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# CANTON OBSERVER

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## Siegrist, 63, remembered as leader

Plymouth man was involved with many community activities

Brad Kadrich  
hometownlife.com

One Christmas years ago, when the Plymouth Salvation Army sought donors to "sponsor" families for the holiday, Dave Siegrist noticed a couple of families hadn't been sponsored and faced a bleak Christmas.

So Siegrist went to his family - wife Linda and children Michael, Amy and Michelle - and suggested the family sponsor them, pointing out that it would mean fewer presents under the Siegrist tree. The children, of course, ultimately agreed and that's what happened.

It's the measure of Siegrist his

friends and family remember, in the wake of his death Sunday at the age of 63.

"He was able to convince three children to give up some presents to help other families," his son Michael said. "That was my dad."

That's how friends and family were remembering Siegrist, as a man with ideas who could motivate others to get things done; as a compassionate man who longed to help others; and as a motivator who not only had big ideas, but could inspire others to help him get them done.

For instance, when the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth's Kids Against

Hunger Coalition initially started, it was a solitary entity that put together some 250,000 meals a year to help the hungry around the world.

It was Siegrist, a longtime member who was once the state Kiwanis lieutenant governor, who had the idea of bringing many service clubs together, putting the thing on wheels, and it packaged a million meals a year, including 125,000 in one afternoon.

George Lytle, president of the Plymouth Kiwanis, remembered Siegrist as a man who "had big ideas who could get others to help carry them out."

"It had an incredible impact," Lytle said of the KAH effort. "(Siegrist) always thought of ideas that would be



FILE PHOTO

Dave Siegrist was very active in the community, serving in the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth and, at one point, as chairman of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

See SIEGRIST, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jim Birchmeier of Library Design Associates of Plymouth disassembles shelving in the area of the teen room. The wall and windows behind Birchmeier will be removed for the redesign and rebuild.

## Library starts new chapter on widespread renovations

Darrell Clem  
hometownlife.com

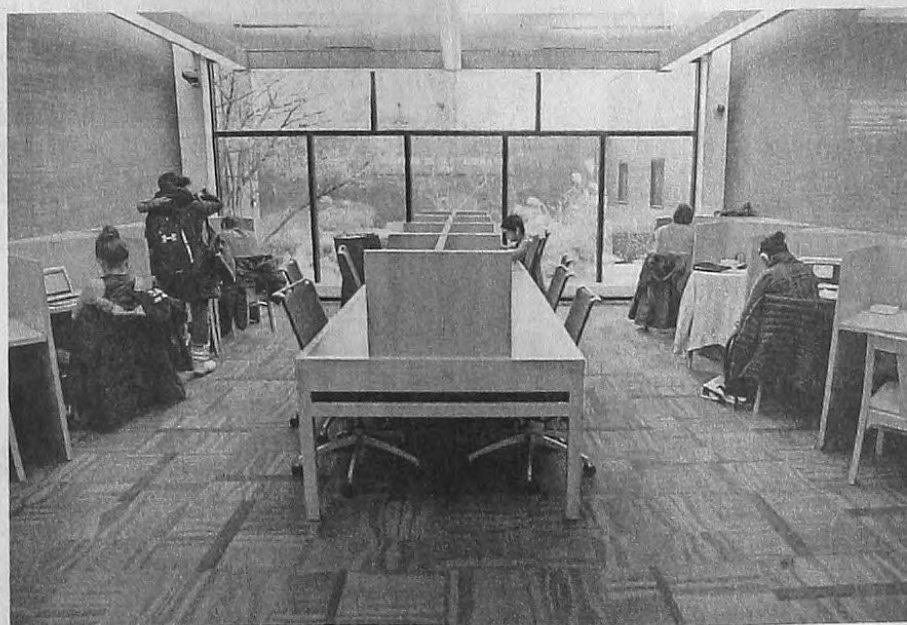
Moving further beyond a recession that once stalled renovations, the Canton Public Library has begun the fourth chapter of a five-phase makeover that has brought widespread improvements to the community's information hub.

The latest, \$892,882 phase involves gutting and renovating the popular used bookstore, Secondhand Prose, which is run by the volunteer group Friends of the Canton Public Library. It also includes a major expansion of the library's teen section and expanding the number of small study rooms from nine to 12.

"The teen area will be at least three times larger," said Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin, information services department head.

The fourth-round makeover comes after the library in 2014 embarked on a five-year plan to spruce up the 53,000-square-foot facility, make it more user-friendly and vastly improve access to electrical outlets needed by patrons using a growing number of devices.

The newest phase comes as the library, which opened in 1988, continues efforts to improve and serve a diverse population. A community survey commissioned in 2014 by the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The center workspaces are reclaimed from a study room and are now used in this quiet study area.

library and Canton Leisure Services revealed that 88 percent of respondents had used the library, making it the most-visited public facility in Canton.

Just last year, the library paid off its building construction bond five

years early and saved taxpayers \$279,000, a move officials say shows library officials have been good stewards of tax dollars.

Secondhand Prose bookstore closed

See LIBRARY, Page A2

## Arctic blast greets Plymouth Ice Festival

Darrell Clem  
hometownlife.com

Ice carver Clinton Rich arrived a day early for the Plymouth Ice Festival and worked throughout the night to create his latest sculpture, Captain America, which stood more than 7 feet tall in Kellogg Park.

All bundled up, he didn't seem to mind the c-c-c-cold winter blast that welcomed the 35th annual, three-day festival that began Friday in downtown Plymouth. He said carving the ice and using his power tools kept him warm in his layered clothing.

"I was sweating the whole time," Rich said.

Rich, a Commerce Township resident, learned the art of ice-carving 11 years ago while studying culinary arts at Oakland Community College. He said chefs often use ice sculptures to showcase their food creations.

Even indoors, he said, it takes large ice sculptures hours to melt.

Rich was among the ice carvers working Friday in Kellogg Park as visitors braved frigid temperatures to attend the festival.

Rosie Alexander of Statesville, N.C., and her Michigan cousin, Grace Gildemeister of Howell, were among the early festival-goers. They heard about the event from Gildemeister's father, who works in Plymouth.

Alexander had never been to an ice festival - North Carolina weather isn't as conducive to it - but she had a hot cup of coffee before going to Kellogg Park.

"And I bundled up," she said. It didn't take long for Gildemeister to spot a favorite ice sculpture, carved in the shape of a Guinness beer mug.

"That one's very cool," she said.

Officials said more than 100 ice sculptures could be seen in downtown Plymouth during a festival that included other attractions such as horse-drawn carriage rides, a winter

See ICE, Page A3



## I am an American We are One Nation

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. In the second installment, read about Abdul'Haq Muhammed, who finds ways to help children in low-income Florida neighborhoods lead better lives, Page A9



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# SIEGRIST

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impactful. That was the way Dave saw things. He was a relentlessly positive guy."

Born in 1953, Siegrist grew up on a small farm in upper Michigan. His mother died when he was just 14 years old. Siegrist worked his way through college at Central Michigan University, graduating in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

His son believes Siegrist's humble upbringing and the loss of his mother at 14 are among the factors in making family, and people in general, so important to him in later life.

"I think that's why he loved people. He wanted to be around people," Mike Siegrist said. "He was very sentimental toward people who struggled. He wanted to make soft the parts of life that

were hard for people."

Siegrist and his family poured themselves into helping out in the community. Both he and his wife Linda, who he married in 1978, have served as the president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. Siegrist has been a Kiwanis president in addition to holding statewide office in the organization and served the Plymouth Community Foundation.

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wes Graff said Siegrist was instrumental in a variety of chamber efforts, from the annual golf outing to the auction, and even in the establishing of the Santa House.

"For them, it was about the whole family," Graff said. "If Dave was working on a project, Linda was right there. Their commitment to community service was outstanding. They're such incredibly giving people."

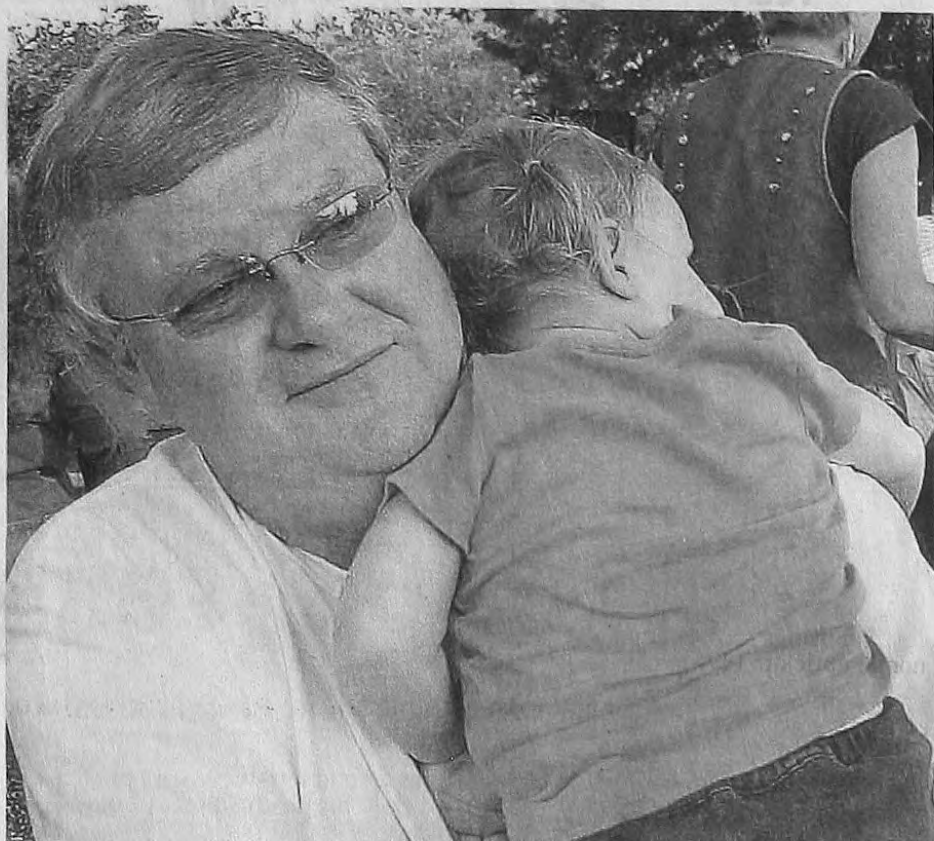
A certified public accountant for more than 36 years, Dave and Linda Siegrist opened the first store front office for their practice in 1990 in Plymouth.

But even there, his son said, it was about helping people.

"Even in his professional life, he'd say, 'I'm a therapist for people's financial lives,'" Mike Siegrist said. "He had a servant's heart. One of the most interesting things to him about his faith was the concept of Jesus as a servant/leader. He felt you led by doing. That's what I know about my dad."

Siegrist is survived by his wife Linda; children Amy (Kevin) Imes, Michelle (Jon) Lux and Michael (Lindsay Fanning) Siegrist; grandchildren Grace and Delaney Imes and Chelsea and Ethan Lux; and sister Shelly Barter.

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Dave Siegrist was a devoted father to three children and beloved grandfather to four grandchildren.

SIEGRIST FAMILY PHOTO

# CANTON OBSERVER

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# LIBRARY

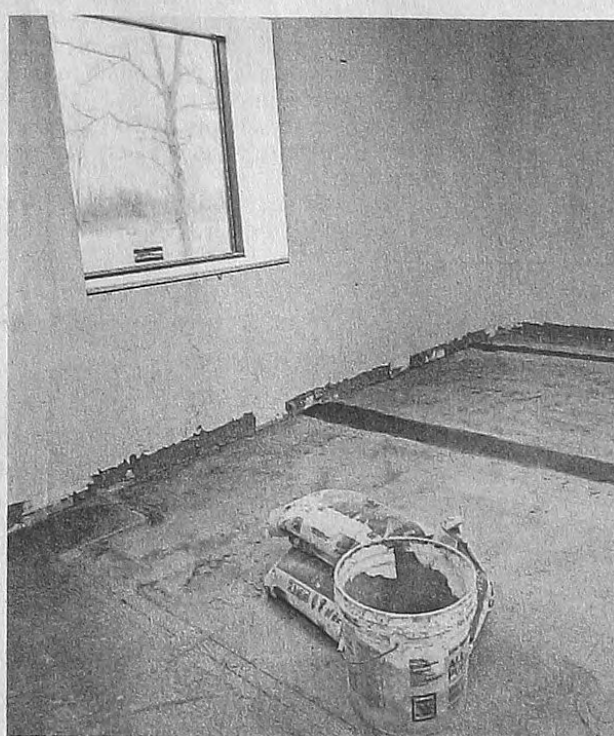
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in late December and is expected to reopen in February. During a tour Thursday, the room had been completely gutted. Laurie Golden, the library's community relations department head, said the shop sells used books and other items to raise money that the library can request to pay for materials or services.

It's a popular bookstore with a rapid turnover of materials.

"Every day, it's a new store," Golden said.

During the last six years, Secondhand Prose helped pay for programs the library couldn't afford as it rebounded from the last recession. Now, with the library in a much better financial position, the volunteer Friends group, which has its own bank account, has turned its attention to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The used bookstore has been gutted for complete renovation.

paying for items such as audio-visual equipment and other items.

"They're doing the extras," Havenstein-Coughlin said.

Larry Hoelscher, long-

serving Friends treasurer, said the renovation will replace rolling shelves with permanent shelves, among other features, and make the bookstore much better.

"I think it's going to be great," he said.

Hoelscher said the bookstore has revenue totaling \$40,000 to \$45,000 a year for sales of books and other items such as games, puzzles and music CDs. Officials say the Friends group has been a strong ally for the library.

With bookstore renovations facing a February completion date, the rest of the new renovations should be done in April, leaving a much bigger teen section and improved walls to provide a buffer from other sections of the library. Some patrons had complained of noise coming from the old teen area.

The teen area includes amenities such as computers, study booths, mobile furniture and its own copier, printer and scanner. The work is being done by Library Design Associates of Plymouth.

After the latest round of renovations, the last phase will involve renovating an area where library employees work.

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# ICE

Continued from Page A1

market, a children's ice playground and visits to local shops and restaurants.

Janet Janicki came from Shelby Township with her 10th-grade son Adam, whose art class from Eisenhower High School was learning to carve ice. She was waiting for her sister to arrive from Canada.

"We're going to hang out and look in some of the shops," she said.

That's just what local officials like to hear. Tony Bruscatto, Downtown Development Authority, has said the ice festival brings an economic uptick to Plymouth and its unique shops.

Festival organizer James Gietzen has said the festival draws an estimated 75,000-100,000 people, some of them return visitors. It's considered one of Michigan's premier winter festivals.

Northville resident Patrick Cullip said he has attended several of the festivals during the last decade. He brought his 5-year-old daughter Maddie, so she could have a good time.

"She really likes it," Cullip said, "so it's all about her."

What did Maddie like most? "Captain America," she said.

During some years, temperatures have been so warm it caused ice sculptures to slowly melt. That will not happen this year, as the weekend weather forecast was cold. Gietzen said Friday the frigid blast will not keep people away.

"People will definitely be out here anyway," he said. "It's a tradition in Plymouth for 35 years and I don't think it will keep people away at all."

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Henry Ford Community College student Jayme Slais shows Utica Eisenhower High School carvers Gabby Braun and Allisoan Soffa how to carve.



Natalie Thomas, an ice carver from Utica Eisenhower High School, poses next to Captain America.



Jeffrey Lao, an instructor at Henry Ford Community College, helps out on a student carving.



Ten-year-old Adriana Rueolfi takes a chilly ride on a saber tooth tiger.

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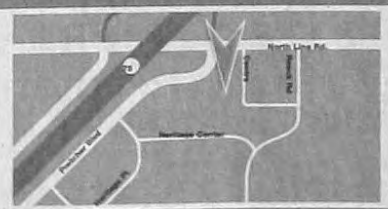
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# Canton resident appointed nonprofit director

The board of Project Healthy Community has appointed Canton resident Amina Iqbal as its executive director. Her duties include working with the board to develop and manage short- and long-range business plans and budgets; foster government and community relationships; supervision and evaluation of employees; assist in fundraising and grant writing; and institute appropriate metrics for programs to measure value to stakeholders.

Iqbal was previously director of operations for

the Michigan Muslim Community Council. She is experienced in fundraising, forging sponsorships, social media and website development, blogs and surveys. She has held several teaching positions instructing creative writing classes and mentoring and planning projects for elementary students.

A board member of the Asian Pacific Island-



Iqbal

er American Vote, Iqbal is also a member of the Detroit Public Television Community Advisory Panel. She has a bachelor's degree in family and consumer science and professional child development from the University of Wyoming and a master's in education policy studies and global studies in education from the University of Illinois.

"Project Healthy Community has grown substantially since its beginning in 2012," said Dr. Melvyn Rubenfire, founder of PHC, a cardiologist at the University of

Michigan Hospital. "I'm happy to report that we are making a difference in northwest Detroit and other communities in areas of education and nutrition for those most in need. We are delighted to have been able to recruit Ms. Iqbal, who adds much to our diversity. She has many contacts with business, media, government relations and other nonprofits with whom we can partner to improve the efficiencies of our missions."

Project Healthy Community is an inter-community, multi-cultural,

interfaith partnership that was initially founded to benefit northwest Detroit. It was initially housed in the Northwest Activities Center of Detroit (a former Jewish Community Center).

The nonprofit was launched through a collaboration between Temple Israel's Rabbi Josh Bennett and Rubenfire, a former chairman of medicine at Sinai Hospital of Detroit. Each felt Temple Israel and others in the Jewish community could help Detroit by partnering with the NWAC to develop pro-

grams that would improve food availability, nutrition, education and health.

Bennett and Rubenfire formed partnerships with existing charitable organizations in the neighborhood, including the NWAC, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church and Gleaners. Among creative cost-effective initiatives are an after-school program and summer camp for K-5 children, a mobile food pantry and a winter warmth effort to provide clothing to children and families most in need.

## Trial starts Monday for Livonia woman accused in shooting

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

A trial date will come this week for the Livonia woman accused in the shooting of a man last June at home in the city.

Ann Zarras, 19, is scheduled to have a jury trial begin at 9 a.m. Monday before Wayne County Circuit Judge Shannon Walker at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in downtown Detroit, according to online court records as of Friday morning. She's charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, assault with a dangerous weapon and felony firearm.

Those charges stemmed from an incident that took place June 30 at a home in the

15000 block of Richfield in Livonia. Police say they were called to the home on the report of an 18-year-old Livonia man who had been shot during an altercation involving the two. After an investigation and interviews with Zarras, police testified during her preliminary examination last August that she was holding a gun that went off during an argument the two were having. She was later arrested and charged in the case, with her case being bound over to circuit court after that August hearing.

Police say the man was shot in the head and continues to require medical care several months after the fact.

If convicted, Zarras faces up to 10 years in prison. She remains free on a \$250,000/10-percent bond.

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Zarras

## Colbeck, blasted for social media post on budgeting, hits back against critics

Matt Jachman  
hometownlife.com

A Facebook post from Michigan Sen. Patrick Colbeck suggesting the state cut its budget the way he and his wife have saved on household expenses sparked a social media backlash, as well as messages of support, last week.

Colbeck, a second-term Republican who represents Livonia and Canton, Plymouth and Northville townships and other western Wayne County communities, wrote in his Wednesday morning post that he and his wife have been on a fixed income for six years and have "found ways to reduce expenses to keep our financial head above waters" as living expenses, including taxes, have risen.

Those cuts, like switching cellphone service and dropping cable TV, will result in a savings of more than \$1,500 a year, he wrote.

"I hope this lesson sinks in during this year's

Senator Patrick Colbeck

January 4 at 6:20am

Like many of you, Angie and I have been living on a fixed income for the past 6 years (remember...MI Senate compensation level not U.S. Senate). As expenses such as taxes increase (property tax up \$325/yr. gas tax up 7 cents/gallon, registration fees up 20%), we have been forced to find ways to reduce expenses to keep our financial head above waters. To do so, we eliminated our cable TV service and switched our cell phone service. We now watch our favorite TV shows via rabbit ears or on demand internet service. Our cell phone services uses the same network as before but costs \$45/month less with more data plus 5% of our bill goes to a charity of OUR choice. All told, we will save over \$1500 per year. It is possible to save money while improving service. I hope this lesson sinks in during this year's state appropriation process.

VIA FACEBOOK

Colbeck's original post on Facebook.

state appropriation process," Colbeck concluded. The post appeared on Colbeck's personal Facebook page and the one he keeps as a senator.

The message drew quick reaction and Colbeck later said it had been mischaracterized by critics.

"Dear Senator. You make about \$30,000 more per year than the average American family. Do NOT lecture people on savings when you're eating 3 meals a day and had cable TV to get rid of," one woman responded on Facebook.

"Yup, living on almost \$72,000 a year (the fourth highest in the country) must be awful tough. Care to trade with a 12th year teacher with three degrees making 20% less than you and paying significantly more than you for health insurance and retirement?" a man wrote.

One Facebook user set up a GoFundMe page to raise money to get Colbeck cable TV; the account had \$22 toward its goal of \$90 by early Friday afternoon.

Some commentators backed Colbeck, however.

"All of you are completely missing the point. It's almost humorous how you take one thing and run with it, without trying to understand the message. I don't even know this senator but I support him!" a woman wrote.

Colbeck's Senate salary is \$71,685 annually and he is eligible for \$900 a month for expenses plus a fuel allowance for one weekly round trip between his home and Lansing. Colbeck said Friday his wife Angie is an unpaid consultant.

Later Wednesday, the liberal watchdog group Progress Michigan issued a press release blasting Colbeck's post.

"It's not often that an elected official publicly complains about his own salary. But, Senator Colbeck has never been one for showing respect for the people he represents," said Lonnie Scott,



Colbeck

*"The fact that he is comparing vital services in a state budget to cutting a cable bill or a cellphone bill is really ridiculous."*

Lonnie Scott  
executive director,  
Progress Michigan

the group's executive director, in the statement.

Colbeck responds

Colbeck countered Thursday with a press release of his own, saying he was not complaining about his compensation.

"I think what really irks Progress Michigan is that someone in elected office actually had the audacity of suggesting that there are ways to improve government services while reducing costs," he said. Progress Michigan, he added, has "big government dreams" and, "providing practical examples of ways to save money threatens their world view."

Colbeck continued his defense Friday, saying Progress Michigan was

missing his point. "They're deliberately trying to recast this as an issue about salary," he said. "It's a false narrative."

He said critics who focused on his message about the state budget process were "not paying attention" to his work.

"They're not following what I've been doing," said Colbeck, who proposed alternative plans for infrastructure improvements and for increasing health-insurance coverage without Michigan having to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

"I've proposed solution after solution" that would save money, reduce expenses and improve services, he said.

Colbeck pointed out that he voted for ending lifetime health care benefits for former state legislators even though he was one of only two senators at the time who were affected. "It was the right thing to do," he said.

Progress Michigan's Scott, however, said Friday that Colbeck's need to issue a press release showed his original message was out of touch.

"The fact that he is comparing vital services in a state budget to cutting a cable bill or a cellphone bill is really ridiculous," Scott said. "You can't cut a state budget like you can cut your cable bill."

It was budget-cutting, Scott said, that led to problems like the Flint water crisis, the poor condition of many roads and bridges and the problems with privatized food service at state prisons.

"What he's preaching here is nothing new," Scott said. "It's the same playbook we've seen from Republicans for years."

Colbeck's 7th District also includes the cities of Plymouth and Wayne and the Wayne County portion of the city of Northville.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WAYNE COUNTY

Webb office hours

Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb will have office hours 10-11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9, at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway. Constituents can meet with Webb to discuss matters of concern within the community.

Neighbors and friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a Women's Club in Livonia, will host author Sgt. Robert Haig, a veteran of the Detroit Police Department. Haig will discuss his law enforcement journey, as covered in his book, "Ten Little Police Chiefs: a Detroit Police Story." Join the club at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10. The event will take place at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. Special activity groups continue to meet year round.

For more information, go to livonianighborsandfriends.tripod.com.

Wayne Historic Homes

Join Tyler from the Wayne Historical Museum as he shares insights on how to research old houses in the area. Learn how historic dwellings and their previous owners relate to the community's past. The talk is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road. To register for this free program, visit the Adult Services Desk or call 734-721-7821.

The Power of Nonviolence

The Citizens for Peace will present a talk by the co-founder of the Michigan based Meta Peace Team, the Rev. C. Peter Dougherty, at its meeting set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Unity of Livonia (28660 Five Mile). In his presentation, "The Power of Nonviolence to Transform Ourselves and Our World," Dougherty will share his firsthand experiences of the positive effect of nonviolence on individuals and groups all around the U.S. and countries around the world. All are welcome. For more information, call 734-425-0079 or go to www.citizens4peace.com.

Livonia Public Library Family Nights

Drop by anytime 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, to relax and re-connect with family members and neighbors and/or friends while enjoying snacks, conversation and fun activities. Activities include youth and adult coloring, paper crafts, Wii video gaming, board games of all types, card games and playing decks and jigsaw and other puzzles. The event is at the Livonia Carl Sandburg Library, 30100 W. Seven Mile Road. For more information, call 248-893-4010.

One-stop screening

Wayne Senior Services and Beaumont Community Health will offer a free One-Stop Health Screening from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. Screening includes: blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose (diabetes). No fasting is required. No appointments are needed. The screening is available to anyone 18 years and older.

Blues and jazz at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitblues

society.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, the Alicia Marie Band will perform. The band features Alicia Marie on guitar and vocals, Dan Devins on harmonica and vocals, Kurt Krahnke on bass and Ron Pangborn on drums. Marie is inspired by B.B. King and many of the legends in blues.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy jazz in a listening room setting close to the entertainers.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, join The Boogie Woogie Kid Trio with the award-winning singer Emma-Lee Aboukasm, YouTube's viral sensation The Motor City Boogie Woogie Kid and drummer Gary Stevens for a night of piano and song favorites from the swing dancing days of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Classics include "Women be Wise," "In the Mood," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "Basin Street Blues," "Blue Moon" and many more. For a preview, go to www.boogiewoogiekid.com.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

Strikes for freedom

MLK weekend has become a time for education, remembrance and celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Four years ago Printing Plus by United Sonz began "Bowl It Out" and annual event dedicated to continuing to spread Dr. King's message of love, equality, justice and peace for all persons. This year's theme "Strikes for Freedom" combines the fun of bowling with a message of hope, love and prosperity. The message embodies freedom from discrimination, freedom from injustice, and freedom from all inequalities.

It all takes place at Wayne Bowl (36900 Michigan Ave.) from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 15. Festivities include two games of bowling, shoes and a T-shirt. The team fee of \$100 covers a five-person team. Bowl It Out also features a live DJ, full kitchen and mystery jackpots. A portion of proceeds raised will be donated to local nonprofit African American Endowment Fund. For registration and more information, call 734-485-8889.

Great Lakes shipwrecks

At 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, the Livonia Historical Society will present a program on Great Lakes shipwrecks by David Trotter. He is a world renowned underwater explorer, lecturer and photographer featured on TV and newspapers throughout the United States and Canada.

The society will meet at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead, Livonia's Historical Park, which is off Newburgh Road just south of Eight Mile. For more information, call 734-464-0450.

Public welcome at no charge.

Auto art workshop

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will host an auto art workshop featuring "Old Truck No. 6," 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.

Students will participate in a gallery tour and art-appreciation lesson using the diverse art pieces in our January exhibit. Then, students will create their own 2D version of Tim Tonachella's photograph, "Old Truck No. 6," inspired by the work in the exhibit.

A variety of media will be available for students to use and they will be encouraged to be creative with paint, colored pencils, collage materials, and illustration marker. Photos of each piece will be exhibited on the website as part of the Interpretations Exhibit Artists' group. Instruction and all materials provided. The instructor is Lisa Howard. The program is for ages 7-18. The cost is \$24 per student. To register, call 734-416-4278 or go to www.plymoutharts.com. The PCAC is at 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

Bariatric seminars

The Michigan Bariatric Institute 3622 Five Mile Road, Suite 202, in Livonia, offers free monthly educational seminars. The public is invited to hear a presentation about laparoscopic bariatric surgery by bariatric surgeon Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery at St. Mary Mercy Livonia and Dr. Jacob Roberts, bariatric surgeon at St. Mary Mercy Livonia.

These educational seminars will be held 6-7:30 p.m. the following dates: Thursday, Jan. 5; Monday, Jan. 16; Thursday, Feb. 2; Monday, Feb. 13; Thursday, March 2; and Monday, March 13.

This seminar is free, but registration is required. To register or for more information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at 877-949-9344.

Weight management program

On Jan. 10 and March 14, St. Mary Mercy Livonia will host a weight management program titled "Weigh Your Options." Registered dieters will provide information to help individuals begin a weight loss program. Attendees will learn about successful weight management programs, where to find reliable resources and healthy activities in the community and what is needed to develop a healthy lifestyle. Participants will learn how to read food labels, write SMART goals and determine their healthiest weight. The class will take place 6-7:30 p.m. in St. Mary Mercy's Classroom 2, 36475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia (accessed from the south entrance).

There is a \$5 fee for this class and registration is required. Register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "Classes and Events."

3D Photography Club meeting

The club will meet 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at Livonia Civic

Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road. The meeting will feature some of the best programs from the recent National Stereoscopic Association conventions. There will also be the first of three scheduled "Freebie" drawings for free 3D items.

The public is invited to join the meeting to see many award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent. For more information, go to www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Livonia features artist Gwendolyn Roth

Gwendolyn Roth will be the featured artist at the Livonia Fine Arts Gallery for the month of January. Her media is photography.

Roth's passion for photography has led her to creating encouraging viewpoints that consider our world in an uplifting or surprising new light. In her artist statement, she said, "There is so much to see and capture and it's all real and it is found all around us — we don't have to go far. Through my art I hope to transcend the indifferent and enrich our lives one picture at a time."

Visit the gallery, located on the second floor of the Civic Center Library at 32777 Five Mile Road, between the court house and city hall. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. There is a new artist every month.

Secondhand Prose closes for renovations

Canton Public Library's Secondhand Prose Bookstore will be closed for renovations through to Feb. 1.

In December hardcover books and children's book will be sold at reduced prices. Friends of the Canton Public Library support the library through advocacy and fundraising for resources beyond the scope of the operating budget.

Wayne Memorial Parent Night

Wayne Memorial High School will host an eighth-grade parent night for those transitioning to ninth grade or interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2016-17 school year.

Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium. Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extracurricular activities and much more.

All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For more information, call the Counseling Department at 734-419-2215.

St. Edith open house

The public is invited to an open house set for 6-7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, and noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.

St. Edith Catholic School is a MANS accredited Catholic School

for 4-year-old preschool and kindergarten through eighth grade.

For more information, go to www.stedithschool.com

Free open skate

The Redford Ice Arena offers a free open skate at the Redford Ice Arena or all residents and students 6:05-7:05 p.m. each Sunday. All residents and Redford students are free. Cost for others is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and children. Skate rental is \$3. The arena is at 12400 Beech Daly Road.

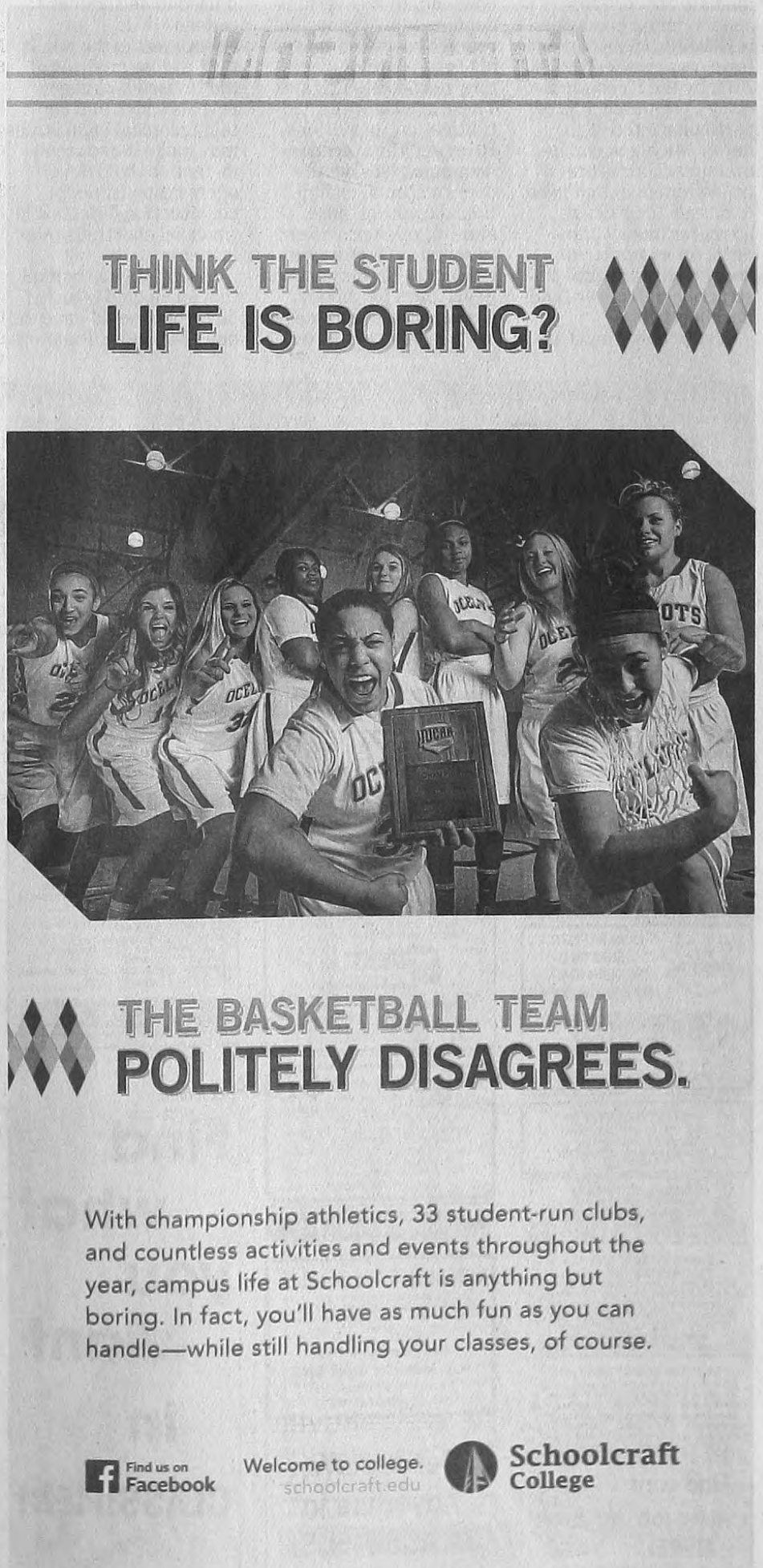
Winter Survival Gear Drive for the Homeless

Crossroad Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, will host a drive for the homeless from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 12. The church is accepting donations of men's new/used work boots, men's new/gently used white socks, ladies new/gently used turtlenecks. For more information, go to www.CrossroadsNow.org, email info@CrossroadsNow.org or call 734-338-5149

Widowed Friends

Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group for Widowed Men/Women hosting Bereavement Support Series Widowed persons of all ages are encouraged to attend the bereavement support series to help deal with the emotions and other issues often experienced following the loss of a spouse.

This six-week session is facilitated by a trained member of Widowed Friends and will be held at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, in Livonia. It begins 1-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5. Registration is required. For more information, call Priscilla at 734-591-7879.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Annual Meeting**

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting January 17, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant  
Plymouth District Library  
223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI  
734-453-0750 x 217

Publish: January 8, 2017



# Local Kmart, Macy's stores closing

LeAnne Rogers  
hometownlife.com

Two longtime area retailers are closing local stores: the Macy's at Westland Shopping Center and three Kmart's, including the original Kmart on Ford Road in Garden City.

The announcements of the closings came officially Wednesday, although Macy's had announced plans to close stores last summer without naming specific locations.

"Internally, we had been anticipating this and look forward to working hand-in-hand with the new owners of the mall to revision the Macy's store," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

The store, originally a J.L. Hudson store, had been an anchor at the mall since it opened in 1965 — a year before Westland incorporated as a city and took its name from the shopping center. The 334,000-square-foot store had 106 workers.

The announcement from Macy's estimated 3,900 workers will be displaced by the store closures and some of the employees could be reassigned. Of the 68 stores that Macy's is closing, three were already closed and another 63 stores will be closed in early spring. Macy's also announced an additional 6,200 employees will be laid off in an effort to



Clearing out the remains of the Christmas season at Kmart.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

eliminate layers of management to cut costs and make more agile decisions.

The parent company of Kmart, Sears Holdings, announced it is closing 78 Kmart and 26 Sears store. Locally, that includes the Garden City Kmart on Ford at Middlebelt, the Westland store on Wayne Road at Cherry Hill and the Plymouth Township store on Ann Arbor Road at Haggerty. The stores, expected to close in early March, were reportedly to begin liquidation sales as soon as Friday.

A Farmington Hills development company, Grand Sakwa Properties, has plans to buy the 108,000-square-foot Ann Arbor Road Kmart and subdivide it for multiple

tenants, plus build two new buildings on the site, called outbuildings, for possible restaurants. Preliminary approvals for the project, called Plymouth Marketplace, have already been granted by Plymouth Township officials.

The Garden City Kmart, which opened in 1962, was the first store in what became a nationwide chain of discount stores famous for their blue-light specials.

"I'm saddened by the news of the closing of Kmart. They have been an excellent corporate citizen in our community. Even today, Kmart draws shoppers from other communities and we have always been proud to be the home of the very first Kmart," said

Garden City City Manager Robert Muery, who grew up in the city. "I hope we find a way to celebrate the contributions made by Kmart to the community. Many people who grew up in Garden City will point to this store as their first real job. It served as a gathering point for teens and the well-known subs from Kmart were so good they even found their way to dinner tables from time to time."

The Westland Kmart was also a local shopping mainstay, having opened in 1966 — the year Westland incorporated as a city.

"We called the manager and he verified (that the store) was closing. He wouldn't offer any additional information at



Braving 16-degree temperatures, Milton Murray holds a sign advertising clearance sales at the Ann Arbor Road Kmart in Plymouth Township.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

this point," Wild said. "It's been a landmark in the city's inception, so it's going to be a loss."

The Westland store is 108,000 square feet — that's 2.5 acres under one roof — sitting on 11.5 acres. "It's a market correction with brick and mortar stores," Wild said.

Many of the Kmart workers were notified of the store closings at employee meetings Wednesday.

"The decision to close stores is a difficult but necessary step as we take actions to strengthen the company's operations and fund its trans-

formation. Many of these stores have struggled with their financial performance for years and we have kept them open to maintain local jobs and in the hopes that they would turn around. But in order to meet our objective of returning to profitability, we have to make tough decisions and will continue to do so, which will give our better performing stores a chance at success," reads a statement issued by Sears Holdings.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com  
734-883-9039  
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

## HB 4919 is an affront to condo owners' consumer rights

**Q: I'm a millennial who just bought a new condominium in Michigan. I'm trying to familiarize myself with current Michigan condo laws, but are there also any current bills before the state Legislature that will affect me?**

A: The one bill of immediate concern for condominium co-owners is HB 4919. In its current form, as amended Dec. 6, 2016, by the House Judiciary Committee, it is of particular interest to newer Michigan condominiums (and future condominiums) that need to pursue their developers for money damages, for example, in connection with construction defects or funding shortfalls.

The original incarnation



Robert Mesiner

GUEST COLUMNIST

tion of HB 4919, introduced in September 2015, was a good idea and would have voided all condominium governing document provisions that require co-owner approval of the board of directors' decision to litigate. These are known as "anti-litigation" provisions. However, the amended language gives developers a special exemption and allows those anti-litigation provisions to remain effective with respect to claims against developers for money damages. My firm represents developers as well

as condominium associations, but we believe good developers should not have reason to take issue with the original language of the bill.

Bottom line, what does this mean for co-owners? Unfortunately, for most of them, it means the bill is a hollow shell of what it used to be and there remains little, if any, benefit left to the bill. In fact, a close analysis of the revised language reveals a risk that certain technical legal issues may make it even more difficult to hold developers responsible for construction defects and financial shortfalls than it is now.

Associations contend that an elected board of directors should have the power to make litigation

decisions on behalf of their condominium association, period. I have worked with thousands of board members over my 40-plus years of representing condominium associations and they are, generally, fully capable of making decisions based on risks and potential rewards. Obviously, as co-owners themselves, their interests are closely aligned to the interests of the condominium association. We might imagine how ridiculous it would be for a for-profit corporation, say McDonald's, to be required to obtain two-thirds approval from its shareholders to pursue litigation for construction defects against the developer of one of its restaurants. Likewise, there is no reason a non-

profit condominium association should be required to clear this hurdle.

As a footnote, this legislation would not deter you, as a co-owner, from pursuing a developer directly in a claim for defects within your own unit; this legislation only applies to association boards' decisions to initiate litigation on behalf of the entire condominium association.

Many believe that HB 4919, as amended, represents an affront to consumer rights, rights to access the courts and just one more potential victory in a recent string of victories for developers, including SB 610 and the 2014 amendments to the Nonprofit Corporation Act. Cur-

rently, the revised language has been forwarded to the Michigan House of Representatives, where it may soon receive a vote. You may wish to write to your representative to express your concerns.

Robert M. Mesiner, Esq. is principal attorney of The Mesiner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms, which provides legal representation for condominiums, homeowner associations, individual co-owners and developers. His book, "Condo Living 2: The Authoritative Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium," is available at [www.momentumbooks.com](http://www.momentumbooks.com). He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or [bmesiner@mesiner-law.com](mailto:bmesiner@mesiner-law.com).

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# New museum director: 'I love Michigan history'

**Kathleen Lavey**  
Lansing State Journal

Buses of school children are on the way, but in this quiet moment before the doors open, Suzanne Fischer has the exhibits at the Michigan History Museum almost to herself as she leads a couple of visitors through the museum.

In front of a floor-to-ceiling, hand-painted mural depicting scenes from Great Lakes Native American life, she slides open a door at child level to reveal artifacts depicted in the picture.

From the third-floor overlook, she stands next to a gigantic faceted Fresnel lens, used in lighthouses.

Standing inside the museum's realistic mock-up of an Upper Peninsula copper mine, Fischer wants to make sure a photo of her doesn't include a large hand-painted "keep out" sign near the mine's entrance.

"We don't want to keep people out," she says. "We want to bring people in."

That's a key part of Fischer's mission as the



Suzanne Fischer, shown at a 1930s state history exhibit at the Michigan History Museum, is the new state museum director.

director of the Michigan History Museum System. Hired in early December, she oversees exhibits and programming at the state's flagship museum in Lansing and 10 regional museums across the state, including the lumber camp at Hartwick Pines near Gray-

ling, Fort Wilkins and the Fayette Town site in the Upper Peninsula, the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum near Higgins Lake and the Walker Tavern Historic Site in Brooklyn.

"I love Michigan history," she said. "There are a lot of stories with

national and international important that started right here in Michigan."

Fischer, 36, was one of 100 candidates for the job, said Mark Harvey, state archivist, who interviewed candidates along with History Center director Sandra

Clark.

"Her energy and her drive are something we were absolutely looking for to complement the existing management here," Harvey said of Fischer. "She has extremely strong credentials in the field and an award-winning track record of exhibitions."

Fischer grew up in suburban Detroit, earned a degree in history at Oberlin College in Ohio and completed a doctorate in the history of science and technology at the University of Minnesota. She has worked at the Henry Ford in Dearborn and came back to Michigan from a post as curator at the Oakland Museum of California.

Fischer already seems completely at home in the state museum. Maybe that's because museums have always been a familiar and comfortable place for her.

"I definitely spent my childhood going to museums," she said.

And she enjoys the opportunity to foster a love of history in others using actual artifacts.

Her goal for the

state's museums is to make them more inclusive of all of Michigan's people.

"One of the really interesting things happening in museums across the country right now is the ways we are figuring out how to invite more people in and how to make sure more people are represented," she said.

In Oakland, for example, the museum owned a donated collection of items from communities of Pacific Islanders. Curators were stymied as to the best way to present them – or whether they even belonged in a California history museum.

"We got together a community advisory group and asked them, 'What do these objects mean to you today?'" she said. The result? An exhibit that included artifacts from painted bark cloths to a 27-foot canoe from Papua New Guinea.

Fischer tweets (follow her @publichistorian) and blogs (read her notes on books and more at [tinyletter.com/suzannefischer](http://tinyletter.com/suzannefischer)).



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Greg Marsalis and Markos Goulas are partners in the new Black Label Tavern.

## Bottoms up! Black Label Tavern opened its doors this week

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com

After more than 18 months, wood-fired pizza is coming out of the oven at 34110 Plymouth in Livonia.

That's because the Black Label Tavern, a new concept from Oakland County co-owners Greg Marsalis and Markos Goulas, opened its doors Tuesday morning after major renovations, additions and changes to the former Tony's restaurant.

The pair was notified about the property shortly after Tony's closed and looked at the site. They said they saw an opportunity to open a unique tavern in an area that does not have anything like it in the area.

"I walked in and out, maybe 15 minutes it took me to walk through, and I told Greg, 'I want this place,'" said Goulas, an Oakland Township resident.

The restaurant was given approval by the Livonia City Council back in December 2015, when Marsalis came to the city with the concept. Since then, they've completely redone the building, adding new materials on the outside, re-vamping the interior and adding a banquet room that can accommodate events with about 30 people.

The only thing left from Tony's is the wood-fired pizza oven, which the restaurant plans to use to craft pizzas. In addition, the restaurant boasts several menu items, including burgers, salads and prime rib sandwiches. The bar serves several types of beer, including an array of Michigan brews from



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Black Label Tavern is open for business.



Bartender Amanda Jendrusina poured a Labatt's from one of 16 taps.

places such as Rochester Mills Brewing Co., Odd-side Ales and Bell's Brewery.

### Seeking success

The two believe they can make the concept a successful one along Plymouth Road in Livonia, which has seen many restaurants close in recent years. They also operate several Honey Tree Grille restaurants in places such as Bloomfield Township, Northville and their most recent opening in Lathrup Village.

But the food at Black

Label Tavern will be all its own, completely separate from their other restaurant ventures.

"We looked at the demographics in the area and we decided that this may be a better fit," Goulas said.

The new location on Plymouth Road will hopefully not be the last, Marsalis said; they hope to possibly expand the concept to other locations across metro Detroit.

"That's the plan," said Marsalis, a Troy resident.

Work will continue on some other aspects of the building, including the addition of some fire pits and couches on the front patio of the restaurant that will be ready come the spring.

"We are going to try and create an amazing environment in the summertime," Goulas said.

A grand opening is planned to take place sometime within the next week.

The restaurant opens each day at 11 a.m. and closes at 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, midnight Friday and Saturday and 9 p.m. Sunday.

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)  
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## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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### BAUM



**ROYCE JR.**, was born January 28, 1929 in Royal Oak, Michigan to Royce Gregory Baum and Pearl Martin Baum. He died of natural causes on December 27, 2016 at age 87. Royce was born and raised in Royal Oak MI and graduated from Royal Oak high school in 1947, where he was class president and captain of the basketball and football teams. He went on to pursue his education at the University of Michigan and earned his Law degree from the Detroit College of Law. Royce served as an officer in the United States Navy from 1952 – 1955, serving as a gunnery officer on the heavy cruiser USS Columbus and as a Legal Officer stationed in Boston MA and Newport RI. When Royce retired from the navy, he returned to Royal Oak and married Mary Grace McNichol November 24, 1955. Mary also was a Royal Oak native, born April 21, 1929 and passed away November 19, 2015 after 60 years of marriage. Although Royce and Mary had known each other growing up, their courtship began in Boston, where Mary and Royce bumped into each other while Mary was working for a Boston shipping company and Royce's ship was stationed at the Boston Navy Yard. Royce and Mary settled in Royal Oak and later moved to Beverly Hills MI. Royce had a long and successful legal career and Mary was a longtime volunteer for the Village of Beverly Hills government. Royce and Mary are survived by their two children Steven Wade Baum of Vienna Virginia and Allison Baum Greely of Seattle Washington, and four grandchildren – Brenna Greely, Paige Greely, Matthew Baum, and Julia Baum.

### COTTON



**LOIS SUZANNE (nee URQUHART)** 93, of Birmingham, Michigan and formerly of Farmington, MI, died unexpectedly and peacefully at home on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Lois was born on July 18, 1923 in Detroit. She graduated from Northwestern High School in Detroit in 1941 where she met and dated her future husband, John (Jack) Cotton. They both entered Wayne State University. During World War II, Jack left Wayne to join the U.S. Army and fought in Okinawa and Saipan in the Pacific. Lois stayed in school and worked part time for the war effort, driving Army officers back and forth between Detroit and the bomber plant at Willow Run. She later described that as the best job she ever had. Lois graduated from Wayne State with a degree in Special Education. She taught children with physical disabilities in the Detroit Public Schools System. Lois and Jack married on September 21, 1946 and later moved to Farmington. When their children were all in school, Lois continued her career by teaching homebound children for Farmington Public Schools. After her retirement in the mid-1980s, Lois applied her many talents to volunteer work, including her PEO chapter, Redford Presbyterian Church and later the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Jack predeceased Lois in 2009 after 63 years of marriage. Lois is survived by the couple's four children: Kingsley (Beverly), Leslie Helwig (Rick), Mary Anne Cotton (the late Alan Koles), and Laurie Dalin (Mike). She leaves many nieces and nephews, including Kathleen Gallagher Lewis, who was a special friend and her "fourth daughter." She was a loving grandmother of seven: Anne Drolet (Michael Petrucci), Jack Drolet, Lauren Drolet (Rusty Allswede), Alexander Cotton, Betsy Cotton (Sandy Enriquez), Kate Dalin (Chris Larcom), and Chase Dalin, and great-grandmother of eight. Lois was preceded in death by her sisters Eleanor O'Hara and Marian Dressler and her brothers Donald Urquhart and Charles Urquhart. Family will receive friends Tuesday, January 10th, from 2-7 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons, (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (between 13-14 Mile), 248-549-0500. Memorial service Wednesday, January 11th at 10 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to either the First Presbyterian Church or the Lake Louise Christian Community, 11037 Thumb Lake Road, Boyne Falls MI 49713. Share memories and sign guest book at [www.ajdesmond.com](http://www.ajdesmond.com)

### KOSCIEN



**AMOLE J.** 98 Amole was born in Detroit and lived in Royal Oak for 57 years, until he moved to American House Oakland almost 3 years ago. He worked at Quality Gasket until his retirement in 1978. Preceded in death by his wife Irene, both brothers, and his sister. Survived by his nieces Sherry Regiani (David), Sally Hutnik, and stepdaughter Donna Sutton. Please sign the online guestbook at [www.cremationmichigan.com](http://www.cremationmichigan.com)

### NADRATOWSKI



**MARTIN JOSEPH** born October 8, 1959 of Redford Twp., Michigan. Went home to God on December 31, 2016. Martin was the beloved son of Al and (late) Cecile Nadratowski, father of Adam Nadratowski and Lee Nadratowski, brother to Michelle (Paul) Haver, Laraine (Bill) Larkin, Mary Jo (Ken) Eriksen, Matthew (Christina) Nadratowski, David Nadratowski and Amy (Nadratowski) Arsenault. Grandfather to Maddox, Mila, Harlen and Leland. Godfather, uncle and cousin to many more. Come visit with family and friends at a Memorial luncheon held Sunday, January 8th at Corsi's Restaurant, Livonia, MI at 12:00p.m. It's been a long time coming, but your change is finally come. Godspeed Martin.

### PLANT

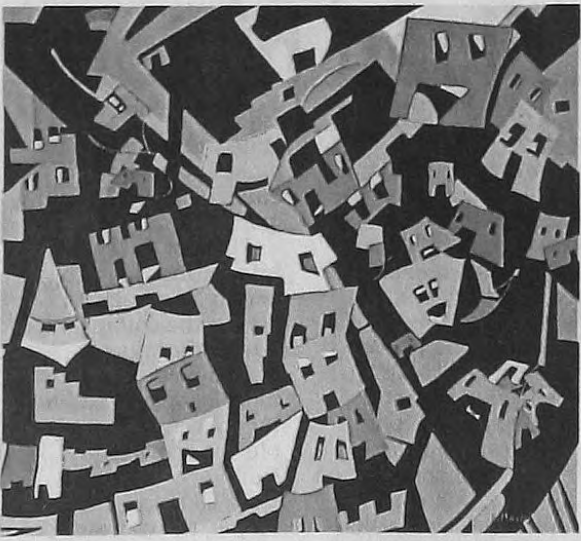


**RUTH ANN** Passed away January 4 at the age of 78. Cherished wife of the late Donald. Loving mother of Alan, Michael (Annette) and Karen (Paul) Salisbury. Proud grandmother of Alex (Lauren), Evan, Colin (Katelyn), Lauren and Joseph and great-grandmother of Hayleigh. Dear sister of Alice Dunham. Visitation Sunday 3-8 p.m. with Vigil Svc 7 p.m., at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Mass Monday 10 a.m., with in state 9:30 a.m., at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd. in Livonia. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. [www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com)



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"Where We Live" (a millennium interpretation) is an acrylic on canvas to be shown in Livonia's City Hall atrium during Kay Masini's January exhibit.

## Plymouth artist featured at Livonia exhibit

Launching the 2017 art exhibitions at Livonia's City Hall is a display of 30 paintings by Kay Masini, a well-known Plymouth artist.

The free exhibit will continue until Jan. 31 at city hall, 36300 Civic Center Drive in Livonia. The art may be viewed during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pam Valentine, Livonia Arts commissioner, invited Masini to display her artwork, which includes acrylics, watercolors and oils in a variety of styles. There will be notes placed by some of the paintings with background information and explanations of the meanings and techniques to show what transpired before the brush touched the canvas.

"I stretch my imagination and, often using symbolism, aim to paint beyond the obvious, bringing the viewer to explore an idea with me," Masini said.

Viewers are invited to express their comments on the artwork by contacting the artist

through an email address that is available at the exhibit.

A lifelong painter, Masini has been active on art boards and as a member of national and international organizations. The Internationale Vriendenkring gave her a solo show in Antwerp, Belgium, where her paintings are represented in many private collections.

Masini holds numerous awards and two of her paintings were selected for inclusion in the first North Light book "Acrylic Works — the Best of Acrylic Painting." She was one of only five Michigan artists to be included.

The artist grew up on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan. She attended high school in the Chicago area and earned her bachelor's degree at the Dominican University in River Forest, Ill. She studied at the Chicago Art Institute and Oxford University in England, as well as in multiple workshops with leading instructors in the United States.

# League of Women Voters hosts forum on state revenue sharing

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

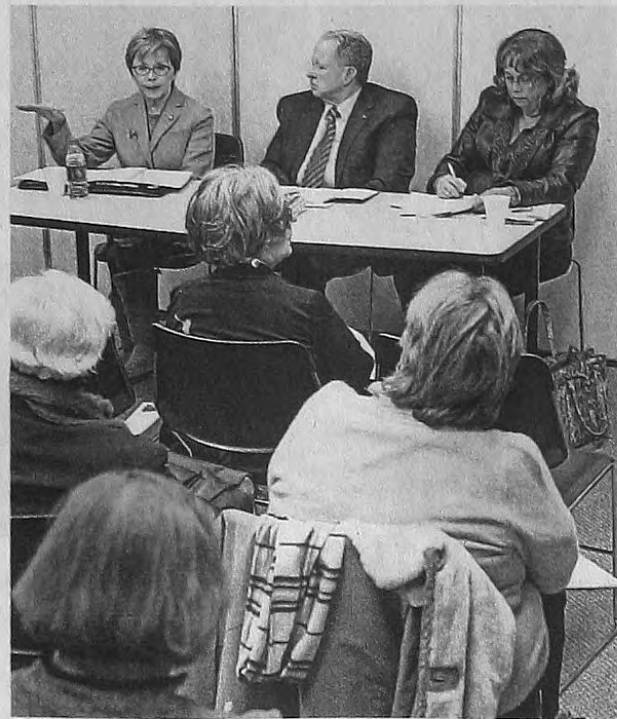
Wayne Mayor Susan Rowe said her city's seen it the hardest in the last nine years since the recession hit. So hard, that the foreclosure rate in the six-square-mile city was at 40 percent in the town, with tax revenues seeing significant decline.

"I don't think we'll ever get to the rates we were at in 2008-09," she said. "We have people that lost everything. Lost their pensions, lost their health care. All they can do is pay taxes and, often, they can't even do that."

Rowe shared what's taking place in Wayne during a forum held by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County held Thursday evening in the Robert and Janet Bennett Library in Livonia to discuss revenue sharing and local government funding. The discussion featured Rowe, Van Buren Township Trustee Sherry Frazier and Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson, who represents Inkster, Garden City and part of Westland.

Rowe discussed the biggest challenges facing her city, which include the need to keep services running, but saw drastic reductions in the taxes being brought in.

"In 2008, our taxable value citywide was \$607



Wayne Mayor Susan Rowe talks about the horrors of municipal budgeting with the loss of state revenue sharing. Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson and Van Buren Township Trustee Sherry Frazier had tales, too.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

million. It has now dropped to \$350 million," she said. "But we still have to keep lights on. We still have to maintain 79 miles of roads in our community. We still have to have fire. We still have to have police. We still have to have our trash picked up. All we can do is cut people there."

Frazier said possibly trying to regionalize services moving forward may be the thing needed to keep governments

afloat, especially since there are so many smaller communities that still maintain many of the same services that larger communities around them do.

She talked about the size difference between Van Buren Township and the city of Belleville, which each maintain separate, similar services. In some cases, more residences in Van Buren Township support currently-shared ser-

vices such as a library, but everyone in Van Buren Township, Belleville and nearby Sumpter Township utilize them.

"I think we have to get into this sharing mode and combine our resources or we'll all be out of luck," she said.

Several of the panelists also discussed the effect of several taxing laws, including Proposal A and the Headlee Amendment, approved by voters in 1978.

Headlee, among other aspects, prevents significant increases in taxes on property if values increase rapidly. That means while taxes drop in accordance with property values, they cannot go up proportionally if the property values goes up.

Anderson, a former state legislator, said Headlee is something he'd like to see revisited given the effect its had in recent years. He said there has to be a way to find a balance to not overtaxing residents, but still being able to fund services.

"If we do change, we have to find some way to find that balance that our seniors are not taxed so much that they can't stay in their homes and have to sell their homes," he said. "There's got to be some adjustment to it."

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## State students will learn to save lives with CPR

Lori Higgins  
Detroit Free Press

Cindy Kuhn's son is alive because his best friend learned how to perform CPR during

health classes at Novi High School.

Now all Michigan students will receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation — thanks to legislation approved in December.

"You just never know when you're going to need it," said Kuhn, a fifth-grade teacher at Novi Meadows Upper Elementary.

About 357,000 Americans each year suffer cardiac arrest outside of a hospital, and only about 8 percent of them survive, according to the American Heart Association.

In 2010, Kuhn's son, Brett, went into cardiac arrest while a freshman at Central Michigan University. He was 18, and received life-saving CPR from best friend Chris Slack, a freshman at Western Michigan University, who was visiting the CMU campus. Both graduated from Novi High, where freshmen learn CPR during health classes, Kuhn said.

Few Michigan schools require such training, but it will become the norm beginning in the 2017-18 school year. The new Michigan rules mandate that the health classes required for graduation be altered to include instruction in CPR and automated external defibrillators (AED).

"We have estimated it would add about 100,000 additional trained individuals every year. That's pretty significant," said Sarah Poole, government relations director for the American Heart Association.

The association has worked to get similar rules on the books in states across the U.S. Michigan would become the 36th state to require such instruction. In Michigan, students will be required to only learn hands-only training, meaning they would learn to do chest compressions but wouldn't be required to learn things such as mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. They would only need to receive the 30-minute instruction once between the 7th and 12th grades.

The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton, and originally cleared



CINDY KUHN

Brett Kuhn, Cindy Kuhn and Chris Slack tailgate during a football game in 2011. Slack performed lifesaving CPR on Brett Kuhn a year earlier.

the Senate in May by a 37-0 vote. On Dec. 14, it passed the House on a 98-8 vote; the Senate later that day approved it again to OK minor changes made in the House. Rep. Thomas Hooker, R-Byron Center, introduced the House version of the bill.

In 2004, the state began requiring new teachers to take a course in first aid and CPR.

"We've simplified CPR to the point that we know that folks who react quickly and even just do the chest compression can increase a person's survival rate," Poole said.

The instruction, she said, can be completed in as little as 30 minutes and doesn't require being taught by a certified CPR/AED instructor. But teachers would still have to undergo some training in order to teach the lessons.

Chippewa Valley Schools is in its second year of offering CPR instruction to students. Staff also have been trained.

"We like it because our students can gain acceptable levels of CPR skills in about 30 minutes," said Diane Blain, spokeswoman for the district. "We're committed to it because we feel it's really important to train this next generation of people to help save lives."

It's already made a difference. On May 12 at Seneca Middle School, a guest teacher from Macomb Community College passed out in a science lab. Staff members performed CPR and used

an AED unit to revive him.

"The Seneca team was credited for saving this man's life," Blain said.

Kuhn, who has CPR certification, tells her fifth-grade students about her son's experience every year.

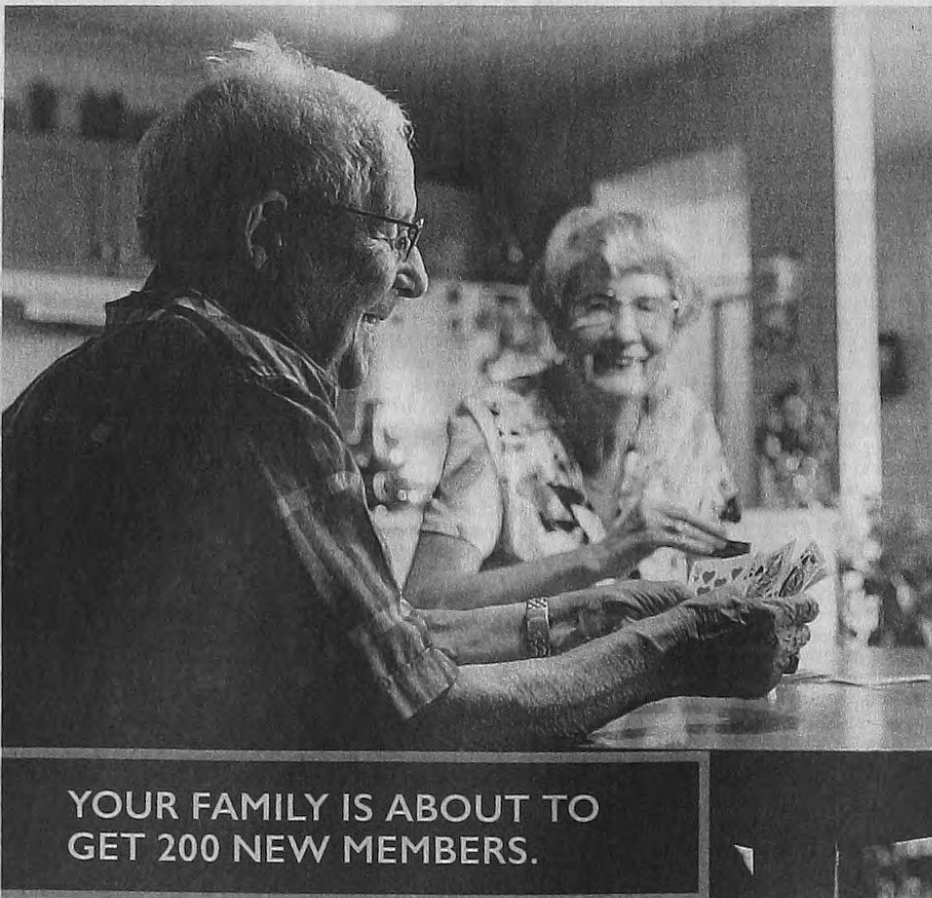
"They're never too young to learn CPR, especially if they're taking care of younger siblings," she said.

Brett Kuhn, now 24, went into cardiac arrest on a Friday evening when his family, Slack and Slack's parents were visiting the campus for the annual football game between CMU and Western Michigan University. After tailgating together, Brett and Slack went off to watch the game with friends, while the parents watched at a different location.

Sometime after the game ended, Brett went into cardiac arrest, falling forward, hitting a table and landing face-down on the floor. His friends thought he was goofing around, but when they turned him over and saw his face turning blue, they knew something was wrong. They sprang into action, with Slack not only performing chest compressions but also the rescue breathing.

"The first responders actually told Chris that he had no pulse, to stop CPR," Cindy Kuhn said. But Slack, who had been best friends with Brett since elementary school, wouldn't stop.

"It's because of the gumption of this boy that he would not give up," Cindy Kuhn said.



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# LIGHTING A CANDLE IN THE DARKNESS

Abdul'Haq Muhammed helps low-income children in Fla. neighborhoods lead better lives

TOM HAYDEN  
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Americans, we are a diverse population. Historically, we have embraced that diversity as what brings us together and truly makes us one nation encouraging all to seek life, liberty and happiness. By sharing our individual differences and finding commonalities, we can work to unify the nation. One thing unites us: We are all Americans. Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who is making a difference to unite, rather than divide, our communities.

He is from Harlem. He is a devout Muslim. To the children in some of the crime-torn and poverty-stricken neighborhoods in Fort Myers, Florida, Abdul'Haq Muhammed is a life saver.

He also is tough, principled, generous with his time and his heart, a leader and difference maker for a community, where he helps kids each day build better lives and become difference makers themselves. He has seen his share of crime, from drug deals to shootings, and stopped some of it himself. Still, he hangs on to this: "Don't curse the darkness, light a candle," he said.

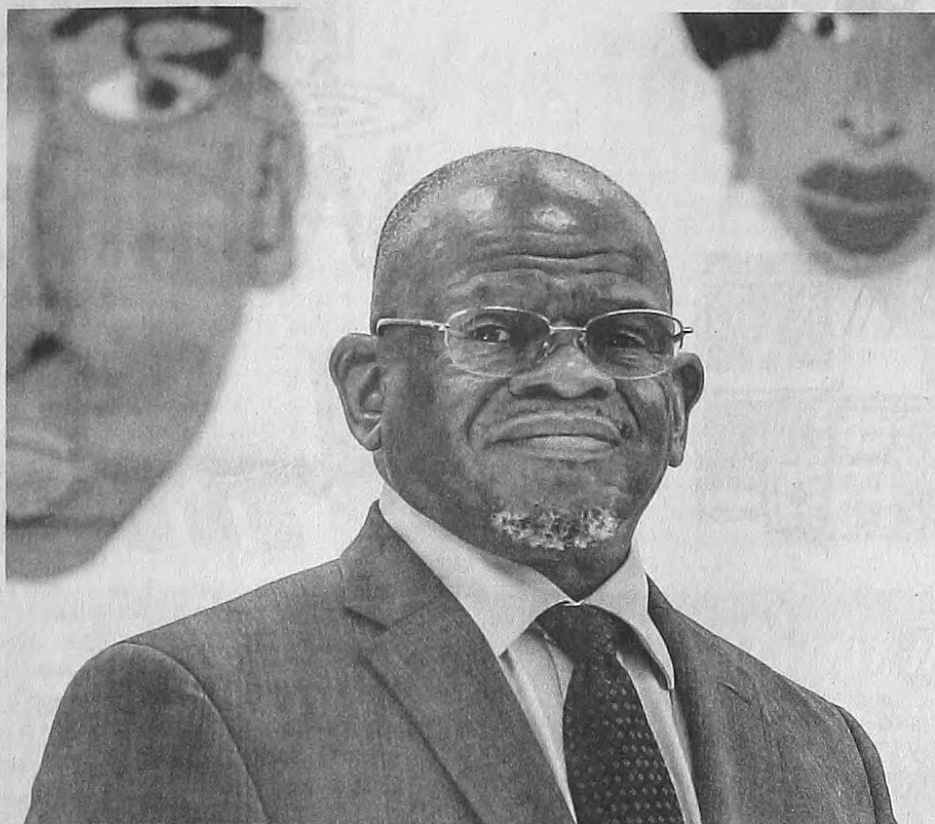
Muhammed, 68, is the founder and executive director of the Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, located in Fort Myers. The children there consider him a mentor. He has been their answer to a journey from tough streets to learning discipline and respect, becoming educated, going to college and helping others as well.

His vision, after leaving the Army in 1969, was to build children's programs. He founded the Woodycrest Center for Human Development in the Bronx, New York. He ran the programs on the faith that people would help make repairs on an aging building and invest in children. That money never arrived the way he thought it should.

"I was idealistic," he said. "I was promised I would get the money by doing work in the community. ... I decided ... to get the money."

He left New York and then Fort Myers to make his fortune from international trade and real estate.

But every time he turned on the tele-



Abdul'Haq Muhammed founded Quality Life Center and designed programs to enhance character development, combat violence and drug abuse, and raise academic achievement.

vision, he saw the same, unforgettable image: African-American teenage boys arrested, handcuffed and pushed into the back of police cars. "It played over and over again in my mind, boys on the ground, arrested, up against a wall," Muhammed said.

He was encouraged by a friend, who remembered his work in New York, to do the same thing in Fort Myers, specifically a smaller community within the city, called Dunbar. The area has been an epicenter for violence, including many of the record 24 murders in the city in 2012.

He quickly began attracting children - eight at first - using martial arts as the motivation.

Today, his work has helped thousands of children and 120 are involved in programs at the Quality Life Center, including martial arts, dance, drama, fine arts and technology.

"He has been a great, influencing voice," said Angel Escobar, 18, of Fort Myers, who grew up at the center, is a recent high school graduate and now is teaching children there. "He keeps that voice in my head, telling me 'you can do it.'"

## Q&A WITH ABDUL'HAQ MUHAMMED

Originally from Harlem, New York, Abdul'Haq Muhammed served in the Army, attended college, and worked in South and North Africa importing and exporting clothes before settling in Fort Myers in 1990 and starting the QLC.

### What does it mean to be an American?

"I am a veteran. I grew up in this country. I served in this country during the Vietnam era. I consider myself a patriot. That doesn't mean I agree with all of the policies our country has. Every day I wake up making a contribution to our community, to our society, to make a better way and better place for young people and adults. To me, that is patriotism."

### What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

"The spark for me was to see teenagers and African-American and Latino boys being arrested, their heads being guided into police cruisers. That sticks with me very clearly. Looking at that, I felt there was something I could do. I was encouraged to come to the community and shortly after started Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida. In working now 26 years with Quality Life Center, where we have renovated a house of ill repute, a drug den, an after-hours spot where deaths have taken place, we have been blessed with the good efforts of many people in Lee County/Fort Myers to restore a facility. Now it is a beacon of hope. Children have been educated and went off to college. Now, their children are coming back for us to serve in early learning and after-school programs. This is an institution the community has embraced."

### What gives you hope?

"What gives me hope is faith in the Creator. What gives me hope is the sense of opportunity that exists despite how bad it may seem. There is always opportunity. I believe in the philosophy: I think we can be motivated in different directions, and I choose to be motivated by opportunity."

### What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

"A big achievement is to help citizenry of Lee County/Fort Myers to better understand their neighbor. I think if we can understand our neighbor, regardless of what social economic level we are on, to be able to have genuine empathy that results in tangible and real results. Not throwing crumbs at the rich man's gate, but genuinely recognize that I am my brother's keeper, and let me do what I can to balance out society and give opportunity to people who didn't have hope before."

## Abdul'Haq Muhammed

Location: Fort Myers, Fla.

Age: 68

Profession: Founder and executive director of the Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida

Mission: To educate, develop and enhance the futures of children coming from low-income and crime-ridden neighborhoods

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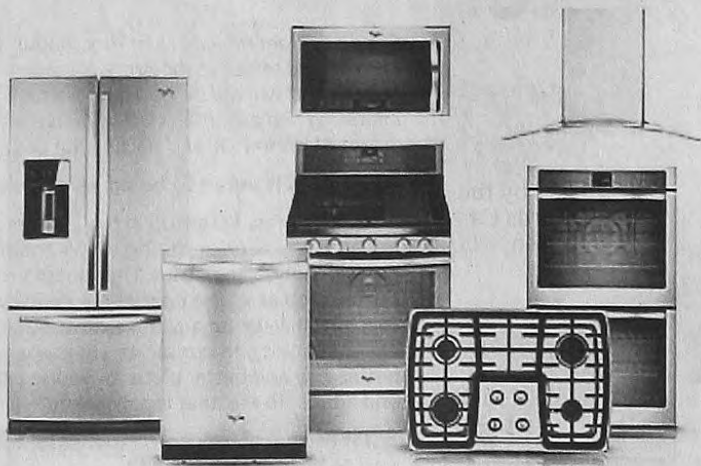
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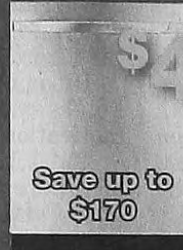
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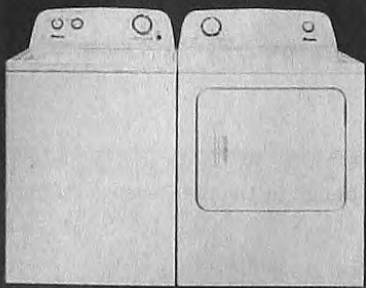
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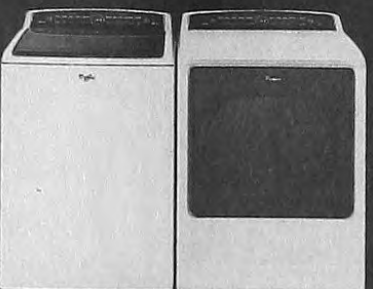
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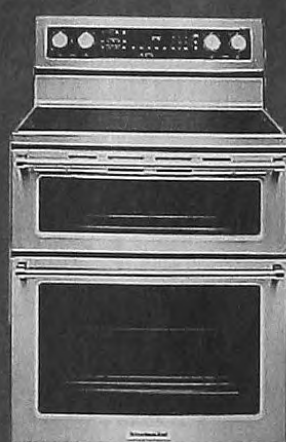
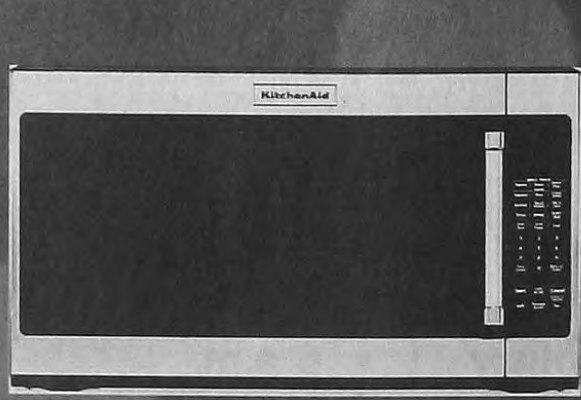
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SALEM WINTER TOURNAMENT

## Saving Grace: Rocks edge Thurston

Host Salem pulls out 76-72 double-overtime victory

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

The Salem boys basketball team earned some sort of consolation in Thursday night's third-place game in their second annual Winter Tournament.

The host Rocks erased an early seven-point fourth quarter deficit before eventually pulling out a hard-fought 76-72 double-overtime victory over Redford Thurston.

After losing 56-53 the previous night to Brownstown Woodhaven, Salem was able to overcome 29 turnovers to improve its overall record to 3-4.

"We were trying to get over the top and we had plenty of opportunities," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We just kind of shot ourselves in the foot. We were lackadaisical with the basketball and we just kind of opened up the door for Thurston. Luckily we held on for the victory, so I was happy with that."

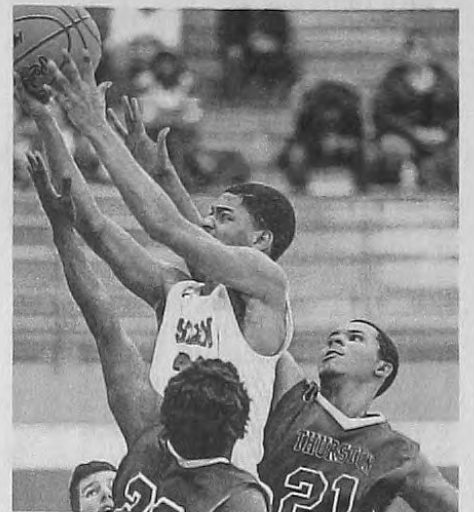
Thurston, which dropped its third straight, fell to 2-4 overall. The Eagles lost the previous night to Saline, 50-31.

"Everything is a process," Thurston coach Brian Bates said. "We've got a lot

of young kids. We're learning to get to that point and now we have to learn how to finish and take care of the ball a little bit."

Salem was led offensively by the one-two punch of senior guards Cameron Grace and Cameron Barden, who finished with 23 points and 21 points, respectively.

"The two Camerons (Grace and Barden) are our captains," Brodie said. "At times they try and do everything for us and that gets them in trouble, I think. If they just let the game come to them, they're pretty good players."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Salem's Cameron Grace goes to the rim despite the defensive efforts of Thurston's Dorian Naylor (left) and De'Quan Gadson.

See HOOPS, Page B3

BOYS HOCKEY



Vying for a loose puck Wednesday at Arctic Edge Arena are Plymouth's Nathan Stoneburg (17) and Livonia Stevenson's Jack Williamson (23).

MICHAEL VASILNEK

## 'CATS STUMBLE EARLY

Plymouth falls behind 3-0 in first, unable to catch up

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Livonia Stevenson hockey players enjoyed the fruits of their labor over the long holiday break, coming out strong Wednesday night and earning a 4-2 victory over state-ranked Plymouth.

Scoring two goals for the Spartans — who stopped their losing streak at four games — was senior forward Alex Walkuski, with single markers by senior forwards Brendan Hall and Julian Decina.

"We had a workout in the morning and we'd have our practice in the afternoon; we definitely worked hard over break," Stevenson varsity boys hockey coach David Mitchell said. "We wanted to fine-tune some things. I give our

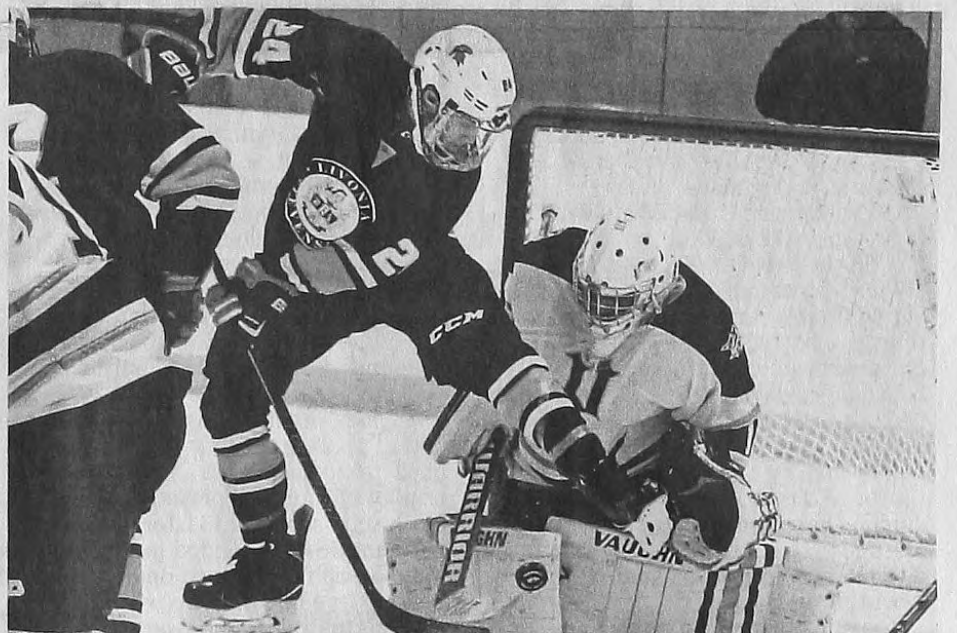
players all the credit in the world, it was nice to see them rewarded tonight for how hard they worked."

Mitchell emphasized that the busy practice load was not any kind of punitive thing but an opportunity to "kind of reset and get better," particularly on the power play and penalty kill.

Both of those areas helped the 2016 Division 2 finalist Spartans (6-5 overall, 4-3 in the KLAA) ice the gritty Wildcats, who suffered their first defeat of the season after seven straight wins.

"Break was different this year with Christmas and New Year's both being on weekends and having this extra week here, where we don't have school," Mitchell said. "We had ice, we

See ICERS, Page B2



Plymouth goalie Brendan Olepa stops an in-close attempt by Livonia Stevenson's Logan Dunham during Wednesday's game.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Edison's stars too much for Chiefs

Canton plays state-ranked Detroit Edison tough, but falls 63-55

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Despite Thursday's 63-55 loss to Detroit Edison Academy, the Canton varsity girls basketball team continues to toughen up with an eye on future success.

The Chiefs battled tooth-and-nail against the undefeated state-ranked Pioneers, largely coming up short because of the excellence of Gabrielle

Elliot and Rickea Jackson — who led the victors with 28 points and 23 points, respectively. Both were among the top-100 players in Michigan according to a preseason ranking in the Detroit Free Press.

"With each game we're getting a little bit better in every category," said Canton head coach Rob Heitmeyer, whose team is 5-2 overall. "Tonight we only had 14 turnovers which was good, given that Edison put on a couple different presses.

"Our shooting percentage was very good, I'd say close to 50 percent. And our defense was good, even though we

gave up a lot of points. Their two leading scorers are just outstanding basketball players."

Canton also has its share of top-notch talent. Erin Hult and Brianna Finn each registered 18 points, with all of Finn's points coming via 3-balls.

Chipping in with eight points each were Shyma Butler and Alaina Heitmeyer, the latter who also pulled down eight rebounds.

Sparking the Chiefs with seven rebounds and six assists was Madison Wolfbauer.

See CHIEFS, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Erin Hult makes a move for the basket Thursday during the Chiefs game against Detroit Edison.



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## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HOCKEY

# Hockey brings 'Cats alums back together

Plymouth's first-annual Gray vs. Black game a rousing success

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

It's just fine with Patrick Smiatacz to add yet another "family" get-together to the busy holiday mix — especially when it's Plymouth's hockey brotherhood.

Smiatacz and real brother Sean helped organize the first-ever "Gray vs. Black" Wildcat alumni reunion game.

Also all-in on putting together the Dec. 28 event at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton were Josh Smith and Kyle Bauer, who fall into the "high school brothers" category.

"I remember looking out on that ice (and seeing) all the smiles on the guys' faces," said Patrick Smiatacz, recalling the special night. "Every guy out there you can tell had a lot of fun no matter what years they played.

"Everyone seemed like they had a great time, putting on that jersey and being out on that ice again."

More than 20 players from the 14-year history of the hockey program took part in the game, which preceded the current Plymouth team's contest with Canton.

## A fun night

"This was the first Plymouth-only alumni game," veteran Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento said. "And with a program as young as ours the biggest concern is turnout and enthusiasm.

"But we had great numbers and I saw a lot of smiles and laughs on the ice and bench so without a doubt it was a huge success."

According to Vento, the hockey itself was competitive, too, in part because goalies Eric VandenBosch and Jared Maddock were excellent.

"A lot of the guys were complaining that the goaltending was too strong," noted Vento, in his sixth season as Plymouth head coach. "But it made for a



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Plymouth High School's varsity boys hockey program held a "Gray vs. Black" alumni game Dec. 28 at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton. Players and head coach Gerry Vento (standing, far right) pose for the group photo following the contest.

competitive game. It is always great catching up with players from the past, especially those that have finished college and are starting to move on to the next chapter of their lives.

"And, as a coach, you hope you had a positive effect in shaping that next chapter."

## Why not?

Vento and assistant coaches Dave Smiatacz (Patrick's and Sean's dad) and Tim Pilut hatched the idea for an alumni game involving only Plymouth players. In recent years, Plymouth alums have squared off against alums from Salem and Canton.

The idea was a smash hit, said Patrick Smiatacz, a 2010 grad who played his high school career for then-Wildcats coach Paul Fassbender (who now works at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth).

"The Plymouth Hockey program has helped shaped the men that we are today," Smiatacz emphasized. "So the very least we could do is help get this event together and get as many guys over the years to get together again as we all are part of the Plymouth Hockey

Family."

Smiatacz said "Coach Fozz" encouraged him to continue playing hockey at the junior level, and he did over two seasons with the Soo Eagles (of the Northern Ontario Hockey League) and Toledo Cherokees (of the Central States Hockey League).

After 2011-12, he was recruited by other colleges but opted to go to Oakland University. Over the past four seasons, Smiatacz played for the Golden Grizzlies (American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I) while earning a degree in finance.

## Lasting imprint

But even now, Smiatacz considers himself to be a Wildcat first — out-ranking his time spent with the Eagles, Cherokees and Golden Grizzlies.

"Plymouth Hockey has helped shaped the man I have become today," he stressed. "It (the program) has taught me how to manage my time with school, work, life, ... as well as giving back to the community. All while being a part of a brotherhood and representing your school that will never go

away."

In addition to Patrick and Sean Smiatacz, Josh Smith, Kyle Bauer, VandenBosch and Maddock, others to play in the alumni game included Zack Weiner, Kyle Kozler, Erik Olivier, Dean Gunther, Zach Tavierne, Ryan Theisen, Rick Cigile, Mike Schultz, Nick Schultz, Ryan Cigile, Kyle Rucker, Andrew Jossey, Zack Gambrell, Max Chumley, Rick Covart, Cody Staub, Colin Staub and Alex Bump.

The number of former Wildcats pulling on gray or black jerseys and reliving their high school hockey days would have been even higher, if not for scheduling conflicts.

"It was challenging getting everyone that has played informed of the event," Patrick Smiatacz said. "But I know I received a number of responses (from alums) that simply could not attend the event due to travel or family matters."

Who knows, with a full year's notice, the Wildcats might need to play a twin-bill next time around.

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## 2017 IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

# Team USA wins gold in shootout

Former NTDP players come up big in 5-4 victory over Canada

Team USA rallied from a pair of two-goal deficits and Troy Terry, for the second straight night, scored the game-winner in the shootout, as the U.S. National Junior Team beat Canada, 5-4, to win the gold medal Thursday at the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championship at Montreal's Bell Centre.

Goaltender Tyler Parsons made 46 saves and stopped all five Canadian shots in the shootout.

"What a terrific game between two fantastic hockey countries," said Bob Motzko, head coach of Team USA. "When we got together in Michigan for our camp this summer, there was something special with these guys. This team had great camaraderie, tremendous heart and always battled. This is a special group who will forever walk together."

The victory gives Team USA its fourth gold medal at the IIHF World Junior Championship and 10th medal all-time in the event. The U.S. is now 4-1 all-time in gold-medal games at the World Juniors.

Canada got out to a 2-0 lead entering the first intermission on goals by Thomas Chabot and Jeremy Lauzon at 4:58 and 9:02 of the opening period.

Charlie McAvoy put the U.S. on the

board 3:04 into the second period. The play started when Jordan Greenway came down the left wing and dropped a pass for McAvoy, who fired a shot from the slot past Canadian goaltender Carter Hart.

Terry, McAvoy and Greenway were among 17 alums from USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, now based in Plymouth, to take part in the tournament.

Two more former NTDP players combined for a power-play goal at 9:30 of the second period, when Kieffer Bellows tipped in a point blast taken by Adam Fox.

The U.S. killed a pair of minor penalties in the final 6:38 of the period to keep the score tied entering the final period.

Canada regained a two-goal lead on a pair of goals in the first 4:05 of the third period. Nicolas Roy scored on the power-play 1:52 into the period before Mathieu Joseph scored 2:13 later.

Team USA responded just 39 seconds after Joseph's goal with Bellows' second goal of the contest. McAvoy fed a cross-ice pass to Bellows, who one-timed the puck from the right circle for the score.

Colin White deflected a shot by Fox at the side of the net to knot the score at 7:07 of the third period. The marker was



ANDRE RINGUETTE | IIHF IMAGES

Team USA players flash victory smiles, digits and medals after winning the 2017 IIHF World Junior Men's Hockey Championship in Montreal.

the team-leading seventh for White in the tournament.

The game headed to a 20-minute, five-on-five overtime period tied at 4-4 and both teams had chances, including a golden opportunity by ex-NTDP player Clayton Keller just 0:45 into the extra session from the side of the left circle. In the end, both goaltenders stood tall, with Parsons making 17 saves in the extra session for the U.S., while Hart had seven stops for Canada. Team USA

was forced to kill a penalty for too many men in the overtime, one of five straight power plays for Canada in the contest.

In the five-round shootout, Terry — who scored three times in the semifinal shootout win over Russia, including the decisive goal — scored in the top of the fourth round to account for the only goal.

This story courtesy of USA Hockey.

## ICERS

Continued from Page B1

did a lot of meetings, a lot of film, a lot of fine-tuning things. Our kids responded today."

Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento, meanwhile, said the loss was a reminder for players to start on time. Stevenson enjoyed a 15-5 edge in shots on goal in the first period, finding the mark three times within a 3:30 span behind junior goalie Brendan Olepa.

"The biggest thing is you can't sleep-walk for a period and expect to win a hockey game," Vento said. "We had done it the last two games against Canton and Franklin, coming out of the (first) periods 0-0.

"I think they learned their lesson. We're disappointed about losing a game but we weren't going to go 25-0."

Stevenson peppered Olepa in the opening 17 minutes, finally getting on the board during a power play with 10:49 to go. Olepa stopped Logan Dunham's in-close shot, but Hall slid the rebound inside the left post. Also assisting was defenseman Kevin Stefanick.

Julian Decina then upped the lead to 2-0 at 9:24. Sophomore linemate Cody Ciesliga raced down the right wing and fed a pass across the goal mouth to Decina, who tapped the puck in at the left post.

Just 21 seconds later, the Spartans struck again. Senior forward Justin Alton drove the net only to have his shot denied by Olepa. But the puck bounced out to Walkuski, who chipped it over the goalie.

## Showing life

The Wildcats called a timeout to regroup, yet the Spartans soon came close to scoring again.

Stevenson's Ciesliga stole the puck in Plymouth's zone and found Walkuski in front. Walkuski had plenty of time and space, ripping a shot that looked labeled. But Olepa snared the shot to give his team hope.

"He's a battler, he does everything he can to keep his team in the game, and he did it there," said Vento, about Olepa (24 saves). "We got a little life from that on the bench."

Plymouth got right back into the game with two unassisted goals early in the second period, by sophomore forward Nathan Stoneburg and junior forward Jack Chumley.

Stoneburg skated up the middle, cut in on Stevenson junior goalie Will Tragge (18 saves) and slid the puck home.

Less than two minutes later, at 4:57 of the period, it was Chumley's time for a star turn. He took a loose puck inside his own blue line and darted through Stevenson traffic, launching a shot from between the circles that beat Tragge high on the stick side for his eighth of the season.

"We started the first really slow, that's evident by the three-goal deficit," Chumley said. "But we knew coming out into the second we needed to get something going and build some momentum."

"It was good, once we got that first goal things started rolling a little bit. And then I saw the puck come out to

me, I walked it in and shot it. I wanted to see what could happen from it. It ended up going in and it got the boys going for a little bit. It was good."

## Oh, so close

The Wildcats missed a glorious chance to tie the game during a subsequent power play. Senior defenseman Zach Gallaher's shot from the left wing was stopped by Tragge, but the goalie couldn't corral the rebound.

With Tragge down and out, the Wildcats took several cracks at a seemingly wide-open net. The Spartans somehow survived that scrum still up 3-2.

"That was a back-breaker, we had a lot of chances there," Vento said. "If we pop that one in things are a little different. But we didn't, and you can't cry over spilled milk."

Stevenson got a crucial insurance goal with just 1:49 remaining in the period when Walkuski knocked in the rebound of an Alton shot. The goal came shortly after a Plymouth penalty was killed off, but the Spartans remained on the attack.

"The penalty expired and our guy got back on the ice but he didn't get back to his spot on five-on-five coverage," Vento said.

Plymouth could not manage much of an assault in the third period, with the defense-first Spartans closing out the victory — showing their coach they learned some things during those holiday practices and film sessions.

"They just do a lot of little things well," Chumley said. "They beat you to pucks, they win a lot of battles, they just do a lot of the little things right and a lot of times it can just wear you down

as a team."

Walkuski said he and his teammates knew stopping their losing streak against a strong opponent such as Plymouth was not going to be easy — even with the quick 3-0 lead.

"We knew they were good, we knew we had to battle," Walkuski said. "We just battled throughout the game.

"But it was tough. We had a 3-0 lead and they scored two on us. We just had to get something going. Luckily I got another one. ... Hopefully we'll get on a winning streak now."

**ROAD TRIP:** The Spartans will face KLAAs rival Salem at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Adrian College (the game originally was slated for Bowling Green State University).

According to Mitchell, both teams will practice Friday and catch a NCAA Division III game featuring the home team.

On Saturday will be the chance to visit Adrian's hockey facilities, talk to the coaching staff and soak up the environment at one of two NCAA D-III teams in the state.

"NCAA D-III hockey is really good hockey," Mitchell said. "Myself and (Salem head coach) Ryan Ossennmacher thought it would be a good opportunity to expose our kids to D-III hockey, in addition to all the ACHA club teams they have at Adrian.

"We're just showing our kids about the college opportunities that are there for them if they choose to do so."

**Plymouth** also is taking to the road, traveling to Sault Ste. Marie to play games Friday and Saturday against Alpena and the host Blue Devils, respectively.



BOYS BASKETBALL

# Fast start sparks Plymouth Christian, 68-24

Eagles cruise to big first half in win over Trojans

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Plymouth Christian Academy's Matt Malcolm must have thought he was a NASCAR driver during the first half of Friday night's varsity boys basketball game against Livonia Clarenceville.

The 6-4 junior forward found himself with open lanes to the basket time and time again and he took what the visiting Trojans gave him — scoring 21 first-half points to spark the Eagles' 68-24 non-conference victory.

"I've been trying to become more of a three-dimensional scorer, not just (outside) shooting," said Malcolm, who returned from a sprained ankle suffered in the second game of the season.

Malcolm, who added that he is feeling healthy now, said taking the basketball down low pays dividends for the rest of the team.

"It opens up everything," Malcolm said. "They start closing in and you can just dish it off to somebody else and they have an easy layup, too."

PCA head coach Matt Windle said it was important for Malcolm and the rest of the Eagles to come out aggressively in their first game following a lengthy break.

Malcolm went 9-of-10 in the first half, with eight of his field goals coming from inside the paint. He sat out most of the second half, which began with the Eagles leading, 44-10.

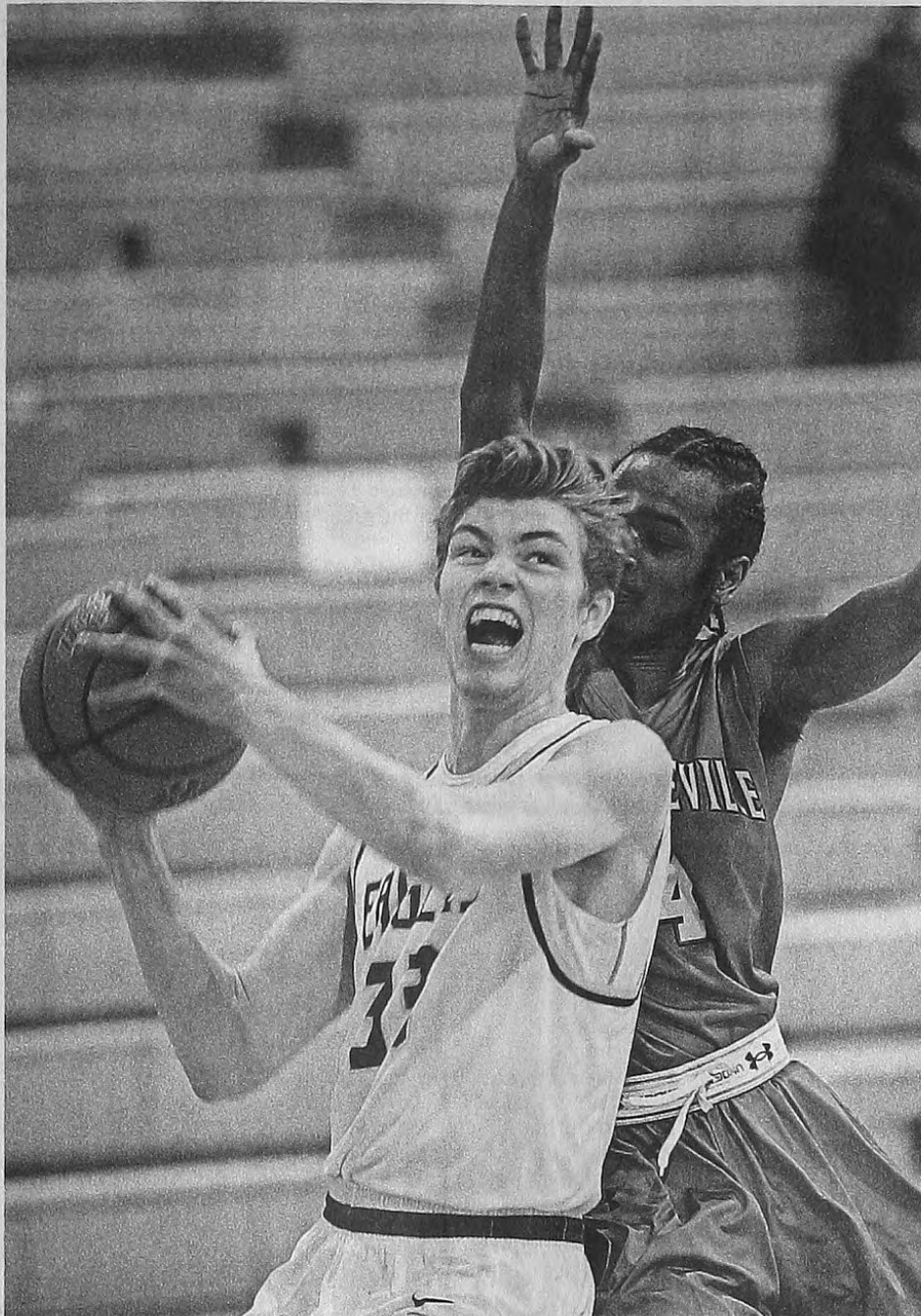
"When we have that mindset, we can be successful," Windle said, referring to pushing the ball up the floor and attacking the basket.

Also enjoying solid performances for PCA (4-1) were senior guard Andrew Fernandez (10 points), junior guard Levi Yakuber (eight points, five assists) and sophomore guard Layne Pries (eight points).

Chipping in eight rebounds each were junior forwards James Fadden and Max Okolo.

Clarenceville (0-5) was led by junior forward Trevor Hills and freshman guard Tavian Cruz, who both scored six. Adding four points was a recent call-up from the junior varsity, sophomore forward Justus Jones.

According to Trojans head coach Ty Wallace, the team misses senior forward Kameron MacIver, who has missed the entire season recovering from a knee injury.



Scoring one of a number of first-half baskets for Plymouth Christian is Matt Malcolm. Trying to defend him is Clarenceville's Torre Bowen.

"We had very few returning players this year," Wallace said. "(MacIver) was one of them that we had very high expectations for and, unfortunately, he had this knee injury.

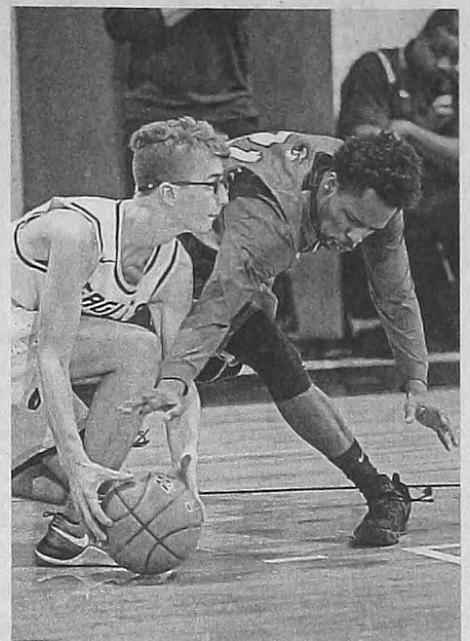
"But again, he's scheduled to start practicing Monday and we hope to play him next Friday at Annapolis."

Wallace said his team will need to

work on defensive rebounding to keep players such as Malcolm from having extra cracks at the basket. "We struggled on the defensive boards," he said.

Windle said it was good to see his team continue to grind, even with the big lead in the second half.

Midway through the third quarter, Yakuber reached out to steal a pass



Battling for a loose ball Friday are Plymouth Christian's Ian Hay (left) and Clarenceville's Tavian Cruz.

near mid-court and went in for a layup to make it 51-14.

"It's easy to come out in the second half when you're up 30 and just kind of give half-effort," Windle said. "But that's not how (Yakuber's) built, how he's wired. Other guys feed off him."

**PLYMOUTH 67, WAYNE 52:** Rashad Williams scored 28 points Friday as Wayne Memorial (5-1, 1-0) defeated host Plymouth.

Anthony Crump and Tariq Woody scored 13 and 12 points, respectively, for the Wildcats (3-4, 0-1).

**FRANKLIN 68, FERNDALE 54:** Livonia Franklin rolled to a non-conference win Friday behind 28 points from Mark Mettie.

Also having big nights for the Patriots were Keyon Brown (17 points) and Ryan Celmer (12 points).

**CANTON 46, MONROE 41:** Host Canton outscored Monroe 10-5 in overtime Friday to pull out the non-conference win.

Eian Barker (17 points) paced the Chiefs, while B. Artis White scored nine. Chipping in six points and 10 rebounds was Noah Brown.

**LUTHERAN WESTLAND 63, ROEPER 30:** The visiting Warriors improved to 6-0 Friday behind 24 points and 13 rebounds from Zach Burk.

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## CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

The Chiefs trailed 31-29 at halftime and 47-43 entering the fourth, but whenever there was a chance to catch the Pioneers, Elliott or Jackson found the range.

"We're very proud of the girls," Rob Heitmeyer said. "We talked about each possession in this game mattering, and the team battled for each possession. We talked about tempo, and for the most part it was a good tempo.

"Every shot we took was in space, got a good look at the rim. There were a number of very good things we were able to do tonight. Unfortunately, the other team is just a very good team.

"They have not lost yet, they're a

ranked team and we're happy to have had the opportunity to play them here over Christmas break."

Another plus, he added, was his team only committed 14 turnovers against a couple different Edison presses.

Heitmeyer added that his team is sharp and ready to roll into KLAA South Division action next week against Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial.

"Detroit Edison was one of four ranked teams (we) played during non-conference schedule and we earned a split, winning two of the four games," he said. "We continue to learn and grow as we ready ourselves for division games."

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Canton's Alaina Heitmeyer (left) goes one-on-one against Detroit Edison's Gabrielle Elliot.

## HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

### Chance to win

Jordan Ingram's two free throws with 1:11 in regulation left sent the game into OT at 61-61.

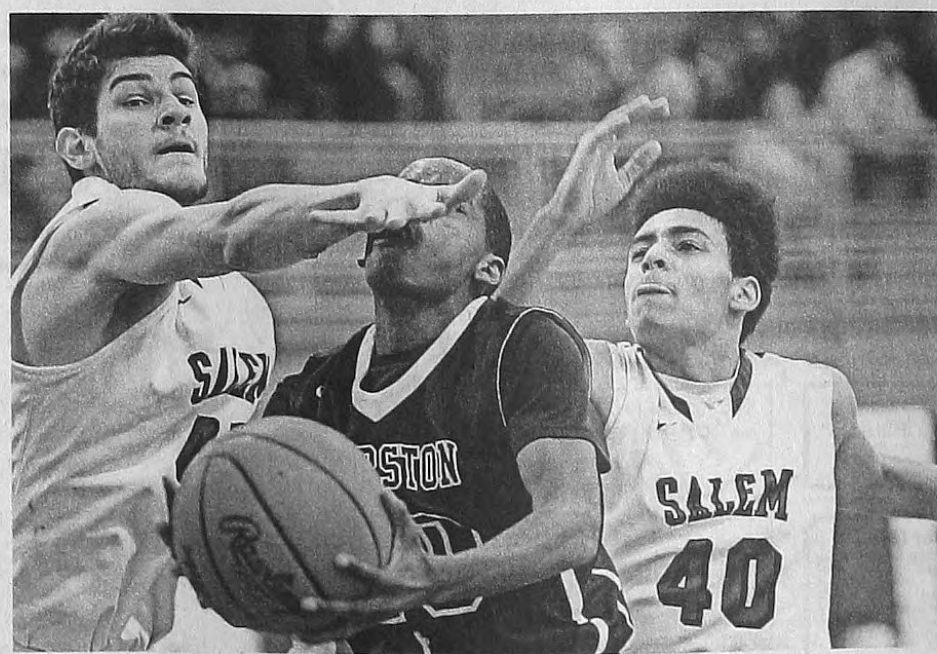
Thurston's Karlos Berry had two shots to win it in the waning seconds, but his first attempt was blocked by 6-foot-5 Salem junior center Jeremy Armstead. Berry then picked up the loose ball two feet beyond the top of the key and banked in a shot, but officials ruled it was no good because it had not beaten the buzzer.

"I knew it wasn't going to be," Bates said of what could have been the potential game-clincher. "Whether it was or not, I don't know. As I told the kids after the game there's no replay in high school. It might have been, it might not have been, who knows? But give yourself a chance to win and that's all you can do."

In the first four-minute OT, Barden's two free throws with 21.2 seconds left gave the Rocks a 68-67 advantage, but Thurston tied it with 11.6 seconds remaining when Malik Hill (16 points) split a pair on the other end.

Salem took the lead for keeps when Grace nailed a triple from the wing just 23 seconds into the second OT. The Rocks wound up outscoring Thurston 8-4 by making 5-of-10 free throws during the final 2:15, while the Eagles only got a free throw from Hill and a late triple from Matteo Maisano.

"It was our hustle at the end," said Grace, who also grabbed eight rebounds. "They (Thurston) got the lead because we weren't playing hard. We played tough down the stretch and it helped us get the win. I just lead by example, play hard and rebound, and



Thurston's Carlos Berry (middle) battles against Salem's Kyle Winfrey (left) and Jeremy Armstead.

play defense."

Salem went up 16-10 after one quarter, but Thurston pulled ahead at intermission, 29-28.

"At halftime he (Brodie) said we had 14 (turnovers) and that was enough for the game," said Grace, a third-year varsity player. "He said we just had to play tougher and stop their dribble penetration. We didn't play our game yesterday and that's why we lost. We played our game today. We played hard, so it made up for it."

The Eagles, however, maintained their second period momentum to increase their lead to 51-46 after three quarters by outscoring Salem 22-18.

### Better together

Berry's double-clutch layup off the glass with 6:51 remaining then put Thurston up 53-46, but Salem was able to climb back on a force OT.

"If we play within ourselves and play as a team, it's critical," Brodie said. "We've tried to impress upon them that it can't be all one-on-one moves. They're not that great of players individually, but as a team they're pretty effective. We involve a lot of players off the bench and we've got guys coming in. You've got to allow them an opportunity. You've got to take care of the people that are out on the floor. If we play more as a team we'll be better off the rest of the season."

Salem also got a boost from Armstead, who finished with 16 points, including eight in the opening quarter.

"He's a sneaky scorer," Brodie said. "He's only a junior, but he's played varsity a couple of years. He can score, but he sometimes tries to make too many moves inside and he gets a little tangled up. He again tries to do hard sometimes to do it all himself. If he lets the game come to him and takes his time with it and shares it, he's a good player and he can play for us."

In addition to Hill's team-high 16 points, Maisano (12) and Berry (11) were also in double figures, while Malik Walker and Demetrius Dowd contributed eight apiece.

The Eagles were 28-of-65 from the floor (43 percent), but only 13-of-25 from the foul line (52 percent) to go along with 19 turnovers.

Meanwhile, Salem was 26-of-50 from the field (52 percent) and 18-of-26 from the foul stripe (69.2 percent).

"Honestly, it was turnovers, even though they had more than us," Bates said. "There were a couple of inbound (plays), but they (Salem) did what they needed to do to be honest with you. I'm not going to take away from what they did. We turned the ball over and they kept they composure. We're learning. We have a lot of young kids. We're getting better every single game."

Salem went on to win the championship final beating Woodhaven, 61-49.

**OPENING ROUND:** In Wednesday's opening round of the Salem Tournament, Woodhaven (2-2) edged the host Rocks, 56-53, as sophomore Josh Warren scored a game-high 22 points, while senior Weshawn Warren added 18, including the game-clinching two free throws with only eight seconds left.

Senior Cam Barden scored a team-high 13 points for Salem (2-4), while senior Cameron Grace added 11 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

The Rocks will face Redford Thurston (2-3) in the consolation final beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday after the Eagles fell to Saline (6-1) in the first game of the double-header, 50-31.

Emmett Turner and Justin Zylstra scored 13 points apiece for the Hornets, who led 19-14 at halftime and 36-22 after three quarters. Saline was 6-of-12 from the foul line.

Matteo Maisano scored 13 points for the Eagles, who went 7-of-10 from the foul line.



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## Push your productivity when working remotely

BY DEANNA HARTLEY  
 CAREERBUILDER

It can be difficult to concentrate in an office setting, but being a virtual worker can pose its own set of challenges, as you can be more prone to distractions and interruptions. Keep these simple, practical tips in mind when you work remotely to increase your productivity.

**1. Have a dedicated workspace.** "You have to put yourself in the mind frame to work, and your environment is a powerful tool to help you do that," says Michele Mavi, director of internal recruiting and content development at Atrium Staffing. "Having a specific workspace allows you to leave things in place so you can pick up right where you left off in the morning. No scrambling to find your notes from the day before or wasting time getting set up and settled in."

Jenna Luchau, director of project management at Scorpion, an internet marketing company, has a dedicated office space free of TV and other distractions. "When I enter my office in the morning, I am 100 percent dedicated to the workday and what I need to accomplish, just as I would be if I worked in the corporate office," she says.



GETTY IMAGES

**2. Set regular office hours and have a daily routine.** Megan Shroy, president and founder of Approach Marketing, a virtual public-relations and marketing agency, says setting a schedule for yourself can help pace the day.

"It's easy to see 5:30 p.m. come and go or work right through lunch when you're in the comfort of your own home," she says. "Try to set a regular schedule, including what time you will start and end your day, and build in a regular lunch break where you leave your office space."

Getting into a daily routine is also important. "I always start

my morning by reading my emails while I eat breakfast, followed by a 15-minute session where I outline my tasks for the day," says Kristopher Johnson, a digital marketing strategist for The Gantry Restaurant & Bar in Sydney. "Doing this daily has created a habit that allows for a seamless transition into my workday."

One routine that Gene Caballero, co-founder of the online lawn-care booking service GreenPal, has established is getting dressed every morning as though he's going into an office. "By doing this, I stay in a routine, and it allows me to get in the mind-set that my

workday is about to get started," he says.

**3. Limit distractions.** Social media can be a big distraction to remote workers. That's why Beth Adan, senior publicist and graphic designer at public-relations and social-media management agency Three Girls Media, shuts the door and logs out of her personal social-media accounts when working from home.

Maura Thomas, a speaker, trainer and author who founded RegainYourTime.com, recommends that remote workers turn off push notifications on social media. If you're using it as a break during the day, she

suggests setting a timer to know when it's time to log off and get back to work.

**4. Pinpoint quantifiable objectives.** "When working remotely, or in any autonomous job, it's important to have clear and quantifiable results," says Michael Decatur, who works remotely for Truxx, a crowd-sourced ride-sharing platform. "There can be lots of distractions when working remotely, and it's nice to have the flexibility to work where and when you need to, but in my experience, it's really important to have quantifiable goals to the best of your ability."

**5. Stay connected.** In addition to using technology, Shroy suggests striving for some face time with co-workers, even if it's on a quarterly basis. "It's easy to feel disconnected while working remotely, and it's important to maintain relationships," she says. "I believe that in our virtual world, connecting face-to-face and developing work relationships is still important."

Deanna Hartley is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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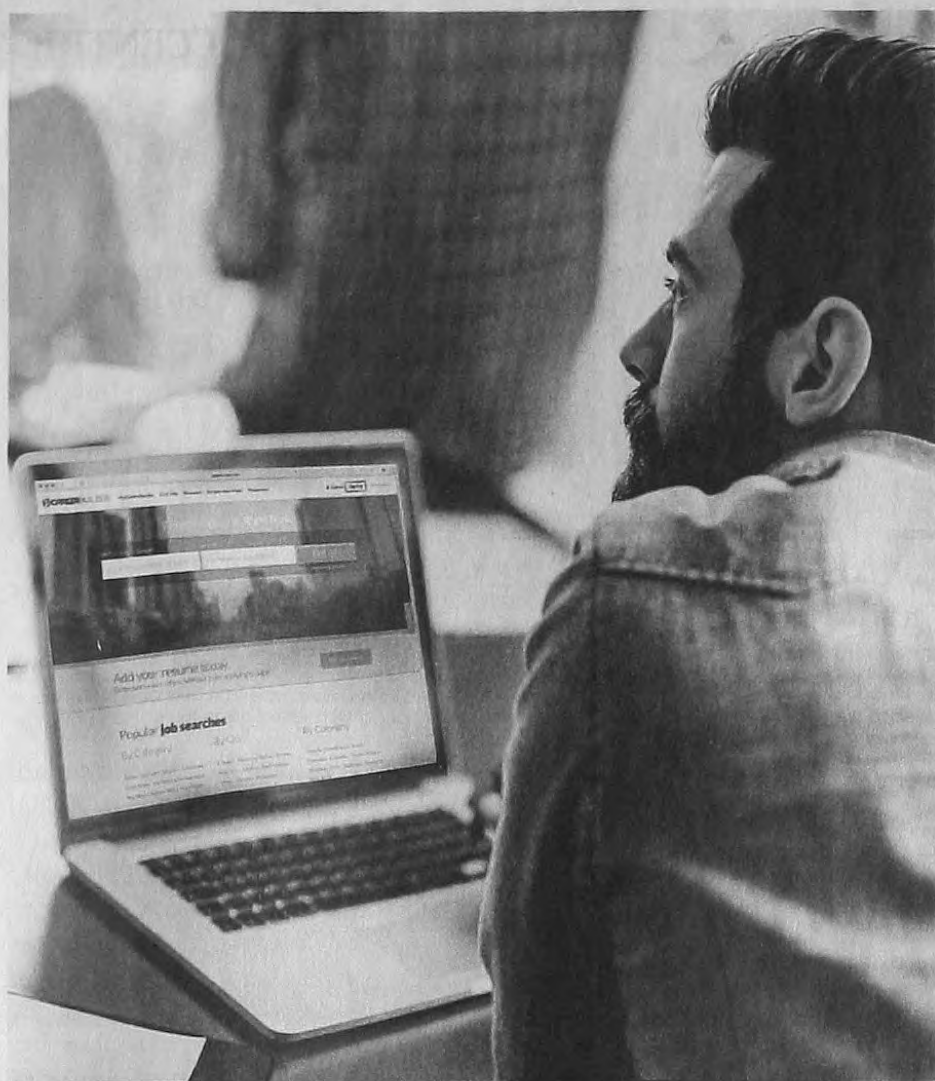
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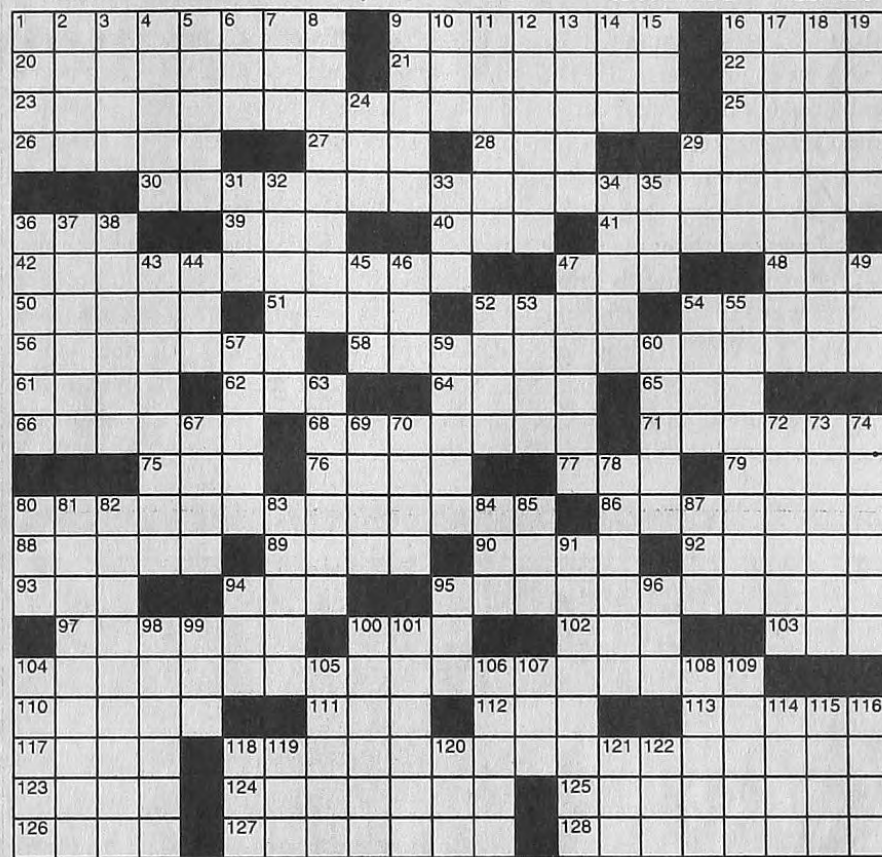
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# SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Separates by a boundary
  - 9 Rues
  - 16 "Mamma Mia!" group
  - 20 Perennial Italian encore
  - 21 Place to spend drama
  - 22 James Brown's style
  - 23 Arriving where there's no outlet
  - 25 Kind of wrestling
  - 26 Weak in the
  - 27 One more than bi-
  - 28 Tight spot
  - 29 Baggins of "The Hobbit"
  - 30 "Calm down!"
  - 36 Ga. hours
  - 39 Any of les Antilles
  - 40 Works in a gallery
  - 41 Stem (from)
  - 42 One the Blessed Virgin's titles
  - 47 "Gangnam Style" rapper
  - 48 Sit-ups work them
  - 50 River vessel
  - 51 Unrefined metals
  - 52 Like sports cars, briefly
  - 54 Common lot sizes
  - 56 Assertions
  - 58 Instruction in force
  - 61 Web programming language
  - 62 "— really help if ..."
  - 64 Day to "beware"
  - 65 Suffix with Benedict
  - 66 Ford bombs
  - 68 They're hidden in the centers of this puzzle's eight longest answers
  - 71 Tabloid "monster"
  - 75 Kilmer or Guest of film
  - 76 Descartes of rationalism
  - 77 Homeboys' howdies
  - 79 Moral lapses
  - 80 Marked with a very cold iron, as cattle
  - 86 Picnics, e.g.
  - 88 In an unstrict way
  - 89 Elongated fish
  - 90 — Sea (Asian body)
  - 92 Problematic plant swelling
  - 93 Old Giants great Mel
  - 94 Vase variety
  - 95 Shout just before flying
  - 97 Small monastery
  - 100 During each
  - 102 Bullfight yell
  - 103 Decade div.
  - 104 Celebrity advocate for UNESCO
  - 110 Torn apart
  - 111 DiFranco of folk rock
  - 112 Play scenery
  - 113 Semicolon's cousin
  - 117 Out of port
  - 118 Hiragana or katakana, in a sense
  - 123 Injury, in law
  - 124 Dessert style
  - 125 Ticketmaster specification
  - 126 Payment to play cards
  - 127 Sorcerers
  - 128 Exits
- DOWN**
- 1 Taunt
  - 2 "I love him like —"
  - 3 "The Eternal City"
  - 4 — light (filming lamp)
  - 5 Touch, e.g.
  - 6 Texter's "Wow!"
  - 7 Hissy
  - 8 Boots, e.g.
  - 9 Bike spokes, say
  - 10 Before, in poetry
  - 11 Key with one sharp
  - 12 Stinging insect
  - 13 Military foe
  - 14 Baking pan
  - 15 Unhappy
  - 16 Home of St. Francis
  - 17 Broad street
  - 18 Stinging insect
  - 19 Chilly
  - 24 Airport landing: Abbr.
  - 29 "It's chilly!"
  - 31 Avila aunt
  - 32 Just about
  - 33 "N'est ce —?"
  - 34 Ingests too much of, informally
  - 35 180-degree turn, informally
  - 36 Break out of
  - 37 Fended (off)
  - 38 Voices below altos
  - 43 Not at all advanced
  - 44 Grazing spot
  - 45 Hi- — screen
  - 46 Suffix with 40- or 50-Across
  - 47 Oh-so-prim
  - 49 Latvia was one: Abbr.
  - 52 All that — bag of chips
  - 53 Biographer Leon
  - 54 Top-rate
  - 55 Toyota of the 1980s
  - 57 Cotton thread type
  - 59 Pointed a firearm
  - 60 Knife in old infomercials
  - 63 "Noah" director
  - 67 Sluggish
  - 69 "Hud" co-star
  - 70 Rural hotels
  - 72 Wiry
  - 73 Film director Bergman
  - 74 Elia pieces
  - 78 "Fa-a-ancy!"
  - 80 Mel's brassy waitress
  - 81 Rodent's last meal, maybe
  - 82 Gregarious sort
  - 83 Gem mineral
  - 84 "The Raven" poet's initials
  - 85 — Hill (R&B quartet)
  - 87 Bill's film bud
  - 91 Faith forsaker
  - 94 Geller of mentalism
  - 95 City area, for short
  - 96 Rorem of art songs
  - 98 Form a thought
  - 99 BYOB part
  - 100 Neighbor of Colombia
  - 101 Key with one sharp
  - 104 Persona non —
  - 105 Bolivian city
  - 106 Horse relatives
  - 107 Witness
  - 108 Earthy hue, to a Brit
  - 109 Pothole sites
  - 114 Suits' degs.
  - 115 Portion (out)
  - 116 Comic actor Roscoe
  - 118 Maxilla locale
  - 119 Former boxing king
  - 120 Reds great Roush
  - 121 Sawmill item
  - 122 Big name in water filters



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

## SUDOKU

	3			2		6		
4	6				1			2
		9	7	5				8
8				1		5		
		1			9	3		8
	5		6					4
7		3		9				6
	8		1		4			5
9			8			2	1	

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

## CULINARY CREATIONS WORD SEARCH

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

ABALONE  
 ADORO  
 AIGUILLETTE  
 AIOLI  
 ALFREDO  
 BABA  
 BAIN-MARIE  
 BAKING  
 BAKLAVA  
 BALSAMIC  
 BANGERS  
 BECHAMEL  
 BISQUE  
 BLANCH  
 BOLL  
 DATKON  
 DEGLAZE  
 DEWI-GLACE  
 DIM SUM  
 DOLMA  
 FALAFEL  
 FLORENTINE  
 FLOUR  
 FONDANT  
 FRITTATA  
 GAZPACHO  
 GHEE  
 GLUTEN  
 HERBS  
 PASTA  
 SAUCE  
 SEEDS  
 SMORGASBORD  
 STOCK  
 TOFU  
 TRIPE  
 TURMERIC  
 VINEGAR

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

**Crossword Answers**

MARKS OFF REGRETS ABBBA  
 OSOLEMIO ARMENIA SOUL  
 COMING TO ADELEND SISMO  
 KNEES TRITAM BILBO  
 GET A RIPPONYOURSELF  
 ESTELLE ART DERIVE  
 STELLAMARIS PSY ABS  
 CANOE ORES AERO ACRES  
 AVOWALS STANDINGORDER  
 PERLITD IDES INE  
 EDELS ANIMALS NESSIE  
 VALRENE YOS SINGS  
 FREEZE BRANDED OUTING  
 LAXLY EELS ARIALDEMA  
 OTTURN UPANDAWAY  
 PRIORY PEROLE YRS  
 GOODWILL AMBASSADOR  
 RIVEN ANI SET COMMA  
 ASEA JAPANESEALPHABET  
 TORT ALAMODE TOURDATE  
 ANTE WIZARDS EGRESSSES

**Word Search**

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

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**



# Car Report

## A TRUMP BUMP, AND HIGHER GASOLINE PRICES, COULD EASE THE PAIN OF GENERAL MOTORS' JANUARY PRODUCTION CUTS



By Dale Buss

General Motors got caught with its guard down in the form of ballooning inventories of small and mid-size cars, so the company will have to pare production at a few plants in January to get stocks back under control.

But GM could be spared greater harm for its apparent sloppiness by two looming factors: a Trump Bump that may be building in the U.S. economy, and gasoline prices that are creeping up and could make fuel economy a more important consideration for American car buyers sooner rather than later.

No doubt GM let optimism about sales — company-wide, they were up 10 percent in the U.S. in November over a year earlier, and GM's market share reached its highest level for the month in seven years — color its approach to controlling inventories in a market where automakers basically haven't had to worry about overstocking dealers since 2009. It's also done a good job of boosting average transaction prices even as the U.S. car sales boom began leveling off this year.

GM's inventory as of December 1, at 873,200 vehicles, was the highest for any month since February 2008, according to Autodata. It had ballooned by 28 percent since August 1 to the highest level in nine years. GM's inventories were up more than 182,000 vehicles over a year earlier.

By comparison, Ford's U.S. inventories stood at nearly 650,000 units, about 10,000 vehicles fewer than a year earlier, while Fiat Chrysler's inventories were nearly 597,000 units, down by more than 62,000 vehicles from November 2015.

Both analysts and competitors warned that something would have to give, especially with GM's car lines, because stocks of many of its hot-selling trucks and SUVs are below par. Inventories of the Chevrolet Cruze compact reached a 121-days supply at the beginning of this month; Chevrolet Camaro, 177 days. The industry likes to work with a 60-day supply typically.

Seeming to recognize the implications, GM's incentive spending in November increased by an average of about \$1,300 per vehicle over a year earlier, according to the J.D. Power Information Network.

Still, in its most recent sales release, GM cited positives such as "the industry's best average transaction prices" and its being

"ahead of plan selling down our 2016 model year inventory." The company also sees itself in a "position of strength with the planned launch of key new products, like the all-new Chevrolet Equinox, into the heart of the market," said Kurt McNeil, GM's vice president of U.S. sales operations.

GM and the rest of the auto industry also might start benefiting from tailwinds that seem to be building behind the U.S. economy. In early December, in GM's sales press release, Mustafa Mohatarem, the company's chief economist, said, "All economic indicators show significantly improved optimism about the U.S. economy including consumer and business sentiment, which continue to drive a very healthy U.S. auto industry. We believe the U.S. auto industry is well positioned for sales to continue at or near record levels into 2017."

Mohatarem's comments came even before a new spate of positive economic indicators which seemed to point to growing financial optimism as the inauguration of Donald Trump as president nears.

These included an upbeat Gallup report on Americans' confidence in the economy, pushing its index into positive territory for the first time since March 2015. It reflected "a stark change in Americans' confidence in



The 2017 Chevrolet Cruze, here in its new hatchback version.

The U.S. economy from the negative views they expressed in most weeks over the past nine years," said the venerable research organization.

A Trump Bump indeed could help the U.S. auto industry keep sales growth afloat not only for 2016 but also for 2017, giving it a chance to extend the recovery into a ninth year — something that few foresaw as a possibility as recently as a few months ago.

Another developing factor could specifically help reduce GM's excess of sedans: higher demand specifically for high-mileage cars after three years in which \$2-gallon-and-up gasoline pushed fuel economy down as a purchase consideration on most consumers' lists.

The reason this could develop

is that gasoline prices are on the rise again in some parts of the country in the wake of multiple deals by countries around the globe to cut oil production in the coming months, giving them the prospect of eliminating a worldwide glut and forcing oil prices higher again.

While it's unusual for gasoline prices to rise during the low-demand winter months, some analysts believe the new output-cutting deals within OPEC and between non-OPEC countries, including Russia, could cause pump prices to approach \$3 a gallon in parts of the country in early 2017.

In GM's view, there could be no better vehicle than one of its overstocked, high-mileage Cruze models to help customers cope with rising gasoline prices.

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1948 BUICK 444671964676  
2003 CHEVY 1G1JH54F537154619  
2002 BUICK 1G4HP54K024174570  
1996 FORD 2FMDA5181BA57977  
1999 DODGE 1B3EJ46X7XN525176  
2004 BUICK 1G4U51344133296  
2004 CHEVY 2G2W1P5526146310  
2006 BUICK 2G4WD58261249013  
2001 MERCURY 1MEH1M5581G609892  
2004 MAZDA 4F0Y29412AKM23530  
1999 CHEVY 1G1JF52T6X7211253  
1994 DODGE 1B7HC16Y4R5391058  
2003 MAZDA J1J0LW28A130373886  
1994 FORD 1FTCR10A4RUD29386  
2006 CHRYSLER 2AAGM694768709168  
2009 CHRYSLER 1C3LC56B09N567016  
2004 CHEVY 1G1ZT63856F298417  
2007 CHEVY 1G1LW58R799241130  
2005 PONTIAC 2G2WP52251288525  
1989 NISSAN JN1HS36P7KWD10692  
2009 NISSAN 3C1EB9144341  
2004 CHEVY 1GNDT135442242660  
1997 NISSAN JN8AR05Y3VW184299  
2005 BUICK 3C5DA03E155544035  
1991 MERCEDE WDBCA35E9MA600479  
2004 CHEVY 1G1ZU54874F161854  
2002 KIA KNFB1212081717  
1997 FORD 1FTDX18W1VNB22243  
2006 PONTIAC IG2ZG58964111759  
2006 PONTIAC 2G2W1P55261165311  
2001 SATURN 1J8G22K51U110001  
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