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## Residents react to Ford Road fixes

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer



Longtime Canton resident Linda Long is hopeful the Ford Road work, intended to ease traffic congestion, will make it easier to get to her home.

Linda Long remembers Haggerty as a dirt road when she and husband Amos bought their Canton home 35 years ago.

Now traffic congestion has gotten so bad, she said, they have to take detours driving from the I-275 interchange to their home off Haggerty, south of Ford Road.

"We're right in the thick of it," Long said.

Most times, the Longs don't even try to turn left from westbound Ford onto Haggerty. It's too frustrating, too dangerous. So they use the IKEA parking lot as a detour and circle back to southbound Haggerty.

Linda Long was encouraged Wednesday evening after she learned of \$8.7 million in road improvements that the Michigan Department of Transportation and Wayne County

plan to make this year to one of the state's most accident-prone areas, used by 50,000 motorists a day.

Specifically, Long supports plans to lengthen the left-turn

lane from Ford onto southbound Haggerty and to have what Mike Bellini, MDOT transportation engineer, said

See FORD, Page A2

## Boulevard on hold: MDOT

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Funding appears elusive for a massive, long-range plan to ease traffic problems by converting Ford Road into a boulevard in Canton, officials say.

Michigan Department of Transportation officials have called the boulevard plan the best fix for traffic congestion, though they say smaller-scale efforts to improve Ford Road this year should provide some relief.

Gorette Yung, manager of MDOT's Transportation Service Center in Taylor, said Ford Road, eventually, could be transformed into a boulevard from the I-275 interchange west to Sheldon—a plan officials have singled out among several earlier propos-

als. The plan would separate opposing lanes of traffic with a median, eliminate left turns at major intersections, install boulevard-style turnaround lanes and improve intersections and lanes.

The problem for Ford, much like roads across Michigan, comes down to money. "We don't have the money for it," Yung said.

Her remarks came Wednesday evening as MDOT and Wayne County had a joint meeting in Canton to unveil first-phase Ford projects this year, such as having a continuous third lane on westbound Ford from Lotz to Lilley and lengthening turn lanes near the I-275/Ford interchange.

See BOULEVARD, Page A2

## Salem exhibit looks at Detroit's housing segregation history

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

An exhibit at Salem High School explores the history of racial segregation and housing discrimination in the Detroit area and the neighborhoods those forces helped create and, in some cases, helped destroy.

"We Dont Want Them" uses photographs, documents and written narratives to look back on nearly a century of racial and ethnic conflict, much of it played out as black Detroiters struggled to improve their lives—to move into better jobs and better neighborhoods—and whites resisted. The exhibit also touches on the histories of Latino, Arab and Asian Americans, as well as American Indians.

The traveling exhibit is from the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and is sponsored locally by The Beloved Community, a Plymouth-Canton group that works to bring attention to issues of racial justice. "We Dont Want Them" will be at Salem through Thursday, April 2, and two evenings of viewing by community groups are scheduled for later this month.

"The housing exhibit helps people understand the policies and practices put in place over the past 80-plus years, which led to vexing wealth disparity between black and white neighbors," Roundtable president Steve Spreitzer said. "Our hope is that becoming aware of this history will inform those who were ignorant and help ad-

See EXHIBIT, Page A2



This engaging traveling exhibition, presented by The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, takes its name from this photo.

## How fast? Canton firefighter climbs Ren Cen stairs

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Canton firefighter Maureen Stoecklein climbed 70 flights of stairs to the top of the Detroit Renaissance Center in just 13 minutes, 49 seconds.

She did it wearing 70 pounds of firefighter gear.

That placed Stoecklein first among 25 female firefighters—and 33rd among all 350 firefighters across southeast Michigan—who climbed Detroit's tallest skyscraper during the Fight for Air Climb charity event for the American Lung Association.

"I work out quite a bit, but I didn't really know what to expect," said Stoecklein, a Westland resident. "It was hot because we had our gear on. I just put my head down and went. I knew a slow, steady pace would be the way to go."

See STAIRS, Page A2



Canton firefighter Maureen Stoecklein after she climbed 70 stairs inside the Renaissance Center in Detroit.



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# FORD

Continued from Page A1

will be a continuous third lane along westbound Ford from Lotz to Lilley. "I think it will help," Long said, as MDOT and Wayne County formally unveiled a plan to help ease traffic woes during a public meeting at Summit on the Park. "I think it's an awesome idea. It's a huge plus."

Canton resident Ron Fisher Jr., among 50 people who came out to see project drawings and talk with transportation officials, said he welcomes

the plans, but ideally he would prefer a new interchange at I-275 and Cherry Hill or, at a minimum, a service drive along the interstate. "I pretty much liked everything I saw," Fisher said.

And while he realizes it's a separate issue, he said he remains worried about deteriorating conditions of subdivision streets in places such as Parkview Estates, off Palmer between Lilley and Sheldon, where he lives.

One major component of the latest road work involves paving Lotz, between Ford and Cherry

Hill, and giving motorists another north-south route to pull traffic away from the Ford-Haggerty area. The \$5 million county project is expected to begin in June and end in November.

Ronald Agacinski, Wayne County director of engineering, said the effort includes building a three-lane paved road, smoothing out curves, installing sidewalks and eliminating roadside ditches.

"All the ditches are going away," he said. "It's a safety hazard."

Bellini said MDOT's \$3.7 million project along Ford could begin as early

as April and be completed by late August. He said motorists can expect detours and sporadic, staggered closings of I-275/Ford ramps on weekends.

According to MDOT, the Ford Road work involves the following:

- » A continuous, third westbound lane from Lotz to Lilley, which Bellini said should help to ease traffic congestion.
- » Resurface the stretch of Ford between Lotz Road and Marlowe Street, which is west of Morton Taylor near the Rusty Nail Lounge.
- » Convert right-turn-only lanes for eastbound

and westbound Ford at the Haggerty intersection into a shared turn-through lane by modifying pavement markings, signs and traffic signals.

- » Extend the right-turn lane for eastbound Ford at Haggerty.
- » Extend the left-turn lane from westbound Ford onto southbound Haggerty, hopefully easing traffic problems for residents such as the Longs.
- » Add pavement markings to improve turn lanes from the northbound and southbound I-275 exit ramps onto Ford.
- » While having three

through lanes on westbound Ford, also maintain a dedicated lane for westbound Ford motorists to enter the loop ramp onto southbound I-275.

- » Add sidewalks along eastbound and westbound Ford Road to connect those already there, improving access to places such as the I-275 Metro Trail that runs alongside the interstate.
- » Provide an optional second exit lane at the southbound I-275 exit ramp to Ford Road, allowing motorists to more easily exit the interstate.

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# STAIRS

Continued from Page A1

Stoecklein was among a team of eight Canton firefighters who climbed the Renaissance Center last Sunday, posting an average time of 24 minutes.

Canton raised \$2,415 for the American Lung Association. Jessie Jimenez-Schlicht, development director for the Madison Heights-based chapter, said area firefighters were among some 1,600 participants who raised more than \$344,000.

From Canton, Stoecklein joined firefighters Duane Lowe, Ryan Molina, Jim Harrison and Brian Switzer, Capt. Nick Lombardi and Kevin Henderson and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein, Maureen's husband.

"I'm incredibly proud of all the participants," Fire Chief Joshua Meier said. "They worked hard. They trained hard and they

did it for charity." Meier commended Maureen Stoecklein's strong showing in the event.

"That's a huge accomplishment for her," he said. "The department is incredibly proud of her efforts for achieving that."

Stoecklein, in her 15th year as a Canton firefighter, formerly worked as a dietitian for a cardiac rehabilitation facility. She understands the importance of staying healthy.

"I work out every day and do yoga," she said. "More recently, I've been doing strength training. I feel it's important for me in this job as a firefighter to stay physically fit."

"The climb was great camaraderie for our department," Stoecklein said, "and I am proud to represent Canton and the fire department with such a great group of co-workers."

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# BOULEVARD

Continued from Page A1

Earlier Wednesday, Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy mentioned the first-phase improvements during his State of the Township address, but he voiced frustration over a long-term fix that local officials have sought for more than a decade.

Though grateful for this year's work, LaJoy said the bigger fix has proved frustrating, despite two MDOT studies he said have totaled nearly \$1.5 million.

Moreover, he said Canton officials have been rejected six times by federal officials for Ford-fixing grant money from the TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, program.

"We are not giving up," LaJoy said, citing yet a seventh round of applications for TIGER money. LaJoy said federal

transportation officials have allocated more than \$4.1 billion for the first six rounds of TIGER money. Canton has sought \$20 million or more for Ford Road.

"We are determined to get our hands on some of those funds," LaJoy said.

He recently went to Washington, D.C., with a delegation from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and, while there, pushed for a Ford Road fix with legislators. He said he was assured by U.S. Rep. David Trott, R-Michigan, that Canton's traffic problems and potential solution "are a top priority" for him.

After six rejections, LaJoy and others are hopeful the latest TIGER round will be the lucky seven.

"As they say," LaJoy said with a shrug during his State of the Township address, "the seventh time's the charm."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
State officials say money for a larger fix to the Ford/I-275/Haggerty area isn't available.



CANTON FIREFIGHTERS  
Canton firefighters participating in the Fight for Air Climb were (top row, from left) Duane Lowe, Nick Lombardi, Maureen Stoecklein, Chris Stoecklein and Kevin Henderson and (bottom row, from left) Ryan Molina, Jim Harrison and Brian Switzer.

# EXHIBIT

Continued from Page A1

vance the work for racial justice."

**Ugly history**

The display covers many of the key events of Detroit's racial history, such as the trials of Ossian Sweet, an African-American doctor whose move into a white neighborhood in 1925 was met with violence; the 1942 conflict over the Sojourner Truth housing project, built to house black factory workers during the World War II manufacturing boom; the 1943 Detroit race riot, which left 34 people dead, 25 of them black; and the even more deadly and better-known riot of 1967.

Lesser-known developments are also mentioned: The establishment of Conant Gardens, a once-prosperous black neighborhood, named for abolitionist Shubael Conant; the rise and fall of the Paradise Valley area east of downtown, much of it torn down to make way for the Chrysler expressway; and the construction of a half-mile-long wall – still standing – in the area of Eight Mile and Wyoming that was designed to keep blacks and whites apart. The battles over cross-district busing are also mentioned, as well as the restrictive real estate covenants and the first black families to move to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Nick Brandon, the school district's associate director of marketing and external relations, takes a close look.

Grosse Pointe, in 1966.

Some classes are touring the exhibit for their studies, said Nick Brandon, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' associate director of marketing and external relations, plus students have been touring it on their own.

"Our students need to know it's a big world out there and history has done a lot of unfair things," Brandon said.

**Point of view**

Junior Shailee Shah viewed the exhibit Thursday morning, saying she had largely been "sheltered" from such unpleasant parts of history until reading *A People's History of the United*

*States*, by Howard Zinn, for an advanced placement course last year.

"The point of view the person's writing from is really important when you're learning about history," Shailee said.

She pointed to a photo of the jury – 12 white men – in the second Sweet trial. "It doesn't seem like a very diverse jury, to begin with," she said. (The jury acquitted Ossian Sweet's brother Henry of murder.)

Juniors Nathan Ewell and Sreyas Narayanan also stopped in. Both are members of the Plymouth-Canton Education Park Diversity Council; Sreyas is vice president.

"Discrimination has happened everywhere in America," Sreyas said. "It kind of puts it into context when you hear it happened 15 or 20 miles away from you."

Sophomore Kelly Righter said she had been familiar with some of the events on a Detroit timeline, but was also surprised at how much of Detroit's history she didn't know. "It's a really cool exhibit," she said.

Brandon said the exhibit is especially important given the diversity of the district's student population. "These groups are so reflected in our district right now," he said.

Community groups can tour "We Dont Want Them" free of charge Tuesday evening and also the evening of Tuesday, March 31. Email Brandon at Nicholas.Brandon@pccsk12.com or call him at 734-416-2755 to schedule a tour.

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## CANTON OBSERVER

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# Absentee process begins for May 5 election

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Thousands of absentee ballot applications are arriving in Canton mailboxes as Michigan voters gear up for a special May 5 proposal to increase the state sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent.

Township Clerk Terry Bennett said about 7,500 Canton voters are on a permanent absentee voter list.

Bennett said it's difficult to predict what turnout will be for the May 5 proposal, which proponents say would raise \$1.2 billion a year for road and bridge repairs and \$300 million for K-12 schools, among other measures.

"Money issues usually bring people to the polls," Bennett said.

She said turnout was high when voters in 1994 passed Proposal A, which in part placed limits on how much property taxes can increase any given year - 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. It also revamped school funding.

Bennett said she will have a better idea of voter interest in the May 5 proposal after absentee ballots requests begin to arrive in her office.

"That's usually our way of judging the turnout," she said.

Voters who need an absentee ballot application can go to [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org) and look under the Government tab for the clerk's office. Voters also may stop by the clerk's office, 1150 S. Canton Center. Applications also are available at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov); look under departments for Secretary of State.

Voters seeking an absentee ballot have to state a reason, such as being out of town or physically unable to make it to the polls for the election.

Meanwhile, Bennett said her office also is looking for election inspectors to work May 5. Look on the township's website or stop by the clerk's office for an application. For more information, call 734-394-5120.



Bennett



This trio of young photographers all took honorable mention in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards (from left): senior Breanna Lopez, freshman Margaret Buck and junior Karley Schwalm.

# Young photographers show promise in national contest



Plymouth-Canton student Breanna Lopez won honorable mention for her work "Ponder." Also pictured is photography teacher Ann Espinoza.

A group of local students has something in common with Andy Warhol - they all have won a Scholastic Art & Writing Award.

The awards have been given since 1923 and the contest, according to organizers, sets out to recognize the vision, ingenuity and talent of our nation's youth.

Students across America submitted 255,000 original works during the 2014 program year in the fields of writing, film, photography, poetry and sculpture.

Since its founding, the awards have established a track record for identifying promising creative leaders. Past winners include Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Robert Redford and Ken Burns.

Students' submissions are blindly judged by leaders in the visual and literary arts.



P-CEP photo teacher Linsley Pignatiello, with her student, 10th-grader Natalie Phillips, and Natalie's photo "Dead Beauty," which earned a Silver Key at the awards.

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Rachel Lanzilotti and Rachel Allen assemble models of their rooms.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Middle school students picking up on STEM curriculum

By Brad Kadrich  
 Correspondent

The last couple of years have been fruitful ones for the new STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Academy that Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials installed at the high school park.

Now the district is hoping for the same kind of success

at the middle school level. Using funding provided by the overwhelming passage of the 2013 bond, the district has been upgrading STEM labs at some middle schools and out-right building new ones at other schools as teachers have begun extending the STEM curriculum to sixth- through eighth-graders.

Anthony Ruela, a regional director for the district, said

getting middle school students started in STEM is an important curriculum move for the district.

"It's project-based individual and cooperative learning that provides real-world context for students to apply the academic and social skills they are developing throughout their middle years," said Ruela, also a former principal at Central Middle School.

Ruela said the middle level STEM programming uses curriculum from Project Lead the Way's Gateway to Technology Pathway to expose students to engineering concepts within contextualized problem-solving that requires the practical application of the content they learn in math and science classes.

Project Lead the Way, Ruela pointed out, is a leading

national provider of STEM curriculum, resources and professional development.

"At the middle level, we structure our instruction around PLTW units in design and modeling, automation and robotics and green architecture," Ruela said.

STEM programming at the middle school has been de-

See STEM, Page A5



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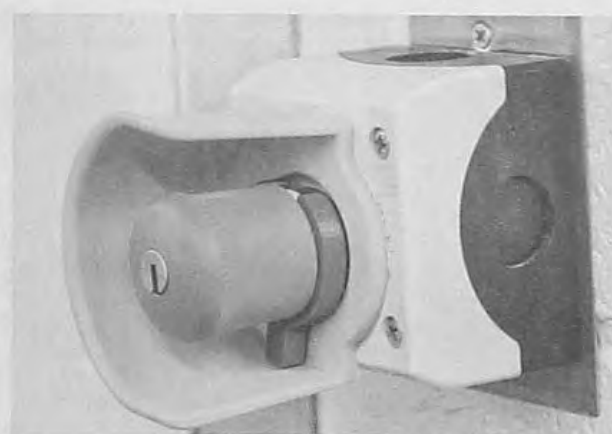

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This student is assembling a room.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton High School makes a video of the STEM program.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students used a 3D printer to build a guard for the room's power shut down switch to prevent accidental shutdown and damage to the room's computers. The blue ring is removed before hitting the orange button.

## STEM

Continued from Page A4

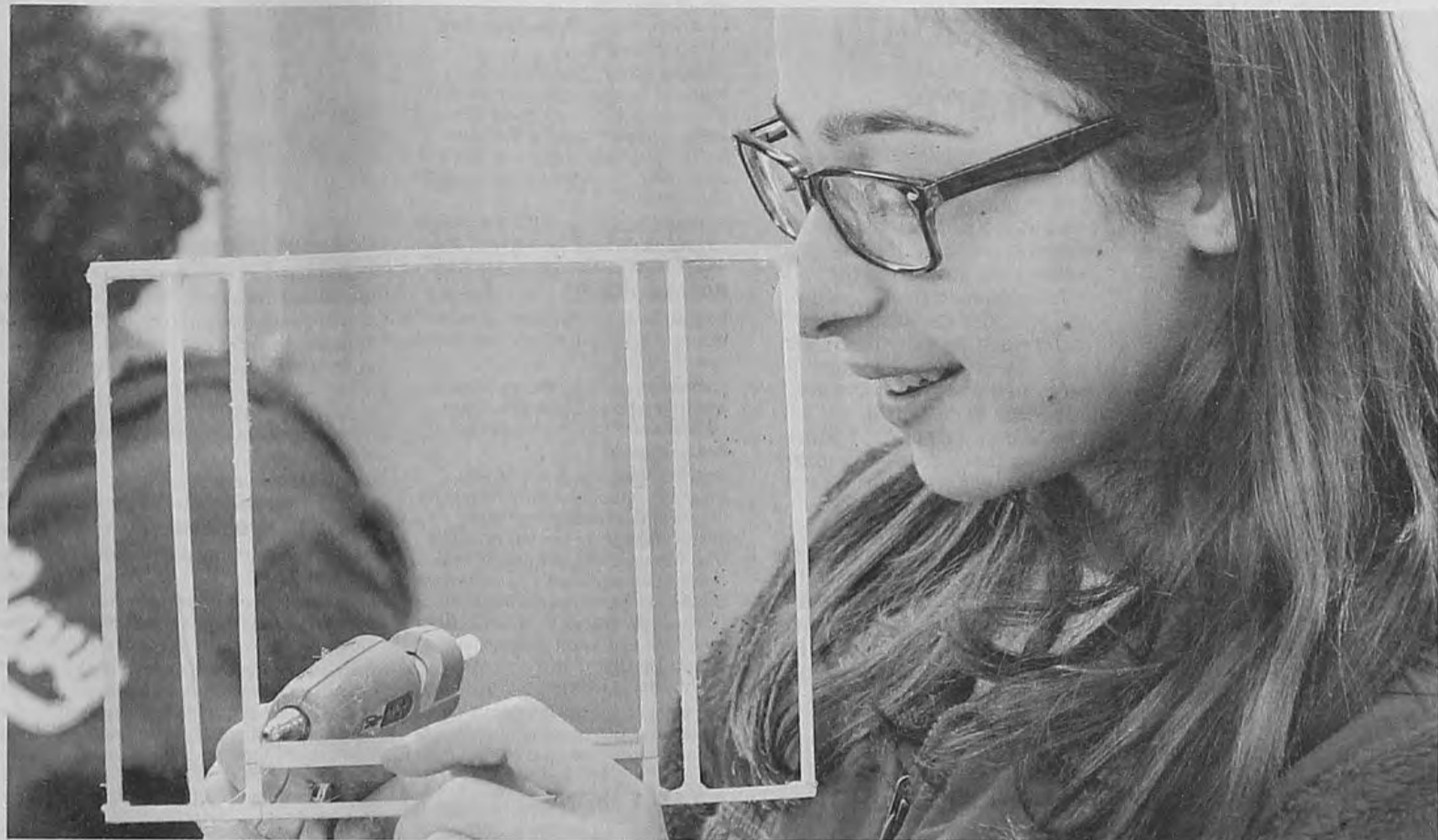
signed, Ruela explained, to provide "vertical alignment" with multiple career and educational pathways at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. The Park's STEM Academy uses the PTLW engineering and biomedical science curriculum as the foundation of its programming.

In addition, Ruela said, work being done in the middle schools "aligns very well" with a number of career and technical education pathways, including computer-aided design, computer programming, electronics, robotics and automation.

A good part of the 2013 bond work has included getting middle school STEM labs upgraded and ready for students. The lab at East Middle School was a complete new build, while labs at West and Discovery middle schools were redesigns of existing industrial technology labs.

To accommodate the STEM lab at Pioneer, crews completely redesigned instructional space.

Each middle school has one full-time teacher teaching five periods a day. In some buildings, Ruela said, multiple teachers are trained in certain segments of the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Adrian Hartford applies a bit of hot glue to her model.

curriculum, so additional sections can be added as scheduling allows.

Bill Lembesis is the full-time teacher at East Middle School. Before moving to STEM, he taught seventh-grade science. He said exposing students "at an early age to the principles of engineering gets them excited about the field."

"Our community has invested in the future of science, technology, engineering and mathematics," Lembesis said. "I believe that in the years to come, we will start seeing more and more P-CCS students entering these fields."

According to Ruela, all sixth-grade students are scheduled for one

nine-week introduction to the design and engineering process.

"At the seventh and eighth grade, it is an elective course that students may request," Ruela said. "The rooms are definitely being used to their expected capac-

ity."

And, according to Lembesis, the students are getting the most out of the experience.

"The kids absolutely love it," Lembesis said. "I often hear students say that they were waiting all day to come to

class so that they could work on their designs on our CAD software. In addition, during our recent open house for new families I heard several kids say they couldn't wait to take my class next year."

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The Detroit Institute of Arts brings culture to Plymouth with "Behind the Seen" sessions at the Plymouth District Library.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

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.houseedems.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



FILE PHOTO

Coaches needed

Coaches and other volunteers are needed for the spring and fall seasons of the Miracle League of Plymouth. The league provides opportunities for special-needs players to enjoy the game of baseball. Anyone interested in donating their time or who has questions can contact Shari Bilkie via email at shari@miracleleagueplymouth.org

threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

**Contact:** Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

DROP-IN KNITTING

**Date/Time:** Third Tuesday of each month, 1-2 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth Township Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth

**Details:** The Plymouth Community Council on Aging offers drop-in knitting and crocheting classes. If you need help finishing a project or starting a new project, then this is the place to come. Beginners are welcome. Each class has a donation of \$2. Instructor is Dori Mefford.

**Contact:** For more information, call 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

CRAFTERS WANTED

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Oct. 17

**Location:** West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

**Details:** Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society of women in education, will host its 31st annual craft show to help provide scholarships for Plymouth-Canton students. There are still openings for crafters who are interested in joining the event. Join DKG along with the AAUW used book sale and reserve a booth.

**Contacts:** For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at debcortellini@comcast.net or call 734-451-1525.

COACHES NEEDED

**Date/Time:** Saturdays in spring and fall  
**Location:** Bilkie Family Field, downtown Plymouth

**Details:** The Miracle League of Plymouth, the league providing opportunities for special-needs players to enjoy the game of baseball, needs volunteer coaches for its spring and fall seasons.

**Contact:** Anyone interested in donating their time or who has questions can contact Shari Bilkie via email at shari@miracleleagueplymouth.org

CLOTHING BANK

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

**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship clothing bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

**Details:** Canton Christian Fellowship sponsors a clothing bank every fourth Saturday. No documentation is needed. Drop-off is available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Canton Christian Fellowship is located on at Joy Road, west of Haggerty.

**Contact:** For more information, email info@cantoncf.org or call 734-404-2480.

Learn about DIA collection at Plymouth library programs

The "Behind the Seen" DIA talks, provided by the Detroit Institute of Arts Speakers Bureau, draw many people to the Plymouth District Library.

For a number of years, folks have enjoyed these monthly Monday night talks, which draw a good 25-35 people. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the talks are sometimes tied to a special exhibit, a standing exhibit, a theme or the museum itself. The library, 223 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth, doesn't hold these programs in the summer, but rather in September through April.

Here's what's next for "Behind the Seen":

» Monday, March 23, 7 p.m. - Your DIA: (R)evolution -

Exploring the history of the DIA heightens awareness of the individuals who founded the museum, built its collection, and supported the institution for over 128 years and provides the basis for understanding why the DIA is considered one of the most renowned and innovative art museums in the world.

» Monday, April 27, 7 p.m. - Seeking the Sacred - Compare different ways people throughout the world and throughout time have used works of art to hold, communicate and reinforce ideas about religion and spirituality.

Attendees are asked to register in advance for these free programs: 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at plymouth-library.org.

Optimist Club sets Canton meeting

An organizational meeting to establish a new Optimist Club in Canton has been set for 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in the Freedom Meeting Room at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center.

Organizers have cited a need for the club and are discussing ideas for what projects could be taken on initially by the club, which is

focused on leadership, empowerment and support of youth.

Canton's club, which would be Michigan's 101st, is likely to sponsor oratorical and essay contests, among other projects, to reward children, boost their self-confidence and reinforce positive behavior.

Founding members are needed - 15 in all - to send in the official charter papers.

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# File an amended tax return when errors are found

**Q: Dear Rick: I just had my 2014 tax return prepared and my tax preparer noticed a mistake on my 2013 return. It dealt with the sale of a mutual fund that I had owned for years. My preparer used the wrong cost basis so, as opposed to reporting a gain, I reported a loss. My tax preparer recommended that I immediately file an amended return. My thoughts are that since I have not heard from the IRS, why do anything? If the**



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**IRS contacts me in the future, I will deal with it then.**

A: It makes sense to file an amended return. As a taxpayer, it is your responsibility to file fair and accurate returns. As a result, when you discover an error, whether it's in your favor or not, it is your responsibility

to correct the error. The fact that the IRS has not discovered the error does not mean that it won't — particularly in your situation, where the issue was with the basis. In the past, basis was not reported to the IRS and the likelihood of discovering an error was minimal. However, that is no longer the case. Over the last few years, basis has been reported to the IRS. The IRS will discover the error. It is always better for you, the taxpayer, to correct

the error before the IRS gets involved. If the IRS discovers the error, in addition to interest that you would have to pay, there is a greater likelihood that it will assess penalties. If you voluntarily report an error to the IRS, you have a greater chance of avoiding any penalties. In addition, if the IRS discovers the error, there's a chance it will look at past years' tax information, which could lead to audits. Trust me — no one

wants an audit from the IRS. When it comes to mistakes on tax returns, the issue isn't whether or not a taxpayer should file an amended return but, rather, what are the chances of being caught. That is a difficult question. However, over the last few years, more information has been reported to the IRS. The chance of the IRS discovering the error is much greater than it was in the past. I believe it isn't

whether the IRS will catch you, the real issue is your responsibility as a citizen — to file fair and accurate returns and to correct any errors that are discovered. When it comes to taxes, those that play by the rules tend to sleep better at night. Good luck. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond, email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

# Hats for the homeless: Local man launches business aimed at giving back

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Livonia resident and Michigan State University student Joshua York remembers when he made his first hat.

It was in December 2012. He took a hat he purchased at a hardware store and sewed his last name on it. It was an idea that his friends thought looked cool and it grew from there.

"As I continued to sell more and more beanies, I thought this could be a chance to (give back)," said York, a Schoolcraft College graduate. "Turns out other people liked the idea, too. It took off."

With that idea, York began the York Project, a business that sells clothing and donates hats, shirts and other apparel to the homeless in Detroit. Similar to Tom's Shoes, the company donates an article of clothing for every piece it sells.

Since launching, York has sold more than 3,000 articles of clothing and donated even more than



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh York's York Project sells a hat and provides a hat to the homeless.

that to people in need. He's prepared a new spring lineup that's available now. Such items include hats and shirts and can be found at his website, yorkproject.com

He's gone to Detroit several times with myriad items, ready to give them to those less fortunate. While his business has expanded and he's gone to other cities across the country, like Chicago, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and New York City, York said Detroit is always where he likes to visit. It was that way when

he first launched, he said: seeing the work being done in the city made him want to be a part of it.

"I was just really big in the Detroit movement. I just was raised all along to have a mentality to give back," he said. "My focus was always Detroit."

### Outreach

Going with groups such as PBJ Outreach out of Plymouth, York said he's always enjoyed the interactions with the people he gives hats and other items to. The group goes every weekend to an area off Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and brings items for the homeless.

Mark Moening, a volunteer site supervisor with PBJ Outreach, said he got connected with York several years ago through connections at St. Genevieve Catholic School in Livonia.

"He called me up and asked if he could hand out his stuff down there," said Moening, a Livonia resident. "On an average Saturday, we'll have 40

volunteers. Our mission is about connecting and interacting."

Since going away to MSU, York, a 2011 Stevenson High School graduate, has moved his operation to East Lansing, relying on friends and family to help continue his work. His mother has helped him keep the business running in Livonia.

"Primarily, it's been my mom and I from the beginning. She's huge in helping me make stuff," he said. "She's huge in keeping things going and being awesome with that."

After graduating, York hopes his business line will continue and grow into something huge. He eventually wants to move his operations to Detroit and employ some of the same people who benefit from his donations.

"There are really cool companies in Detroit doing that, employing homeless people," he said.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com  
734-678-6728  
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Entrepreneur Josh York designs hats. Each hat sold provides another hat for a homeless person.

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Gordon Chevrolet General Manager Susan Ianni (second from left) poses with Smith Elementary students and staff who held a mustache day for Make-A-Wish.

## Detroit Metro Airport holds volunteer recruitment fair

Want to learn how to become a Detroit Metro Airport customer service ambassador? How about sharing extra time with Wayne Main Street, the American Red Cross, Gleaners Food Bank, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy or Ann Arbor and Detroit Convention and Visitor.

On Friday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to noon, Detroit Metropolitan Airport will be hosting a first-of-its-kind volunteer recruitment fair to provide information on how individuals with a little extra time can find a worthwhile passion they enjoy, and help give back to their community.

The recruitment fair will be held at Detroit Metropolitan Airport's NOMADS building at 10100 Middlebelt, Romulus.

"We have a strong history of great partnerships here," Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton said. "The airport is a community, and we pull in travelers, customers, employees, and volunteers from all over. The nature of what we do is helping facilitate connections — what better place to illustrate that we are stronger when we work together and that there are tremendous opportunities to give back and help contribute to many worthwhile causes throughout our region?"

Twenty-five local organizations will be participating in the recruitment fair, and each will have a table and representatives on hand to answer questions from potential volunteers. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from the groups listed below, understand more about their organi-

zations and learn about volunteer opportunities and how to get involved.

In addition to Wayne Main Street, the other organizations include the Airport Ambassador Volunteer Program, American Red Cross, Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau, the AY-USA - Academic Year, U.S.A. - nonprofit Foreign Exchange student program, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Romulus Animal Shelter, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Detroit Zoological Society, Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry, Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, Freedom Center, Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter, Gabrielle's Angels, Girl Scouts of SE Michigan, Gleaner's Food Bank, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Old Newsboys Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, Paws With a Cause, RSVP - Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Stop the Violence, The Parade Company and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/International Wildlife Refuge Alliance.

"We are always looking for opportunities to recruit new volunteer customer service ambassadors here at the airport," DTW Customer Service Manager Fran Wood said. "Finding passionate and committed volunteers is our challenge, but there wasn't a shared local venue or platform to find new recruits, so we thought we would create one. Many of the organizations we have worked with over the years thought it was a great idea as well, and the response has been wonderful."

## Gordon Chevrolet hosts auction to benefit P-C school programs

Going once, going twice, going three times!

Later this month, Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City will host an auction event to benefit Plymouth-Canton's Smith Elementary School, with money raised going toward classroom enrichment tools, field trips, assemblies and technology.

This is Smith's 20th annual auction, but the second year in a row

that Gordon Chevrolet's general manager, Susan Ianni, is playing host to the school's fundraiser at her Ford Road dealership. The partnership between cars and classrooms came about when Dana Jones, the school's principal, approached Ianni to provide matching funds for Smith's Make-A-Wish charity drive.

While at the school to present her check, Ianni fell in love with the kids and the educational

environment provided by the teachers and administrators there.

"The school needed space for their fundraiser and I was happy to open up our showroom to them," Ianni said. "Helping kids to have the things they need to learn and grow, what could be better?"

The auction will be held 7-11 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Tickets are \$25 at the door and include appetizers and a cash bar. The adults-

only evening will include both silent and live auctions and a card pull. Bidders can check out items for auction in advance by visiting [www.smithsilentauction.com](http://www.smithsilentauction.com).

"The school's auction committee does such an amazing job with decor," Ianni said. "Our dealership becomes a gala event space for the evening. It's definitely Gordon Chevrolet's Cinderella moment of the year."

## Book 'em: United Way helps kids with summer reading

The Plymouth Community United Way and the Chuck E. Cheese location in Canton Township will hold a month-long drive for new children's book at the pizzeria in Canton. The event runs through Tuesday, March 31.

March is reading

month and the Plymouth Community United Way is collecting books in an effort to get children to read this summer to prevent the "summer slide."

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

months of reading skills over summer break.

Customers will receive Chuck E. Cheese 20 tickets for each new children's book that is brought in.

Tickets can be used toward the purchase of prizes there. The restaurant is at 42001 Ford

Road.

All of the new children's books will go to children in the greater Plymouth community.

For more information, email [randi.williams@pcuw.org](mailto:randi.williams@pcuw.org) or call 734-453-6879, ext. 7.



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# Livonia credit union breaks down old banking barriers

By Karen Smith  
Staff Writer

It used to be customers had to go to two or three people to take care of their financial transactions when visiting Community Choice Credit Union in Livonia, stopping at the teller window to make a deposit and then meeting with another employee if they wanted to open a new account or take out a loan.

Now they can go to one personal adviser, who can handle everything for them.

Community Choice held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday for its newly renovated Member Center at 15420 Farmington Road.

"It's very innovative for this industry," branch manager Holli Kerkhof said, adding that Community Choice is the first financial institution in Michigan to break down the physical barriers of traditional banking in favor of a more relationship-focused concept with low-profile kiosks.

The Livonia Member Center, which underwent seven months of renovations, is one of three Community Choice locations debuting the new concept this month. The others are in Milford and

Northville.

"Most members aren't going to their credit union to deposit a check or make a transaction anymore — that's all being done online or on a smart phone app," said Philip Cooper, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Community Choice Credit Union. "Instead, they're coming to us for personal financial advice. Our new Member Centers promote this type of relationship-focused environment."

Kerkhof said the turnout for the ribbon-cutting ceremony was great. "We had incredible support from the community," she said, including visits from many from the business community.

In addition to self-serve kiosks, customers can help themselves to free coffee and, on some days, free popcorn.

Community Choice invites the entire community to an open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21. The day will include food, prizes and giveaways, as well as several promotions, including \$100 for new members who sign up for checking and direct deposit and \$100 for financing a vehicle with Community Choice.



Credit Union branch manager Holli Kerkhof welcomes the morning crowd.



Credit Union vice chair Brian Wilson, Member Center Manager Holli Kerkhof, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, and President and CEO Robert Bava cut the ceremonial ribbon.



People gathered at the Community Choice Credit Union to celebrate its new design.



Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey offers a few remarks. Chamber of Commerce President Dan West is at left.

ksmith@hometownlife.com  
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Twitter: @KarenS87

## DTE Energy, Consumers Energy sound alarm on impending energy shortfall

The state's two major electricity incumbents have told a House panel that the forced shuttering of coal-fired plants is creating a costly energy shortfall that could hit the wallets of those in the electric choice market the hardest.

Impending federal clean-air regulations and old age are forcing nine Michigan power plants to be mothballed in 2016, meaning DTE Energy and Consumers Energy will need to buy more power off the "grid."

Tim Sparks, vice president of energy supply operations for Consumers Energy, and Irene Dimitry, vice president of business planning and development, compared the situation in the Lower Peninsula to the energy concerns facing the Upper Peninsula.

From their standpoint, Consumers and DTE are planning to have capacity for its existing companies, according to the Michigan Press Association's weekly Michigan Capitol Press Report.

But the 10 percent of Michigan electricity users who purchase power from one of the roughly six or seven choice providers are on their own if the price of power purchased off the regional pool — called the Mid-continent Independent System Operator or MISO — spikes from lower production and higher demand, they said.

As it stands now, MISO is trying to encourage operators to provide electricity for the grid to prevent potential spikes, Sparks said.

"These issues are real. They are urgent. And the time to address them is now," Dimitry said.

The comments in front of the House Energy Policy Committee

kicked off discussion about a likely rewrite in the state's electricity policy in 2015 that will center around the future of the 10 percent cap on electric choice providers.

As in prior energy-policy discussions in 2008 and 2000, the two incumbent utilities claim the more the electricity market is opened up to competitors, the less certainty they have in the market and the less likely they'll invest in more electricity generation.

### The choices

The choices, as the incumbents see it, are either getting rid of the state's electric choice program or creating a mechanism where choice customers — startled by the spiked rates from their provider — could return to the incumbent at a cost or not be allowed to return at all.

"We'll have resource issues because we're not planning for them to come back," Sparks said.

Wayne Kuipers of Energy Choice Now and former vice chair of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee said the "scare tactics" the incumbent utilities are using are not new. If they truly are not preparing themselves for different alternatives in regards to the future of energy production, the aforementioned attitude is "dumb in every sense of the word."

The fact Michigan had one of the country's oldest generation fleets is not a big secret to anyone, and if federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations didn't shut down these aged plants in 2016, they would have gone away soon due to old age, Kuipers said.

"It's like crying fire in a crowded theater mul-



Consumer's Energy J.R. Whiting Generating Complex on an 875-acre site along the Lake Erie shoreline in Erie is one of the smallest coal-fired plants in the company's fleet. It began producing electricity in 1952.

tiple times," Kuipers said. "At some point, people don't listen. The unfortunate thing is that with term limits you have some lawmakers who haven't heard this before ... there's nothing new here."

The truth is monopolies don't react well to change, Kuipers added. What needs to happen is if the Michigan Public Service Commission believes more electricity generation is needed, all companies should be allowed to put in electric generation bids. If Consumers and DTE can produce electricity at the best price, they should have nothing to worry about.

"We need to explore our options here and try to provide the citizens of Michigan with the cheapest energy we can in a reliable fashion," he said.

### Shortfall is 'significant'

Dimitry said the power shortfall coming in 2016 is significant. The three-gigawatt shortfall projected for 2016 is

enough to provide power for 2.1 million homes for a year. That's about three times the size of the city of Detroit.

The shortfall will come through the estimated retirement of about 100 coal-fired generation units by spring 2016.

Alternative energy is an option, they said, but in a limited way. For example, all of the utility's wind turbines were at full capacity Feb. 24 due to the gusting winds. But that doesn't help anyone in July and August when the wind is still and something needs to power the air conditioners.

The future is not coal-powered production, but natural gas.

House Majority Floor Leader Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton, the chair of the House Energy Policy Committee, said he believes that as a peninsula state, Michigan should be energy independent. The best way to make that happen is to go back to a completely regulated market, he said.

"I think that will provide the long-term investment that is needed here in Michigan to make sure we have the right energy capacity," Nesbitt said.

The House energy chair pointed to Great Britain, which went to 100 percent retail choice in the late '90s and are now in a situation where they only have a 2-3 percent reserve market because no one is building new generation. The ideal reserve market is 14-17 percent.

### Let market decide

But Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland, the vice chair of House Energy, said he isn't going to presume the two incumbent utilities have the exclusive right to address the upcoming energy capacity shortfall. Rather, he asked about a competitive bidding process for all electric providers and let the market decide what is a "competitive" electric rate, not what is an "affordable" rate, which is determined by what they "believe it costs them to do business."

"Both utilities insist they would win these competitive bid processes," Glenn said. "If that's true, then why would they not support an open competitive bid process?"

As it stands, Michigan has the highest residential electric rates in the Midwest and the country's 11th highest, Glenn said. That's why he'd like to explore opening up the market to multiple providers to

compete and whether that process would be better for ratepayers.

"You can not fault the utilities for wanting to maintain the system or go to a completely regulated market," he said. "Who can blame a business for wanting to have the government guarantee them a customer base for the next half century?"

The minority vice chair of the energy committee, Rep. Bill LaVoy, D-Monroe, said he's always supported Michigan generating its own electricity as opposed to MISO bringing it in from other states.

When it comes to electric choice, LaVoy said choice customers are not necessarily contributing to in-state production and "is open to a lot of different options," such as keeping the 10 percent cap and grandfathering them in. There's also talk about whether those companies that leave the choice market for an alternative supplier can come back, and, if so, what fee should be charged.

"Another possibility is to get rid of (choice) completely," LaVoy said. "I don't know if that fair to the people who are on choice because they're on it when the Legislature passed the measure to allow it."

Another possibility is to close off the choice market customer by customer as they drop off, he said.

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SECTION B (CP)

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# SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

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## Salem wins district title for Thomann

Rocks knock out Chiefs 42-29 in district final for 19th straight win

By Evan Paputa  
Correspondent

When most teams get hit with adversity, they ask "why us?"

Salem's varsity girls basketball team answered the adversity of the December 2013 death of legendary head coach Fred Thomann with a loud statement — winning the dis-

trict championship Friday over rival Canton.

"These kids, especially the six seniors, have had a lot of adversity thrown at them with the passing of Fred last year," head coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "I'm trying to bring the potential out of them that I know they have in them. We're starting to click at the right time."

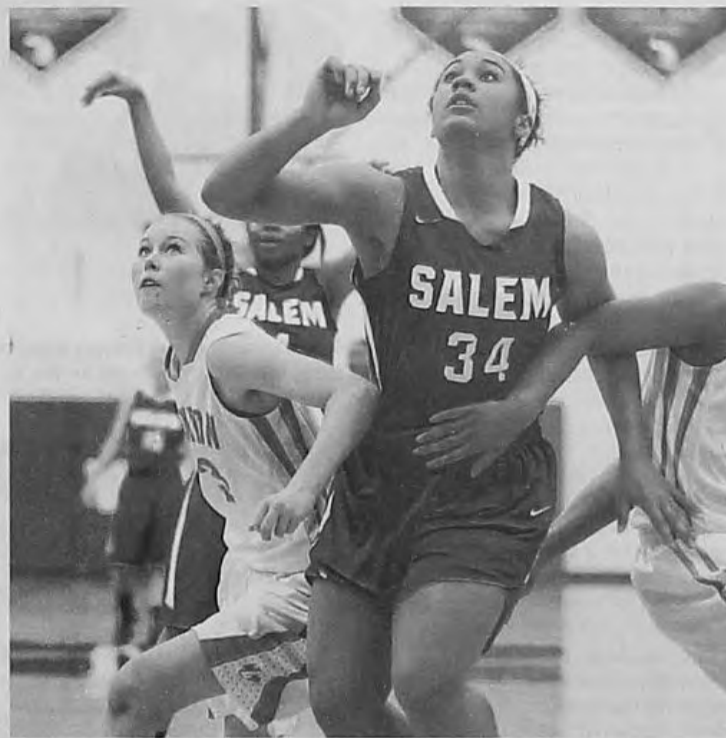
Salem defeated Canton 42-29 in the Class A district championship game held at Novi High School. Klemmer was beaming with pride after the game knowing what the win means to the program and to Thomann who was watching from heaven.

"This means everything to us and Fred. I know he's been with us this whole time," Klemmer said. "But the whole thing when I came back (to coach) was I wanted to rebuild this program and bring Salem back to the 'glory days' from when I was here as a player."

"It starts with the little things taken care of like division and conference and working your way up."

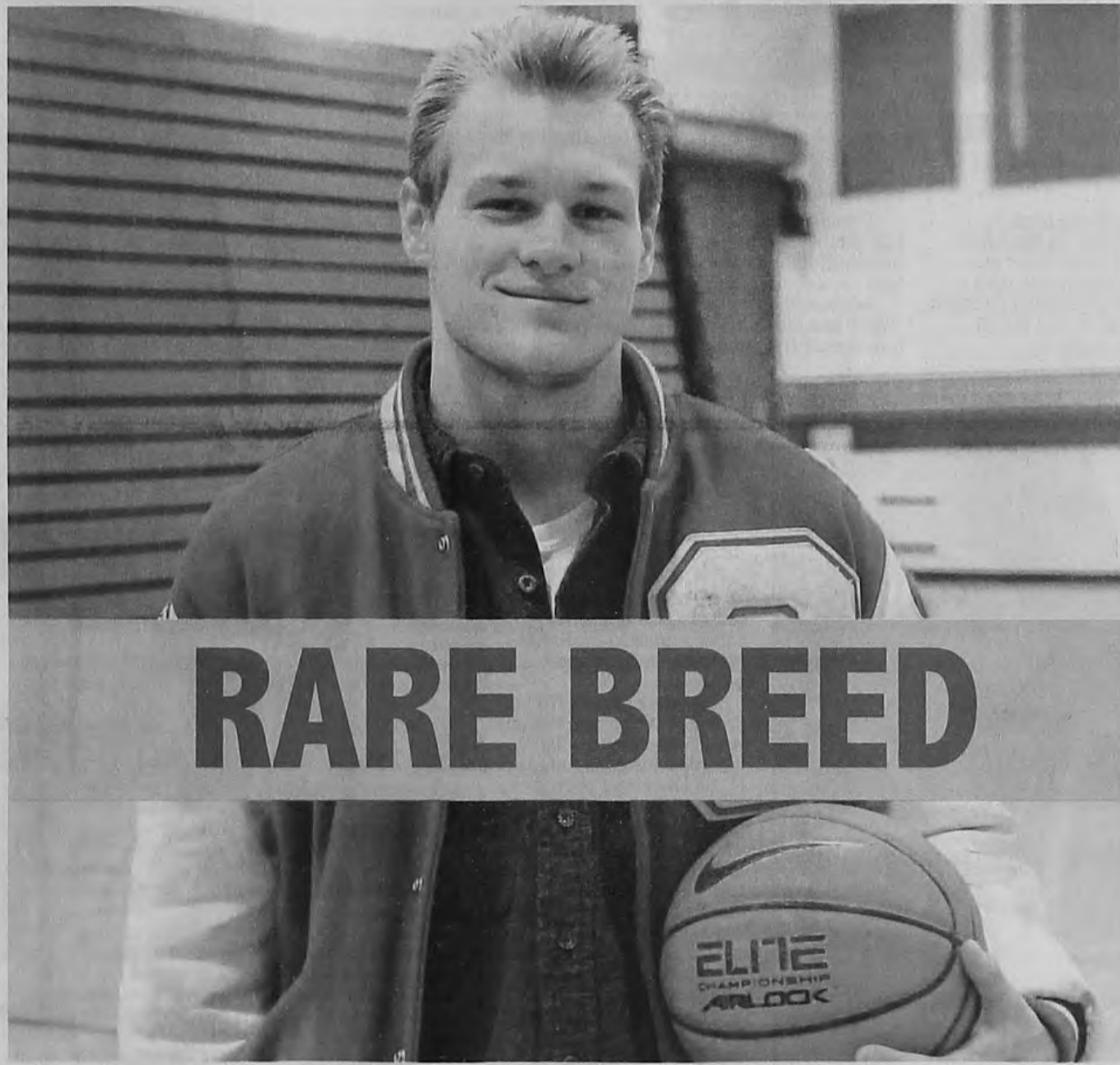
Senior forward Hayley Rogers kick started Salem's (19-4) victory thanks in large part to her eight points in the first three minutes of the game. She nailed two long triples and a

See SALEM, Page B4



JOHN KEMSKI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vying for a rebound Friday night are Canton's Natalie Winters (left) and Salem's Shara Long.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Here, Greg Williams is all smiles. But when he on the basketball floor or football field, he is nothing but business.

## RARE BREED

Chiefs' Williams leaves winning legacy, leaves it all out on the court or grid

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Greg Williams wears red for the Canton Chiefs, and some might say there are certain nights when he also sees red.

Whether on the basketball court or football field, Williams leads by example. He leads through communication. And losing is unacceptable.

"I hate to lose, I really do, in anything," said the 17-year-old Williams.

"Even if I'm playing ping pong or video games with my friends. ... I always want to win, I'm always competing."

"I never want someone to beat me and think they're better than me, so I try to prove myself every time."

Concurring is Canton varsity boys basketball coach Jimmy Reddy.

"I would say Greg's a rare kid, an ultimate competitor, the best competitor we've had here," said Reddy about the 6-3, 190-pound guard and team

captain. "I can only speak to basketball, but I've been around since I played, 1997-2000, and I've been helping out since I graduated and he's the best competitor we've had here."

Consider a recent first-round game in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys basketball tournament. The top-seeded Chiefs wound up losing to Livonia Stevenson, but not without a fight from Williams.

See WILLIAMS, Page B3

KLAAS CHAMPIONSHIP

## Western powers past Plymouth

Wildcats find going tough in association title showdown

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

For the first few minutes of Thursday's KLAAS boys basketball championship game, Plymouth enjoyed a bit of a mismatch against Walled Lake Western.

It was Senior Night for the host Warriors and so the Wildcats were able to face a couple reserves to open the night. Plymouth rolled early, with treys by juniors Brent Davis and Armani Tate sparking an 8-2 surge in the first two minutes.

But then, Western head coach Chip Lutz inserted two of his best — senior guards John Flowers and Daryl Porter. All of a sudden, the Warriors went on a 15-2 surge to close out the first quarter up 17-10 and never looked back, winning 61-46.

"They started some of their seniors for Senior Night who don't see a

See KLAAS, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior Randall Aikins (left) dribble drives against Walled Lake Western's Jerald Booker during Thursday's KLAAS championship game.

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D1 BOYS HOCKEY REGIONAL FINAL

# ROCKS SHOCK BULLDOGS, WIN REGIONAL

Goalie Phillips sensational in Salem's 3-0 victory

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

For the third time in five days, Salem's varsity boys hockey team skated onto the Arctic Edge Arena ice as a clear-cut underdog.

Each time — including Friday's 3-0 victory over No. 7-ranked Brighton in a Division 1 regional final — the Rocks skated off triumphant against a top 10 opponent.

The third time, they left the ice happily clutching a regional championship trophy.

It wasn't easy. Salem dodged bullet after bullet against the Bulldogs, a team that won the 2012 and 2013 state titles.

But the Rocks managed to hold off a non-stop onslaught thanks to the brilliant goal-keeping of senior Dillon Phillips (35 saves). When it finally ended, Salem had its first regional title.

Next for the Rocks (14-10-4) is Wednesday's D1 quarterfinal at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor against the winner of the Dearborn Edsel Ford regional.

"We got healthy at the right time; we peaked at the right time," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "This is when it matters and we've done something that a Salem team's never done before. And we've had some good teams in the past."

The Rocks also had rock-solid goaltending under constant pressure. Brighton (also 14-10-4) outshot Salem by a 35-20 margin.

After the game, Phillips chuckled when asked if the puck looked as big as a beach ball against the Bulldogs.

"I got lucky a few times, with a post and one that landed on top of the net," Phillips said. "But it was just a lot of hard-working guys out there, blocking shots for me, too."

Ossenmacher described Phillips' game as "fantastic. ... He's been really good the last week. He's played big, he's



Salem's varsity boys hockey team capped off an unbelievable week with Friday's victory over Brighton at Arctic Edge to win a Division 1 regional title. Here, the Rocks celebrate on the ice following their big win.

MICHAEL VASILNEK



Peering around Salem defenseman Noah Saad (front) and Brighton's Colin Bilek is Rocks senior goalie Dillon Phillips, who was outstanding in the 3-0 win.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

squared up to the puck."

With Phillips on his game, the Rocks started their amazing week-long stretch with a 4-1 win Feb. 28 against Orchard Lake St. Mary's, the No. 10 team in the state.

Then in rapid succession followed victories over Plymouth, Northville and Brighton.

Salem senior forward Noah Willer banged in his own rebound past Brighton goalie

Jimmy Milletics (17 saves) on the power play with 7:22 left in the second period to open the scoring.

"They'll never stop working, they'll hit you every chance they get," Willer said. "You just got to go to battle (against) them."

Setting up the Willer goal were sophomore forward Matt Schaumburger and senior forward Liam Walker.

Soon after the Salem goal, senior defenseman Noah Saad was penalized for charging. In turn, the Bulldogs started charging Phillips in hopes of netting the equalizer.

Twice, the puck found its way into the Salem net. Both times the whistle had blown.

In the third, the Rocks minimized Brighton's attack, deflecting shots and passes.

"I think between Northville (a 3-2 win March 4) and tonight, we probably had 30 blocked shots," Ossenmacher said.

A key factor to the way Salem was able to hold off the Bulldogs was the third-period return of junior forward Evan Newel — who left during the

second period after a mid-ice collision.

"He's able to find pucks in traffic ... and get pucks out," said Ossenmacher, about Newel.

The Salem bench continued to sweat things out as the Bulldogs kept firing at Phillips, particularly on a power play late in the third.

Coming through with second efforts to clear the zone on the PK were Newel and Walker and Phillips swatted away a dangerous one-timer off the stick of Vitkuske.

Then came an empty-netter at 15:42 by Salem junior forward Zach Goleniak that brought the house down.

Goleniak raced into the Brighton zone after a loose puck and managed to swipe a backhander into the goal while prone on the ice following a check. "He got knocked down and it was a great individual effort, great strength to get the puck to the net in that situation," Ossenmacher said.

Closing it out with an empty-net goal in the final minute was Walker, touching off bedlam among Salem's faithful.

PRE-REGIONAL HOCKEY

## Upstart Salem knocks off Northville

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

After a so-so regular season, Salem has become a giant killer in the MHSAA state tournament.

The Rocks made No. 8-ranked Northville their latest victim with a 3-2 victory Wednesday night in the Division 1 pre-regional at Canton's Arctic Edge.

On the heels of a 4-3 overtime upset in the state tourney opener Monday night over No. 9-ranked and rival Plymouth, Salem advanced to regional championship against Brighton.

They jumped out to a 1-0 first period lead on Joe Driscoll's goal from Evan Newel and Matt Schaumburger at 2:58.

Salem tallied two more goals in the second period to take a 3-0 lead as Noah Willer scored



Salem's Zach Goleniak rips a shot over the shoulder of Northville goalie Chance Boutin.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

from Zach Goleniak at 7:19 followed by Goleniak's unassisted goal at 9:20, which proved to be the game-winner.

Northville (16-8-3) then responded at 6:55 of the second period on Jack Meacham's goal from Alec Morgan and Kevin O'Connell.

The Mustangs then

pulled to within one with 1:51 remaining in the second period on Jack Sargent's power-play goal from Meacham and O'Connell, but they couldn't score the equalizer during the final period against Salem netminder Dillon Phillips, who stood tall by making 25 saves on the night.

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DISTRICT GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Rocks oust Northville for 18th straight win

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

There was no letdown Wednesday night for Salem, arguably the hottest girls basketball team in the state.

The Rocks were solid once again cruising to their 18th straight victory as senior center Shara Long scored 20 points in a 42-26 win over Northville in the Class A district semifinal at Novi.

Salem had beaten the Mustangs twice during the regular season, 42-37 (Jan. 9) and 47-33 (Jan. 30), and were coming off an emotional win Monday night in the district opener when they rallied past rival Plymouth, 32-29.

"You always have a little bit of a scary thought in the back of your head when you do have big games like that," Salem coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "But actually it motivated us to understand that everybody is going to bring 110 percent and give us their best game. We can't have any lulls at this time of the season."

Salem jumped out to an 8-2 lead at the outset forcing Northville coach Todd Gudith to use his first timeout. And the Mustangs were unable to close the gap trailing 20-8 at halftime.

The 18-4 Rocks then went on an 8-2 run to open the third quarter and Gudith found himself calling another timeout.

"They won 17 straight coming in, they're on a mission, clearly," Gudith said of the Rocks. "They've played in a lot of big ballgames within the

last week with winning the (Kensington) conference championship, the (KLAAs) association championship, a big rematch (Monday) again with Plymouth. So they're certainly focused."

State-ranked Salem hangs its hat on defense and Northville was unable to crack it.

"Defense is our first priority," Klemmer said. "I'm a defensive-minded coach. Our defense was great. We gave up a couple at the end, but I think we just got tired. Offensively, too, I thought we moved the ball well. We had patience, which I've been telling them. We have the green light offensively, but I tell them I just don't want them to take any shot. I want them to come down, work the ball and get the best one and I think that they did. They shared the ball really well. They found the open player."

Seniors Katie Latack and Hayley Rogers each added six points for the Rocks, but Long made the Mustangs pay inside with 12 of her 20 in the opening half.

"Getting the ball inside right now is huge with Shara Long, who is a big presence in there," Klemmer said. "So when we hit outside shots, they have to respect both you're inside and you're out (game), so I think we did that right from the beginning."

Sophomore forward Jessica Moorman scored eight points, while freshman point guard Mariah Modkins added five for Northville, which bowed out at 13-8 overall.

"We missed a lot of shots in

the first half for us," Gudith said. "We're young and, from a mental standpoint, we're fragile with that. One miss, mentally, leads to two and it just snowballs whereas they're separate things. We had a couple go in and out. I just wanted to see if we had made a couple of those the first half. Instead of being down only 12 the first half, we could have been down five."

Northville bid adieu to three seniors, including starter Emily Maresh, along with Katie Kalass and Christina Minna.

"Our kids know that we got to get better," Gudith said. "I think we got the pieces and kids to do it. And I think we've got kids that want to commit to it. Salem was in our position three or four years ago. And look at them now. That's what we told the kids after the game. Those six seniors for Salem really committed themselves to getting better each year. And now they're being rewarded for the fruits of their labor. That's the lesson we're trying to teach our young kids. We can get there, too, but it's going to take some time and we have to commit to it."

Meanwhile, it seems so long ago when Salem dropped its first four games of the season back in December to Plymouth (45-25), Farmington Hills Mercy (49-46), Brighton (44-32) and Dearborn Divine Child (44-37).

"We played some tough teams, I'll give our schedule that," Klemmer said. "I don't think they realized how good



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem's Maranda Armstead goes up for two points over Northville defender Jessica Moorman in Wednesday's Class A district semifinal.

they could be and I think they doubted themselves a little bit in those first four games. So I think the adversity was good for us. I scheduled those hard games on purpose. I wanted to see what we looked like and I think it exposed our weaknesses. I was never worried. Did I

think we'd knock out 18 in a row? I don't know about that. But it pushed us to the next level and made us understand we could be because we competed with them, and just what we had to do to get there."

bemons@hometownlife.com

DISTRICT GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Brown's return gives Chiefs a big boost

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

After an up-and-down and somewhat disappointing regular season, Canton appears to have gotten its defensive mojo back just in time, thanks to the return of Alanna Brown to the starting lineup.

The senior forward, cleared to play only a day earlier after sitting out the past month in a cast with a bad ankle, didn't fill up the stat sheet Wednesday night but made her presence known as the Chiefs got past host Novi, 38-26, in the Class A district semifinal.

Canton, which improved to 12-9 overall, gets a crack at rival Salem (18-4) in the district final beginning at 7 p.m. Friday at Novi.

Brown did not score a point in the victory, but brings experience. She is one of two starters returning off last year's state Class A runner-up team (along with junior guard Natalie Winters).

Canton junior guard Madison Archibald provided the offensive punch, leading the way with a game-high 15 points, including three triples on 5-of-6 shooting from the floor.

Senior guard Alexa Lagola also contributed 10 points, while sophomore forward Erin Hult added eight points and four blocks (all in the first half). Winters also grabbed six rebounds.

But just having Brown back in tow made Canton first-year coach Kevin Palmer feel a whole lot easier.

"It was huge; she's a difference maker, especially on defensive end," said of the 5-foot-8 Brown. "That's what she's known for and what she's been known for the last three years throughout this program and this year. When we lost her, that's when our defense lost a little bit. We had a streak going, from the second game of the year we didn't allow anybody to score over 40 points up until Alanna went out with her injury."

Canton led 9-5 after one quarter and 18-11 at halftime. The Chiefs increased their lead to 28-16 after three quarters while holding the Wildcats to 5-for-24 shooting from the field.

Brown, ironically, attempted just two shots but let her defense do the talking.

"She went out a month ago, and that's when the defense fell off," Palmer said. "That's the kind of value she has. It's not

going to show up in the stat sheet a lot of times, or the scoreboard with how many points she puts up. It's the defensive plays she makes. It's a little tip on the ball, keeping the ball alive, just being in the right place at the right time, and help. And having that senior leadership is so, so huge. And I think it was a big emotional boost for our girls, too, having our captain come back and practice with us yesterday and being able to play with us today."

Novi tried to make a run in the fourth quarter cutting the deficit to 32-24 on a basket by Allie Lipson with 3:18 remaining, but the Wildcats couldn't overcome 18 turnovers and 10-of-20 free throw shooting on the night.

"The weaknesses we had when we first went through the (KLAAs Central) division, which we hadn't seen in awhile, reared its ugly head tonight where we had missed layups, missed free throws and turnovers," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "... the last few weeks we became a pretty good team and for whatever reason those things came back to us tonight."

Forward Kelsey Miller scored a team-best nine points, while center Alex Felice added eight points and six rebounds for the Wildcats, who committed 18 turnovers.

Canton, meanwhile, made 13-of-27 shots from the floor (48.1 percent) and 9-of-15 free throws (60 percent).

"We were really disciplined on the offensive and defensive end," Palmer said. "We were just a lot more together. And I think 'Lan' brings that communication, that camaraderie defensively. Offensively we talked about being more disciplined and patient with the ball, and just not shooting quick shots, and trying to force things. And we did a really good job with that tonight. We kind of forced Novi to play out a little more than being able to pack it in and we got a lot more easier looks because of it."

But on the negative side, the Chiefs committed 20 turnovers.

"And they were silly turnovers, not like things that we were forcing things, but just like travels," Palmer said.

"We're a team that's got to get better with our feet. I couldn't tell you how many silly travel calls we had, at least five or six off of just catch, step and not being sound with our footwork."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The triumphant Salem Rocks varsity girls basketball team celebrates after winning the Class A district title Friday night at Novi.

## SALEM

Continued from Page B1

layup to give the Rocks an early 8-2 advantage.

"It all started with our driving and our ability to move the ball around. That's how I was able to get open," Rogers said.

### Fast start

Rogers' fast start echoed a conversation with Klemmer before the game.

"I said to Hayley before the game that she had to knock down some shots early on. All she needed was a little bit of confidence and somebody to believe in her. It's good for her to come out shooting like that," Klemmer said.

Canton (12-10) answered Rogers' fast start with jump shots by Erin Hult, Madison Archibald, and Alexa Lagola to get to within four points with under ten seconds left in the first quarter.

Salem freshman Lasha Petree boosted Salem back up with her razzle dazzle, coast-to-coast spinning layup with just six seconds left.

The Petree layup sparked a 16-5 run for the Rocks giving them a 26-11 lead at halftime.

"Salem is a phenomenal team. They have a lot of seniors, a lot of experience," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "Those seniors put in a lot of hard work throughout the course of their four years."

"Things weren't always great for them and they had to go through those trials and

failures in order to get to where they are now. I have a lot of respect for them and their coaches. They have an opportunity to do something great like we did last year. I'm really excited to see what they can do throughout the rest of the tournament."

### Holding it together

Salem's calming presence of the night was senior guard Jamyra Wilson. She dished out nine assists and was constantly looking to get her teammates open looks with her drives to the basket.

"I look for my teammates more than I look to score," said Wilson, who finished with five points. "I have played with them long enough to know where they're going to be at all times whenever I drive so I just give it to them and let them take care of it."

Wilson gave credit to Thomann for helping develop her passing skills.

"He told me to always, always look for my teammates and pass the ball," Wilson said.

"Jam is always good at finding the open player. It's hard to not collapse on her as a defender because if you don't she's getting to the basket, she's a good finisher," Klemmer said.

Klemmer and the Rocks pushed the tempo all game in hopes of speeding the Chiefs up to an uncomfortable level.

"Our conditioning is a big part of our success. I tell our kids I want to get the ball down the court in six seconds or less. I wanted to wear Canton down and that's what I think we did,"

Klemmer said.

Canton will graduate two seniors that had a very successful career that saw them get to the state championship game as juniors. Palmer called Alanna Brown and Alexa Lagola "two truly great young women."

"Our two seniors are Alanna Brown and Alexa Lagola," Palmer said. "Alanna was kind of the mother of the group. She was the wiser mother hen that kept the kids in line."

"Lex was one of those kids that if I could have 12 Lex's I would have been one of the happiest coaches in the world. She's incredibly coachable, she's one of the hardest workers I've ever seen."

### Their tribute

Winning the district championship for Thomann meant "everything" for the Salem players. Rogers and Wilson both were proud to wear the Salem jersey in Thomann's honor.

"He believed in us so much," Rogers said. "We feel when we play, when we practice that he's always with us; we will always remember him. It feels great to know that we are doing this for him."

Concurring was Wilson, noting that "every time I go home, I think of him. I love Fred. I know he's smiling on us after this one. He is so proud of us."

Salem will face off against Fenton (12-10) in next Tuesday's regional semi-final matchup 7 p.m. at Fenton High School.

## Canton Township woman seeks financial help for volunteer trip abroad

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Meghan Montgomery Jones has never met a kiwi bird, but she'll spend a few weeks this summer safeguarding its habitat.

"I am passionate about the Earth and I do my part with recycling and I garden," said Jones, a Canton resident and a junior at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. "The kiwi is the national bird of New Zealand. They are endangered. I'm happy to get to work with them."

After a representative from International Student Volunteers (ISV) spoke at her college last year, Jones, for whom volunteering has been second nature since childhood, researched the organization, spoke with her parents and jumped at the chance to volunteer abroad. Initially, she considered working with elephants in Thailand through ISV, but discovered the weather would be too hot in July, when she plans to travel.

"I have to think of my health," said Jones, who has lupus and arthritis. "In New Zealand, it will be winter there when I go. I tend to do better when it's cooler out."

Lupus kept her from traveling with her church youth group to Spain and with a school group to England a few years ago. She has the OK from her doctors to volunteer in New Zealand this summer, but she could use financial help for the trip. She has raised \$390 of her \$1,000 goal through an online crowd-funding site, [volunteerforever.com](http://volunteerforever.com).

"I'm paying for most of it myself. I have two jobs and have been saving. And my parents are helping. I'm fundraising for transportation."

Jones offers perks, ranging from a thank you letter and postcard sent from New Zealand, to a personal video and a souvenir, to her benefactors, for various donation amounts.

### Books, volunteering

Jones, a 2012 Salem High School graduate, calls herself an "eco geek" and "book nerd" who has always loved reading, volunteering and working with children. She's studying children's literature and drama for children at Eastern, and plans to make a career in publishing where she hopes to diversify the content of children's books.

"I liked books when I was younger, but when I was 11 I became hard core. I realized I loved reading. My childhood was volunteering at the li-



Meghan Montgomery Jones and her young campers from the YMCA Summer Camp at Achieve Charter Academy, have fun at a Detroit Tigers game last year.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

brary."

She spent so much time at the Canton Public Library, she asked if she could help. She shelved books and joined a book club there, later volunteering at the Plymouth District Library, where she also served on a teen advisory board.

"I will read anything, fiction and nonfiction. I read three to four books at a time. I just read *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*, which was so good. I'm reading *If You Could Be Mine*, about two girls in love with each other in Iran," she said. "And I'm reading a book for fun about children's literature and the history of it."

### Writer, activist

She writes for the SPARK Movement at [sparksummit.com](http://sparksummit.com). SPARK is a coalition of organizations training teenage girls and young women to become "media activists and leaders in the fight against sexualization" of girls, according to its website.

"I run an online book club via that. We have an app that just came out, we partnered with Google, and it will help you find the history of influential women near you," she said. Her own idols are Helen Keller and Mother Teresa.

She also writes for a website that focuses on book-to-film story adaptations and is



Meghan Montgomery Jones of Canton plans to volunteer in New Zealand this summer. She is raising money for the trip through a website, [volunteerforever.com](http://volunteerforever.com).

managing editor of [pulpzine.com](http://pulpzine.com), a website that celebrates "girl power" along with music, fashion, and other topics.

She volunteers as a Brownie troop leader in Canton, and works as a supervisor at an after-school program administered by the YMCA at Achieve Charter Academy.

"I just love anything that's structured, as far as a place for kids to grow. I've always loved after-school clubs, anything creative that allows someone



Meghan Montgomery Jones has used a walker occasionally because of her lupus and arthritis. She won't let that stop her from volunteering in New Zealand this summer.

to find themselves."

To help Jones meet her fundraising goal, visit [volunteerforever.com](http://volunteerforever.com), click on the

volunteer tab and then type "montgomery jones" in the search box.

## New water heaters will be bigger, more difficult to install

After April 15 when you have a hot water heater installed it will cost you a lot more money — and this is no April Fool's joke.

The protector of energy standards in Washington, who continues to modulate the savings of products, has done it again. The new water heater will be much larger and have added components to ensure they operate on the new energy standards set forth by the U.S. Department of Energy. Now we have a water heater that will not fit in the current space you have and because it is going to be more complex, you might not be able to install the heater yourself.

It was not so long ago that because of new energy standards the water heater was changed in design and here we go again. The water heater with new energy standards became a burden to homeowners and a boon to the plumbing industry. They had to be vented to the outside; you couldn't simply change the thermocouple when the pilot wouldn't stay lit because the thermocouple was no longer sold in the hardware stores for \$10-\$15.

It had a screen at the bottom which had to be kept clean and sensor to smell anything that could explode and the list goes on. But, keep in mind that the average life span is seven to 10 years and that won't change.

I believe that there are only five manufacturers of hot water heaters in this country and they produce many brand names and from what I read and hear, they are all the same. My heater is 11 years old and it is a shame to replace something that still works perfectly fine, but this news is food for thought.



Joe Gagnon

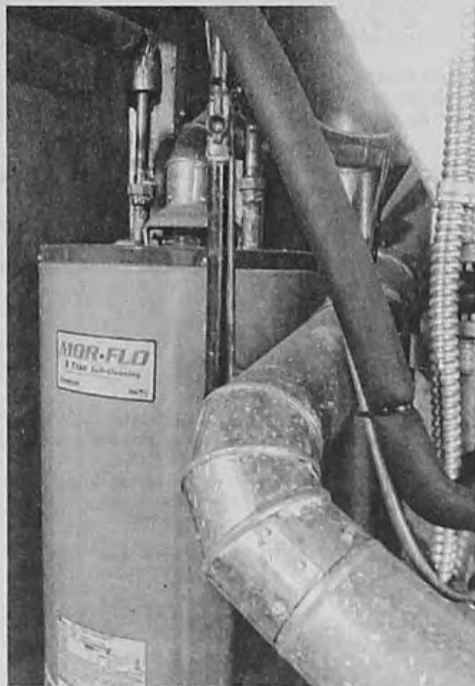
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

### Garage refrigerators

Cookie writes: "I would appreciate your advice. I have a 25- plus-year-old Kenmore refrigerator. We have used it in our unheated garage for many years. It now needs to be replaced as the freezer is no longer working well. I have heard that new refrigerators don't do well in a garage as the compressor does not hold up in the cold. Is this true and if so is it all brands or are there any that do work in that environment? We depend on both the refrigerator and freezer compartment to supplement our indoor refrigerator."

Reply to Cookie: I would like you to wait until the outside temperature warms up (one of these days) and see what happens. When the temperature in the garage is colder than the setting on the thermostat control, food will start to thaw in the freezer section. This is a normal condition. If you purchase a refrigerator/freezer for a garage it probably will be made by Whirlpool and be very costly. Buying a regular refrigerator and placing it in an unheated garage can be very costly if the compressor should fail. Especially in the first year of ownership. The warranty reads that the refrigerator must be installed inside the home and a compressor replacement is over \$600.

Some 20 years ago, I found an old Philco refrigerator, (1948 model) with the rounded door and a door handle that moves and latches shut. I replaced a little



Newer, bigger hot water heaters may not fit into existing cramped basement spaces.

wiring around the compressor and this refrigerator has never quit running. It uses less energy than the energy-saving models of today and keeps the pop and beer colder than Alaska. I'll bet money that I'll be in appliance heaven before it gets there. I only wish that appliance manufacturers would build a product that could last as long as some of the hot water heaters and refrigerators that were made years ago. The new technology of today which is all set according to new energy guidelines is only costing the end user a lot more money in repeated purchases of the same products. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twmi.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twmi.rr.com).

## Agency helps job seekers hone skills

Women and men who've been out of the workforce awhile can sign up for help with resumes, job interviewing and related topics through Women to Work, a program of JVS. The sessions have been held at the JVS Southfield office for many years, with the next beginning in April.

"We are now also offering the program in Detroit," said Judy Richmond, Women to Work coordinator for the agency, which in the past was known as Jewish Vocational Services. "Typically they're women who have not worked in awhile or have worked sporadically."

The free job-seeking help is available to men as well and to those of all faiths. Advance registration is needed and should be done by contacting Richmond at 248-233-4232 or [jrichmond@jvsdet.org](mailto:jrichmond@jvsdet.org).

The Detroit-based Women to Work will also begin in April. There is an information session needing advance sign-up through Richmond, set for April 7 for Southfield participants and April 8 for Detroit participants.

Sessions will start at both locations the following week in Southfield from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays for five weeks. In Detroit, they will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Wednesdays for five weeks.



Ted Setlak (left) of Warren, FAR President Emerita Jody Wachler of Troy and Steve Lipsen of Livonia attended Sing Out 4 Kids on Saturday night to benefit the FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts.

Events raise funds for kids' programs

It was karaoke at its finest on Saturday night at the Emagine Theatre Royal Oak. Standing ovations all around for the 11 performers including the musical lawyers of A (Habeas) Chorus Line, who were this year's "Sing Out 4 Kids" participants.



Julie Yolles SOCIAL SCENE

Thursday, March 12, Variety, The Children's Charity invites you to its Big Bowl Tournament at Emagine Lanes in Royal Oak. Tickets are \$50 and include bowling, dinner, drinks and entertainment.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR



Learn how to keep your lawn healthy at a free presentation, March 14 at English Gardens stores.

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Butterflies - Brendon Weil, vice president of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA), will discuss the Lycaenidae family, the second largest family of butterflies, including the blues, coppers, hairstreaks, and harvesters, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. \$3 for non-members.

Mushroom hunters - Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club offers a seminar by Timothy James of the University of Michigan on fungal diversity and taxonomy, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty, Farmington. A potluck starts at 1:15 p.m., followed by the lecture. The public is welcome. For more information, call Phil Tedeschi at 734-355-0359.

English Gardens - Learn how to keep your lawn healthy throughout the season at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Get a head start on gardening and learn how to grow your own transplants at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Kids, ages 3-12, can plant a salad bowl to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Cost is \$10. Sign up in the store or online at englishgardens.com. Classes are held at all

Spotlight Players offers two student scholarships

Spotlight Players is accepting applications for its annual scholarships. The community theater group will award two \$250 scholarships. Recipients may apply the money toward any arts-related training program they choose.

Carson's collects donations for Goodwill

The Goodwill Sale at Carson's kicks off on Thursday, March 12, with a "Stuff the Truck" event at the store, located at Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile, Livonia. During the sale, which continues through Saturday, March 28, Carson's will accept clothing and household textiles such as apparel, underwear, shoes, hand-

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A large grid of job listings categorized by 'Help Wanted - General', 'Help Wanted - Medical', 'PHYSICAL THERAPIST', and 'REACH MORE potential employees'. Listings include various roles like Drivers w/CDL, CNC operators, Warehouse workers, and Therapists.

Advertisement for O&E Media's Jobs Section featuring a woman's face and the slogan 'Maybe the Grass is Greener...'. It includes contact information for the jobs section.





## Health research: New study indicates nondrug method best for calming dementia patients

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

A University of Michigan clinical trial starting next month will test a nondrug approach to dealing with dementia symptoms.

The computer program, called WeCareAdvisor, will help families and other caregivers prevent or mitigate the triggers for common dementia symptoms such as repetitive questioning, pacing, irritability, aggression, and apathy. Triggers can be anything from a loud telephone ring to clutter in the home to an argumentative caregiver.

"The WeCareAdvisor will have two parts. It will be installed on an iPad and one part is a survival guide with a myriad resources for caregivers in one place," said Helen Kales, M.D., head of the U-M Program for Positive Aging. Participants will have at their fingertips information on understanding dementia, legal advice, financial resources, and more.

The other part of the program is based on a nondrug approach to addressing dementia called DICE. The model encourages patients, doctors and caregivers to "describe"



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

A U-M researcher says a nondrug approach called DICE is more effective and less risky than medication, for calming dementia patients.

situations where behavioral problems occur, along with their context; to "investigate" medical problems, such as urinary tract infections or other physical factors that might lead to behavioral problems; to "create" a plan to prevent or respond to behavior issues; and to "evaluate" how the plan is working and if it needs to be changed.

"The caregiver comes to the WeCareAdvisor tool with a symptom — for example, maybe the person is agitated and aggressive during bath time — the tool walks (the caregiver) through the DICE process, so at the end they get a tailored prescription to mitigate that

symptom.

"We're taking the DICE approach and combining it with technology. We've built 1,000 tips and strategies into it. We're really excited about it."

### DICE, not drugs

Kales and Laura Gitlin, Ph.D., and Constantine Lykets, M.D., both from Johns Hopkins University, are working with the U-M Center for Health Communications Research to launch the clinical trial, which is funded through the National Institute of Nursing Research.

The DICE approach came out of an expert panel, including nurses, pharmacists, social workers and other health professionals that Kales, a geriatric psychiatrist, Gitlin and Lykets convened in 2011.

Kales and her two co-authors recently published a paper in the *British Medical Journal*, asserting that nondrug approaches, like DICE, work better and are less risky than drugs in addressing dementia behavior symptoms. They reviewed 20 years worth of research in comparing drugs, such as antipsychotics and antidepressants, with nondrug approaches to reach their conclusions. They found that caregivers trained to identify

and stop behavioral triggers, can be more effective than drugs in treating dementia symptoms.

"Medications do work on some people," Kales noted. "There are scenarios where they would be used as the first line of treatment — if someone is depressed and may be at risk of suicidal thoughts or actions. Or if someone is aggressive to the point they put others or themselves in danger. Medication may be necessary in the short run."

"But in many other cases behavioral and environmental (intervention) should be used first."

### Key factors

She said caregivers need to be trained in identifying and then mitigating the triggers of behavioral symptoms. They need to look at the patient, themselves, and the environment.

"Things may be going on with the patient themselves. They may have developed a urinary tract infection, they may be dehydrated. The caregiver is a factor. They may be stressed, frustrated and angry," she said, adding that a caregiver's "negative reaction" can trigger symptoms.

"The environment is a huge factor in all this. If they are over-stimulated — too much noise, clutter, people coming in and out of the house — that can set off agitation." She pointed out that medication may sedate a dementia patient but doesn't fix the trigger that causes behavioral symptoms, such as anger or agitation.

"The issue and the challenge is that our health care system has not incentivized training in alternatives to drug use, and there is little to no reimbursement for caregiver-based methods," Kales noted. She said the U.S. can take a cue from Japan, which has a high rate of dementia among its elderly population and "as a society has made a decision to deal with it."

"They are developing community health-focused centers for people with dementia. They're training people to be dementia supporters. They're training transportation workers," she said. "We can learn something from looking at their culture. As a society, it's important we speak about these issues."

Caregivers interested in joining the clinical trial can email Kales at [kales@umich.edu](mailto:kales@umich.edu).

### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

#### Blood drive

Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Classrooms 1-4 in the Allen Breakie Medical Office Building, located on the hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Call 734-458-4259 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

#### Breastfeeding clinic

Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, offers a

class for new moms who need assistance nursing their babies, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, March 9. Participants will get a chance to examine various products and supplies. Cost is \$35. Register for Breastfeeding Basics at 248-888-2500 or [botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html](http://botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html).

#### Celiac support

Kelly Dorfman, an expert on using nutrition therapeutically to improve brain function, energy and mood, will speak at the next meeting of the Tri County Celiac Support Group, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 30, at the First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Her topic will be "Beyond Celiac: When Removing Gluten Is Not Enough." [tccsg.net](http://tccsg.net)

#### Childbirth Class

Learn about the stages of labor, managing discomfort, relaxation and breathing methods, the partner's role in labor and delivery, medications and anesthesia, C-Section deliveries and more, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$75. Register by phone, 248-888-2500, or online, [www.botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html](http://www.botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html).

#### Diabetes management

» Link Up with Diabetes, a Garden City Hospital support group with a focus on living a healthy lifestyle, will focus on Internet health literacy, 2 p.m. April 1, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren Road, Westland. For more information, call the hospital at 734-458-4330.

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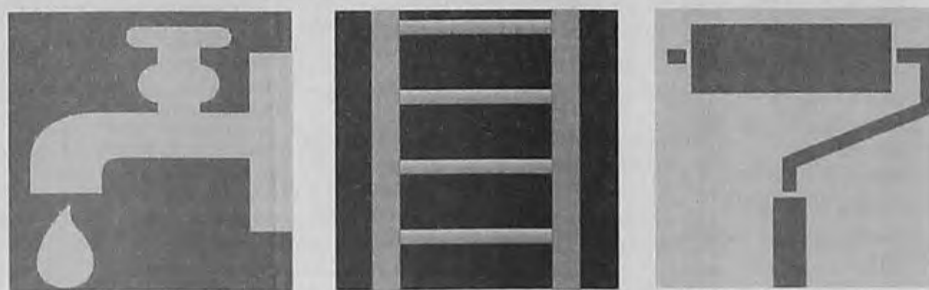


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# Car Report

## Buick Leads Field Day for GM in Closely Watched Consumer Reports, J.D. Power Surveys



**By Dale Buss**

quality and reliability of its vehicles.

It's a very good time to be Buick. Two of America's most-respected arbiters of automotive quality and reliability—*Consumer Reports* and J.D. Power & Associates—have agreed that the GM-owned near-luxury brand continues to gain significant ground in the U.S. market in the

(up from No. 12 in 2014) as rated by *Consumer Reports*—making it the top U.S. domestic brand for the second year in a row.

In addition, the Buick Regal stunned observers by besting the BMW 328i to earn Top Pick honors among sports sedans, which Jake Fisher, the director of automotive testing for *Consumer Reports*, called a “very un-Buick category.”

Fisher told *Automotive News* that Buick “has a reputation for large, cushy cars, and they’ve [reinvented] themselves

“GM’s customer-driven approach to quality and dependability is breaking through,” said Grace Lieblein, vice president, global quality, for GM. “Dependability is a top purchase consideration and key to customer loyalty. These awards reflect our commitment to provide customers with the best overall experience in the industry.”

The 2015 Power study tracked 2012 model year vehicles in their third year of ownership.

Chevrolet ranked higher than ever in this study, led by Malibu as the segment leader in the highly competitive Midsize Car segment. For the third year in a row, the Chevrolet Camaro ranked highest in the Midsize Sporty Car segment.

The GMC Sierra LD and Chevrolet Silverado LD ranked first and second in the Large Light Duty Pickup segment and the Chevrolet Silverado HD and GMC Sierra HD ranked first and second in the Large Heavy Duty Pickup segment.

GMC Yukon, Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban all ranked in the Top 3 of the Large SUV segment. These models also filled the Top 3 positions in the Large SUV segment in the 2014 J.D. Power Initial Quality Study, where the 2014 Chevrolet Suburban and 2014 GMC Yukon ranked highest in a tie, along with the 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe.

Other brands and companies that scored particularly well across the two reports that were released this week were Lexus, Toyota, Tesla and Subaru.



**Buick Encore has become best-selling small crossover**

Most Chrysler brands, however, were notably positioned on the below-average end of the 2015 J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability study.

For the second year in a row, *Consumer Reports* once again ranked Tesla S as the best overall vehicle in the U.S. for reliability, commenting that “For all of the impressive new vehicles released in 2014, none was able to eclipse the innovation, magnificence and sheer technological arrogance of the Tesla.”

Lexus executives must certainly be pleased with the fact that American consumers still find the brand highly reliable. The Toyota-owned brand finished No. 1 in *Consumer Reports’* list for the third straight year, though no individual model topped its segment.

Lexus also ranked best in the J.D. Power study for the fourth consecutive year, and its ES nameplate was rated No. 1 in the Compact Premium Car segment, while the Lexus GX was rated highest in the Midsize Premium SUV segment.

Buick, Mazda, Toyota, Audi and Subaru rounded out *Consumer Reports’* top five, while Power’s top rankers after Lexus and Buick were Toyota, Cadillac and Honda.

Some divergent brand evaluations were apparent between the readers of the magazine versus auto buyers responding to Power’s survey. Subaru, for instance, was ranked No. 5 by *Consumer Reports* readers but finished below the industry average for dependability in the Power study.

Power also reported that car buyers continued to downgrade many brands because of connectivity issues, such as Bluetooth problems and voice-recognition difficulties—even as infotainment becomes a more competitive platform and auto brands vow they’re doing everything possible to make the experience easy and enjoyable.



**Buick Regal stunned the industry by besting premium sedans in Consumer Reports**

The endorsement continues a strong run for Buick lately that, globally, last year saw it deliver nearly 1.2 million vehicles, with sales in North America and China both up 13 percent. In the United States, the Buick Encore has become the industry’s best-selling small crossover. On a global basis, the Encore ended 2014 with sales of 138,218 units, up 42 percent.

Buick rose to the No. 2 spot in Power’s ranking and nabbed the No. 7 position

pretty quickly. They’re making reliable vehicles, and they’re making cars that score very well. In many ways, they’re like the new Lexus, but also sporty to drive.”

Actually, GM made a strong showing overall especially in the Power survey, with Cadillac ranking fourth among all brands, and Chevrolet and GMC ranking 10th (in a tie.)

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