

# CANTON OBSERVER

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## Canton museum exhibit to focus on diversity

**Darrell Clem**  
Staff Writer

Canton historians are planning to put diversity on display with a museum exhibit that focuses on cultural and religious groups that have broadened the community's population base.

Using items such as cultural symbols, clothing, books, artifacts and photos, Canton Historical Museum Director Jordan Taylor said historians hope to unveil the exhibit Saturday, April 30.

Taylor said the museum — a former one-room, brick schoolhouse on Canton Center, south of Cherry Hill — is expected to feature the exhibit to coincide with Canton Acts of Culture, a

week-long series of community events that starts May 1.

"Canton is just getting so much more diverse," Taylor said, adding that the exhibit could accommodate "four or five different groups who want to share more of their story."

The museum will provide the display cases and graphics for the exhibit. To apply, send an email to [jordanta@umich.edu](mailto:jordanta@umich.edu) or call 734-765-6704 by March 25.

Taylor said historians decided on the season's debut exhibit to focus on Canton's "recent" history.

Canton has become home to an increasing number of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, among others. Moreover, the last national U.S. Census revealed



FILE PHOTO

The Canton Historical Museum is planning to feature an exhibit that focuses on Canton's diversity.

that Asian Americans and African Americans accounted for much of Canton's 18.1-per-

cent growth in population.

Steve Spreitzer, president and CEO of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, said exposure to diverse cultural and religious groups can help to dispel stereotypes, lead to better understanding and foster more inclusive communities.

"I think it's a great idea," he said Tuesday, after learning of the museum's plans. "I laud the efforts of this museum and other groups that make sure we live well together."

Spreitzer said resources such as the museum exhibit can become one way that helps residents learn about other cultures.

"It's a way of getting one's arms around the dynamics of

culture and race," he said.

Taylor, who works as volunteer director for the Canton Historical Museum, is asking local groups to contact her as soon as possible if interested in becoming part of the exhibit.

Taylor said the exhibit will not include musical performers or food because of issues such as space limitations. However, she said historians are discussing a plan for cultural diversity in music and food by setting up a tent outside the museum during Canton's annual Liberty Fest, which happens June 16-18 in nearby Heritage Park.

[dcllem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dcllem@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

# WOMEN BEHIND BARS

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**COMING MARCH 24**

» Lakeshia Valdez still has decades to serve for stabbing to death Redford resident Matthew Olivarez.  
» Battered woman syndrome is gaining more attention in legal circles.  
» Domestic abuse can be physical or psychological.

**INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER**

Prison by the numbers, A5

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Shocking headlines dominate the news as a murder trial unfolds. The prosecution and defense offer different versions of the same event. Sordid details and dark secrets are revealed — pain turns to sorrow and questions of what might have been. Why really happened that day? What went so terribly wrong? What if?

Reporters Aileen Wingblad and David Veselenak set out to answer those questions in a series of interviews with convicted murderers Nancy Seaman and Lakeshia Valdez.

## Murderer Nancy Seaman describes torment of prison life

**Aileen Wingblad**  
Staff Writer

"I took a life. I never said I should just walk away free. I never wanted to kill him, I was only trying to protect myself. I just wanted to get away."

Those are the words of Nancy Seaman, 11 years and a couple of months after a judge ordered her to spend the rest of her life in prison for the grisly hatchet murder of her husband Bob.

Seaman, an elementary school teacher at the time of the killing, claimed self-defense. An argument over her plans to end the marriage and move into her own condo had turned physical, she said, and she truly feared for her life the day Bob died.

Bob had threatened to kill her time and again, she said, and this time, she believed he'd do it.

The Oakland County prosecutor who tried her case didn't buy it. Neither did the jury.

Seven months after what she calls "the tragedy" in the garage of their upscale Farmington Hills home, Seaman started living out her days



Nancy Seaman



Robert Seaman

at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Pittsfield Township.

### Tears daily

Eleven years-plus and still, Seaman said, not a day goes by that she doesn't cry.

She cries for herself, as she continues her legal fight, knowing that her options for appeal are extremely limited — if not already exhausted.

She cries for her family — her two sons, their wives and the four grandchildren she's never met. She cries for her brother, for the friends she misses so much.

And, she said, she cries for Bob.

"The person I loved for 31 years is dead and I'm responsible," Seaman said, during a recent interview with the *Observer & Eccentric*. "I'm tormented — I can't even put into words what it feels like."

Seaman has yet to completely adjust to prison life.

## Not your everyday gig: Visit with convicted killer

I'm sitting in the visitor center at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, waiting to meet Nancy Seaman, a convicted murderer.

This place has been her home for the last 11 years.

I'm not sure what to expect once our interview begins. I'm a bit apprehensive, of course, but curious and ready.

I've already muddled through the intake requirements — allowed only "clear pens" and my notebook, patted down by an officer, proving to her that I'm not trying to sneak anything in under my tongue, behind my ears, between my toes. The jewelry I'm wearing is accounted for;



Aileen Wingblad

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PRICE: \$1


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# Snyder's budget proposal could add cash to schools

**Danielle Alexander**  
Staff Writer

If Gov. Rick Snyder's 2017 fiscal year budget proposal is approved, Northville Public Schools will receive an additional \$60 per pupil, while Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will obtain an additional \$120 per pupil. According to michigan.gov, the governor is proposing an investment of \$150 million to provide schools with a foundation

allowance increase of between \$60 and \$120 per pupil, bringing the minimum foundation allowance from \$7,391 to \$7,511 and the basic foundation allowance from \$8,169 to \$8,229 per pupil. Since NPS is a district that already receives the state guaranteed maximum foundation allowance, it will only receive half of the increase, whereas P-CCS will receive the full increase since it currently re-



Gallagher Merritt

ceives the minimum foundation allowance. If enacted, the proposal would reduce the gap between higher (like NPS) and lower (like P-CCS) funded districts.

P-CCS Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt said the district would receive \$2 million in additional revenue if the proposal is approved. "This increase would go a long way toward the budget challenges that P-CCS is currently facing and would allow us to maintain the high quality programs out students and community expect and deserve," Merritt said. Based on Northville's

current enrollment, NPS Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher said the proposed increase equates to approximately \$430,000. The proposed budget is up just 0.8 percent from last year, calling for critical investments for the Flint water crisis, statewide infrastructure and the Detroit Public Schools, as well. Gallagher said NPS is concerned that these challenges might impact the

likelihood of the governor's proposal making it through the legislative process. "The governor's version of the school aid budget is the first step in a long process that will not finalize until June," Merritt said. "Although it is the most favorable school aid bill that we have seen in a long time, as a district we will remain conservative in our budgeting until the final proposal is approved."

## CANTON OBSERVER

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hometownlife.com

**Editor: Joanne Maliszewski**  
248-396-6620  
Email: jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

**Sports: Tim Smith**  
734-469-4128  
Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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## Spotlight on Youth presents 'Enchanted Sleeping Beauty'

Spotlight on Youth will perform the musical "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty" March 17-20 at Inspire Theatre in Westland.

This "for kids, by kids" musical is about the king and queen of Never Nod who have a new baby princess: Briar Rose. The witch, Evilina, who lives with a giant spider, sets a terrible curse on the poor young princess. Sixteen years later, it is up to Prince Alexander to come to Briar Rose's rescue and the court's, too, for they are all asleep. The prince must fight the Wall of Thorns, a false princess and, most frightening of all, the exalted Dark Knight.

Spotlight on Youth exists to create an extraordinary youth-centered theater experience and to advance theater as a means of educating, challenging and inspiring young people. It is comprised of youth from Westland and many surrounding communities.

Opening night is 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, followed by performances at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 18-19, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20.

Call 734-751-7057 or go to spotlightonyouth-



GARY TURNQUIST

Spotlight on Youth presents "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty," a "for kids, by kids" musical.

mi.com for tickets. The cost is \$15 for general

seating. Inspire Theatre is at

33455 Warren Road in Westland.

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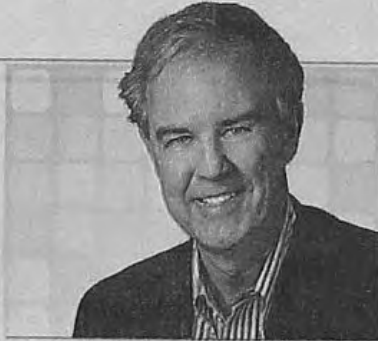
## Ask the Expert

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Cochlear implants work differently than hearing aids. Rather than amplifying sound, they use sophisticated software and state-of-the-art electronic components to provide access to the sounds you've been missing. They are designed to help you hear better and understand speech in all situations, including noisy environments.



David C. Kelsall, M.D.,  
Cochlear Medical Advisor

Dr. David C. Kelsall, a cochlear implant surgeon and medical advisor to Cochlear, the world leader in cochlear implants, answers questions about cochlear implants and how they are different from hearing aids.

**Q: How are cochlear implants different than hearing aids?**

**A:** Hearing aids help many people by making the sounds they hear louder. Unfortunately, as hearing loss progresses, sounds need to not only be made louder, they need to be made clearer. Cochlear implants can help give you that clarity, especially in noisy environments. If you suffer from high frequency hearing loss but maintain your hearing in the low frequencies, there is a solution called Hybrid™ Hearing that may be able to help as well. Be sure to discuss your options with a Hearing Implant Specialist in your area.

**Q: Are cochlear implants covered by Medicare?**

**A:** Yes, by Medicare and most private insurance plans.

**Q: How do I know a cochlear implant will work for me?**

**A:** The technology is very reliable. In fact, it has been around for over 30 years and has helped change the lives of over 400,000 people worldwide.

**Q: Is it major surgery?**

**A:** No, not at all. In fact, the procedure is often done on an outpatient basis and typically takes just a couple hours.

**Q: Am I too old to get a cochlear implant?**

**A:** No, it's never too late to regain access to the sounds you're missing.

Call 1 877 499 4000 to find a Hearing Implant Specialist near you.

Visit [Cochlear.com/Det](http://Cochlear.com/Det) for a free guide about cochlear implants.

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# Bentley Elementary students rock with all things science, math, arts at STEAM Bash

Bentley Elementary students are literally steaming ahead learning and sharing science, technology, engineering, art and math. And the few hundred people who braved snowy roads in early March to visit the school's second annual STEAM Bash can testify to that.

The recent event allowed kids to get a taste of all the STEAM components as part of 21st century learning and preparing them to be globally competitive, said Cheryl Zuzo, a Bentley teacher who co-organized the event with

fellow teacher Shannon Terrace

"The staff at Bentley also loves the chance to connect with our families and the community," Zuzo said.

STEAM activities also shared the spotlight at Bentley with a science fair at which kids to showed what they can do. Science fair participants and experiments increased from 42 to 59 this year.

"Kids are excited about science! Each grade level K-5 placed first, second and third, but the most important part was the journey -

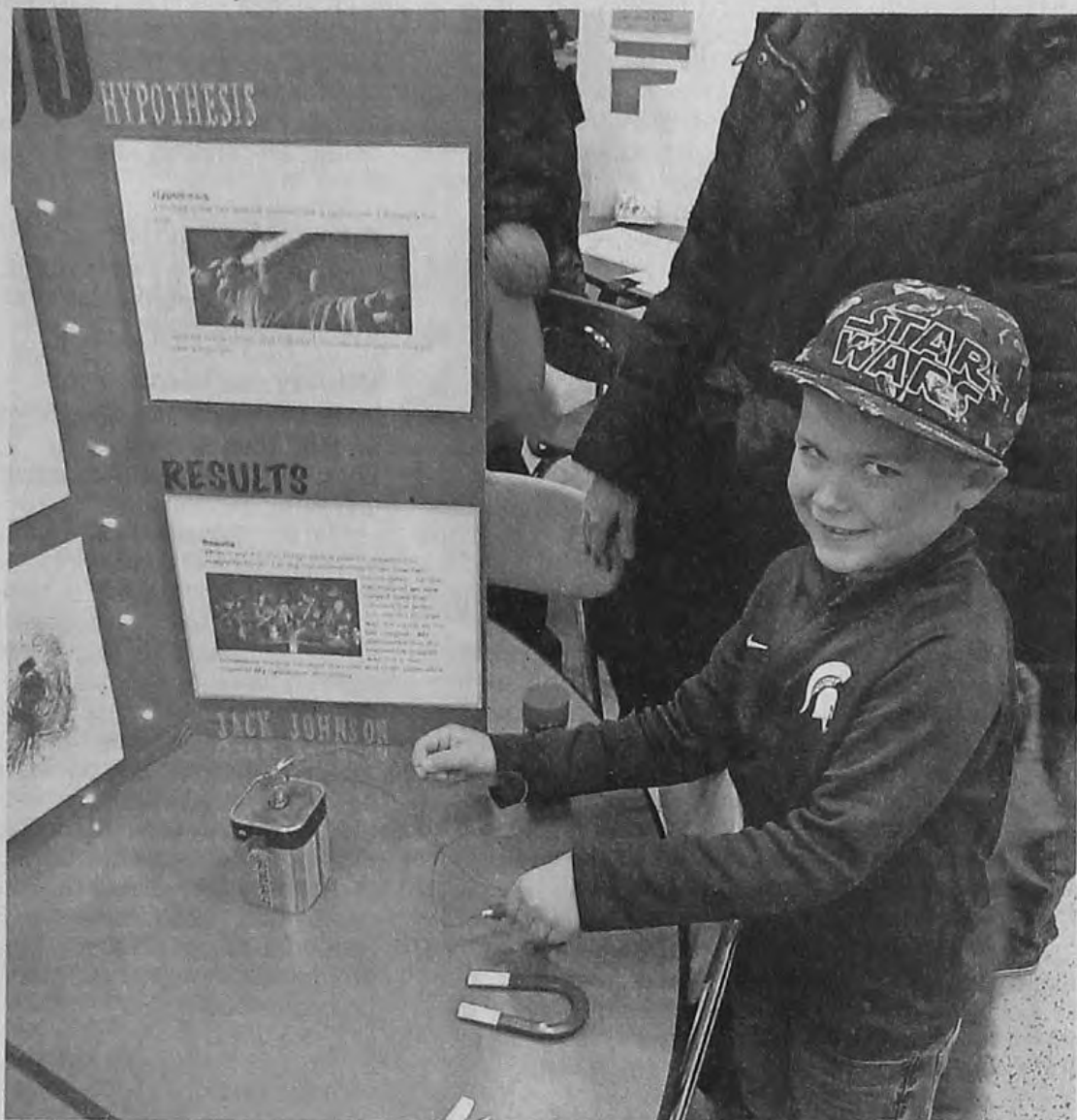
learning physical, life and earth," Zuzo said.

District judges for the event included Carlos Lopez, Jan Douglas (science and math curriculum) Bob Williams, PCEA president and Carol Williams, a science teacher. From outside the district, Armen Kabodian also served as a judge.

"It was really great to get her interested in science. After she finished the whole project herself, she said, 'That was more fun than I thought!'" said Renee Budden, mom of first-grader Ella Budden.



"Catapults are so cool! I made that! I made that happen!" said Max Sullivan, a first-grade Bentley student.



This first-grader impressed guests with his experiment on electricity and forces.



"These are so cool! I want one at my house!" said a Bentley fourth-grader.



Students use OSMO systems to interact with technology, guess words and get instant feedback.



An estimation station, where students guessed the number in the jar to win the contents.

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## Parolee charged in knife-point robbery in Canton

**Darrell Clem**  
Staff Writer

A Westland ex-con accused of brandishing a knife and robbing a Canton chiropractic center could land back in prison, where he already spent more than five years for bank robbery and armed robbery.

Michael James Stachowski, 36, is facing a probable cause hearing in 35th District Court amid allegations he robbed the Village Wellness Center and led Canton police on a foot chase before an officer fired a

Taser gun and captured him.

Stachowski, paroled last July for a bank robbery in Plymouth Township, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted anew of armed robbery and larceny in a building. A not-guilty plea has been placed on his record.

Stachowski's latest troubles arose after the Village Wellness Center — located on Can-



Stachowski

ton's bustling Ford Road business corridor, near Haggerty — was robbed just before 4 p.m. March 3.

He was slapped with a \$300,000 cash bond when he was formally arraigned on criminal charges March 5 in 35th District Court, Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said.

Stachowski is expected back in court in late March for a preliminary hearing that could determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Police say his arrest came

after authorities received a call that a knife-wielding man had seized money from a 51-year-old Village Wellness Center worker before fleeing across Ford Road, where a foot chase ended near the Baymont Inn and Comfort Inn Suites.

Police say a Taser gun was used to bring the suspect under control after he threatened to harm himself with the knife. Police returned the stolen money to the chiropractic center.

Stachowski was paroled last July after he served 18 months

in prison for robbing the Bank of America branch at Five Mile and Beck in Plymouth Township in July 2013. Police also recovered cash in that incident.

Even earlier, Stachowski had spent four years in prison on two armed robbery charges, according to Michigan Department of Corrections records. Those incidents occurred in 2008.

dclcm@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

## Derailed train cars force brief road closure

Part of Joy Road on the Plymouth Township-Canton Township border was closed Tuesday afternoon when four cars on a CSX Railroad train derailed in the area.

The incident occurred just after noon Tuesday, said Gail Lobin, a CSX spokeswoman. There were no injuries and no spills of any materials from the freight cars, Lobin said. The track crossing at Joy, west of Haggerty, is a short distance from CSX's Plymouth East Yard in the city of Plymouth.

Lobin said the road was reopened at about 3:30 p.m. and apologized to the community for any inconvenience.

"Safety is CSX's highest priority," she wrote in an email. "We encourage residents to report operational issues to our Tell CSX community affairs center by calling 877-Tell-CSX (877-835-5279)."

## Car repo man says suspect pointed gun at him

A 48-year-old Canton man is facing criminal charges after he was accused of pointing a gun at a man who came to repossess a vehicle at a residence on Beck, north of Han-

ford. No shots were fired and no injuries reported as the incident unfolded about 2 p.m. Friday, a Canton police report said.

Police found a BB gun at the scene, but the 27-year-old victim told authorities he believed the man had a different weapon — possibly a semiautomatic handgun — before police arrived. The investigation was continuing.

The worker contacted police to report he had been threatened while trying to do his job repossessing a vehicle. He said the suspect came outside, yelled at him to leave, pulled a weapon out of a pocket of his pajamas, pointed it at him and then went back inside.

The worker said the suspect came back out with a different gun — a BB gun he said was pointed at him before the resi-

dent threw it on the ground, a police report said. The worker said he pushed the suspect to the ground when the suspect approached him.

According to the report, the suspect told police he pointed the BB gun at the worker to scare him away. He said he didn't want the worker to drive across his lawn to hitch the vehicle onto a tow truck.

Police ran a background check and learned that the suspect had a pistol registered in his name, but he insisted he only used the BB gun to threaten the worker. Police also learned the suspect had unrelated warrants for his arrest.

## Fake gun at school

A Canton teen caught with a replica handgun in his car at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park has been issued a citation by local police.

The incident unfolded shortly before 11 a.m. March 9, when a school resource officer patrolling the Salem High School parking lot noticed two students apparently skipping class, a police report said.

The students told police they were waiting near the car

of a third student, saying he had sent a text indicating he needed to talk.

An officer peered inside the car, a 1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue, and noticed through the window what appeared to be a handgun in a backseat passenger side pouch.

Police called school security and had the car's owner, a 17-year-old student, brought to the scene. He denied texting the other students and said the gun was a replica weapon — an airsoft pistol — that had the orange tip missing from it. A police report said ammunition for the fake gun also was in the car.

The student told police he plays with the gun with his friends. He was issued a ticket for being under 18 and having a replica firearm. The two other students were taken to a school office for allegations they were skipping class.

## Near head-on crash

A 69-year-old Westland man told police his vehicle was nearly struck head-on — close enough that it damaged a side mirror on his car — while he was driving west on Palmer, near Lotz.

The man said he was driving his Chrysler 200 along Palmer, near the I-275 overpass, when the driver of a purple Ford Focus crossed the center line shortly after 2 p.m. Saturday.

The man said the other driver struck his car just enough to damage the mirror. The man wanted to document the incident.

## Unruly customer

Police went to the Days Inn on Michigan Avenue, near Lotz, amid reports of an unruly customer Sunday.

An employee said a 41-year-old man had rented a room for a month and paid \$900, signing a no-refund policy and then later complaining about the room. The employee said the suspect began yelling and demanding his money back.

The employee told police he had dealt with the customer in the past and described him as bipolar and schizophrenic.

Authorities warned the man to stay away from the Days Inn. Police also told Days Inn employees to report the man if he comes back.

— By Darrell Clem

## CANTON CRIME WATCH

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

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# CONGRATULATIONS! WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

These area students were among the more than 1,400 named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2016 Semester, with a grade point average of 3.25 or higher.

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# PRISON

Continued from Page A1

"It doesn't get easier. Every single day, I wake up and cry, realizing I'm still here. Why am I still here?" she said, her voice rising as tears streamed down her face. "I can't understand the failing of the justice system. I can't understand how they can just let me die in here."

It's a life of despair. "And, yes, I'm angry. This didn't have to happen. I did all the right things, trying to (move out), getting everything in order, waiting for the right time to go," she said. "I did the right things and how it turned out is so wrong."

## True love

Flash back some 40 years. Seaman, at the time Nancy Onofrio, meets Bob. He's charming – a young engineer at Ford Motor Co. who wasted no time stealing her heart. She was just 20 years old, working as a secretary for Bob's supervisor.

"I knew the moment I saw him that he was my true love," she said, smiling at the memory. "He had charisma, he was handsome, a gentleman, respectful ... it was love at first sight – he 'checked all the boxes.'"

Just one year later, they were husband and wife. She claims some "red flags" emerged prior to them taking their vows – one of Bob's co-workers had dropped a hint that the marriage wasn't a good idea and a couple of her aunts simply "didn't like him," she said. And the night before the wedding, Seaman said, she saw a side of Bob for the first time – a side that concerned her.

Bob phoned her after he'd been drinking, she said, and was extremely angry that she wouldn't come over to hang out with him and his relatives. She had things to do to get ready for the wedding, she said, but Bob simply didn't understand. He was mad. Very mad, she said.

The call left her so rattled that she didn't know what to expect the next day when she walked down the aisle; she actually questioned marrying him. But she wouldn't call it off. She couldn't. That would have been too much of a disappointment – and embarrassment – to her parents, she said.

"I couldn't do that to them," she said. As it turned out, Bob was all smiles when she met him at the altar. "It was as if that phone call never happened," Seaman said.

## Making a life

Thus began their life together. There were plenty of good times, she said, and Bob's steady climb career-wise meant a healthy paycheck. They lived quite well. He was "a generous provider," she said.

Life also had its share of challenges – the kind you expect with a growing family and job stress and other demands.

And then there were the challenges Seaman said she never had anticipated with the man she loved, the one who promised he loved her back.



This is the Farmington Hills house where Bob and Nancy Seamon lived, up until the day she killed in him May 2004.

AILEEN WINGBLAD



Nancy Seaman in Oakland County Circuit Court for her 2004 trial.

FILE PHOTO



The inside of a prison cell at the Women's Huron Valley Correction Facility.

COURTESY OF DOC

The kind of things she mostly kept to herself.

Things like Bob's excessive control, hot temper, need to "always be right," she said. Things like kicked-in doors and kicked-in drywall, household items thrown and smashed. Shoving and hitting, black eyes, bruises, a broken bone, chipped teeth. Hard-core berating and name-calling. Infidelity.

These are the things, Seaman maintains, that she endured – off and on – for three decades. These are the things she tried her best to hide from their two sons – and the rest of the world, she said.

"In many ways, Bob was a good person. He had so many fine attributes – he was smart, funny, handsome. He had so many good qualities," she said. "Then there was this other side ..."

For years, Seaman said, she felt trapped. She was a stay-at-home mom, financially dependent. Bob doled out the money.

"Where could I go? What could I do? I had two kids, I had no job," she said. "I couldn't leave."

Yet that was to change. When she was in her 40s, Seaman earned a teaching degree and eventually landed a job at Longacre Elementary School in Farmington. Bob paid for her education, but had no respect for the profession she chose, Seaman said.

Yet to her, having her own classroom and students brought immense joy and per-

sonal satisfaction. "Teaching wasn't a job to me. It was a passion, my identity, who I was," she said.

According to Seaman, as her career blossomed, Bob's began to nosedive. The fighting intensified. She made a few feeble attempts to reach out for help, but nothing came of it.

"And Bob said, 'No one will care. No one will believe you,'" she said, sobbing. "And he was right. Look where I am now. Bob was right."

## A 'mental break'

Seaman is the only one who knows what really happened at her house on that day in May 2004 – Bob's last day.

Bob's voice was taken from him, denying him the chance to defend himself, to respond to the accusations, to share his side of the story when his private life became obscenely public.

During Seaman's trial, the prosecution maintained that she had planned the murder – evidenced by her purchasing a hatchet the evening before and ambushing Bob in the garage. More than 20 hatchet and stab wounds were found on his body.

Seaman testified that she and Bob had fought that morning, that he had found out she had planned to leave him. Bob chased her into the garage and she grabbed what she could to defend herself. That happened to be a hatchet she had purchased for yard work, she said. She remembers hitting him

with it and him falling on top of her. And she kept hitting him, she said, because she still thought he would be able to hurt her, unaware that he was incapacitated – or likely killed – by the first blow. She was scared, she said.

Seaman said she was "shocked" to later learn just how many times she had hit Bob with the hatchet – and that she had stabbed him multiple times, too.

"I don't remember having a knife, I don't remember stabbing him ... and when my lawyer showed me the autopsy, I couldn't believe it," she said. "To this day, I can't believe it, but it's true. Autopsies don't lie."

Seaman claims she had a "mental break" after the killing. In a daze, she said, she went to her teaching job that morning. A couple of hours later, "something overcame" her and she felt compelled to get home. She saw Bob's body in the garage.

"I just went into some kind of shock and thought 'this can't be happening ... Bob's dead, he's not moving.' I lost my mind right then," she said.

Seaman wrapped the body in a tarp and somehow managed to put it in the back seat of her Ford Explorer. Then she bought cleaning supplies to "take

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## BY THE NUMBERS

### 1981

— Year the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility opened

### 2009

— Year the Scott Correction Facility closed, inmates transferred to Huron Valley

### 2,287

— Current inmate population

### 2,151

— Inmate population, 2015

### 1,881

— Inmate population, 2011

### 573

— Number of employees

### 1.03 million

— Combined square footage of facility buildings

### 300

— Facility's acreage

### 2

— Number of inmates younger than 18

### 15

— Age of youngest inmate

### I, II, IV

— Security levels at Huron Valley

### 12

— Percentage of inmate population statewide serving life sentence

### 5

— Percentage of statewide inmate population that are women

— By Aileen Wingblad

## ABOUT THE FACILITY

The Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility is the only prison in Michigan which houses females. It includes 13 housing units, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, Special Alternative Incarceration, Residential Treatment Program, Acute Care, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Infirmary and Detention.

Programming offered includes Adult Basic Education and General Education Development preparation classes, as well as pre-release and life skills instruction. Vocational training is offered in auto mechanics, building trades, business education technology, horticulture, food technology and custodial maintenance. Prisoners have access to religious programs, substance abuse treatment, psychological services, general library and law library services. Phase I programs are offered in cognitive therapy, violence prevention and social support.

Prisoners are provided on-site routine medical and dental care. Pregnant prisoners receive counseling, parenting classes and child care options. Medical emergencies are referred to local hospitals.

The facility has two perimeter security fences with electronic detection systems. Security cameras are located throughout the facility and perimeter. Vehicles with armed personnel patrol the perimeter.

Source: Michigan Department of Corrections

# VISIT

Continued from Page A1

the metal detector finds nothing of consequence.

Now, I wait. Glancing around, I see that the room looks pretty much how I had imagined it to be. A uniformed guard standing watch over the goings-on. Facing rows of austere plastic chairs. A few vending machines.

From my seat, I see small groups of inmates through a window to the outside. Dressed in dark blue uniforms and bright orange caps, they stroll the prison grounds.

A couple of rows behind me, one inmate – I guess to be in her early 20s – sits with a woman who I assume is her mom. They're talking softly, smiling, sharing a couple bags of Sun Chips, drinking pop. To my left, another inmate and her visitor quietly read the Bible together.

As the minutes tick by, I stand up and check out the room a bit more closely. In a corner is a collection of well-worn board games, books, decks of cards and bins of plastic toys – the kind of stuff you might find in a day care or waiting room of a doctor's office. Diversions to pass the time, to keep the kids occupied.

But this is no doctor's office or day care. The kids who use



The visiting room at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

COURTESY OF DOC

these toys come here to see their mom, grandma, big sister, auntie or, perhaps, a close family friend.

I let that thought sink in for a moment, picturing in my mind a 6-year-old playing a game of Uno with someone who chose a serious crime over her role of mommy – and now they are both paying the price.

Deep sigh.

## Family time

"Hey, you really need to sit down."

That's the guard speaking – to me.

So I do.

And a few feet away, I see a family seated at a table. They look like a mom and dad a few years younger than I am, a teenaged boy and a grandma. They are peering out that win-

dow that looks onto the yard, giddy with excitement as they see their loved one make her way toward the visitor center.

A couple of minutes later, she walks in. She's thin, has long dark hair, wears glasses. She reminds me of the typical girl you see at a high school football game or Twelve Oaks Mall or hanging out at Starbucks with her friends. She appears sweet, even.

The four rush to her and exchange hugs. The woman I've decided is the girl's grandmother looks her up and down. "You've grown so much," she says, smiling. The girl grins.

They take their places around the table and start to talk about "regular" things: books, hunting, shoveling snow, starting their own business. Also, classes the girl is taking while she's locked up.

Then the woman I figure is the girl's mom makes eye contact with me. I know she sees my reporter's notebook – but still, I tell her I'm a member of the media.

She confirms it's her daughter at the table with them, just 15 years old, sentenced to 7-20 years in prison. The girl doesn't belong incarcerated with adult convicts, she says.

"We hate the state of Michigan (now). It's corrupt," she says, scowling. "We're going to move out of this state when this is all over."

I don't know the girl's crime and the mom won't tell me. But a sentence of 7-20 years tells

enough.

The mom turns back to her family.

Again, I sigh. Silently, I thank God for my blessings.

Moments later, the reason for my visit enters the room. Nancy Seaman.

## Ugliness, consequences

Seaman is thinner than I thought she'd be. Her gray hair is cropped short. Her face, for the most part, is unlined – which surprises me. After all, she's 63. She killed her husband in a most brutal way. And she's been in prison for more than a decade.

I had expected haggard and beaten down. I was wrong.

Inside the visitor center's tiny private room – typically reserved for attorney consultations – we sit facing each other across a small table.

Seaman seems a bit uneasy, and why not? She likely knows some probing questions are coming her way. As I find out later in the interview, Seaman isn't a fan of the media due to the way she says she was treated after the killing and during the trial. Still, she's giving me the benefit of the doubt. She says she's heard good things about me.

I tell her she looks good.

Seaman shrugs and chuckles. "No, oh no," she says, shaking her head. "No, I don't."

Then her smile fades.

And before I can ask her

See VISIT, Page A6



# Donation boxes available in local communities for Stiggy's Dogs

Plymouth Township resident, Lia De Biasi has a donation drop-off on behalf of Stiggy's Dogs at the Plymouth District Library and Canton Township.

For the past three years, De Biasi has organized a fundraiser in memory of her Labrador, Benjamin James, for a nonprofit organization that aids in the well-being of animals. This

year, she would like to dedicate the fundraiser to her classmate and dear friend, Robert A. DiDonato, who served in the United States Army and was an avid dog lover himself.

Stiggy's Dogs is a nonprofit organization that rescues and trains shelter dogs to be psychiatric service dogs for military veterans living with PTSD or TBI. The

psychiatric service dogs are trained and deployed at no cost to the veteran.

De Biasi fell in love with the organization because it encompasses two things she is very passionate about – shelter dogs and veterans. Once she found out that Stiggy's Dogs was founded in memory of Benjamin Phillip "Doc Stiggy" Castiglione, she knew it was fate and intends on

organizing a donation drop yearly for Stiggy's Dogs.

The Plymouth District Library has volunteered to be a drop-off location for items again this year. And thanks to Phil LaJoy, a second drop-off location this year is at Canton Township. There will be a decorated box at the entrance of the buildings for donations.

Donations range from

trash bags and disinfecting wipes to steel dog bowls and kongs to bikes and treadmills. A complete wish list can be found on Stiggy's website or the donation poster. Every contribution is greatly appreciated and immensely helps Stiggy's Dogs. To donate, write your name and address on a card taped to the donation so De Biasi can send a personal

thank you card, as well as your tax-deductible letter.

If you would like to learn more about Stiggy's Dogs or make a monetary donation, go to [www.StiggysDogs.org](http://www.StiggysDogs.org).

The donation centers are Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth; and Canton Township, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton.

## VISIT

Continued from Page A5

one question from the list I've prepared, Seaman starts in on her story. Unabashedly, with an underlying current of desperation, she talks and talks. She breaks down in tears, time and again.

I listen as she tries to explain why she committed murder – which she calls "the tragedy." I listen as she tries to explain why she believes she was unjustly sentenced.

And I wonder what really happened that day in the Seaman's Farmington Hills home.

Her husband of 31 years, killed with a hatchet blow to the head. Several other strikes with the hatchet followed, plus he was stabbed multiple times.

All these years later, Seaman maintains that she was physically and emotionally abused



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I can't understand the failing of the justice system. I can't understand how they can just let me die in here," Nancy Seaman said of her life sentence.

throughout their marriage and that she was defending herself during an argument – fearing for her own life – on the

day her husband was killed.

As she continues talking, I think of the two sons she's left behind,

the four grandchildren she's never met. I think about her dad, who died while she's been behind bars. I think about her

neighbors and friends and former colleagues at Longacre Elementary School. I think about the kids she had in her class-

room. And I'm once again reminded of ugliness and rawness and abhorrent pain – and consequences.

It's sitting two feet away from me.

An officer sticks her head in the door. We've been at it for nearly three hours. Visiting time is over, she says. We say our goodbyes. Perhaps I'll be back, I tell Seaman.

As I head out of the building and dash through the parking lot to my car, the January sky opens up and a slushy rain pelts down. Glancing back at the prison complex, I welcome the stinging cold and wetness. I drive off toward the expressway that will take me from here, that will take me home.

Aileen Wingblad is a reporter for the Farmington Observer. She can be reached at [awingblad@hometownlife.com](mailto:awingblad@hometownlife.com) or 248-390-3976. Follow her at on Twitter: @awingblad.

## PRISON

Continued from Page A5

care of the mess." She says she was in "make-it-all-go-away" mode, like she did after all their fights.

Of course, she didn't make it all go away. Farmington Hills police found Bob's body in her

car a few days later. She told them it was an accident.

On Dec. 14, 2004, the jury returned with the verdict: guilty of first-degree murder.

### 'One hell for another'

Seaman's crime sent her from one gated community – Ramblewood in Farmington Hills – to

another, where people are kept in, not out.

Some 40 miles from the neighborhood she and Bob had called home.

Where they had raised their two boys.

Where Bob lost his life.

Where Seaman said she endured torment and suffering – which now continue, albeit in a different way.

"This place is terrible. I can't believe I've survived 11 days, let alone 11 years," Seaman said. "I traded one hell for another."

She's quick to note that the guards treat her fairly and decently. "They are very kind and sympathetic. Very professional," she said.

It's the "women here abusing each other, all the time" which is unsettling to see, she said. Seaman herself has had just one altercation with a fellow inmate, but escaped injury. "I was chased after by an older woman and called every name in the book," she said.

So she keeps to herself, for the most part.

"This is a scary place. And I've always been a very, very private person. I'm not going to change that – especially in here," Seaman said. "I've even had guards ask me how I cope so well and I've told them I'm using the same strategies I used to manage and deal with 31 years of abuse. I just shut it all out to survive."

She avoids being part of any of pseudo family with fellow inmates – common among the female prison population – including intimate physical contact.

"There's lots of sexual relations in here. Everyone is paired up," Seaman said. But not her.

"They just consider me the little old lady with the gray hair – thank God," she said, chuckling. "I'm cordial and friendly, but I don't get close. I don't forge friendships."

And that makes for an extremely lonely life, compounded by her decision to not let any family or friends visit her – ever.

"They've begged and pleaded, but I don't want them to see me here," she said, sobbing. "I want them to remember me the way I was – not behind barbed wire. I just don't want them to see this."

Her younger son, Greg, phones her regularly, she said, and she communicates via mail with her older son Jeff.

"They are my reason for living; they are what keep me going. I visualize walking out of here one day and wrapping my arms around them," she said.

The two sons took opposing sides during her trial – Greg being the one who supported her. Have she and Jeff

repaired their relationship? What about the brothers themselves?

This is one topic Seaman refuses to discuss. "I really don't want to talk about my sons (any more)," she said.

But she will say the most difficult aspect of incarceration is being separated from her family "and the lack of physical contact from anybody."

"Sometimes, I just long for a hug, for comfort. But I (won't) get that in here," she said.

Her cellmate – "bunkie" in prison-speak – is in her mid-50s, Seaman said, and has been incarcerated for nearly 30 years. She, too, killed her husband.

Seaman said they get along fine, but stops short of calling it a friendship. "She gets frustrated, because I won't talk about my personal life," she said. "But I lived my whole married life keeping my business to myself. Why would I change that in here?"

"We talk about the weather, clean our room together and watch TV a lot," she added. "I'm polite and helpful when I can be, but it's all superficial."

### Continuing to fight

While some may argue a convicted murder doesn't deserve it, Seaman has managed to find a purpose, a diversion of sorts, a reason to wake up each day. Six years ago, she landed a clerk job at the prison's law library. Five days a week, she takes on two or three shifts, each lasting up to three hours.

"I love it; it's my sanity. I help with cases, show (inmates) how to find legal resources, do record-keeping and inventory," Seaman said. "It has helped to restore my self-esteem."

She considers it a vast improvement over her previous prison job – tutoring inmates for the GED.

"I hated that," she said. "The women were angry, embarrassed, resentful. They're resentful of (my) education."

The law library is her go-to place, every day – because when she's not on duty, she's there working on her own case. Seaman admits it can be tough to hang on to hope, but she's not ready to give up on herself and the chance that she'll be granted one more appeal – and perhaps walk out of prison someday.

Her "fight for justice," as she sees it, has zigged and zagged since her trial. First, a district judge reduced her conviction to second-degree murder, yet it was subsequently reinstated by a state appeals court. In 2010, a U.S. district court ordered that she be given a new trial or released within four months, stating Seaman's attorney failed to develop a strong enough case regarding battered spouse abuse. But that, too, was overturned, this time by a federal appeals court. An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court went unanswered.

Now, Seaman is trying to again appeal to federal court – hoping to address the state of Michigan's limits on battered spouse abuse as a defense, in and of itself.

"I'm running out of chances to get back in court and the window of opportunity to appeal is getting harder and harder," she said. "But there's no other way out."

"Some days, I just feel old and tired," she added, sighing. "It's incredible that, 11 years later, I'm still fighting for justice. It's like being on a merry-go-round that you can't get off of and you start to lose hope. But hope is all I have."

Seaman said she has yet to reconcile the fact that she committed murder. "I still feel humiliated and ashamed, in total disbelief," she said. "Anyone who knows me, knows this just wasn't me."

"For 30 years of marriage, I was never confrontational, never defended myself. I had no malice in my heart, never (before) did I do anything to hurt Bob. I always took the high road, acted with dignity. I took it on the chin. That's why I'm so tormented, why I feel so brokenhearted. I went from not defending myself to doing this – and he's dead."

But she has made peace with God over taking Bob's life, she said. "Absolutely. God knows what's in my heart," she said. "God knows I loved Bob to the end. I have no second thought to that."

The Observer & Eccentric reached out to members of the Seaman family for comment, but received no response.

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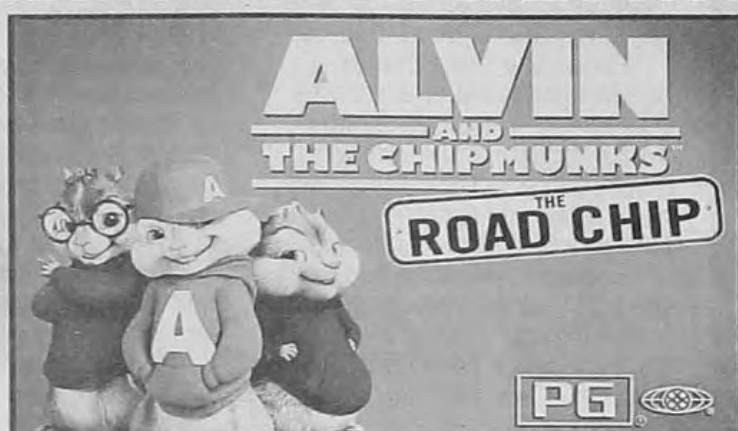


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# (Il Volo comes home to Detroit)

*"It all started here, We Love You DETROIT"*

~ Il Volo

Il Volo made sure their 2016 North American tour stopped in their favorite city of Detroit where they "lit" up the stage at the Fox Theater on Saturday, February 27th.



Gianluca and Antonio breaking bread together

Downtown traffic could have interfered providing stand still traffic as fans crawled their way to the theater, but nothing stopped the sold out crowd from seeing Gianluca Ginoble, Piero Barone and Ignazio Boschetto take the stage accompanied by an orchestra and a rock band to open the show with their album title single "Grande Amore". Il Volo, an Italian pop trio, delighted hundreds of screaming fans singing pop, operatic and international classic songs. The trio joined together for duets and also had solos. They dazzled the audience with their fun-loving personalities and their passion for music and Italy.

Since Il Volo's first visit to Detroit in 2010, when Antonio Rugiero advocated for these brilliant young singers to come to his city and the Detroit Opera House

to do their first performance in America. They took the audience in their first concert and since have become international artists.

In their short time together they have released four albums with the newest "Grande Amore" hitting #1 on the billboard charts. They have toured with Barbara Streisand in 2012, won two Latin Grammy Awards. In 2015 they won the celebrated san Reno Music festival and represented Italy in the Eurovision Song contest in Vienna. They continue to grow as artists while remaining the same grounded young men that came to Detroit to follow their dream to bring the classic music of Italy to the world.



Piero and everyone complimented Mama Rita for the great meal

After the concert, Il Volo wanted to catch up and visit with their friend Antonio so together the Rugiero family and the Il Volo family gathered at Rugiero's restaurant and Mama Rita prepared their favorite dishes. They ate, sang, laughed, shared a wonderful meal and celebrated till 3:00



The Rugiero Family and Il Volo Family together again 2016

a.m. Maestro, the conductor traveling with Il Volo, proclaimed it was the best Italian food he had had since leaving Italy. With lots of hugs and love the family said their good-byes as Il Volo boarded their tour bus for the next stop in Nashville. They have 35 stops on their Northern American tour before they leave for a tour in Latin America and Europe. Bravo Il Volo!

"I have always been so proud of these boys and honored to call them my friends. It is such a joy to watch Il Volo achieve well-deserved International stardom. They remain the same fresh-faced boys that came in 2010. They are kind, thoughtful individuals that have a passion for music, family and their fans."



Piero, Ignazio, Antonio and Gianluca spending time together after the concert at his Restaurant

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## OUR VIEW

# Record Seedlings fundraiser raises youth literacy

The folks at Seedlings Braille Books are getting used to breaking records.

At Saturday's Bowling for Braille Books event at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth Township, a record 200 bowlers registered, plus Seedlings had 52 sponsors, another record. Headlining sponsors included the generosity of Alpha USA; Cole, Newton & Duran CPAs; Livonia Builders; the Plymouth Lions Club; and Valassis.

But the big number? The event raised a record \$44,000. That should make Seedlings officials, including new board president Jared Stofflett, very happy people.

It continues a level of success that's truly impressive. Seedlings, founded in 1984, serves blind and visually impaired children across Michigan, the United States and 75 countries. Its mission is laudable: Increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing low-cost braille books for children.

And the group is pretty good at it, too. Seedlings had a record-breaking year in 2015, distributing 26,862 braille books and articles. Want a better statistic than that? Nearly half of those were provided free of charge.

That's a more impressive statistic when you consider only 5 percent of children's literature is transcribed into braille. That means that for every 95 books a sighted child has, a blind or visually impaired child may have only one.

The success doesn't have to end there. If you didn't



The Seedlings Bowling for Books fundraiser Saturday drew more than 200 bowlers and raised some \$44,000.

get a chance to bowl but still want to help, Seedlings will be taking contributions online (<http://tinyurl.com/jbtqv2>) through June 12.

If you're wondering if you can make a difference,

you should know: Every \$10 raised makes another braille book. You can make a difference in the lives of children.

Just like Seedlings is doing.

## LETTERS

### Formidable opponent

I recently had the opportunity to hear Mark Clinton, candidate for Plymouth Township treasurer, address a meeting of the Plymouth Concerned Citizens. How refreshing to hear someone highly qualified in both business and finance discuss the issues

that have become problematic for the township. Mr. Clinton will be running in the Republican primary in August and will be a formidable opponent to incumbent Treasurer Ron Edwards.

One of Mr. Clinton's top priorities is to re-establish trust in the Board of Trustees. He also recognizes that transparency is vital to

establishing trust. Professional competency and transparency, coupled with a clear understanding of the concerns of the citizens of the township, will provide the foundation for re-establishing the trust which has been lacking for the past four years.

Mr. Clinton also emphasized his concern over the 2014 resolution passed by the current board, which states that the township should have nothing to do with the city of Plymouth until after the 2016 election. The only two people voting against that resolution were trustees Chuck Curmi and Bob Doroshewitz.

Well, it is now 2016 and the time has come to

change the make-up of this board. One of Mr. Clinton's priorities is to repair the relationship between the township and the city. I believe everyone in both locales would be glad to see that happen.

Jackie Peters  
Plymouth Township

### GOP's philosophy failed in Flint

People can argue about who is to blame for the Flint water crisis, but one thing is clear. The lead poisoning in Flint's water is a failure of the basic Republican governing philosophy — the idea that we can and should run government like a business. Gov. Rick Snyder is the epitome of that philosophy.

His only credentials as a candidate were those of a business executive. He organized his administration around spreadsheets and dashboards. He looked at numbers and ignored people. He overthrew democracy in the name of the bottom line. It was his emergency manager who thought saving money was more important than people's health.

After the people of Flint complained to Snyder's Department of Environmental Quality and were ignored, Snyder blamed "bureaucrats" for relying on an overly legalistic interpretation of the rules to ridicule their concerns about the water. But Snyder set the tone in an

administration that said government regulation is bad. That trickled down through the layers of state government and the bureaucrats who followed the spirit of Snyder's administration are taking the blame.

Snyder claims none of this was his fault and calls for a new culture in state government that says "taking care of our citizens has to be part of it." For the people of Flint, it's way too late. But for the rest of us, every election from now on is a chance to soundly reject the Republican "government is just business" philosophy.

Judy Daubenmier  
Brighton

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April 20

St. Mary Mercy Livonia

Classrooms 1 & 2

36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia

5:45 p.m. - Check-in  
6 p.m. - Presentation

#### REGISTER NOW!

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Light refreshments will be served.

Dr. Makela is a member of St. Mary Mercy Medical Group, a network of primary care and specialty physicians who provide comprehensive medical care, health maintenance and preventative services to help you and your family stay healthy.



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# SPRING SENIOR EXPO

**TUESDAY,  
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- The Elder Care Firm

## Featured Guest Speakers



**9:20 - 10:15**  
Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC and Michelle Moccia DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN  
St. Mary Mercy Livonia  
*Healthcare Decisions*



**10:30 - 11:25**  
Rick Bloom, J.D., CPA  
Bloom Asset Management  
*Everything you Need to Know about Estate Planning*



**11:40 - 12:35**  
Dr. Sol Cogan, D.C.  
President and CEO  
HealthQuest Management, Inc.  
*New Technology in Pain Relief*

## Demonstrations and Workshops

**9:00 – 9:30**  
Schoolcraft College  
*Facts, Figures and Warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias*

The Elder Care Firm  
*How to protect yourself and loved ones from long-term care costs*

Botsford Commons  
*Why men don't listen and women can't read maps*

**12:30 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Schoolcraft College  
*Exercise for Easing Arthritic Pain*

Senior Helpers  
*Age in Place*

Michigan Department of State  
*Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility*

**Questions?**

**CALL 248.926.2203**



**Schoolcraft College**







SEEDLINGS

Financial & Portfolio Advisors Ltd. of Livonia, owned by Bob Hardies, was a lane sponsor of the event and had two teams there. Pictured (from left) are Larry Davis, Clarence White, Dan MacIver, George Shea, Deborah White, Ray Waldo, Kameron MacIver and John McLean. Hardies couldn't attend because he was at a conference.

## Seedlings fundraiser throws strikes

Seedlings Braille Books for Children raised a record \$44,000 at its 29th annual bowling event Saturday, shattering its previous record of \$36,000 set in 2015.

The Livonia nonprofit held its biggest fundraiser of the year, Bowling for Braille Books, at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth. The event set another new record with 200 bowlers participating, filling the 40-lane bowling alley to capacity.

"With the money raised Saturday and donations still coming in, Seedlings will be able to produce at least 4,400 more low-cost, high-quality braille books for children who are blind or visually impaired here in Michigan, across the United States and around the world," said Debra Bonde, Seedlings' founder and director.

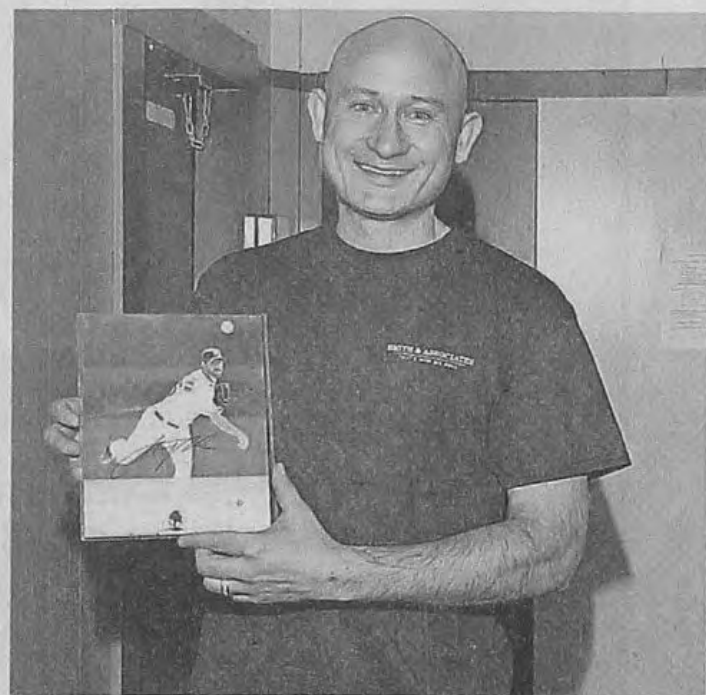
People can continue to donate to the event online until June 12. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/jbtngv2>. Every \$10 raised makes another braille book possible.

Bonde credits the success of the event, which also included a silent auction and raffles, to Seedlings' sponsors, donors, bowlers and other supporters. Headlining sponsors were Alpha USA; Cole, Newton & Duran, CPA's; Livonia Builders; Plymouth Lions; and Valassis.

Bonde, a Livonia resident, founded Seedlings in 1984 because braille books for children were rare and expensive, often costing more than \$100 each.

With the money raised at its annual bowling event, grants and other donations, Seedlings is able to distribute high-quality braille books at an average cost of \$10 each. In 2015, it distributed 26,862 braille books and articles, giving half of them away for free.

Seedlings is already gearing up for next year's Bowling for



SEEDLINGS

Bruce Ross, a member of the Smith & Associates-Novi bowling team, won an autographed photo of Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander in the silent auction at Seedlings bowling event.



SEEDLINGS

Harry Owsley, 2, and his grandmother, Rosemary Owsley, both of Chelsea, take a break from bowling to read a braille book. Harry is one of the children Seedlings serves.



SEEDLINGS

Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright (right) and Plymouth Township Supervisor Shannon Price present a donation to Seedlings founder/director Debra Bonde and Seedlings board member Patty Graff (left).

Braille Books event, its 30th annual. The date of the event will be announced later this spring.

For more information, go to [seedlings.org](http://seedlings.org) or call 734-427-8552, ext. 301.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Redford resident and longtime symphony member Deanna Lee concentrates as "Excerpts of Finian's Rainbow" is performed.

## Redford symphony treats audience to 'Sounds of Ireland' show

It was like the audience had actually gathered in Ireland.

The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra celebrated everything Irish on Sunday with a free concert at Covenant Community Church.

The symphony's 90-minute performance, "The Sounds of Ireland," featured a wide variety of traditional and contemporary music, along with a few show tunes.

"We try to play a number of older tunes that everyone will recognize," conductor Christopher Sutton said before the show.

The orchestra is in its 60th season in Redford. A group of up to about 65 musicians practice each week at the township's community center in preparation for quarterly concerts. Each orchestra season starts in the fall, with other shows falling near Christmas, spring and a June finale.

Sutton is in his first season as conductor of the orchestra. A music teacher in Pinckney, the Redford resident has performed at venues throughout the United States and Canada. He said he enjoys working with his hometown orchestra.

"Working with this group, there's a huge amount of people who have kept playing since starting off in school," Sutton said. "It's a good mix of experienced musicians and a few have only been playing for a few years that are trying to get their creative sides out."



TOM BEAUDOIN

Violinist Charlene Chen of Canton performs at Covenant Community Church with the Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Redford symphony trombonist Benjamin Lord delivers a special touch of the sounds of Ireland.

## Apply for Canton Community Foundation scholarships

For 25 years, the Canton Community Foundation has been awarding scholarships to deserving students in Canton and surrounding communities in order to help them achieve their academic aspirations.

Each year, the foundation awards approximately 30 scholarships to students. Over the years, more than 600 students have received more than \$650,000 in scholarship funds,

thanks to the generosity of CCF's many donors.

Applications for the 2016 season are available now through April 1. Students can go to [www.cantonfoundation.org](http://www.cantonfoundation.org). Click on the "Scholarship" button on the left side of the page and fill out the simple online application. Only one application is necessary for all of the scholarships offered, making it a quick and simple procedure.

Scholarship recipients are notified in late April, with an awards ceremony for recipients and their families the end of May.

For more information about the scholarships, the application process or the Canton Community Foundation, contact Beth Meade, managing director of donor relations, at [bmeade@cantonfoundation.org](mailto:bmeade@cantonfoundation.org) or 734-495-1200.

### PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WIDE AREA NETWORK FIBER MAINTENANCE

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for a Wide Area Network Fiber Maintenance solution. This solution will consist of the following components i) Emergency and scheduled maintenance ii) Locating services iii) guaranteed service response time.

Three (3) copies of the sealed bid along with one (1) original and (1) electronic copy should be submitted to:

Elson Liu, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
E.J. McClendon Educational Center  
454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170  
by **Tuesday April 5, 2016 at 1:00 pm Local Time.**

The bids will be publicly opened at this time. The proposals must contain the wording "Plymouth Canton Community Schools, WAN Maintenance RFP" on the envelope/package. The bid documents and addendums will be posted on the state website [buy4michigan.com](http://buy4michigan.com) and the USF site.

Please contact Jim Qualls in writing at [jim.qualls@plantemoran.com](mailto:jim.qualls@plantemoran.com), if you have questions about obtaining the RFP.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

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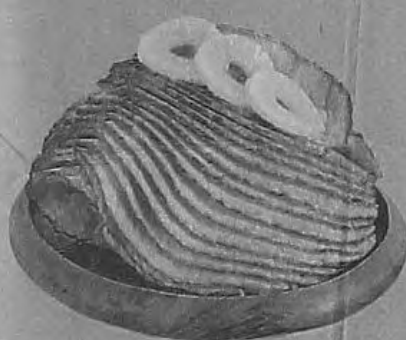
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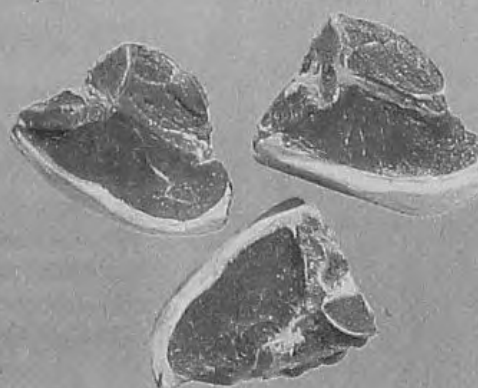
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BOYS HOCKEY



SCOTT CONFER

Novi Detroit Catholic Central earned its third straight Division 1 boys hockey state title with a 3-0 win Saturday over Brighton at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

## THREE-SWEET

Catholic Central takes bite out of Bulldogs for Division 1 crown

Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central got an early jump on daylight saving time by springing forward early Saturday night for its 13th MHSAA boys hockey state championship in school history.

And the Shamrocks did it in clockwork fashion with a 3-0 victory over Brighton in the Division 1 final before 2,214 fans at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

It was the third state title in a row for CC and the first for rookie coach Brandon Kaleniecki, a 2000 CC grad who won two MHSAA state crowns himself as a player.

"To win this one is certainly a different feeling," said Kaleniecki, who guided CC to a 24-7 record. "You're filled with so much pride and with the amount of effort that the players give ... it's very fulfilling as a coach, because you get to watch them, experience those same type of things you did when you were a player. You feel so much pride and you're so happy for them because they got it done."



SCOTT CONFER  
Catholic Central senior captain Nick Macari (front) knocks home the second goal in Saturday's win over Brighton.

CC applied heavy pressure in the Bulldogs' zone during the first period, but Brighton junior goalie Logan Neaton was up to the task, turning away all 15 shots.

Brighton's best scoring chance came on a CC power play, as Jake Crespi found himself all alone on a breakaway and was taken down by CC defenseman Alex Kreutzer on a short-handed effort. He was awarded a penalty

shot, but CC 6-foot-4 senior goaltender Alec Calvaruso stood his ground and stopped Crespi's attempt headed toward the five-hole.

Calvaruso had not faced a penalty shot all season and didn't remember what exactly happened when Crespi took the shot. It was all a blur.

"You just got to keep the team in it and do what you've got to do, keep it going,"

Calvaruso said.

Despite being in a scoreless deadlock after one period, Kaleniecki was confident his team was in a good position.

"We were pleased with our first period, outside the penalty shot, where we had a minor breakdown on the power play," Kaleniecki said. "Then Alec bailed us out on a

See HOCKEY, Page B2

D1 BOYS SWIM FINALS

## Chiefs middle of the pack

Sparked by Mullen, Canton best of P-CEP teams at Division 1 meet

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Led by sophomore Daniel Mullen, Canton's varsity boys swimming and diving team had a solid showing at the Division 1 state finals in Holland.

Mullen was in the mix in several events as the Chiefs finished 17th out of 37 teams with 34 points. Earning the championship with 313 points was Birmingham Brother Rice, while Novi Detroit Catholic Central placed 11th with 68.5 points during the competition March 12-13 at Holland Aquatic Center.

The other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park representatives landed near the bottom of the standings.

Salem tallied two points to finish 35th, while Plymouth's one point earned 37th place.

Mullen earned all-state honors in the 200 freestyle, finishing seventh with a time of 1:43 flat.

He also reached the finals in the 100 free (11th place) with a time of 47.41 and was on two relays — each with Gerard Niermann, Kyle Amick and Derek Goderis — that finished 13th.

Other Park performers who just missed out on all-state honors (top eight) were Salem's Eugene Li (15th in the 100 freestyle, 47.65), Plymouth's Garrett Beaufrez

See SWIMMING, Page B4



CANTON SWIMMING  
Canton's Daniel Mullen was one of the area's top performers at the state finals.

PREP GYMNASTICS FINALS

## Chiefs strong at individual finals

Top-notch performances across the board for Canton

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

After a disappointing fifth-place finish Friday in the gymnastics team state finals at Rockford, the Canton Chiefs bounced back with a flourish the next day in the individual finals.

"The girls showed their resilience, strength and determination and finished the season like they had performed

all year," veteran Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "The depth and ability of the team showed up Saturday and made us all proud."

Cunningham then wondered out loud about what might have been the previous day if not for three falls off beam. Canton finished fifth with 140.975, but the Chiefs would have been right on the heels of ultimate team champion Rockford/Sparta (146.35) had they enjoyed "a perfect meet."

"If Saturday would have been team finals, our score would have been 144.85," Cunningham said.

At the team finals, the Chiefs did turn in some stellar

performances. Those included Katie Dickson (9.275 on floor exercise), Jana Hilditch (9.025 on floor), Hailey Hodgson (9.225 on balance beam and 9.25 on floor) and Kelsea Kernosek (9:15 on vault).

"Certainly not bad scores," Cunningham said. "But Forest Hills (145.1) and Farmington (144.0) had four great events chasing Rockford."

Saturday's individual finals "brought Canton back to life" and made the trip to western Michigan worthwhile.

"With six all-arounders and a vault qualified, the girls had excellent routines," Cunn-

See GYMNASTICS, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Canton senior Jana Hilditch performs during the recent state regional. She and her teammates finished fifth at team state finals, with several also competing at individual finals.

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## USA HOCKEY

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Young prospects to learn ropes of playing for U.S. NTDP with eye on making roster

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Four years ago, Dylan Larkin went through the ropes, just like 48 kids from all over the country will do this weekend at USA Hockey Arena.

Larkin participated at the 2012 U.S. National Team Development Program orientation, which at that time took place at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

Fast-forwarding to this week, Larkin is an all-star rookie for the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old players such as Plymouth native Max Ellis, Christian Krygier of Novi and Jonathan Gruden of Rochester will walk through the NTDP doors with hopes and dreams of following Larkin out the other end.

"Dylan Larkin went through the same process that these kids did," said Ryan Hardy, director of player personnel for USA Hockey/NTDP. "Come in in March, four years ago now, with the '96 group. In his year he was selected for the team, he was actually injured for a lot of the season, but he was invited just like these 48 kids.

"He went through this process. Obviously, he made the team, did his two years in the national program, went to Michigan. And, you know, what he's been able to do this year is pretty remarkable."

Ellis (Honeybaked), Krygier (Little Caesars) and Gruden (Honeybaked) will be among players skating at scrimmages

and attending numerous meetings Friday through Tuesday, after which the next U.S. NTDP Under-17 team will be selected.

"That's a lot of the message," Hardy said. "That Dylan Larkin or Ryan Kesler or Patrick Kane, Auston Matthews, Jack Eichel, all these kids, they were in this exact situation as you guys and they took advantage of those resources, because they were hungry to develop and hungry to play."

## Scrimmages set

Scrimmages at USA Hockey Arena will be free to the public and are scheduled as follows: 12:30 p.m. and 7:40 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, 1:40 p.m. Monday and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

"We have a two-year scouting process where we track the kids for two years, travel the country and try to uncover all the elite players and then we bring them here," Hardy said. "They come in this weekend, we'll have 48 players; that's where we'll pick our team for next year.

"It's a long process, but it's an important one. Bringing them all together here, it allows our coaches and all our scouts to see them competing against each other in the same venue and you're able to learn a lot more about them."

Others attending the orientation include Drew DeRidder (Oakland Jr. Grizzlies), Blade Jenkins (Compuware) and Jack DeBoer, whose dad is former Plymouth Whalers head coach Pete DeBoer.

Intently watching the ori-

entation will be USA Hockey coaches Danton Cole and Chris Luongo, who currently helm the NTDP U18s.

They will coach the next group of players that enters the program and will stick with them for two seasons.

Likewise, current U17s head coach Don Granato will move up with his current players to the Under-18 team in 2016-17.

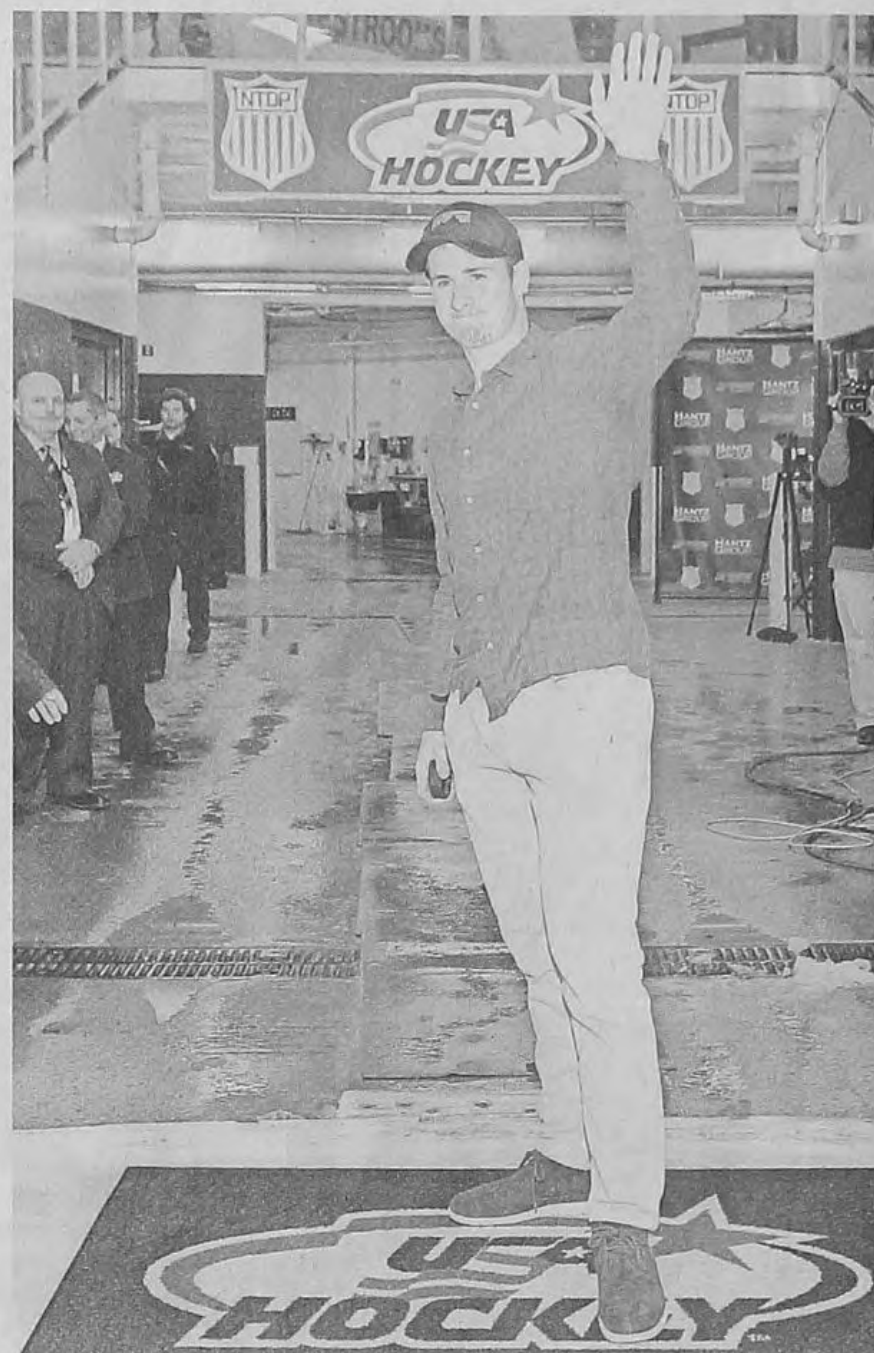
In addition to scrimmages, prospective players and their parents will attend meetings designed to give them the inside scoop of what to expect should they make the team.

"We've brought together the 48 players with the most potential in the 2000 age group," Hardy said. "So everyone is obviously very talented. And then you're trying to figure out the character component of it, how competitive they are, how good their work ethic is on and off the ice, how well they're going to represent the United States in the two years they're in this program.

"Kids are under a microscope, there's a lot of scrutiny. ... They're in our hockey community, they're very well-known. That comes with a lot of responsibility."

Also, the prospects will be able to watch some hockey. The NTDP U17s will host Sioux City at 7 p.m. Friday; the U18s play at 2 p.m. Sunday against Youngstown.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
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RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY  
Detroit Red Wings rookie sensation Dylan Larkin waves to fans at USA Hockey Arena before a game this season. Larkin played in the NTDP from 2012-14.

## DIVISION 2 BOYS HOCKEY FINAL

## Stevenson settles for second place

Short-handed Spartans drop thriller to Romeo

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Momentum is such a temperamental and powerful intangible.

One moment Saturday morning inside the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth Township, "Big Mo" was sitting in the raise-the-roof-loud Livonia Stevenson hockey team's student cheering section, wearing a sky-blue Spartans hoodie and going absolutely crazy after Stevenson scored its third goal in five minutes to build a 4-2 second-period lead in the MHSAA Division 2 state final contest.

A few minutes later, it was wearing a blood-red Romeo hockey sweater throughout a game-ending four-goal scoring explosion that fueled the Bulldogs' 6-4 victory in their first appearance in a hockey state championship game.

Powered by a five-point game from Nolan Jenuwine, who proved beyond a doubt that he is the real deal, the Bulldogs capitalized on a critical five-minute major penalty called on Stevenson for head-butting with the score deadlocked at 4-4 and 12:12 left on the third-period clock.

Eighty seconds into the power-play opportunity, Jenuwine tipped home a shot by Logan Canfield to give Romeo the lead for good, 5-4.

With Stevenson goalie Cullen Barber pulled for an extra attacker, Romeo's Steven Morris slid in a 150-foot empty-net goal with 29 seconds left to ice the win.

The Bulldogs' performance gave the northern Macomb County high school its third state title in five months (Romeo also captured the Division 1 football crown and Class A volleyball title).

The heart-breaking setback capped Stevenson's second-consecutive D2 state runner-up season.

"That's what you get when you play high-powered hockey like both these teams play," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said, referring to the back-and-forth action. "Losing the 4-2 lead, you could say we took our foot off the gas, but I think it was more a case of a great Romeo team getting pucks to the net, getting some bounces and making plays.

"When you put the puck on the stick of their scorers dur-



ED WRIGHT  
Stevenson's Connor Jakacki hit the ice to block a first-period shot by Romeo's Logan Jenuwine.

ing key situations, they find a way to finish."

The exciting encounter was Stevenson senior captain Ben Kowalske's final game.

Kowalske, who played on three Spartans teams that advanced to the finals (including the 2013 state championship squad), was eloquent in defeat.

"Whenever an opponent scores a goal like they did when we were up 4-2, sure, a little doubt is going to creep into your mind," Kowalske said. "You can feel it, but you try to ignore it and play through it. But Romeo is a great team that knows how to capitalize on mistakes."

The Bulldogs bit first, scoring 7:07 into the game when Brett Lanski punched in the rebound of a Jenuwine shot.

Stevenson knotted the game at 1-1 almost four minutes later, when Joe Alcantara scored a goal off assists from Kowalske and Shane Leonard.

Romeo regained a 2-1 edge 6:18 into the second period, when Jenuwine scored the first of his two goals.

Nineteen seconds later, Stevenson's Nick Beers ignited a three-goals-in-five-minute surge when he controlled a pass from Kevin Stefanick off the face-off, motored up the middle of the ice and fired the puck past Nolan Kare.

Goals by Leonard (from Adam Olson and Alcantara) and Nate Sudek (from Alex Walkuski and Sam Judd) increased the Spartans' lead to 4-2, forcing second-year Romeo head coach Nick Badder to call a timeout.

"Stevenson had all the momentum and we were back on our heels and you could feel it," Badder said. "Once the

guys calmed down and realized we just had to play shift by shift and pick up our fore-checking, we kind of took over a little bit.

"We usually play our best when we're uncomfortable and we were uncomfortable most of the game today."

Romeo evened the score at 4-4 after two periods with goals from Lanski (14:26) and Kaczor (15:31), setting the stage for the frenzied final period.

Playing for the first time on the biggest stage, the Bulldogs admitted they were a little nervous at the get-go, but their comfort level grew as the game wore on.

"Coming in to today, I believed that if our football team could beat a Cass Tech team that had 20 Division 1 players on it, then we could beat a great Stevenson team," Romeo's Nick Blankenburg said. "This is an incredible feeling and something I know I'll never forget the rest of my life."

Mitchell got choked up when describing how special this team — and the Stevenson program in general — is to him.

"I told the team in the locker room after the game that thank you is not nearly a strong enough word," Mitchell said. "These kids are more than just hockey players; they're incredible young men who volunteer in the community, excel in class (the team's grade-point average is 3.4) and make their school and their families proud.

"Sometimes, unfairly, we're judged by our team's record and how many championships we win, but these kids are much more than that."

## HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

great save on that. And that could have been a huge turning point, but it kept it 0-0. We felt like we had the better chances, because we had a lot of possession in their zone and, eventually, we were going to break through. That's kind of been our M.O. all playoffs.

"Not every game we've been able to score in the first five minutes and it's taken a while, but we keep preaching, 'Keep doing what you're doing,' because in the first period, I thought we were a pretty good team."

Brighton went 0-of-2 on the power play in that first period, while CC was 0-of-1.

The Shamrocks finally broke through at 7:56 of the second period, on Glynn Robitaille's rebound goal after Nick Macari carried the puck through on the left wing. J.P. Lafferty also drew an assist to make it 1-0.

"Coach Kaleniecki always tells me I need to drive the net more often and I need to shoot more often," Macari said. "I just kind of listened to what he said and I drove to the net and it worked. It ended up on my player's stick and it went in the net."

Macari then busted down the left wing again and went top-shelf to beat Neaton to make it 2-0 at 14:22 of the second. Brian Galvin and Lafferty drew assists.

And just 1:44 into the third period, Cody Borke's tip-in goal off a shot from just inside the blue line from Austin Roell gave the Shamrocks a 3-0 cushion.

The Bulldogs, who were outshot 29-15, couldn't get the puck past Calvaruso, who survived a six-on-three disadvantage during the final two minutes after two of his teammates were sent to the box.

And there was nothing better than the senior goalie posting a shutout in the state final.

"They made it easy for me," Calvaruso said. "I saw every-

thing and they didn't get many shots. They played the way they knew how. It means a lot. I didn't play the last two (state finals), so it means everything."

CC played a strong game defensively en route to winning the title. During its six-game tourney run, the Shamrocks had three shutouts and gave up only four goals.

"We just had to limit their odd-man chances," Kaleniecki said. "You make sure your third forward is high and make them play in the defensive zone, because if they do get possession at that point, it's a long way to go. The best way to stop the best offensive player or players is make them play in the 'D' zone, because even if they get possession, it's a long way to go.

Brighton, meanwhile, went 0-of-5 on the power play and it always seemed the Shamrocks were an hour ahead.

"From the beginning, I don't think we got totally into our game, because Catholic Central didn't want us to," said Brighton coach Paul Moggoch, whose team finished 22-9. "I think they played a great game on both sides of the puck, offensively and defensively. We just didn't find a rhythm and didn't find a way to get to them. I think if we had scored on that penalty shot, we might have had a little bit of a chance, but they outshot us, outplayed us."

For the Shamrocks, it was a culmination of another stellar state championship run.

"It's really hard to explain. I'm on top of the world right now," said Macari, a captain who had a goal and assist. "I've been on the team for three years and we're fortunate to win all three years. We just got better and better each year. Knowing I went out on top as a senior ... nothing better."

Kaleniecki is the third different CC coach to claim a state title in the last three years. Doug Itami was the coach in 2014 and Danny Veri did it as an interim coach in 2015.

bemons@hometownlife.com



SCOTT CONFER  
Catholic Central goalie Alec Calvaruso (right) makes a pad save on the first-period penalty shot taken by Brighton's Jake Crespi.



COLLEGE BASEBALL

# Ocelots go 3-6 in Florida

Schoolcraft's record on first road trip doesn't indicate how well team played

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

For weeks, even months, the Schoolcraft College's baseball team went about its business indoors at Skillbuilder Batters Box in Dearborn Heights.

But finally, the Ocelots were able to take it outside — Feb. 28 through March 3 in Florida — for the first games in the history of the fledgling program.

According to head coach Rob Fay, the initial road junket went about as well as could be expected. And he wasn't lamenting a 3-6 record, either.

"We went about it with the right approach," Fay said, back in Michigan this week. "We kind of balanced out playing time for all positions and made sure our pitchers got innings to see what we have and what we need to improve on. Overall, I think it was a very successful trip.

"What surprised us the most was our readiness to play. Being a northern team going down to Florida and not seeing a ground ball on the grass or a fly ball in the sky or

live pitching in four months, I think we adapted to it well and I think we caught on real quick and got up to speed."

There were several bright spots on the trip, the coach stressed.

"Jordan Pressley (freshman first baseman from Romulus) just had a phenomenal week," Fay said. "I think he ended up batting .536. He was a tough out every time he stepped up to the plate.

"Timmy Kozar (freshman outfielder from Taylor) had a great week, batted .500, hit our school's first home run in history. Christian Mercure (freshman pitcher from Trenton) had two good starts for us on the mound."

Fay also said a big reason for the team's solid performance in Florida was the team at Mercy Elite Sports Performance in Livonia.

"Our guys were in shape going down there, which led us to be healthy," he said. "They worked with our pitchers, so we didn't come up with any injuries while we were down there.

"And a lot of our success is credited to what they've done for our program to get us

ready to play."

Schoolcraft closed the trip strongly, with a March 3 sweep against Mesabi Range CTC (10-3, 8-3).

The Ocelots' other win was a 7-3 triumph Feb. 28 against Wartburg College.

Things didn't go quite so well Feb. 29 against ASA College For Excellence (Schoolcraft lost a pair, 9-6, 14-5) or the March 1 against the University of Findlay (a 2-0, 9-7 twinbill loss).

Still, Fay is as optimistic as ever as the Ocelots are scheduled to play their first games on Michigan soil this week.

On Thursday, Schoolcraft will visit Cleary University in Howell for a doubleheader (first game at 2 p.m.).

Then it's down to the Toledo area for Friday's twinbill at Owens Community College.

It won't be until the end of the month before the Ocelots play home games at Ford Field in Livonia.

There will be six games in three days, with doubleheaders March 31 against Cleary University (2 p.m.), April 1 against Lorain County CC (2 p.m.) and April 2 against Muskegon (1 p.m.).



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Jordan Pressley lets loose in the batters cage. He is one of the Ocelots' potential power hitters.

## Perfect season!



ST. JOHN NEUMANN

The St. John Neumann Dragons fifth- and sixth-grade basketball team, based out of Canton, recently wrapped up a perfect 10-0 record in its division of the CYO of Detroit. Team members include (front row, from left) Jake Mason, Will Davidson, Brendan Burns and Tommy Wietfeld; (middle row, from left) Reid Caswell, Shane Hurley and Ryan Candito; and (back row, from left) coach Tim Thomas, Bradley Burns, coach Pat Malone, Tommy Sokol, Brady Malone and head coach Mike Meagher.

## PREP GYMNASTICS

# Farmington contingent achieves goal at state meet

**Dan O'Meara**  
Staff Writer

Farmington United concluded the 2016 gymnastics season with a highly successful performance in the two-day state meet at Rockford High School.

The unified girls team achieved a third-place finish in the team event Friday, then six gymnasts earned all-state status in the individual competition Saturday.

The team goal was a top five finish, which Farmington United easily attained with a 144.00 score, which is second only to the 144.675 it had at the regional meet a week earlier.

Rockford-Sparta won the championship for the second year in a row with a 146.35 total. Forest Hills Unified was the runner-up at 145.10.

Farmington scored well in every event except bars. It was No. 1 on vault (36.80), second on beam (37.15) and third on floor (36.425). The team ranked 11th among 12 teams on the uneven bars (33.625).

"It was a really tough, but exciting, state meet," coach Jeff Dwyer said. "The girls were in a very competitive, focused mood. We started on beam, an event that can quickly take a team out of competition, and nailed our routines.

"It was our highest beam score of the year and it couldn't have come at a better time. Floor was next; we posted some solid scores again. At this point, I knew we had a good meet going.

"I had no idea how the other top teams were doing, but I knew we were in a great position. The team had such a good vibe during the meet. It was such a cool thing to be a part of it."

Farmington, which averaged 9.3 on beam, had another season-high score on vault with a 9.2 average.

"We knew things were going well and we wanted to keep it going on bars," Dwyer said. "We had to count a fall on bars, but we had three solid routines.

"I can't fault gymnasts falling on a trick due to being aggressive. We preached to the team to go all out on every event and not play it safe. Safe routines don't cut it at a state meet.

"I told the girls prior to the meet, 'If we give it everything we have, we have to accept what happens and feel good about it.' We did and it produced an awesome memory for these girls."

Farmington's lineup for the team event consisted of seniors Brooke Rabban and Carina Wright, juniors Jacqueline Farquhar and Kelly Shrosbree, sophomore Elisa Bills and freshmen Kacey Noseworthy, Ava Farquhar and Emily Fowler.

## GYMNASTICS

Continued from Page B1

ham said. "The level of competition is exemplified by Kelsea and Jana only managing third and fourth with 9.50 and 9.475 scores on vault. Kelsea's 9.225 beam didn't place."

Elsewhere, Hilditch medaled (finishing in the top 10) on beam (9.35, sixth place) and all-around (eighth with a season-high 36.875).

"Rachel Socha led our D2's with a fourth on beam (9.25)," Cunningham said. "Hailey Hodgson had a nice floor (9.05) to take sixth. Katie had a very good day, but only took 10th on bars (8.95)."

Dickson also chipped in 9.085 on vault, 9.275 on beam, 9.175 on floor and registered an all-around score of 36.475.

Freshman Katherine Najduk "just missed" placing on vault with 9.0. Stephanie Cox was "super-consistent" with identical 34.35 all-around scores both days.

### Williams second

Salem sophomore Jordyn Williams chalked up a runner-up, all-state performance on floor exercise in Division 1 with a score of 9.550.

### Plymouth performers

Several Plymouth Wildcats made their mark in the individual finals. In D1 on bars, senior Haley Metz earned all-state honors with a score of 9.125, good for seventh overall in the event.

Metz tallied an all-around score of 35.875 (14th place).

In Division 2 competition, senior Emily Welch placed fifth — another all-state showing — with a score of 8.725.



CANTON GYMNASTICS

Canton's contingent at the MHSAA gymnastics state finals made coach John Cunningham proud.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Performing her routine on balance beam at the regional is Canton senior Hailey Hodgson.



BOYS BASKETBALL

# Upstart Novi corrals Mustangs for district title

Wildcats' stingy defense stymies Northville, 59-49

Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

The motto these days for the Novi boys basketball team might read: "It's not how you start, but how you finish."

Since losing Feb. 12 to Northville, 61-44, that left them with an unimpressive 7-9 record, the resurgent Wildcats have reeled off seven straight victories, the latest Friday night in the Class A district final, a stunning 59-49 win over their arch-rival at Salem.

Novi capped an eye-opening 3-0 district week by getting contributions from a number of players while ending the best season in Northville history as the Mustangs finished 21-2.

Novi (14-9) did it on the defensive end by limiting the usually strong shooting Mustangs to 15-of-62 shooting from the floor (24.1 percent).

"Our focus was to focus on their shooters," said Novi junior forward Alec Bageris, who continued his solid late-season play with 11 points. "They really have four or five guys in their starting lineup that can really light it up from three. Really, our plan was to not leave our guy too much tonight, hopefully just keep them in front of us, so we eliminate the dribble and penetrating kick. Just stay on their shooters and stay on the perimeter and stop them from doing that."

Jumping out to an 8-0 lead to start, Novi signaled the third meeting between the two teams was going to be somewhat different, although Northville stayed close at the half, trailing 22-21 as both teams struggled shooting.

But the third quarter proved to be Novi's best of the four as it outscored the Mustangs, 19-10, to take a 40-34 advantage as five different Wildcats got points.



Novi earned its first Class A boys basketball district title since 2010 with a 59-49 win Friday at Salem.

DAVE DONOHER

And when sophomore guard Traveon Maddox Jr.'s two free throws with 4:56 left in the game made it a double-digit lead, 48-36, the Wildcats could smell the district trophy.

Maddox, who finished with 10 points, made 8-of-8 free throws in the fourth to seal the victory and give the Wildcats their first district crown since 2010.

"We believed that we could stop them. That's the biggest difference between our previous two games against them," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We had a belief. We know that they can shoot the ball, they can get to the basket. It's a special team that we just beat, no question. But we've been

preparing for this game for about four weeks now, in terms of just picking up the defensive pressure, the intensity we brought to practice, just the film that we watch and all the time the kids to get better defensively ... this whole week proved it."

Northville, despite getting late triples from Justin Zimbo (13 points) and Justin Gibbons (12 points), went just 2-of-14 from the field in the fourth.

"Who knows? It could be a lot of things," Northville coach Todd Sander said of his team's shooting woes. "Three games in a week is tough, not that we're making excuses. (Novi) had to do the exact same thing, so credit to Novi. It was one of

those nights. They made us go a little bit fast, might have been little tight. But we were a little off, a little bit out of sync. But we're so proud of what we did, how we ran back at them and for everything our guys did this year. But Novi won it."

The Mustangs, known this season for their second-half mini-spurts to put away opponents, did it in Wednesday night's 51-39 victory over previously unbeaten Canton, but couldn't duplicate it against Novi.

"We kept waiting. That's what we kept talking about at halftime and the third quarter, that our run was coming, but the cards weren't aligned that way tonight," Sander said.

Naji Ozeir, a 6-foot-7 senior, continued to be active on the boards and led Novi with 13 points. Bageris and Maddox contributed 11 and 10, respectively, while sophomore point guard Trendon Hankerson and 6-7 senior forward Jay Duarte added nine and seven.

Senior forward Johnny Davis also came off the bench to score six.

"Both of their bigs have really come on in the last few weeks," Sander said of Ozeir and Duarte. "They hurt us around the blocks a little bit. They hurt us off the glass. They played really hard."

bemons@hometownlife.com  
bemons1@twitter.com

GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Northville reels in Marlins to capture regional crown

Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

Like the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Northville girls basketball team is discovering new territory as it traverses through the Class A state tournament.

The Mustangs saddled up once again March 10 at Novi and rode to a regional championship – the first in school history – with a convincing 46-29 win over Farmington Hills Mercy.

Northville (21-3) made its first quarterfinal appearance ever Tuesday at Southfield against Warren Cousino (20-4).

The long-armed Mustangs, despite 25 turnovers on the night, turned in a masterful defensive performance, holding Mercy scoreless with a 15-0 second-quarter run and limiting the Marlins to 21-percent shooting from the floor (8-of-39).

"We knew Mercy was going to be really good after watching them beat Howell and we didn't play well on Tuesday," Northville coach Todd Gudith said, referring to a 35-28 win on March 9 over Millford.

"The girls kind of knew we were kind of down in that game, so we knew we had to give it our best effort tonight. I thought we probably played our best game of the year."

Northville's two junior 6-footers, Jessica Moorman and Brook Adams, led the way with 14 and 11 points, respectively. Sophomore guard Roan Haines and senior forward Lindsey Rathsburg added six apiece, sophomore point guard Kendall Dillon five.

"It's a great feeling, knowing this is my senior year and we made it this far," Rathsburg said. "We thought it was going to be a lot closer, but it was nice to know it wasn't at the end."

Although Northville trailed 10-6 after one quarter, the Mustangs quickly changed the course of the game in the second quarter as Mercy went 0-of-8 from the floor and trailed 21-10 at halftime.



Northville senior forward Lindsay Rathsburg is all smiles holding the school's first-ever Class A regional tournament trophy.

BRAD EMONS

ready for it' and, sure enough, they came out of the gate in the second half and took it to us," Gudith said. "But our girls weathered the storm. Our goal was to 'Let's bring it even in the third quarter' and I thought we did that."

Gudith also employed more players to help break Mercy's press.

"I thought we struggled with the two players we had," he said. "Mercy was bringing everybody. They were throwing everything at us. Bringing four players up helped. A couple of timeouts settled them down and calmed their nerves."

By the fourth quarter, Mercy went stone cold again from the field (0-of-10). Northville gradually stretched its lead to 18 points as Moorman scored eight of her 14.

"A lot of our struggles on the offensive end led to easy shots for them," Morris said. "But give a lot of credit to Northville. It's the first time they've been on this stage, so to speak, and their kids responded well."

While the Mustangs shot an impressive 60 percent from the floor (15-of-25) to go with 15-of-23 foul shooting, the turnovers were a concern.

"I know we had a lot and a lot of that is because of Mercy's defense," Gudith said. "A lot of that was nerves. We had some open looks, had open players, but we just overshot them with passes. If we connect on a couple of those, maybe it's not so much of a game in the third quarter."

Junior guard Jackie Bauer paced the Marlins with 14 points. Pullen added seven, but there was little offensive production from the remaining cast.

"This is not a typical Mercy team," Gudith said. "Usually, they have a couple of post kids. They spread the floor a lot and they're just good shooters. We saw them hit a bunch of triples the other night, so we knew we had to force them to take tough shots. And when they drove inside, they saw our length."



CANTON SWIMMING

Canton swimmers who competed at the state finals included (back row, from left) Daniel Mullen, Derek Goderis and Kyle Amick and (front row, from left) Tristan Shao and Gerard Niermann. Coach Dave Le is far left.

## SWIMMING

Continued from Page B1

(16th in the 200 individual medley, 1:57.79) and Salem's Phillip Collingwood (19th in the 500 free, 4:49.75).

### MHSAA DIVISION 1 BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP MEET March 12-13 at Holland Aquatic Center

**BOYS TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Birmingham Brother Rice, 313 points; 2. Saline, 234; 3. Zeeland, 211; 4. Ann Arbor Skyline, 193; 5. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 182; 6. Holland West Ottawa, 157; 7. Novi, 134; 8. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, 100; 9. Rockford 90; 10. Ann Arbor Huron, 74; 11. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 68.5; 12. Northville, 64; 17. Canton, 34; 35. Salem, 2; 37. Plymouth, 1 (37 schools).

### FINAL EVENT RESULTS (top eight make all-state)

**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Brother Rice (Alex Margherio, Drew Grady, Jake Zalinski, Jack Grady), 1:31.55; 2. Detroit CC (Matt Loniewski, Jonathan Lee, Kyle Tschannen, Tommy Wiaduck), 1:36.71.  
**200 freestyle:** 1. Carl Spencer (West Ottawa), 1:57.15; 2. Daniel Mullen (Canton), 1:43.00; 16. Tschannen (Detroit CC), 1:46.39; prelims: 38. Bennett Loniewski (Detroit CC), 1:48.26.  
**200 individual medley:** 1. Cameron Craig (Monroe), 1:45.42 (all class record); 6. Lee (Detroit CC), 1:55.15; 16. Garrett Beaupre (Plymouth), 1:57.79; prelims: 17. Charlie Walsh (Detroit CC), 1:57.54; 33. Gerard Niermann (Canton), 2:00.18; 41. Nathan Budnick (Salem), 2:03.28.  
**50 freestyle:** 1. Jackson O'Dowd (Livonia Stevenson), 20.70; prelims: 28. Mike Wischer (Plymouth), 22.19.  
**1-meter diving:** 1. Dakota Hubris (Saline), 516.80 points; semifinals: 17. David Debaecker

(Detroit CC), 243.85; prelims: 25. Jordan Groves (Plymouth), 145.25; Brendon Connolly (Detroit CC), 134.75; 36. Robert Vance (Detroit CC), 97.30.  
**100 butterfly:** 1. Spencer (West Ottawa), 48.12 (Division 1 record); 12. (tie) Tschannen (Detroit CC), 52.49; prelims: M. Loniewski (Detroit CC), 52.75; 27. Walsh (Detroit CC), 53.97; 38. Budnick (Salem), 54.74.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Ryan Vander Meulen (Skyline), 45.75; 11. Mullen (Northville), 4:49.02; prelims: 17. B. Loniewski (Detroit CC), 4:48.94; 19. Phillip Collingwood (Salem), 4:49.75; 20. Dan Vela (Detroit CC), 4:50.47; 21. 4:50.61; 24. Ethan Bezzina (Detroit CC), 4:53.42.

**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Pioneer (Andrew Heise, Joe Riggs, Noah Frassrand, Jason Orringer-Hau), 1:24.41; 13. Canton (Kyle Amick, Derek Goderis, Mullen, Niermann), 1:28.26; prelims: 25. Salem (Li Budnick, Matthew Sanker, Matthew Culver), 1:30.03; 30. Detroit CC (Logan Mills, Wiaduck, Campbell, Jimmy Connor), 1:31.11.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Craig (Monroe), 47.33 (all class record); prelims: 21. Tristan Shao (Canton), 54.51; 24. Chris Barron (Detroit CC), 55.02; 25. Beaupre (Plymouth), 55.24.

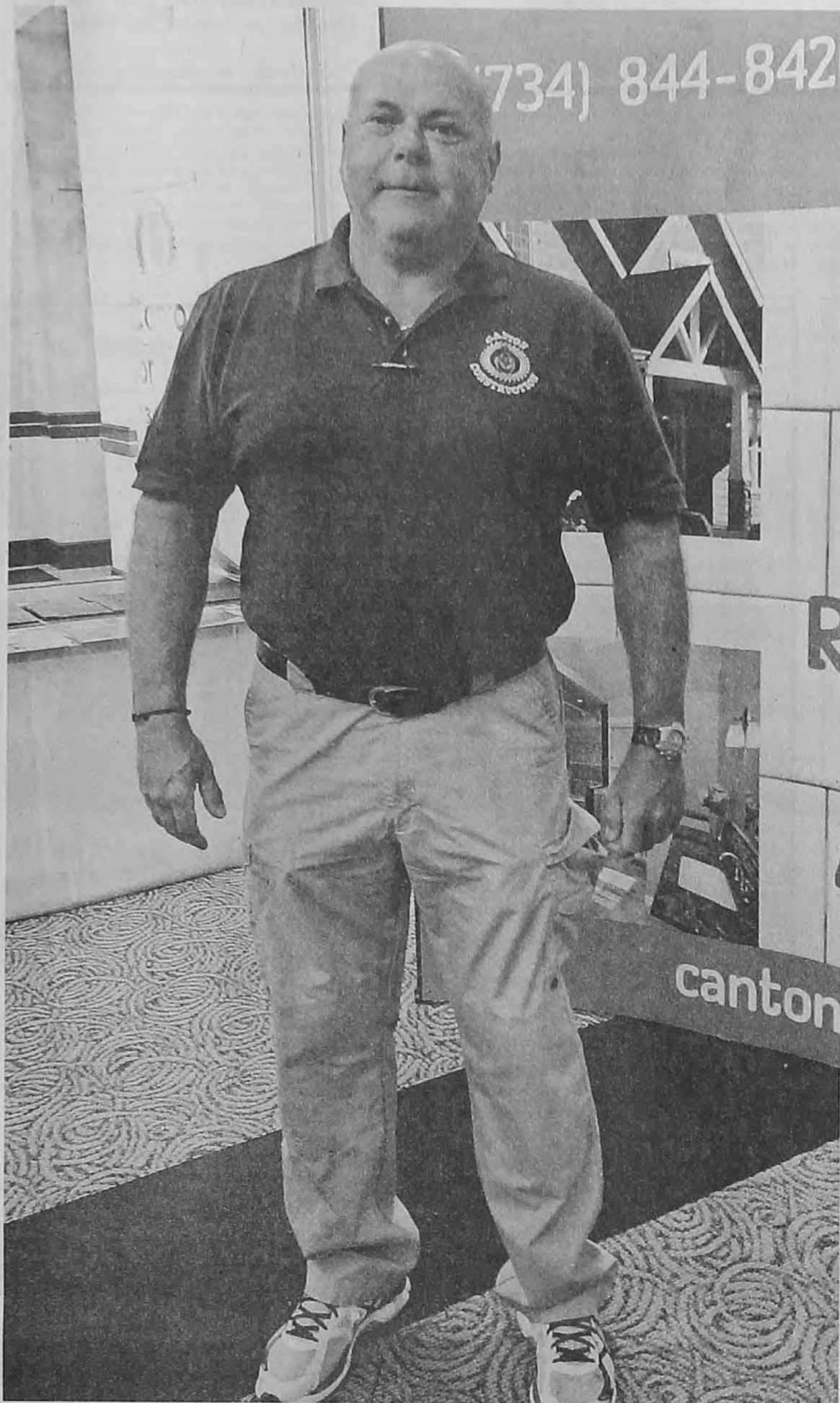
**100 breaststroke:** 1. Grady (Rice), 55.18; 4. Lee (Detroit CC), 58.14; 6. M. Loniewski (Detroit CC), 58.31; prelims: 22. Li (Salem), 1:00.77; 31. Mills (Detroit CC), 1:01.53; 38. Aniketh Visal (Plymouth), 1:02.47.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Brother Rice (Zalinski, Bobby Pownie, Margherio, Patrick Olmsted), 3:05.94; 13. Canton (Amick, Goderis, Mullen, Niermann), 3:12.56; prelims: 17. Detroit CC (Tschannen, Wiaduck, Lee, M. Loniewski), 3:15.84; 26. Plymouth (Wischer, Bronson Knowles, Visal, Beaupre), 3:18.59; 35. Salem (Colin Urbaczewski, Tom Cousino, Matthew Croop, Collingwood), 3:23.59.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports



## Time to build: Home Expo in Canton offers ideas, expertise



John Sarnecky of Canton owns Canton Construction with his wife, Marissa.

Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

John and Marissa Sarnecky own Canton Construction, among some 70 vendors at the Canton Home Improvement Expo March 5-6.

"Last year was outstanding for us," Canton resident John Sarnecky said of the Expo. "We've been here from Day One," some 15 years ago. "They've expanded to just about every nook and cranny."

Indeed, the Summit on the Park was busy with vendors and people seeking home improvement ideas. Sarnecky said when the economy slowed people backed off on upgrades, and that's gotten a lot better.

"Additions," he said. "A lot of exterior work. The more important items they were holding off on I think they're addressing now."

He noted the auto industry's bonuses and profit sharing help Canton Construction's business. Rental inspections started by Canton building officials have been a factor he's seen as well.

"That had an impact on us as well as the community, keeping things up to par," Sarnecky said. "They're up to snuff now."

Nearby at Mans Lumber and Millwork was Jim Trudeau, installation sales manager for the firm dating back to 1900. Mans has locations in Canton and Trenton.

"Decks are really big and also kitchen remodels," said Riverview resident Trudeau. "We're seeing a really big jump in window replacement. People are really going up the next level. They really seem to want to improve their homes."

Trudeau agreed March is ideal to start such projects. He was helped that Saturday by colleague Dottie Kelly of Canton, facilitator for sales support.

Trudeau noted the Expo helps boost awareness of their Canton site at the Michigan Avenue-Beck Road area. "We get a lot of response," he said.

His own home isn't neglected either. "My wife makes sure I keep it up," Tru-

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

### Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

### Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m.

each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email [june.quantum@gmail.com](mailto:june.quantum@gmail.com) for your reservation or additional information.

### Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email [Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com](mailto:Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com) or visit [FreeForeclosureTour.com](http://FreeForeclosureTour.com).



Julie Brown  
Vanessa Mattsson-Boze traveled with sons Eli, 4, and Soren, 3, from Madison, Wis., and stopped by the Expo while visiting family here. The boys liked the Home Depot building projects for kids and meeting Canton police officers.



Julie Brown  
Representing Mans Lumber and Millwork at the Expo are staffers Jim Trudeau of Riverview and Dottie Kelly of Canton. Mans, in business since 1900, has Canton and Trenton locations.

## Canton policewoman has tips on vacation home security

Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Canton police Officer Patty Esselink was happy to answer questions about home safety when you're away on vacation. She and other Public Safety personnel, police and fire, were staffing the booth at the Canton Home Improvement Expo March 5-6.

"The biggest thing is letting your neighbors know you're going to be away, a trusted neighbor," said Esselink. Other key tips she offered are:

- » Maintain snow removal in winter;
- » Make sure grass is mowed in warm weather;
- » Make arrangements for your mail and newspapers, so they don't pile up and advertise you're away.

Letting a family member or trusted neighbor know your travel plans allows him or her to check and see if, for example, a garage door is open, she said.

"Then the neighbor can call us, or a family member" if something's not right, Esselink said. "Encourage them to call the police. We will come out and check the situation."

Lighting indoors and outside can also help make your home more secure.



Julie Brown  
Canton police Officer Patty Esselink said of vacationing, "The biggest thing is letting your neighbors know you're going to be away, a trusted neighbor."

"You can put your television on a timer, you can put your lights on a timer," she said. There are also motion-activated lights for outdoors which will indicate "there may be something going on outside."

Of the busy Home Expo, she added on Saturday, March 5, "It's going absolutely wonderfully."

deau said of their home, which has recently had two bedrooms remodeled with new doors, molding and flooring.

Visiting the Expo on March 5 from Madison, Wis., was Vanessa Mattsson-Boze, with sons Eli Mattsson-Boze, 4, and brother Soren, 3. Vanessa's husband and her parents came to the Expo, as the family was visiting in Canton.

"It's been large," she said. "We didn't really expect it to be this many vendors. The kids have had fun."

Her sons liked meeting Canton police officers and doing the Home Depot building kits for kids.

The Expo is presented the first weekend in March by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division. Partners include the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor," also participated.

[jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com) Twitter: @248Julie

## Easement case could be thorny, based on Kentucky court ruling

**Q: Our developer has retained an easement access through our condominium to another project but we are thinking about amending our documents to eliminate that easement. What do you think the chances are of that being successful?**

**A:** That is a tough task to accomplish particularly based upon a Kentucky Court of Appeals decision which stated that easements and restrictive covenants are entirely different and are not an interchangeable concept of property law. The court indicated that a covenant only restricts the use of property, while an easement confers the right to enter the property upon which the easement is held. In your case, the owner of the property burdened by an easement (i.e. the association) even with the vote of the members does not have the authority to alter or terminate the easement without the easement holders consent. Thus the easement cannot be extinguished without the developer's consent. Therefore, you may have a problem getting that easement extinguished. Majestic Oaks Home Owners Association, Inc. v. Majestic Oaks Farms, Inc., No. 2014-CA-000492-MR (Ky. Ct. App. Nov. 20, 2015)

**Q: We are in a football college town and we want our association to eliminate renting a unit to a student enrolled in a two- or four-year college, institution or university. I understand that it could be argued that this type of provision is a restriction discriminating against a class of persons. What do you think?**

**A:** Based upon a recent decision out of South Carolina, the Supreme Court of that state upheld a restriction prohibiting rentals to college students. The court basically stated that college students are not of a class of citizens normally suspect for discrimination. They aren't faced with a long history of discrimination, are not a distinct minority and have not been classified according to an imputable trait acquired at birth. The court in that case found that the leasing restriction to be rationally related to protecting the safety, comfort, and investment of owners. The restriction minimized the risk of creating a dormitory like atmosphere by barring those who have a tendency to engage in disruptive conduct. The court basically said that state and federal housing laws prohibit discrimination in housing sales or rentals based on a persons of race, color, religion, sex, family status or national origin and that under both state and federal law, familial status refers to persons under the age of 18 who live with a parent or guardian. In that case since the restriction did not involve any of those criteria, the court found no housing violation. It is important to understand the full context of that case as it relates to your possible situation.

**Robert M. Meisner** is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit [rbmeisner@meisner-law.com](mailto:rbmeisner@meisner-law.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



Robert Meisner

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all your needs...

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neighborly deals...

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**Estate Antique Auction**  
 Friday Night, March 18th, 6pm.  
 11580 Ozga, Romulus, 48174.  
 Fine furniture, great clocks, Large Cranberry Glass Group, Sterling including Jewelry, 30+ antique toys, lamps, artworks & china.  
 See 300 Photos & List:  
[www.DougDaltonAuctioneer.com](http://www.DougDaltonAuctioneer.com)  
 800-801-6452

#### Events & Fairs

DEARBORN HTS Vendor Show, St. Peter & Paul Church, 750 N. Beech, Daily Rd., Sat. Mar. 19th, 10a-3p, Ovr 40 reps, food Facebook.com/spshall

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find a new friend...

#### Domestic Pets



**ENHANCE YOUR AD WITH A PHOTO**  
 You can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run. Under the classification you choose. The cost for the photo will be \$10, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used. Email or mail your 3x5 or 4x6 photos. Call for addresses. Photos will not be returned. Prepayment required/no refunds. To place your ad & get more info call:  
**MICHIGAN.COM**  
 Observer & Eccentric  
 800-579-7355  
 Mon. thru Fri., 8:30-5pm  
 Some restrictions may apply



Shih Tzu F 10wks \$700 potty trained papers & 1&2 shots Paf 248-773-9858

#### Pet Services

**LOW COST VET VACCINE**  
 WELLNESS CLINIC  
 TSC - WHITE LAKE  
 10150 Highland Rd. Sun. April 10th,  
 4PM-6:30PM 3 year Rabies, \$16,  
 Heartworm Test, \$19, Skin, Ear &  
 Eye exams avail. 313-686-5701

#### Assorted Items

all kinds of things...

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Collectibles, Precious Moments, Cherished Teddies, Snow Bunnies, Paintings, Alexander Dolls, Ashton & Drake Dolls, Hot Wheels, 248-807-2459

#### Appliances

GE Profile Large Refrigerator-white, side-by-side. Top of the line. Perfect. Serviced Regularly. \$550. 248-738-4445

#### Cemetery Lots

Livonia Two lots Parkview Memorial Cemetery located Block Fifth Sec 476 Grave site 3 & 4. \$1600/ea. 419-367-5555

#### Cheap Stuff

If you're selling an item for \$50 or less run your ad under Cheap Stuff AT A SPECIAL RATE\* Michigan.com Observer & Eccentric Call 800-579-7355! \*Some restrictions may apply



**FREE RENT UNTIL 4/1/2016**  
 Own this home for only \$799 per month!  
 Adorable 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath home with a front deck and brand new carpet.  
 Call Sun Homes today, 888-685-0265  
 Visit us online at [www.4northville.com](http://www.4northville.com)  
 South Lyon Schools!  
**OFFICE HOURS** M-F 8a-5p • Sat 9a-1p  
 Offer expires 3/31/2016 \*\*Some restrictions apply EHO

#### Furniture & Household Items

Light Maple 42" Round Kitchen table w/ 12" leaf & 4 chairs \$375. \*19" tv \$75 \*12 place setting China set- ALL in GREAT cond. \$200 734-722-3237

#### General

**METRO DETROIT AREA GOURMET MARKET**  
 Accepting applications for:  
 • **EXP'D PASTRY STAFF**  
 Must have open availability, be able to work nights, manage staff and have food handling experience.  
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 Must have open availability, great customer service skills and be able to manage 10 staff and have food handling experience.  
 Send resume, salary history to: [livoniainmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:livoniainmarket@yahoo.com)

**Novena**  
 Thank you Holy Spirit for all favors received. J.M.

#### Wanted to Buy

**WANTED: New, Used, Old Fishing Tackle & Related Items.** Successful Deer Hunter Patches and Master Angler Patches. Call Bill: (734) 890-1047

#### Careers

#### Jobs

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#### Engineering & IT

**Principal Mechanical Engineer**  
 (Door Handle Systems) for Farmington Hills, MI to engineer mechanical and/or mechatronic systems for vehicle access security systems; lead project designs to meet deadlines while maintaining quality and requirements; communicate with sales and customers about requests for quotations, bills of materials, exploded view diagrams and benchmarking studies; examine and analyze new designs for feasibility, tooling, manufacturing and applications; conduct problem solving; lead and mentor junior engineers; initiate, support and participate in Value Analysis Value Engineering activities; introduce new ideas. Requires Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering or closely-related field and 5 yrs progressive post-Bachelor's experience conducting Product Design and Development through one full cycle of an automotive project; leading international development activities; developing passive entry, remote key, passive entry door handle, passive entry kick sensor and passive entry remote control products; working with plastics, locking mechanisms and zinc diecast; and using 3D computer graphics. 15% international travel required. Mail resume to Bridgett Steele, HR North America Automotive Parts Manufacturing, Corp. 24860 Hathaway, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

#### General

**Executive Housekeeper -**  
 Island Home, Mackinac Island, MI. 5 years accommodations management experience required. Overseas staff of 15. \$650-\$800 per week DOE, housing provided 401(k). Seasonal position May-October. [www.theislandhouse.com](http://www.theislandhouse.com) 1 (906) 847-7196

**HOLIDAY MARKET CANTON** is hiring full/part time help in these departments: floral full time with benefits - experienced in floral design and ordering - kitchen, knife and artisan bread house full/part time, scratch bakery experience and cake decorator needed. Apply in person, 520 S. Litley, Canton. Ask for department manager at service counter.

**Landscape Co looking for Landscape Foreman and Landscape & Lawn Care Laborers**  
 Applicants can come in to fill out an application.  
**Cut-N-Care**  
 48090 West Road  
 Wilson, MI 48393  
 248-668-0070  
[cmcanrews@cutncare.com](http://cmcanrews@cutncare.com)

**LAWN & GARDEN TECHNICIAN WANTED**  
 seeking a full-time experienced service technician for our growing Power Equipment dealership. Applicant should possess computer skills, be detail oriented and have a positive friendly attitude. Duties to include customer write-up, machine repair and shop maintenance. Pay rate based on experience. Email resume: [john@commawn.com](mailto:john@commawn.com) or apply within 32098 Plymouth Rd., Livonia MI 48150

**LIGHT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**  
 CITY OF NOVI  
 CDL Required.  
 See: [www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org)  
 Apply promptly EOE

**WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING:**  
 • Deli Counter • Bread Counter  
 • Meat/Seafood • Dishwashers  
 • Midnight Baker  
 Please apply in person at:  
 33152 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia  
 Or online at: [loesproduce.com](http://loesproduce.com)

**WINDOW CLEANER** - No exp Will train \$11/hour + Bonuses. Must be able to work Saturday/over-time. Email resume: [linkenstein@live.com](mailto:linkenstein@live.com)

#### Healthcare-Dental

**DIVISION MANAGER**  
 Experienced, for Neurology Clinic in Rochester Hills. Resume to: [Msandler@mhdphdactor.com](mailto:Msandler@mhdphdactor.com)

**MEDICAL AESTHETICIAN**  
 Dermatology practice seeking Full/Part time licensed aesthetician w/ laser hair removal & cosmetic exp. No weekends/Exc pay & Benefits. [azderm@aol.com](mailto:azderm@aol.com) or FAX 734-996-8767

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
 Over 30-32 hrs/week, Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday, 2 Saturday's a month. Troy Dermatology office. [tderm@comcast.net](mailto:tderm@comcast.net)

**Physician Assistant**  
 Needed in Madison Heights. Cover letter and Resume: [dhurree@mhdphdactor.com](mailto:dhurree@mhdphdactor.com)

#### Real Estate

#### Homes

starting fresh...

#### Home for Sale - In State

**FARMINGTON - OPEN HOUSE**  
 For sale by owner 3521 Hill Pine Sat. & Sun. 1PM-4PM Come see this Great 4br + 2.5 bath colonial. This is newly remodeled. Has 2911 sq ft. asking \$304,999, 989-732-6354

**INKSTER Great Value**  
 3 bdrm update brick ranch, large eat-in kitchen w/oak cabinets, CA, GA \$13,000  
 Sprawling Ranch  
 3 bdrm, 1.685 sq ft home. Formal dining room. Large mud room. Finish bsmt w/full bath & Fireplace. \$18,000  
 Century 21 Castelli  
 734-525-7900

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	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.5	0	2.75	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.625	0	2.75	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.625	0	2.75	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.125	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.875	0.25	3.125	0.125
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4	0	3.25	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.75	0.25	3	0

Above information available as of 3/11/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.rmcreport.com](http://www.rmcreport.com).  
 All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032  
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#### Home for Sale - In State



**Plymouth/Salem Twp.** 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath custom built executive home for sale. 12 mins. from Plymouth & Ann Arbor. 4,000+ sq. ft. on 10 acres (wooded), custom kitchen, master bath with steam shower & jacuzzi tub. In home office/library plus sun room, enlarged deck overlooking pond with fish. Built in 1999 & whole home generator. MUST SEE! 734-455-3631 or email [mwvill529@gmail.com](mailto:mwvill529@gmail.com) for info & showing.

**WAYNE**  
 Open Floor Plan  
 3 bdrms, vaulted ceilings, master bdrm w/full BA, Cherry wood kitchen, Bsm't, fenced yard, reduced \$55,440  
 Century 21 Castelli  
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**WESTLAND**  
 Hot New Listing  
 Ranch home w/update oak kitchen, stove & fridge included. Formal Dining rm or Den. LR w/French door to deck in fenced yard \$19,000  
 Updated 3 bdrm, oak kitchen w/appliances, finish bsmt, 2 doorways to huge deck in fenced yard, 2 car GA \$68,000  
 Priced to Sell  
 Vinyl sided home. Kitchen w/breakfast nook, LR w/french doors to huge fenced yard w/2 car GA \$19,000  
 Century 21 Castelli  
 734-525-7900

#### Lots/Acreage/ Farm Land for Sale

**Canton** Sole or build-to-suit land behind Hertz & Victory Lane on busy Michigan Ave in Canton. Approx 2.5 acres. Possible auto use or warehouse/storage. \$300,000. Bela Sipos 734-669-5813, 734-669-4100. #3212813 Reinhardt Commercial

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Troubled Homeowner? We Buy Houses CASH! Quick Close And We Will Pay Closing Fees. Call CMH Buys Houses Today, 313-409-8415, [cmhbuyshouses.com](http://cmhbuyshouses.com)

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#### Real Estate

#### Rentals

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Livonia, Farmington and 5 mile area. 1000 sq. ft., 2 bed, 2 bath open plan upper apt, recently re-modeled, file bathrooms wood kitchen, \$100.00 incl heat and water month to month. No pets. Credit app required. 48150 (734)416-9608

#### FREE RENT UNTIL April !!

\$699\*\* moves you in!  
 Homes starting as low as \$999/month!  
 3 bedroom, 2 bath & 4 bedroom, 2 bath homes  
 HURRY these homes are going fast!  
 Call Sun Homes today, (888) 685-0265  
 Or apply on line at [www.4northville.com](http://www.4northville.com)  
 South Lyon Schools!  
**OFFICE HOURS:** M-F 8a-5p • Sat 9a-1p  
 Offer expires 3/31/2016  
 \*\*Some restrictions apply EHO

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#### Wheels

best deal for you...

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#### Cars



**ENHANCE YOUR AD WITH A PHOTO**  
 You can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run. Under the classification you choose. The cost for the photo will be \$10, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used. Email or mail your 3x5 or 4x6 photos. Call for addresses. Photos will not be returned. Prepayment required/no refunds. To place your ad & get more info call:  
**MICHIGAN.COM**  
 Observer & Eccentric  
 800-579-7355  
 Mon. thru Fri., 8:30-5pm  
 Some restrictions may apply

#### Vans

**HANDICAP 10 BEAUTIFUL LOW FLOOR MINI VANS UNDER \$15,000**  
 CALL US IN LANSING 517-230-8665

Turn your dust into dollars by placing a CLASSIFIED ad!



Find your  
**KEY TO HAPPINESS**  
 in the  
**OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC**  
 classifieds

**800-579-7355**







# Canton author to attend Plymouth Author Fair



Brian Webster (left) and his son, Christopher, who was a teen at the time, using skateboarding to battle frustrations with dyslexia. Christopher now is 31.

## Latest novel is based on son's teenage struggle with dyslexia

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Some writers draw inspiration from a muse. Author Brian Webster credits dyslexia for his original ideas.

The Canton man says the disorder is "a gift" that helps him create stories and then translate them into screenplays that he has written over several years. Some have won awards. Some are under consideration by a production company. Almost all have been adapted into books with the help of collaborators.

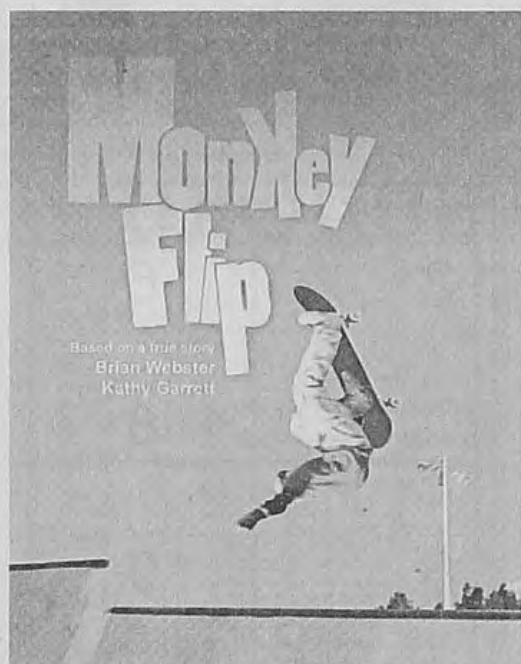
"I'm not a great writer but I'm a very visual person," said Webster, explaining his ability to overcome his dyslexia and visualize a story. "If I have a story in my head, I can see it played out on the screen."

Dyslexia not only inspires his stories, it's the subject of his latest book, "Monkey Flip," a young adult novel based on his son, Christopher, who also struggled with dyslexia when he was a teen.

Webster will sign copies of his new book, which was co-authored by freelance writer Kathy Garrett, at the Plymouth Author Fair, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the library, 222 S. Main, Plymouth. Books. Twenty authors will be on hand to meet readers and sign their books, which will be available for purchase. Friends of the Library will serve refreshments.

### Mastering a flip

"Monkey Flip" tells the story of a dyslexic teen who is misunderstood at school and bullied. He takes out his frustrations in competitive skateboarding, which shores up his self-



SUBMITTED

The cover of Brian Webster's new book, adapted from a screenplay, "Monkey Flip."

esteem and helps him to overcome his disability. The title refers both to the tendency of some dyslexic readers to transpose or flip letters. It's also the name of a skateboard move that Webster's son, Christopher, learned to master.

"I drew a lot on the things he went through," said Webster, who wrote the story first as a screenplay. "My son was not like everyone else. He needed more time to take tests. He was a smart kid. The difficult part was getting teachers to be aware of techniques of teaching my son. The problem, too, was me trying to help him. It was like two people trying to dance and they both have left feet."

### PLYMOUTH AUTHOR FAIR

#### Teen and youth fiction

In addition to Brian Webster, other teen and youth fiction writers will include S.J. Lomas, author of "Dream Girl," and Jennifer Weiser, author of "The Touched."

#### Children's books

Kris Yankee, author of "Every Day Is A Character Day," Toya Wilson, author of "The Old Lady in the Shoe," Whitney Pytlowany, author of "Say Please, Amanda Louise," and Timothy Dziobak, author of "Red Boy Tours Michigan."

#### Adult fiction

James P. Katus with "The Secret Past of a Perfect Woman," LeAnn Mathis with "A Timely Romance," and Cheryl Vatcher-Martin with "The Purple Flower: Dreaming of a Time Machine."

#### Adult non-fiction

Exie Susanne-Smith, "When the Dead Come Calling," Will Swartz, "A Walk Across Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail," Robert Omilian, "No Fear No Doubt No Regret: Investing in Life's Challenges Like a Warrior," Donovan M. Neal, "The Third Heaven: The Birth of God," John Lankford, "The Answer is Leadership, What is the Question?" Kurt Kazanowski, "A Son's Journey: Taking Care of Mom and Dad," Robert M. Haig, "Ten Little Police Chiefs: A Detroit Police Story," R.J. Fox, "Love & Vodka: My Surreal Adventures in the Ukraine," Karen Dybis, "Better Made in Michigan: The Salty Story of Detroit's Best Chip," and Helga Henn, "Can You Read Me Now?"

"He's 31 now. Instead of flipping letters, he flips houses for a living."

#### Promoting work

Webster, a retired Detroit Public Schools science teacher, managed to get "Monkey Flip," both the book and screenplay, into the hands of film producer Mary Jane Skalski when he saw her speak at the Detroit Film Theater a few weeks ago.

"I constantly keep my eyes open for opportunities," he said. "I may not see a way, but God will show me a way. That is my personal faith."

He won second place in a screenplay contest and was awarded a trip to a script festival in Los Angeles, Calif. While there he gave scripts and his three children's books, to a representative from a production company.

She liked the holiday-related and family stories and asked for revisions. He is re-writing two of the scripts and hopes to find out this week if his work has a chance for production.

Webster writes while in the basement of the home he shares with his wife, Cathy, who also is a retired teacher. Motivational posters and slogans at his desk urge him to "never give up" and reassure that "all dreams come true."

"My thing is, if it's something in your heart and you're passionate about it, no matter what it is, never stop believing in yourself," he said. "If you get a 1,000 'noes' and one 'yes,' it's all worth it, because you finally got a 'yes.'"

sdargay@hometownlife.com

## GET OUT!: CALENDAR OF ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

### ANIMALS

#### DETROIT ZOO

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31

**Location:** I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

**Details:** Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

**Bunnyville:** Egg hunts, Jelly Bean Jamboree, games, whisker painting, photos with the Easter Bunny, "The Bunny Follies" musical, treats and zookeeper talks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 25-26. Visitors with canned or other non-perishable food donations for Gleaners Community Food Bank, will receive a reduced zoo admission price of \$9

**Contact:** 248-541-5717

### ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through April 8

**Location:** Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** "Night and Day" exhibit features new work, including landscape and portraits of other local artists, by Taurus Burns

**Contact:** 248-473-1859

#### FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL

**Time/Date:** Through April 22

**Location:** 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Works by local artists Pamela Alexander and Susan Warner

**Contact:** 248-473-1859

#### NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

**Time/Date:** Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through March 19

**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details:** 10th Annual Member Exhibition

**Contact:** 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

#### PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 18  
**Location:** 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** "Drawn to the Night" is an open life drawing event for all ages to practice drawing the human form. Includes a costumed model with timed poses. This month's theme is Mucha Nouveau. Bring your own art supplies. Complimentary refreshments. \$10 at the door; \$5 for students

**Contact:** plymoutharts.com

#### U-M MUSEUM OF ART

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. through May 29

**Location:** 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

**Details:** First U.S. exhibition of Chinese artist Xu Weixin focuses on portraits of Chinese coal miners and of Chinese historical figures during the Cultural Revolution

**Contact:** 734-764-0395; umma.umich.edu

#### VILLAGE THEATER

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through March 30; meet and greet is 7-9 p.m. Thursday, March 17

**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton



SUBMITTED

Josh Adams, a member of Motown Laugh Kings, performs March 20 at The Yellow Barn in Ann Arbor.

**Details:** "Paint, Color and the Figure: works by Jean-Paul Aboudib," is a solo show of 30 oil, acrylic and graphite paintings and drawings

**Contact:** cantonvillagetheater.org

### COMEDY

#### EMERGENT ARTS

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Sunday, March 20

**Location:** The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron, Ann Arbor

**Details:** Mark Sweetman emcees a show with Josh Adams, a member of the Motown Laugh Kings, and Adam Hirzel, a Chicago Second City alum. Admission is \$10

**Contact:** 734-985-0875; emergentarts.com

### FESTIVAL

#### IRISH FEST

**Time/Date:** 3 p.m., Thursday, March 17

**Location:** Hellenic Center, 36375 Joy, Westland

**Details:** 32nd annual St. Patrick's Day celebration includes Irish food, music, song, and dance with the Ardan School of Irish Dance, Detroit Square Dance Society, Highland Pipes, Eddie McGlinchey, Ray Maguire, members of the Conor O'Neill's Session Band, and Mick Gavin's Crossroads Ceili Band. Corned







## RELIGION CALENDAR

### MARCH

#### BIBLE PROPHECY SERIES

**Time/Date:** 7:15 p.m., beginning March 28  
**Location:** Metropolitan School Gymnasium, 15585 N. Haggerty, Plymouth  
**Details:** An in-depth Bible prophecy series called Unlocking Revelation will examine prophecies of Scripture. Go to [www.UnlockRevelation.com](http://www.UnlockRevelation.com) to see all locations and pre-register and receive a free Bible Prophecy DVD on the first night. Snacks will be served  
**Contact:** [www.UnlockRevelation.com](http://www.UnlockRevelation.com)

#### BREAKFAST

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 20  
**Location:** St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** French toast, ham, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10  
**Contact:** 734-425-4421

#### BUDDHISM CLASS

**Time/Date:** 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 24, April 14 and 28, and May 12 and 26  
**Location:** The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Free five-week secular practical Buddhism class will apply Buddhist teachings to daily life through meditation, reflection and discussion. Secular Buddhism emphasizes the teaching of Eastern philosophy practices in a way that allows each individual to become their own teacher. Ideas such as "awakening" and "enlightenment" are goals in which there is no "one true way"  
**Contact:** 248-478-7272; [uuFarmington.org](mailto:uuFarmington.org)

#### DRAMATIC EASTER MUSICAL

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 25-26  
**Location:** Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City  
**Details:** "Bow the Knee"  
**Contact:** Church office at 734-421-0472; Russell Weathers at 734-536-3553; [pastor@mrbcb.us](mailto:pastor@mrbcb.us)

#### EASTER FAIR

**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, March 25  
**Location:** Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia  
**Details:** Egg hunt, crafts, prizes, interactive Bible stories, lunch. Children also will have the opportunity to "search" for items to make a hygiene kit for boys in foster care at the Methodist Children's Home, in Redford  
**Contact:** 734-422-0149; [newburgumc.org](http://newburgumc.org)

#### EASTER FUN

**Time/Date:** 3-5 p.m. Saturday, March 26  
**Location:** InsideOut Church, 1075 Venoy, Garden City  
**Details:** The event will include carnival games, photos with the Easter Bunny, Easter candy and chances to win a prize package worth \$100, for families with children, fifth grade and younger  
**Contact:** 734-422-0149; [newburgumc.org](http://newburgumc.org)

#### EASTER WEEK

**Time/Date:** 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 25 Passover Seder; 10:30 a.m. worship, Sunday, March 27  
**Location:** Warren Road Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland  
**Details:** The Passover Seder retells the story of God's salvation of his people from Egypt through the elements of the Passover meal. The evening will conclude with a dinner that includes roast chicken and mashed potatoes. Breakfast

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**Details:** The Passover Seder retells the story of God's salvation of his people from Egypt through the elements of the Passover meal. The evening will conclude with a dinner that includes roast chicken and mashed potatoes. Breakfast

#### EASTER FUN

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 19  
**Location:** St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia  
**Details:** Crafts, stories, an Easter egg hunt, games and more for children through sixth grade. Free. Sign up by calling the church  
**Contact:** 734-422-1470

#### EASTER FUN

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26  
**Location:** Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** Family-friendly event with crafts, egg hunt, and presentation of the Easter story. Bring a basket for the egg hunt, which is for ages 12 and under  
**Contact:** Melissa at 734-765-1827

#### EASTER WEEK

**Time/Date:** Palm Sunday service, 10 a.m. March 20; Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m. March 24; Good Friday meditation, noon-1 p.m. March 25; Easter service, 10 a.m., March 27  
**Location:** Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** A continental breakfast follows the Easter service  
**Contact:** 734-421-1760; [office@unityoflivonia.org](mailto:office@unityoflivonia.org)

#### EASTER WEEK

**Time/Date:** Palm Sunday, 10 a.m., March 20; Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m. March 24; Easter worship, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., and egg hunt at 9:15 a.m., Sunday, March 27  
**Location:** First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Palm Sunday events include Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. and a coffee and snack time at 11 a.m. Maundy Thursday worship commemorates the Last Supper and will consist of Holy Communion and a Tenebrae service with song, prayer, scripture and a meditation. Brunch will be served between the two services on Easter  
**Contact:** 248-474-6170; [farmington-pres.org](mailto:farmington-pres.org)

#### EASTER WEEK

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. March 24-25 and 10:30 a.m. March 27  
**Location:** Good Hope Lutheran Church 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City  
**Details:** Maundy Thursday service on March 24; Good Friday service is March 25 and Easter service on March 27. An Easter breakfast also will be held at 9 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at 9:30 a.m., March 27  
**Contact:** 734-427-3660

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kicks off Easter morning at 9 a.m., followed by the worship service  
**Contact:** 734-458-7301

#### EASTER WEEK

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service, March 24; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Good Friday services, March 25; 9:30 a.m. service on March 27  
**Location:** Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford  
**Details:** Free Easter breakfast from 8-9:15 a.m. All visitors will receive a free DVD, "My Son, My Savior."  
**Contact:** 313-532-8655; 734-968-3523

#### EGG DROP

**Time/Date:** 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 20  
**Location:** Orchard Grove Community Church, 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake  
**Details:** More than 12,000 eggs filled with candy will be dropped from a helicopter for children through fifth grade to collect. Children will be grouped by age  
**Contact:** Shawna Schwanager at 248-926-6584 or email [shawna.schwanager@orchardgrove.org](mailto:shawna.schwanager@orchardgrove.org)

#### EGG HUNT

**Time/Date:** Noon-1 p.m. Sunday, March 20  
**Location:** Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton  
**Details:** Children may hunt for candy and small toys inside plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church and have a photo taken with the Easter bunny. Free  
**Contact:** 734-495-0035

#### FILM

**Time/Date:** 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, March 20  
**Location:** St. Thomas the Apostle Parish school gym, 31530 Beechwood, Garden City  
**Details:** "Divine Mercy 101"  
**Contact:** 734-427-1533

#### FISH FRY

**Time/Date:** 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, March 18  
**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** Final Lenten fish fry. All you can eat, \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for kids, ages 3-13, free for kids under 3, carry outs, \$9 and \$10  
**Contact:** 734-261-1455, ext. 200

#### LENTE DISCIPLINES

**Time/Date:** 10:10-11 a.m. Sunday, March 20  
**Location:** Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Sunday series is held in the refectory; Wednesdays in the St. Andrew's room  
**Details:** Final program in a series that explores the meaning of Lent.  
**Contact:** 248-626-2515, ext. 117

#### MEGILLAH READING/PURIM CARNIVAL

**Time/Date:** 3-5 p.m. Sunday, March 20  
**Location:** Congregation Bet Chaverim, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton  
**Details:** Dress in costume, bring a box of pasta to use as a Purim gragger. All pasta will be donated to Yad Ezra food pantry. Event will include a cake walk, cafe and games. Tickets for games are \$5 for 20 tickets. All proceeds will go toward future Congregation Bet Chaverim programs. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up and to make hamentashen and baked goods  
**Contact:** Michelle Nemeth at 734-905-6396; [michelleandjim@mac.com](mailto:michelleandjim@mac.com)

#### NEW WORSHIP TIME

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. Sunday  
**Location:** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** 734-421-8451 or [standrewsilivonia@mi.rr.com](mailto:standrewsilivonia@mi.rr.com)

#### PILGRIMAGE

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 30  
**Location:** Carpool to the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township from St. John Neumann parish office, 44800 Warren Road, Canton.  
**Details:** Cost is \$10 and includes tour and lunch. Deadline to register is March 23.  
**Contact:** Janet Gilbo at [jgilbo@wowway.com](mailto:jgilbo@wowway.com) or Sharlene Borke at [sharborke@gmail.com](mailto:sharborke@gmail.com)

#### SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

**Time/Date:** Registration deadline is March 23  
**Location:** Turn in registrations at St. Raphael, 31500 Beechwood, Garden City  
**Details:** Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Regional School is accepting registration for preschool through eighth grade. Registration forms are available at St. Raphael and St. Genevieve School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia  
**Contact:** 734-425-4420; [divine-mercyregionalschoolinfo@gmail.com](mailto:divine-mercyregionalschoolinfo@gmail.com)

#### SOUP SUPPER, SPEAKER

**Time/Date:** 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 18  
**Location:** Resurrection Catholic Parish, 48755 Warren Road, Canton  
**Details:** A meatless meal of soup and bread is followed by Deacon Paul F. Lippard's discussion of "Living Lent with Mercy." Stations of the Cross will be offered. RSVP to the parish office  
**Contact:** 734-451-0444; [resofice@resurrectionparish.net](mailto:resofice@resurrectionparish.net)

#### SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE

**Time/Date:** 7:15 a.m. Sunday, March 27  
**Location:** Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** Service will be held outdoors except in extreme weather conditions. Coffee and refreshments will be served after the service. An Easter breakfast will start at 9 a.m.  
**Contact:** Mary at 248-471-1322

#### VESPER

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Sunday, March 20-April 17  
**Location:** St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, March 20; St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen Road, Southfield, March 27; Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17  
**Details:** Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter-Orthodox chorus will sing the responses  
**Contact:** Olga Liskivsky at 248-252-8184; [Olga-liss0910@gmail.com](mailto:Olga-liss0910@gmail.com)

#### WIDOWED FRIENDS

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 22  
**Location:** AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia  
**Details:** Movie and lunch at Bahama Breeze. RSVP by March 20  
**Contact:** Elaine at 734-717-0303

#### APRIL CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3  
**Location:** Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMuer, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected  
**Contact:** 248-474-2860; [trinityfarmingtonhills.org](mailto:trinityfarmingtonhills.org)

#### CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16  
**Location:** St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills  
**Details:** Features Aeolian Choral, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Milito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ, John Sittard, conductor. Presented by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will offering will be accepted  
**Contact:** 248-644-5460

#### DEVOTIONS, SWIECONKA

**Time/Date:** Starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3  
**Location:** St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** 12:30 p.m. Mass, 1:20 p.m. exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 1:45-3 p.m. silent adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 p.m. praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a

spiritual talk, 3:30 p.m. benediction; followed by Swieconka Polish Easter meal at 4 p.m. Menu includes ham, kielbasa, potato salad, blessed hard-boiled eggs, beet horseradish, rye bread, butter lambs, salad, babka, lazy perogi, beets, cheesecake and beverages. Cost is \$15 per person. Meals must be paid in advance. Send a check or money order payable to WSDPAHS, to Laurie A. Gommulka, 32040 Grand River Ave., Unit #47, Farmington, MI 48336. Include number of attendees. Must be received by March 26. Sponsored by the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society  
**Contact:** 855-POLONIA; [detroit-polonia.org](http://detroit-polonia.org)

#### MOM-TO-MOM SALE

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23  
**Location:** Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton  
**Details:** Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30 a.m. Admission \$2  
**Contact:** 734-397-1777

#### ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

**Our Lady of Loretto**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday  
**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township  
**Details:** Scripture study  
**Contact:** 313-534-9000

#### St. Michael the Archangel Parish

**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May  
**Location:** 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible  
**Contact:** 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at [www.livonia-st-michael.org](http://www.livonia-st-michael.org)

#### Faith Community Wesleyan

**Time/Date:** 4-5 p.m. every Saturday  
**Location:** 14560 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one  
**Contact:** pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

#### EXERCISE

**Time/Date:** 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday  
**Location:** Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through [zumba.com](mailto:zumba.com)  
**Contact:** 313-408-3364

#### FAMILY MEAL

**Time/Date:** 5-6 p.m. every Thursday  
**Location:** Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Free meal  
**Contact:** 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

#### HEALING SERVICE

**Time/Date:** Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.  
**Contact:** Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email [StaceyBadeen@tbsosm.com](mailto:StaceyBadeen@tbsosm.com)

#### MOMS

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May  
**Location:** 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners  
**Contact:** Ethan Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

#### Dunning Park Bible Chapel

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays  
**Location:** 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford  
**Details:** MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.  
**Contact:** Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

#### PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.  
**Contact:** 313-563-0162

#### PRAYER

**St. Edith Church**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday  
**Location:** Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia  
**Details:** Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows  
**Contact:** Parish office at 734-464-1223

#### St. Michael Lutheran Church

**Time/Date:** 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday  
**Location:** 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton  
**Details:** Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.  
**Contact:** 734-459-3333 for additional information

#### RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month  
**Location:** 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth  
**Details:** Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.  
**Contact:** Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

#### SINGLES

**Detroit World Outreach**  
**Time/Date:** 4-6 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304  
**Details:** Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.  
**Contact:** The facilitator at 313-283-8200; [lef@dwo.org](mailto:lef@dwo.org)



# SASS UP MEALS

## LIVONIA COMPANY INTRODUCES FLAVOR SAUCE

USA TODAY NETWORK ILLUSTRATION/THINKSTOCK



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judy and Mike Campbell show the five flavors of Sweet Sass.

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Mike and Judy Campbell of Livonia make a sauce you can drizzle on eggs, bananas, salad and even ice cream. You can mix it with tuna patties, slather it on ribs, spread it on a pizza crust.

It can bake with beans, marinade tempeh, stir-fry with veggies.

In fact, the Campbells say their Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce is so versatile, there are virtually no limits to "sassing up" food.

"Here's breakfast, lunch, dinner, sides, salad and desserts," said Mike Campbell, who makes and bottles the sauce at a licensed facility in Redford. "This is not Open Pit. It's not Sweet Baby Ray's. We are not just a barbecue sauce. We feel like we're the new table sauce."

"We are the only flavor sauce, but we're on the condiment shelf next to the barbecue sauces and things like that."

Sweet Sass Foods produces the sauce in five flavors. Straight Up — the original flavor — Hickory Kick and Chipotle Craze are sold at Kroger stores in Michigan and Columbus, Ohio. Other flavors are Habanero Flare and Garlic Fix. The product also is available at Busch's, Plum Market, Westborn Market, Zerbos, Better Health Market and Holiday Market.

### Evolving sauce

Sweet Sass production has come a long way since Mike Campbell, who worked for Faygo Beverages, Inc. in the 1980s and 90s, first began experimenting with sauces.

"I put a couple of sauces together. I was a single father at the time and my son was young. We created the original Straight Up sauce. It was one of the things he enjoyed when he came over," he said. "We didn't go to market with it. We didn't even name it at that time. It was our thing."

Mike Campbell began to share the sauce with family members and liberally used it with food at a graduation party for his son in 2005. Rave reviews encouraged him to begin researching the process needed to produce and market the sauce.

"One thing led to another. We changed the recipe because we had to take out certain things," said Judy Campbell. "We were taking butter and fat out."

"And boy, did I have a lot of sugar in it," Mike Campbell added. "We took a lot of it out. We said, let's try to streamline it to a good calorie count. That was a big learning process."

### Into stores

By 2009 they tested the sauce at a local restaurant and, enlisting the help of Mike's son, Dan, and Judy's sons, Justin and Jason, began promoting the product at public events, such as Art in the Park in Plymouth and the Women's International Show in Novi.

Two years later, they got a call from Kroger. "Originally they told us you're going to be in 24 stores and then the order came and it was for 87," Mike Campbell recalled. "It was exciting. We had to deliver to 87 stores in three days."

By 2013, the Campbells removed high-fructose corn syrup from the recipe and it was non-GMO verified.

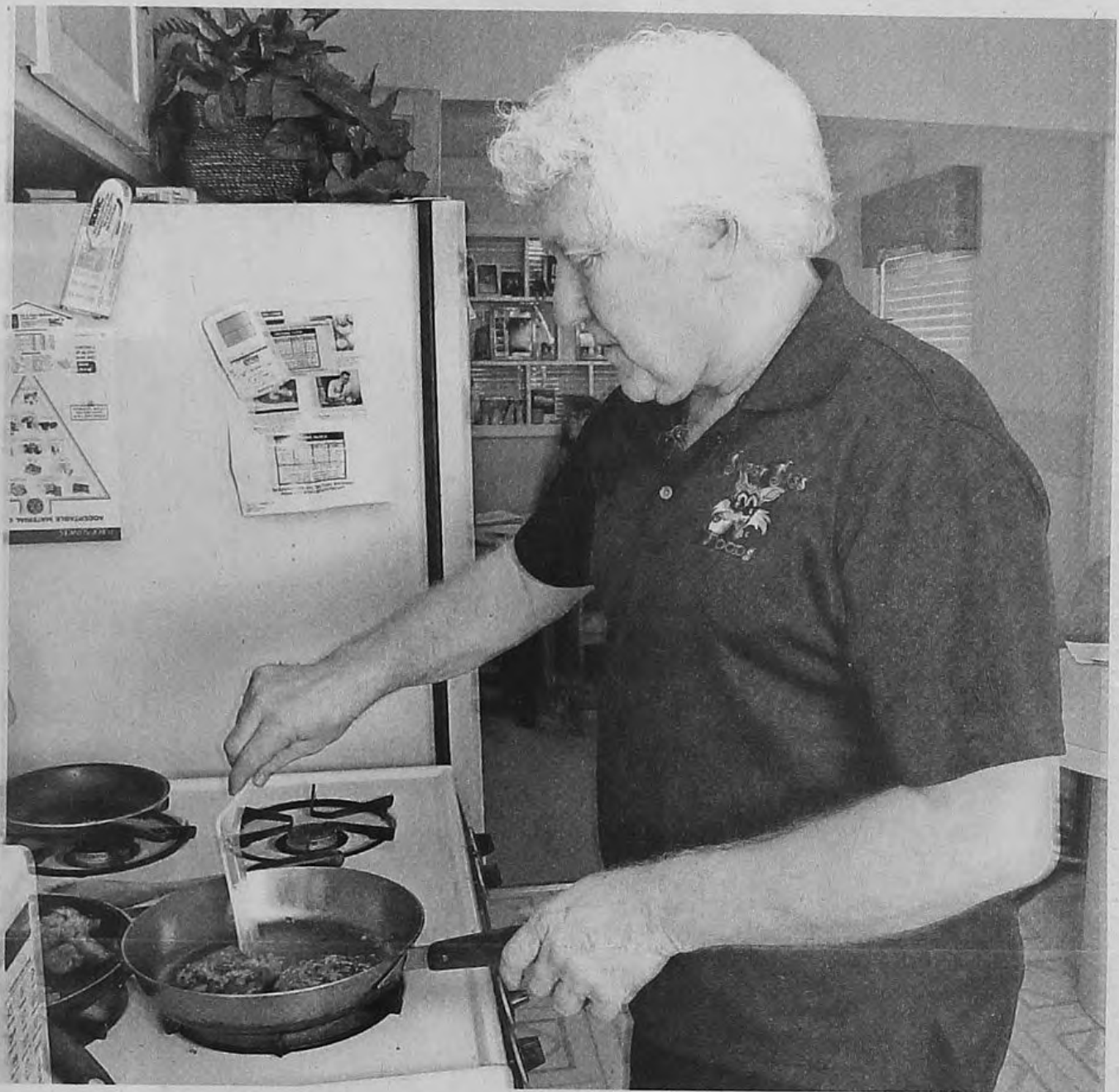
"We have a clean ingredient label. Non-GMO, gluten-free and no high fructose," Mike Campbell said. "The first ingredient we use is apple juice concentrate. That is what gives it the nice sweetness. We've got a little organic honey in there and cinnamon."

The couple sells their sauces at the Maker Faire at The Henry Ford and at the Greenfield Village farmers market, in addition to supermarkets. Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce costs \$4.99 at Kroger stores.

The newest twist in their product's evolution is a digital code on the bottle. Smart phone users scan the code and find several recipes for the sauce.

Ready to try Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce? Here are a few recipes to get you started. For more, visit [sassipe.com](http://sassipe.com). Check out the Sweet Sass Facebook page or visit [sweetsassfoods.com](http://sweetsassfoods.com).

[sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)  
Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Campbell cooks with Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce at his home in Livonia.



SHARON DARGAY

Sweet Sass can be mixed with food, such as the tuna patties in the foreground, or drizzled on dishes, like the salad in the background.

### MAYO-FREE TUNA SANDWICH

Prep time: 10-15 minutes  
Cook time: 5-10 minutes  
Servings: 4-6

3 cans (5.5-6 ounces in water) of tuna  
2 eggs beaten  
Chopped onion to taste  
Chopped green pepper to taste  
½ cup gluten-free bread crumbs or gluten-free instant oatmeal  
2 tablespoons Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce - Straight Up  
Gluten-free hamburger bun, bread, English muffins or waffle  
Lettuce  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
6 slices muenster cheese

Drain tuna and add to a bowl with egg, onion, green pepper, bread crumbs, and Sweet Sass - Straight Up. Mix well. Transfer mixture to a medium-sized cooking pan, coated with olive oil. Cook over medium heat for 5-10 minutes, stirring every minute or so. Add tuna to a bun layered with a slice of muenster cheese. Press down firmly. Top with lettuce and drizzle with some Sweet Sass - Straight Up or Flavor Sauce of choice.

### FRIED BANANAS

2 bananas  
1 cup coconut oil  
2 eggs  
1 cup gluten-free flour, such as coconut flour  
2 tablespoons cinnamon  
Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce - Straight Up for drizzling

In a medium-sized bowl combine coconut flour and cinnamon. In a separate bowl, add eggs and stir. Cut bananas into ¼-½-inch pieces. Place in egg bowl and mix. In a medium-sized pot, heat coconut oil over medium-high temperature. Take the bananas out of the bowl and mix into the flour bowl a few at a time. Place them into the heated coconut oil and cook for 2-5 minutes or until golden brown. Take them out of the oil and leave them on a plate to cool. Drizzle with Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce - Straight Up.

### CHIPOTLE SCRAMBLE

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 30 minutes  
Servings: 4-5

5 red potatoes  
1 green bell pepper  
½ yellow onion  
4 eggs  
1 tablespoon chili powder  
½ tablespoon garlic powder  
½ teaspoon coconut oil  
4 tablespoons Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce - Chipotle

Boil potatoes in a large pot of water for 20 minutes or until tender. While potatoes are boiling, cut bell pepper and onion into long strips. Saute over medium heat in a cooking pan coated with coconut oil. Add chili powder, garlic powder and Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce. Mix and continue to saute. In a separate pan, scramble four eggs. Add scrambled eggs to the veggies pan. Saute for 2 more minutes. Serve.

### SOUTHWESTERN SALAD

Prep time: 5-10 minutes

1-2 cups of mixed greens  
½ cup cooked corn  
½ cup cooked black beans  
1 cup shredded chicken  
¼ cup sliced onions  
¼ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce - Chipotle Craze used as dressing

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Sass it up with Chipotle Craze and enjoy.

### HICKORY KICK CHICKEN PIZZA

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Bake time: 20 minutes

½ bottle of Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce - Hickory Kick  
Pre-made gluten-free pizza crust  
½ cup chopped red onion  
Chicken (as much as you want)  
1 cup of shredded Vermont cheddar  
Cilantro for taste

Spread Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce over pizza crust. Garnish with toppings. Bake according to the packaged pizza crust instructions.



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