 11 a.m.; Finals (Round 9), 4:45 p.m.

Youssef (42-9) is slated to open up against Davison junior Tanner Thomas (25-9).

"Hussein has wrestled most of the wrestlers in his bracket in some very close, good matches," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "Hussein wrestled very well at regionals and hopefully that will carry over to a solid weekend in Auburn Hills."

Guernsey said the favorite at 189 is Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Nick Giese, who has beaten Youssef three times this season, including in the regional final.

Dwyer steps into The Palace with a stellar 48-3 record and will go up against Flint Carman-Ainsworth senior Darian Vaughn (39-11).

"If Dylan wins, it will probably set up a quarterfinal match against Dan Shear from Walled Lake Central, who Dylan has split with in their two previous meetings," Guernsey said. "The favorite to win the weight class is Lincoln Olson from Davison, who is undefeated and going for his fourth state title."

The Wildcats also will be represented by Harris, a 119-pound senior with a 34-5 record. Harris was a fourth-place finisher at the Saline regional, despite battling an injury.

### Wide open

According to Guernsey, the bracket is up for grabs and Harris is good enough to be in



Plymouth wrestlers (from left) Dylan Dwyer, Brandon Harris and Hussein Youssef proudly display their medals at the Feb. 21 Division 1 individual regional. All will compete this weekend at The Palace of Auburn Hills in the D1 individual state finals.

DAN DWYER



Getting prepped for the D1 individual state finals are (from left) Salem's Mitchell Gross and Roy Foster.

SALEM WRESTLING

the championship mix. Harris must knock off Grand Blanc senior Noah Gonser (52-3 and ranked No. 1 by Michigan Grappler) to get that quest off on the right foot. "With that being said, Brandon will be looking at that match and all of his matches as winnable," Guernsey said. "The 119-pound weight class is

probably one of the most balanced in the tournament. "There are probably 10 or 12 wrestlers who are thinking they have a chance to win the tournament if they have a good weekend." Also bringing championship aspirations to The Palace are Salem senior Gross and junior Foster.

Gross and Foster placed third and fourth at 189 at Saline. Gross (41-9) draws La-peer's Jacob Perry (52-4) in the opening round, while Foster (44-12) will face Caledonia's Zane Gorby (47-1). "Mitchell and Roy have tough first matches, but both are capable of placing very high this weekend," said Salem co-coach Jeremy Henderson, a 2006 state champion. "If one of them gets on a hot streak, you never know. Everyone at the state tournament is a very, very good wrestler, so they will both have to bring their best."

Henderson said Gross "wants a state title and I think if he leaves it all out there, it is definitely in his grasp." "Roy is only a junior, but he has wrestled tough and improves every tournament he wrestles," Henderson added. "If Roy wrestles his best, I see him on the podium."

"I am very proud of both of these guys and can't wait for them to achieve their goals."

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DIVISION 1 BOWLING REGIONAL

# Chiefs roll to team regional championship

Canton boys grab team honors for first time; Criscenti, Macunovich win individual titles

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

It doesn't matter what the setting is — team or individual. Canton's varsity boys bowling team continues to have a season for the record books.

The Chiefs won the Division 1 team regional championship Friday at Canton's Super Bowl and several members of the team followed up Saturday to qualify for the individual state finals.

"This is our first regional win (in team history) and it's kind of one of those things you hope happens in your four years of high school," Canton senior captain Aaron Madsen said. "It's something that I'll always remember."

"We were down a little bit early (Friday), but then we came back hard and stuck together as a team. That's been the key all year. It's the difference between this year and teams of the past."

Canton (4,231 pins) prevailed over Wayne Memorial (4,108), largely on the back of an outstanding final team game.

"The last game, we were only up three pins on Wayne Memorial, so we were thinking if we shoot about 1,000 for the last game, then we'd lead the tournament," Canton senior



CANTON BOWLING

The Division 1 boys bowling regional team champion Canton Chiefs include (kneeling, from left) Josh Criscenti, Jacob Peltz and Dominic Dimaya and (standing, from left) head coach Karl Brubaker, Aaron Madsen, Dave Madsen, Tyler Pozan, Mitchell Zelenak and Teddy Lang.

Josh Criscenti said. "And we had the best game of the tournament that any team shot, an 1,117 or something like that."

"We beat every team by 200 pins because of that game."

Canton head coach Karl Brubaker said his team bounced back from a sluggish start.

"The (Baker) games weren't that great," Brubaker said. "But they got better as the day went on. It was a good day."

Leading the charge were Madsen, Criscenti, Jacob Peltz, Teddy Lang, Dominic Dimaya, Dave Madsen, Tyler Pozan and Mitchell Zelenak.

Meanwhile, the Chiefs qual-

ified three bowlers for the individual finals, spearheaded by regional champion Criscenti (1,378).

In second with 1,373 was Madsen, while senior Jacob Peltz tied for sixth with a 1,303 tally.

"It's really a great honor," Criscenti said. "(Friday) we just had a great last team game to give us the lead and (Saturday) me and two of my teammates also made the cut."

"It's just incredible how good of a season we've had so far."

In sixth Friday with 3,884 pins was Salem, which did not qualify for team finals just two

years after winning it all. "This was a competitive season; it was just a tough season," Rocks co-coach Kathie Hahn said. "We tied for first in the division with Canton, so we had a good season. But when it came down to (Friday), it was tough. There was a lot of good competition."

Salem did have some individual success, as sophomore Mitchell Rusinek finished third with a score of 1,352.

"He did really well," Hahn said. "All my boys did really, really well today. They all showed up, but the bar was really high."

### Individual girls

For the second straight season, Canton's Meghan Macunovich topped the field in the D1 girls individual regional.

Macunovich, a sophomore, registered a total of 1,345 to edge Westland John Glenn's Julia Huren (1,333). She was

the lone girl from the Park to finish in the top 10 and thus qualify for Saturday's individual state finals at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights.

"It feels really good. I'm glad I could accomplish the same thing two years in a row," Macunovich said. "Especially with last year, being a freshman, it was really exciting. And this year it's exciting that I can do it again." She added that it helps that

she has had plenty of experience bowling in high-stakes tournaments.

"I've done a lot of other really competitive tournaments, so that helps, too," said Macunovich, whose average this season has climbed to 210 (it was 204 in 2013-14). "I can just play my individual game."

"I didn't do too great last year (at finals). I know I'll do better this year."

**D1 TEAM REGIONAL**  
Feb. 27 at Super Bowl  
**BOYS TEAM RESULTS (top three qualify for states):** 1. Canton, 4,231; 2. Wayne Memorial, 4,108; 3. Westland John Glenn, 3,985; 4. Farmington, 3,960; 5. Detroit Catholic Central, 3,938; 6. Salem, 3,884; 7. Saline, 3,790; 8. Belleville, 3,779; 9. Plymouth, 3,778; 10. Northville, 3,672; 11. Skyline, 3,358; 12. Novi, 3,255.

**GIRLS TEAM RESULTS (top three qualify for states):** 1. Westland John Glenn, 4,141; 2. Belleville, 3,599; 3. Farmington, 3,536; 4. Mercy, 3,480; 5. Wayne Memorial, 3,285; 6. Northville, 3,263.

**D1 INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL**  
Feb. 28 at Super Bowl  
**(Top 10 boys and girls qualify for states)**  
**BOYS RESULTS:** 1. Josh Criscenti (Canton), 1,378; 2. Aaron Madsen (Canton), 1,373; 3. Mitchell Rusinek (Salem), 1,352; 4. Joey Krzywonos (DCC), 1,345; 5. Dylan Bentley (Belleville), 1,307; 6. (tie) Jacob Peltz (Canton), Mikio Osugi (Ann Arbor Skyline), 1,303; 8. Brian Martin (John Glenn), 1,296; 9. Jake Press (John Glenn), 1,270; 10. Bradley Melidonian (Belleville), 1,259; 11. Jordan Orzech (Plymouth), 1,197; 12. Tony Przytulski (Salem), 1,172; 13. Brandon Kwapis (Plymouth), 1,156; 14. Teddy Lang (Canton), 1,153; 15. Zach Gonyea (Salem), 1,151; 16. Tyler Pozan (Canton), 1,140; 17. Mitchell Zelenak (Canton), 1,094; 18. Kevin Shimko (Plymouth), 1,069; 19. (tie) Shane Rusinek (Salem), Tyler Ridgeway (Salem), 1,054; 20. Bryce Smith (Plymouth), 1,044; 21. Lucas Meiers (Plymouth), 961; 22. Nick Ray (Plymouth), 955; 23. Donald Blevins (Plymouth), 940.

**GIRLS RESULTS:** 1. Meghan Macunovich (Canton), 1,345; 2. Julia Huren (John Glenn), 1,333; 3. Jessica Pate (John Glenn), 1,245; 4. Olivia Cabildo (John Glenn), 1,216; 5. Rachel Doran (Farmington), 1,194; 6. Ashlee Brooks (Mercy), 1,193; 7. Dana Iles (Farmington), 1,192; 8. Emily Dietz (John Glenn), 1,183; 9. Allison Morris (Ann Arbor Huron), 1,179; 10. Victoria Perez (Belleville), 1,167; 11. Brynna Samuels (Salem), 1,065; 12. Rachel Lopez (Salem), 1,044; 13. Katherine Kehoe (Salem), 1,008; 14. Leah Boucha (Salem), 934; 15. Megan Peldo (Canton), 913; 16. Jessica Jopich (Plymouth), 901; 17. Nicole Marshall (Plymouth), 899; 18. Maranda McMaster (Canton), 876.

## WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

lack of effort, I'm going to tell you that much," Soukup said, looking to lead the Wildcats to their first association crown.

"We're going to go in there and compete and let the chips fall where they may."

"It's certainly an opportunity. It's not our last opportunity (of the season) by any stretch of the imagination, but it's a good opportunity."

Win or lose, Plymouth still

has the Class A state tournament to look forward to.

Regardless, it has been perhaps the most successful season of prep basketball at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in recent memory.

On the boys side, the Chiefs and Rocks won their respec-

tive divisions and Plymouth garnered the conference title, with hopes of keeping things going in the hardware department Thursday.

Salem's varsity girls basketball team won the KLAA Central and then ran the table in the tournament. On Monday,

the Rocks knocked off Plymouth (KLAA South champ) in a Class A district opener.

"You can go back in the annals of history and see whether the Park had this much success in both boys and girls basketball," Soukup said. "I'd say probably never."

MEN'S JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# THE WHOLE SHOOTING MATCH

## Treys spark Ocelots to MCCAAC crown

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

At Friday's practice, Schoolcraft College freshman forward Tyler Johnson pulled coach Abe Mashhour aside.

"Tyler's been so locked in lately and he's been shooting the ball absolutely terrific in practice," Mashhour said. "His comment to me yesterday was, 'Coach, this is the best my shot has felt all year.' So I told him, 'Hey, then just let it rip.' And he obviously did."

Howell alum Johnson certainly did, hitting four treys before Saturday's Michigan Community College Athletic Association men's basketball championship game was five minutes old.

That torrid stretch gave the Ocelots a 15-2 lead and — despite letting Lake Michigan College briefly get back into the game later in the first half — Schoolcraft was more than able to bring home the title, 88-77.

"I had 10 (triples) against Alpena a couple weeks ago," said Johnson, who finished with a game-high 23 points. "But when you hit the first one or two and see them go in, you can't really stop going. It feels good coming out of my hands and I let it go."

Schoolcraft (27-3, ranked No. 1 in the nation) now moves on to the NJCAA District 10 tournament next week. The team needs to win the district in order to qualify for national tourney.

"We talked about the different seasons and this season just ended and now it's time for the national tournament," said Mashhour, named MCCAAC coach of the year. "We have to take care of business at districts to give ourselves a chance to go to the national tournament."

"They're great guys and I'm proud of them more for the kind of people they are than I am as to what they do on the basketball court."

Johnson's outside proficiency sparked the Ocelots to a 46-40 halftime lead.

But it was the inside game



Schoolcraft College players, coaches and family members celebrate after winning the Michigan Community College Athletic Association championship. MIRANDA MALEC

of freshman forwards Anthony Wartley-Fritz and Davon Taylor (Canton) and sophomore forward Javan Thomas that closed out the win and Schoolcraft's first MCCAAC crown since 2008.

Needing to establish the inside game after getting jumper happy, Mashhour reminded his team both during in-game timeouts and at halftime to start working the ball down low.

Seconds into the second half, Wartley-Fritz (15 points, 11 rebounds) muscled in for a put-back. Following soon thereafter with layups were freshman forward Marcus Williams (seven points) and Thomas, who registered 18 points.

Then with 17 minutes left in regulation, Thomas stole the ball at mid-court, took a few steps and then floated through the air for a soaring slam that put the Ocelots up 54-42.

"It feels real good. I was just trying to get my team up

so I could start a good run," said Thomas, whose return at mid-season ignited Schoolcraft's 16-game winning streak. "To motivate my team with that dunk. I felt the crowd, I felt my team, start to get excited, everything."

Mashhour said Thomas brings intangibles to the court that have helped lift the Ocelots to another level.

"His energy is unmatched. He just plays with terrific energy and, obviously, around the basket he's very tough," Mashhour said. "You can't teach that kind of toughness or that kind of energy. That's just how he plays the game."

Also chipping in eight points off the bench was Taylor, who made a couple of strong baseline moves.

"We're a good team. We play well together and I love it a lot," said Taylor, whose former Canton coach (Jimmy Reddy) and ex-teammates watched from the jam-packed bleachers.

"We work well and I get a lot of playing time because I work hard in practice, so it's good. We can accomplish big things."

First, Schoolcraft had to get past Lake Michigan.

For a while, the MCCAAC West Conference champion Red Hawks (21-9) were bent on spoiling things for the home team.

After Schoolcraft's early surge, Lake Michigan went on a 26-11 tear to knot things up at 28-28 with 7:45 left in the first half.

Both Alec Brown and Michael Bush hit three treys and finished with 15 points. Leading Lake Michigan with 16 points was Labradford Sebree.

Mashhour said it was crucial that his team got back to the game plan of getting points in the paint.

"That was the difference in the game, if you ask me," he said. "We started controlling the paint a lot better. To their

credit, they fought very hard, Lake Michigan did, they have a very, very good ball club there."

Meanwhile, Mashhour tipped his cap to his coaching staff of Michael Allie (Livonia Stevenson), Corey McKendry (Livonia Clarenceville) and Seth Coffing.

Both McKendry and Coffing came over with Mashhour from Henry Ford.

"Best staff anywhere and I really, really mean that," Mashhour said. "Our assistant coaches are terrific; they've all been successful high school coaches."

"So if I miss practice, they're here to go from there. They have the head coach's mentality when we're game planning, which was very pivotal today."

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## ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

go ahead and give it to her.' We put Lasha in the corner for a reason."

Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon gave credit to his team (17-4) for its efforts following the 50-30 loss to Salem in the Kensington Conference title game Feb. 24.

"You have to play 32 minutes against Salem and take advantage of your opportunities," Brandon said. "We came really close to doing both of those things, but fell just short."

"We didn't do that for 32 minutes, but I am so incredibly proud of my team and the way that they prepared and responded to last Tuesday's game and battled."

### See-saw battle

Salem led Plymouth since Petree nailed her first triple of the night 30 seconds into the second quarter, giving the Rocks a 10-9 lead. Salem wasn't able to build much of a lead from then until Plymouth regained the lead with 2:17 left in the game. The Rocks' largest lead of the night was seven and that lasted for only one possession late in the third quarter.

Both teams went back and forth in the final four minutes of the game. Cassidy Lewis cut the Salem lead to one with her 3-pointer from the left wing with 4:02 left.

After the Lewis triple, Plymouth went into its signature 2-2-1 press and forced two turnovers on the next two Salem possessions. Lewis followed the second turnover with a drive and lefty layup to give Plymouth a 27-26 advantage after trailing for 21 straight minutes.

Plymouth caused yet another Rocks turnover on their next possession as Hayley Rogers was called for traveling. The Wildcats responded with a Paige Slominski layup with 1:22 left to give them a 29-26 lead.

With the game on the line



Plymouth senior Paige Slominski (front) soars toward the Salem basket Monday night, despite close defensive attention from Hayley Rogers (left) of the Rocks. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

and Plymouth on a 7-0 run, Salem went inside the paint to find its answer. Petree dished to Shara Long (13 points) and she took one dribble to the basket. She scored and was fouled. After her free throw was successful, the game was tied at 29-29 with 1:03 remaining.

"We ran an offense that got us cutting to the basket. That last one where Shara got the and one, that was the game right there," Klemmer said.

Plymouth ran through its offensive progressions before Slominski saw an opening to the basket. She took it, but her shot in the lane with contact rimmed out, giving Salem the ball for its final possession.

### Lots to be proud of

Brandon will say goodbye to six seniors following a successful 2014-15 season that saw Plymouth capture its first division title in school history.

Kendall Rose, Slominski, Patti Begoske, Courtney Lavallee, Leah Kliczinski and Nadia Lengel were all instrumental in the turnaround of the Plymouth program, according to Brandon.

"They're an incredibly special group to me but, more importantly, to this program. These seniors have given everything they had in so many ways people don't see. People don't see early morning practices, summer workouts, weight lifting and our conditioning," Brandon said. "If people saw that, they would understand how special this group is and what they mean to the rebuilding of Plymouth basketball. They will be missed dearly. They are a coach's dream."

Lewis led Plymouth with eight points. Rose and Lavallee chipped in seven and six points, respectively.



Schoolcraft's Ashley Bland (right), shown from a recent game, sparked the Lady Ocelots to Tuesday's district win. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

## Lady Ocelots stay alive in NJCAA district

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Nothing is coming too easy for Schoolcraft College's Lady Ocelots.

The women's basketball team needed a furious comeback Tuesday at Delta College in order to knock off the host team 77-71 in an NJCAA district quarterfinal.

With the win, Schoolcraft (19-9) advances to play Macomb Community College at 3 p.m. Thursday, still in win-or-else mode.

Schoolcraft trailed 38-28 at halftime and fell behind by 14 points in the second half before coming to life. The Lady Ocelots hit 4-of-6 3-pointers following halftime to climb back into the proceedings.

Leading the way for Schoolcraft was freshman guard Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial), who netted 30 points, including 10-of-23 from the field.

Also in double figures for the Lady Ocelots were guards Elise Tolbert (Birmingham

Seaholm) and T'era Nesbitt, each with 17 points.

Tolbert led Schoolcraft with 10 rebounds, while Nesbitt pulled down eight.

Chipping in eight points and seven boards off the bench was Breiana Allen, while Rikki Sherdt contributed five points and seven rebounds.

For Delta (15-12), Champagne Arthur and Dy'mond Perry scored 22 and 20 points, respectively.

**ST. CLAIR 83, SCHOOLCRAFT 72:** Schoolcraft's women's basketball team fell short in this key MCCAAC tilt Feb. 25 against St. Clair. The defeat dropped the Lady Ocelots (18-9, 11-5) to third place, losing the tie-breaker in the process. Leading Schoolcraft with 20 points was Birmingham Seaholm alum Elise Tolbert. Chipping in 18 was Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial).

**MCCAAC BOWLING TOURNEY:** Schoolcraft's varsity men's and women's bowling teams each finished second at Friday's MCCAAC championship. On the men's side, the Ocelots tallied 6,875 pins, second to Muskegon (6,875). The Lady Ocelots (5,599) also were edged by Muskegon (5,773). Schoolcraft's Ben Jakes won the men's individual single title with a 624 series, while Ben Berger and Ricky Rutenber were doubles champs. Schoolcraft's women's team featured individual singles co-champion Angela Rodriguez (596). Next up for both Schoolcraft teams are Friday's NJCAA nationals in Buffalo, N.Y.







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13 Mae West accessory
14 Stay
15 New Kodiak (2 wds.)
17 Speedwagon
18 Haystack find?
20 Inventory wd.
22 Buddy, in brief
23 Rock's Motley -
27 White vestments
29 Mineral strata
30 Praying -
33 Stiff-coated dogs
34 Construct
35 Ear cleaner (hyp.)

DOWN

- 36 Love, to Picasso selection
37 Palette
38 Unfreeze
42 Barracuda habitats
45 Oklahoma town
46 Grendel's foe
49 On even terms
51 Leather punch
52 Brownie
53 Charge ahead
54 Go right
55 Brand of soap pads
56 Big celebration
1 Were in agreement
2 Hodgepodge
3 Arith. term
4 In that case
5 Fossil resins
6 Statement of belief

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Grid showing answers to the previous puzzle: AGA COT BABA, SOFA OBI EBAY, PRAM SEASHELL, PRETTY MEDIA, BEA SOL, PLEAD BIG DEAL, HAN GAL MIA, IODATED PLUMB, BAM DEY, ATLAS SITCOM, DOES KINS RAID, ALOE LAC ARLO, MEND EGO SET

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Word search grid containing words like ADMIRER, ADDRE, APHRODISIAC, BOUQUET, CANDLES, CHAMPAGNE, CHOCOLATE, CRUSH, CUDDLE, CUPID, DANCING, DATE NIGHT, DAYDREAM, DESSERT, DESTINY, DINNER, EKOTIC, FEBRUARY, GREETINGS, HEART, HUG, KISSES, LIMOUSINE, LOVE, MEETING, MOVIE, MUSIC, POEM, PRESENT, PROPOSAL, RESTAURANT, ROMANCE, TRUFFLES, VALENTINE.

WORDS

Grid for checking crossword and Sudoku answers, including a word search grid.

**FISH FRY**

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club serves fish fry dinner, 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, through March 27, at the church, 32500 Palmer, between Venoy and Merriman, Westland. Fried and baked fish are available. Adult dinners are \$8.50 for fish and \$10.50 for a combination of fish and shrimp.

Grilled cheese with french fries (no roll) and macaroni and cheese dinners are \$6. Dinners include coleslaw, role, beverage and dessert. Carry-outs are available. Stations of the Cross also will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday through March 27. For more information, call 734-722-1343.

**MARCH BREAKFAST**

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 15  
**Location:** St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; cost is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

**RELIGION CALENDAR**

**CHURCH MISSION**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m., March 22-25  
**Location:** St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, located at West Chicago Road and Inkster Road, Redford  
**Details:** Sponsored by the clustered parishes of St. Robert Bellarmine and St. John Bosco, topics include "Jesus, How Do We Come To Know You?" March

22; "Come, Follow Me," March 23; "Reconcile and Forgive," March 24; "Become A People of Purpose," March 25. Reconciliation will be offered March 24  
**Contact:** 313-937-1500  
**COMIC BOOK, CARDS**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7  
**Location:** Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, between Plymouth Road and West Chicago Road, Redford  
**Details:** More than 34 tables of comic books action figures, books and more. Tony Baratonio, local actor and inventor, will be on hand. Admission is \$2; free for age 10 and under. Admission fee will be donated to the Methodist Children's Home in Livonia  
**Contact:** 313-937-3170

**Location:** St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne  
**Contact:** 734-728-3315  
**LENTEN SERVICES**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 25  
**Location:** Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford  
**Details:** Theme is "I Tell You The Truth." Free treats after the service  
**Contact:** 734-968-3523, 313-532-8655

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

**BROWN, JANE INGRID ERICKSON**



Age 72, March 1, 2015. Retired school teacher of Birmingham Public Schools. Until recently, active member and flutist of Birmingham Concert Band. Ms. Brown, a graduate of Dondro High School, class of 1960. She then graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in 1964, then later there she received her Master's of Education in 1979. Also held a Master's of Music from U of M. She is the granddaughter of Wm. O. Hullinger, former owner of what originally was The Royal Oak Weekly Tribune, now The Royal Oak Daily Tribune. Both of Jane's parents were former Royal Oak School District teachers. Beloved mother of Ingrid L. (Ray Andresen), Richard A., and Toby S. (Brooks) Hopkins. Dear sister of John A. (Martena) and James W. (Evelyn) Erickson. Loving step-grandmother of; Samantha Jo and James M. Andresen. Memorial Gathering will be held Saturday, March 7th from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. memorial service and a dinner served thereafter at Royal Oak Elks Lodge, 2401 E. 4th St., Royal Oak. Memorials suggested to the Alzheimer's Foundation. Arrangements by Fisher Funeral Home, Redford Twp. (313) 535-3030.

**DISLER, RICHARD CHASE**

Age 85, died at Botsford Commons Senior Community Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, on Sunday, February 8, 2015. Born November 18, 1929, in Canton, Ohio, he eventually moved to Detroit where he started a career repossessing cars for GMAC. Forty three years later, he retired as a GMAC executive, living in Livonia. He was a caring husband and father of three. He was a great mentor throughout all of his years. He was well known for his passion for fishing and fished right through his last years, reeling in a big Muskie just last summer. Richard was preceded in death by his wife, Anne. He is survived by three children, Cheryl Hunter of Plymouth, MI; Corey Disler of Tulsa, OK and William Disler of Livonia, MI. He is also survived by eight grandchildren. A small service was held at Botsford Commons. Private memorial gatherings will also be arranged with family and friends. He will be laid to rest at Roseland Memorial Gardens in Jackson, MI, right next to his wife, Anne. Memorial contributions are welcome and should be either mailed to Angela Hospice at 14100 Newburgh, Livonia, MI 48154 or online at Angelahospice.org



**FONDE, DR. KAREN RHEA**

At 40, Karen Rhea Fonde achieved a longtime ambition: She walked across the stage at Hill Auditorium to receive her diploma as a medical doctor from the University of Michigan. Dr. Fonde loved teaching. She was mother, humanitarian, healer, scientist, feminist, Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, and teacher in a juvenile home before she became a family medicine physician and assistant professor at UM. Dr. Fonde died March 1 of complications from Alzheimer's disease. She was 65. Dr. Fonde was valedictorian of her 1967 Ann Arbor High School class. She was a presidential scholar and shook hands with President Lyndon Johnson at the White House. She was high school editor of the Ann Arbor News and while studying at UM was an intern reporter at that newspaper. She was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UM in Russian Studies and served as a health educator with the Peace Corps in northern Togo. Dr. Fonde and Joel Thurtell were married in 1974. For three years, she taught at the Berrien County Juvenile Center. After the couple's first son, Adam, was born in 1980, she decided to attend medical school. But first, she and Joel had a second son, Abe, in 1983. While studying science at Western Michigan University, she won the Freshman Chemistry Prize at age 32. At UM Medical School, she was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society. She received her MD from UM in 1990, and graduated from the UM Family Medicine residency program in 1993. She helped open a new UM family medicine clinic in Ypsilanti, where she treated patients and taught until 2008. Dr. Fonde was dedicated to helping new physicians cope with the pressures of medicine and presented a research paper on "The Resident in Difficulty." By 2008, she herself was a physician in difficulty, with memory and cognitive problems that eventually were diagnosed as Alzheimer's disease. In a family gathering, one could always locate Dr. Fonde by the sound of her infectious laughter. Long after she lost the power of speech, Dr. Fonde could still find things to make her smile. She loved her sons, her husband, her parents and siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She loved to swim and ski, and enjoyed sailing around the family's island in McGregor Bay, Canada. In addition to her husband and sons, Dr. Fonde is survived by two sisters, Julia Davis (Max), of Howell and Anne Potter (William), of Dayton, Ohio; and a brother, Charles Fonde (Linda), of Carmel, Indiana; a second brother, Mark Fonde (Stacey), of Ann Arbor, died a week earlier, on February 22. Memorial visitation Friday 6-9 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Friends are also invited to gather with the family Saturday 10 a.m. until the Saturday 11 a.m. Memorial Service to be held at Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor. Memorials may be made to Arbor Hospice or Planned Parenthood. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenh.com

**JONES, PATRICIA G.**

Age 72, February 28, 2015. Beloved mother of Jennifer Jones. Loving grandmother of Lily. Dear sister of Dale (Diane) and the late Gary Shomo. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Rd., Farmington, Saturday, March 7, at 11:00 a.m. Memorials may be directed to St. Gerald-St. Vincent de Paul. Please share a memory at www.rgrharris.com



**VAN CONANT, DARREL LEE**

Son of the late Ivy and Myrtle Van Conant, was born December 8, 1934 in Detroit, Michigan. After awhile the family moved to a farm in Berville, MI. He graduated from Capac High School in 1953. He attended Michigan State University until the end of his Junior year. He was accepted into the Wayne State College of Medicine. After one year at Wayne State, he returned to Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Math and Minors in both Physics and Chemistry. After graduating from Michigan State University, he taught math for 4 years in Marysville, MI and Fremont, MI. In Fremont, he met Linda Oppenhuizen. They were married in 1963. He received his Masters in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University in 1973. During his lifetime he also worked for Consumers Power, Burroughs Corporation and Kmart Corporation. He is survived by four children, Susan Geams (Bill), Pete (Sandy), Ruth Tarrow (Roland) and Matt. As well as three grandchildren Wade, Grayson, and Amelia. He passed away on March 1, 2015. Visitation Friday 5-8 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Saturday 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Funeral Service at First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Interment United Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to the church or the American Cancer Society. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenh.com



**MYERS, RODMAN N.**  
Beloved husband of the late Jeanette P. Myers. Cherished father of Jennifer Myers (Chris) Grabenstein and Rodman Jay (Patricia) Myers. Loving grandfather of Rodman John Myers and Sarah Clare Myers. Dear brother of Helen (the late Gilbert) Gilbert and the late Julian (the late Patsy) Myers. **SERVICES WERE HELD TUESDAY AT THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL. 248-569-0020. INTERMENT AT BETH EL MEMORIAL PARK. www.irakaufman.com**

**RAUB, BETTY**  
Of Wayne passed away peacefully in her home March 2, 2015 at the age of 88. Loving wife of the late Joseph. Beloved mother of Lynn (the late Mike) Neveu, Andrea (John) Collum and Jodi (Rick) Loftis. Proud grandmother of four and great grandmother of five. Arrangements by Husband Family Funeral Home in Westland (734)331-3349. Final rites through cremation per her wishes.

**REDICK, JOYCE C.**  
Age 79, March 2, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Darrell D. Dear mother of Darrell E. and Dale (Mimi). Loving grandmother of Drew (Samantha), Niki (Dan) Bobek, Dave, Jonathan and Danielle. Dear great-grand-mother of Iris. Beloved sister of Clarence Jennings. She will be dearly missed by her niece, nephew and many family members. Visitation Friday 10 a.m. followed by the 1 p.m. Funeral Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Memorials may be made to the family. www.santeiufuneralhome.com



**WHITEFIELD, CONNIE**

A resident of Novi and former resident of Milford, died on February 28, 2015 at the age of 75. She is survived by Art, her beloved husband of fifty-six years; her mother, Clara and George Goodling; sons, Derek Whitefield and Gary Dahle, Greg and Debbie Whitefield, Jeff and Theresa Whitefield, and Curt Whitefield, grandchildren, Corinne, Brett, Collier, Taylor, Cailee, Sydney, Colton, Jason, and Bryan; great-grandchildren, Nolan, Amanda, Caleb, Grace, Brecken, Elizabeth, Kaylin; and many dear friends. Visitation will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Wednesday, March 4 from 6-9 p.m. and on Thursday, March 5 from 2-9 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held at Harvest Christian Church, 24400 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit, on Friday, March 6, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Bob King officiating. A luncheon will follow at the church. Burial Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. Memorials may be made in her name to the family. For further information please phone, 248-684-6645, or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com.

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# Geology for the masses: Roamin Club auctions rocks, fossils, for the whole family

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

If you're looking for a family activity that rocks, head to Schoolcraft College this weekend for the Roamin Club's annual auction.

"The children's area is wonderful. There's all sorts of cool stuff for kids," said Lisa Radwick, a Canton resident and longtime club member. "It's a different kind of activity to do if you have little kids. It's a really good family event and a great thing to take kids to."

Kids will find glittery minerals, shark's teeth, fossil shells, pretty rocks, jewelry, animal carvings, and more as they browse silent auction tables in the children's area.

"Most kids pick up stones and rocks at some point. If you have a kid who's interested in that, you can give them a couple of bucks and they can have a great time. Bids might start at 10 cents and go up in five-cent increments. They might bid up to 25 cents and for that price they are getting some cool stuff," Radwick said. "For them, it's like a game. Did they win it? Did they get it?"

While youngsters look for bargain-priced treasures, their parents can scout adult tables or bid on live auction items. Roamin Club, a group that focuses on collecting and studying rocks, minerals, fossils and lapidary arts, buys hundreds of items from wholesale dealers for its annual auction. All of the items are identified and many were found throughout the world.

"Everyone is looking for something different. There are people who are interested in the healing power of crystals.



A rock hunter bids in the silent auction while a line of other bidders wait their turn.

They assess specimens differently from the people who want a pretty show piece in their home," Radwick said. "People come because they are interested in crafts or jewelry. There are people who are interested in specimens to put in their collection."

The show runs 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 8, in the VisTaTech Center, at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Admission is free. Three auctions are held every hour.

Roamin Club, sponsored by Livonia Parks and Recreation and founded in 1967, started the auction to fund a scholarship at Schoolcraft. Proceeds buy rocks and minerals for the auction, in addition to sustaining the scholarship fund.

### Something for everyone

Todd Gall, club treasurer and a Northville resident, said attendees can expect to find both common and unusual items at the auction.

"A few years ago, one of our members brought in a sculpture that had geodes in it," Gall

said. "There is carved stone, like goblets and cups, things like that. Mortar and pestle made out of stone. We've had a few carvings of birds.

"One thing I knew we've got is pyrite dollars or suns. Pyrite is called 'fool's gold.' It looks like a sun burst and a lot are silver dollar size. Those are pretty interesting and I know we have a couple of those. We have thousands of items. The one thing I like about the auction is there is stuff for all budgets. If you've only got a



Ammonite fossils

few dollars you can get something."

Radwick said even the live auction items are reasonably priced, with bidding that starts as low as \$10 and as high as \$20-\$30.

### Young fossil hunters

Both Radwick and Gall said they are most interested in fossils. Gall remembers looking for Petoskey stones in state parks with his family when he was a kid. As an adult, he went to the club's annual auction and took a geology class.

"Somewhere along the line I joined the club," he said. "It's been 20 years at least."

Radwick, who has loved fossils since attending summer camp as a kid, also joined the Roamin Club after attending its auction. She has been a member since the early 1990s and greets attendees at the auction.

"There are kids there we've seen grow up at the auction," she noted. "There are adults that started coming as kids with their moms."

In addition to the auction, the club takes field trips to rock-hunting sites, and offers workshops. Visitors are welcome. Find Roamin Club on Facebook.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

McLaughlin's Alley is Maureen Paraventi (left), Rebekah Poxson, Stuart Tucker, Norm Andresen, and Tina Paraventi. The band will play Saturday, March 7, at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

## Sing along to Irish tunes at McLaughlin's Alley concert

McLaughlin's Alley band returns to Barefoot Productions in Plymouth for an evening of Irish music, 8-10 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

The concert will include rousing numbers like *Whiskey in the Jar* and *Goodbye Mrs. Durkin*, a particular favorite of the band, as well as the poignant *Fields of Athenry* and the playful *Gypsy Rover*.

Singing along is encouraged, and lyrics to some of the songs will be projected onto a wall.

McLaughlin's Alley consists of Maureen Paraventi of Redford on vocals and flute; her sister, Tina Paraventi, on vocals and guitar; Stuart Tucker on drums, Norm Andresen on bass and Rebekah Poxson on vocals and ukulele. The band is known for its rich harmonies and lively performances. The McLaughlin's Alley repertoire includes rock and pop covers and original songs, but its roots are in Irish music. The Paraventi sisters originally formed an acoustic duo playing Irish music in local pubs. They called their act the McLaughlin Sisters, after their mother's maiden name, before expanding the duo into a full band.

"The great thing about this music is that you don't have to be Irish to enjoy it," said Maureen Paraventi. "Its appeal is



McLaughlin's Alley will perform Saturday, March 7, at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

universal, because it tells stories and strikes emotional chords that resonate with everyone. It either has you laughing out loud or crying in your beer."

This is the band's second performance at Barefoot Productions, 420 N. Main, Plymouth, and will raise money for the theater.

The band's CD also will be available for purchase in the lobby.

Tickets are \$20. Buy them at the door or at justgobarefoot.com.

For more information about McLaughlin's Alley, visit: [www.mclaughlinsalley.com](http://www.mclaughlinsalley.com).

## GET OUT! CALENDAR

### ANIMALS

#### DETROIT ZOO

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily  
**Location:** I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak  
**Details:** Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking  
**Wild Winter Weekend:** Ice cream and hot cocoa will be available for purchase at a discount. Event includes animal arts and crafts, face painting, animal enrichment activities, talks by the zoo's expert keepers and a winter safari scavenger hunt, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7-8, at the Ford Education Center. Free with zoo admission  
**Contact:** 248-541-5717

### ARTS AND CRAFTS GALLERY@VT

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through March 31  
**Location:** Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton  
**Details:** "Narrative Quilts: Works by Pauline Parker," is a solo show of wall hangings and watercolors  
**Contact:** 734-394-5300; [cantonvillage-theater.org](http://cantonvillage-theater.org)

### NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

**Time/Date:** Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6-8; artist reception runs 6-9 p.m. March 6  
**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** "The mystery lesson," paintings by Kate Paul  
**Contact:** 248-344-0497

### CALL FOR ENTRIES REEL MICHIGAN FILM FESTIVAL

**Time/Date:** Entry deadline is April 17; film festival screening is June 20  
**Location:** Screening at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville  
**Details:** The Festival is accepting Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films, less than 20 minutes. Entry form is available at [northvilleart.org/special-events/reel-michigan](http://northvilleart.org/special-events/reel-michigan).  
**Contact:** [reelmichigan@gmail.com](mailto:reelmichigan@gmail.com)

### THREE CITIES ART CLUB

**Time/Date:** Submission deadline is March 21; art show reception is Sunday, April 19  
**Location:** Art will be displayed at Westland Library meeting room, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland  
**Details:** The club seeks original art work, including oils, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, collage, photo art, pottery and more. Submit up to three entries for \$30; \$5 for each additional piece. Submit photos for judging on CD or flash drive. Download an entry form at [threecitiesartclub.org](http://threecitiesartclub.org).

**Contact:** Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939

### COMEDY

#### JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Thursday, March 5; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 6-7  
**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Ron Feingold; tickets are \$12 for show only or \$25 for show and a dinner on Thursday; \$16 for show or \$29 for show and dinner, Friday-Sunday  
**Open mic:** Each comedian gets five minutes of stage time. Open mic begins at 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Call the box office Tuesday through Thursday, to get on the performer list  
**Contact:** 734-261-0555; [catchthefun.com](http://catchthefun.com)

#### MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, March 5-6 and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7  
**Location:** Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak  
**Details:** Shane Mauss; tickets \$10 Thursday, \$18 Friday-Saturday  
**Contact:** 248-542-9900; [info@ComedyCastle.com](mailto:info@ComedyCastle.com)

#### VILLAGE THEATER

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14  
**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton  
**Details:** Second City Touring Company; tickets are \$25 per person  
**Contact:** 734-394-5300; [cantonvillage-theater.org](http://cantonvillage-theater.org)

### EXPO

#### HOME IMPROVEMENT EXPO

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8  
**Location:** Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton  
**Details:** Live broadcast from Joe Gagnon "The Appliance Doctor" from 1600 WAAM; how-to workshops on a variety of topics; live wood carving demonstrations; a hands-on children's project center; and multiple raffles throughout the weekend, including wood projects made by Canton Construction along with the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters. Free parking and refreshments  
**Contact:** [canton-mi.org/940/Canton-Home-Improvement-Expo](http://canton-mi.org/940/Canton-Home-Improvement-Expo)

### FILM

#### MJR CINEMA

**Time/Date:** Saturday-Sunday through March  
**Location:** Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne road, Westland  
**Details:** Free children's film festival with *Box Trolls*, March 7-8; *Annie*, March 14-15, *Night at the Museum*, March 21-22, and *Book of Life*, March

28-29. Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Free for children 12 and under; parents pay \$1. Call theater for show times

**Contact:** 734-298-2657

### PENN THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday, March 6; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8; and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12  
**Location:** 760 Penniman, Plymouth  
**Details:** *Into the Woods*; admission \$3  
**Contact:** 734-453-0870; [www.penn-theatre.com](http://www.penn-theatre.com)

### REDFORD THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. March 6, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 7; vintage fashion market, 1-9 p.m. Saturday  
**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit  
**Details:** *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; \$5  
**Contact:** 313-898-1481

### HISTORY

#### KELSEY MUSEUM

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through May 3  
**Location:** 434 State St., Ann Arbor  
**Details:** "Death Dogs: The Jackal Gods of Ancient Egypt," will explore the mysterious ancient Egyptian jackal-headed gods associated with death and the afterlife. The exhibition features approximately 40 artifacts, some never before displayed.  
**Contact:** 734-764-9304

### PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday  
**Location:** 155 S. Main, Plymouth  
**Details:** "Creative Hands: Busy Hands" is the new exhibit, which runs through June 14. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17  
**Contact:** 734-455-8940

### MUSIC

#### BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

**Time/Date:** Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show runs 7-9:30 p.m., third Saturday of the month through May  
**Location:** Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth  
**Details:** \$5 at the door.  
**Contact:** [BFSPresident@aol.com](mailto:BFSPresident@aol.com)

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. show, Saturday, March 7  
**Location:** Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton  
**Details:** Event includes performances by Fang Shubo, the Canton Philharmonic choir, the March Wind Choir, the Michigan Chinese Choir, Yangtze Melody Group, the Spring Group. \$2 at the door  
**Contact:** 734-394-5300; [CantonVillageTheater.org](http://CantonVillageTheater.org)

# MAPLE SYRUP

## sweetens dinner fare, drinks, desserts

March is maple syrup time — and there are plenty of ways to celebrate.

Start by checking out what it takes to turn sap into syrup, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday this month, beginning March 14 at Maybury Farm, 50165 Eight Mile, Northville; 248-374-0200.

Kensington Metropark, also offers a trip to the sugar bush and sugar shack, noon-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through March 29, at the park, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford; 248-684-8632. Cost is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children, 3-12.

Next, find out what it takes to tap a tree and make your own maple syrup.

You'll learn to identify a maple tree, col-

lect sap, boil it, taste it and you'll receive materials to help you get started at home, at "Maple Sugaring in Your Own Back Yard," 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. March 8 and 22, at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Cost is \$7 per person or \$21 per family of four. Pre-registration is required at <http://recreg.fhgov.com> or by calling 248-477-1135.

Finally, after you've produced your own maple syrup — or bought it from the market — it's time to cook.

According to the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association, maple syrup contains phenolic compounds, a source of antioxidants, commonly found in products such as blueberries, tea, red wine and flaxseed. It's

also a source of naturally-occurring minerals, including calcium, manganese, potassium and magnesium.

The Michigan Maple Syrup Association suggests glazing carrots with maple syrup, butter and a pinch of dry mustard. Or bake acorn squash with 2 tablespoons maple syrup, salt and pepper. Try blending a small amount of maple syrup with commercial marshmallow cream for a sundae sauce.

For more on cooking with maple syrup, including links to cook books, visit [www.mi-maplesyrup.com](http://www.mi-maplesyrup.com) or [vermontmaple.org](http://vermontmaple.org).

— By Sharon Dargay

### VERMONT MAPLE CHUNKY BEEF STEW

Serves 6

¼ cup of flour  
Salt and pepper to taste  
2 cloves chopped garlic  
1 large onion, sliced  
1 stalk of chopped celery  
1 ½ pounds beef, cut into half-inch cubes  
1 19-ounce can of tomatoes  
½ cup dry red wine  
½ cup pure maple syrup  
4 medium size potatoes, cubed  
2 large carrots, sliced

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Combine flour, beef and seasonings in a plastic bag and shake to coat beef. Sauté garlic and onion together in 1 tablespoon of olive oil until tender. Combine all ingredients into a casserole dish, pour in ½ cup of water, cover and bake for four hours. Also works well in a slow cooker.



### MAPLE AND MUSTARD ROASTED ROOT VEGETABLES

Recipe by Jolinda Hackett, vegetarian food expert at [vegetarian.about.com](http://vegetarian.about.com)  
Yields 6 servings

¼ cup maple syrup  
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
½ teaspoon garlic powder  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
½ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
½ cup coarsely chopped onion or 20 pearl onions, peeled

5 cups coarsely chopped or sliced veggies of your choice; turnips, parsnips, rutabaga, carrot, potato, yams, beets and/or golden beets.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Toss veggies and onions with the olive oil, salt and pepper on a baking pan. Roast in oven for 20 minutes, then remove and re-toss on baking sheet. Cook 15 minutes more. Toss again. Cook another 15 minutes.

Combine maple syrup, Dijon mustard and garlic powder in a small bowl. Drizzle the maple mixture over potatoes and veggies and mix to coat well. Cook again until veggies (beets and potatoes will take the longest) are soft and glaze starts to caramelize and brown a bit. Serve and enjoy!



### SUGARHOUSE STEAMER

Serves 1

2 tablespoons pure maple syrup  
Pure granulated maple sugar  
Whipped cream  
Viennese coffee (prepared instant or with an espresso machine)  
Steamed or scalded milk

Pour the maple syrup into the bottom of a mug. Add coffee and pour in the milk. Top with whipped cream and a generous sprinkling of granulated maple sugar. Enjoy!



### MAPLE HARVEST CUSTARD

Yields 7 servings.

8 egg yolks  
½ cup pure maple syrup  
1 ½ cups pumpkin puree (not pie filling)  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
Pinch ground allspice  
Pinch ground nutmeg  
2 cups half and half

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat egg yolks in with the maple syrup. Add pumpkin and spices, mix until blended.

Heat half and half over medium heat until tiny bubbles form around the edge. Stirring constantly, gradually add half and half to pumpkin mixture. Pour into large shallow glass baking dish or divide into heat-proof custard cups.

Place cups or dish in a larger pan of hot water and bake in a preheated oven for 30 minutes or until knife blade inserted near center comes out clean. Remove from water and let stand 30 minutes. Serve or refrigerate up to one week.

Before serving, heat one cup of maple syrup in a sauce pan until it boils. Continue to heat syrup until it becomes thick. Pour over custards and serve.

Tip: For variation, use cooked, pureed winter squash instead of pumpkin.



## CITY BITES

### Vegetarian cooking

Plymouth — Learn to integrate plant-based cooking into holiday meals through Better Living Seminar's class, 2:30-5:30 p.m. March 15, in the gym at Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist, 15585 N. Haggerty. Local chefs who previously worked with the annual

Holiday Tasting Extravaganza in Plymouth will demonstrate recipes for the Easter table. Fitness trainers, dietitians and physicians also will answer questions. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$50 for two. Attendees will receive all recipes from the demonstrations, a full meal and tastings. Register by noon March 11 and pay at the door. Reserve

at [vegieholiday.com](http://vegieholiday.com) or email [holidaytasting@gmail.com](mailto:holidaytasting@gmail.com) or call 248-446-9176.

### Cooking with McCargo

Livonia — Chef Aaron McCargo will share dialysis-friendly cooking tips and recipes in honor of National Kidney Month, 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 18,

at Fresenius Medical Care, 32423 Schoolcraft; 734-525-0780. In addition to McCargo's cooking demonstration, the event will include kidney-friendly food and refreshments, clinic tours and talks about nutrition and fitness. McCargo is host of *Big Daddy's House* on the Food Network. For more, see [ultracare-dialysis.com](http://ultracare-dialysis.com).