

# THE BUZZ IS BACK

AUTO SHOW PREVIEW  
PAGES A8, B4

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## Auto Show tickets

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. We are giving away a pair of tickets every day until Jan. 18. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest. A winner will be randomly selected every day until the contest ends.

To enter, go to hometownlife.com and see "Auto Show Ticket Contest" under the "Don't Miss" section on our home page. Good luck!

## Food rules

As of Jan. 1, income guidelines have been adjusted to allow more individuals and families to be served by TEFAP. The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned and non-perishable items.

The next distribution is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church.

All recipients must be pre-registered. This is a supplemental food program so it may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to pre-register.

For information and to register, call Plymouth Community United Way at (734) 453-6879, ext. 7.

## Concours art

The original 2012 Concours d'Elegance of America poster art by artist Tom Hale features the 2011 Best of Show 1938 Mercedes-Benz 540 K Autobahn Kurier owned by Arturo and Deborah Keller.

Hale's art will adorn the 2012 Concours poster and program book. The original will be on display in St. John's hotel lobby from February throughout the Concours weekend. A live auction at the Concours' Saturday Night Gala July 29 will feature his painting.

The Concours at St. John's also hosts an invitational automotive art show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 29.

For more information on Hale's art, visit [www.tomhalegallery.com](http://www.tomhalegallery.com) or contact him at [thale19402@aol.com](mailto:thale19402@aol.com).

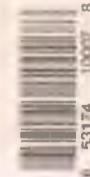
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## Book ban draws huge board crowd

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

When Plymouth-Canton Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes decided last month to remove Graham Swift's *Waterland* from the curriculum at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the decision was made after a complaint by one parent.

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* was likewise placed on the review list due to parental complaints.

So far, no one has really asked the students what they think, and Jessie Long, who is currently taking the AP English class in which those books are used,

told a crowded Board of Education meeting Tuesday night that should change.

"There are a lot of parents here, but maybe you should ask the students," Long said.

She was among more than 100 people who filled not only the board meeting room at the E.J. McClendon Education Center, but also spilled into the hallways and peeked around door jams to get a look at the proceedings. Some were there to protest the use of the books, which detractors say contain what they call "pornographic" material. But a good number were also on hand to protest the banning of *Water-*

*land* and the potential removal of *Beloved*, which faced the review committee Wednesday (the results of that meeting weren't available at press time).

### Content question

The charge against both books is being spearheaded by a group of parents led by Matt Dame, who ran for the school board last year and lost, and his wife, Barb, who believe both books should be banned because they contain sexual content inappropriate for high school students.

It was Barb Dame's complaint that led Hughes to initially ban *Waterland*, before relenting to

pressure applied by others for not using the district's process for such reviews and agreeing to put *Waterland* before the committee.

Matt Dame said pulling *Waterland* was the right decision, as was placing *Beloved* up for review. He said neither book was approved under district policy.

He pointed out that the objectionable parts of *Waterland* had, in the past, been omitted by an "inappropriate" label, but that the practice was not done with the newest texts.

Please see BAN, A4

## How she rolls



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Township resident Lauren Halpin worked the Lincoln exhibit at the North American International Auto Show Tuesday. Halpin is a Plymouth High School grad and a senior at Madonna University in Livonia. For more stories and photos on the show, see pages A8 and B4.

## Federal grant buys footbridge at township park

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A bridge to nowhere? Not in Plymouth Township.

The township Board of Trustees voted 5-0 Tuesday to spend \$34,500 for an aluminum footbridge that will cross Tonquish Creek near the fishing pond at Plymouth Township Park.

The 25- by 8-foot bridge, purchased from Gator Bridge of Sanford, Fla., will be prefabricated and delivered in four to 12 weeks.

Supervisor Richard Reaume said the goal is to have the bridge installed when the ground is frozen — if this year's weather is cold enough to freeze the ground.

The bridge will be powder-coated green in color, a move officials hope means that the parts of it exposed to the summer sun will stay cooler than bare aluminum. A second bidder, Excel Bridge, wanted \$32,000 for an uncoated bridge.

The bridge will connect an existing barrier-free pathway to the pond's fishing dock.

The money is coming from the township's federal Community Development Block Grant funds for 2011, which must be spent by the end of this year, Reaume said.

Voting to award the bid to Gator were Reaume, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustees Kay Arnold, Mike Kelly and Bob Doroshewitz. Clerk Joe Bridgman and Trustee Steve Mann were absent.

### City CDBG plan

The Plymouth City Commission formalized the city's plan for 2012 CDBG money with a 6-0 vote Jan. 3.

City officials expect to receive just under \$57,000 in federal block-grant money after July 1, and their budget calls for just over \$40,000 of that to go toward improving public facilities or making them compliant with federal guidelines for access by disabled people.

Another nearly \$11,000 was slated for the senior citizens transportation program the city shares with the township. The remainder of the grant, 10 percent of the total, will go toward administering the program.

The commission also reserved the right to transfer money later from facilities improvements to senior transportation, with the approval of Wayne County officials who oversee the program.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle was absent from the Jan. 3 meeting.

## Heise files for re-election

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Freshman state Rep. Kurt Heise, a Plymouth Township Republican, has filed the paperwork for a 2012 re-election bid.

Heise, 45, will run in a redrawn 20th District that will no longer include the city of Wayne, but will include more of Canton Township — a portion of the township west of I-275. The new district will continue to include Plymouth Township, Plymouth, Northville Township and the portion of Northville that sits in Wayne County.

Heise said he's proud to have been a part of setting the stage for what he called the state's economic turnaround.

"I think there's still a lot of business to do in Lansing," said Heise, who cited "historic progress" under Republican Gov. Rick Snyder. "I think we're going to continue that in 2012."

Heise said the Legislature's



Citing "more work to do" in Lansing, freshman state Rep. Kurt Heise, a Plymouth Township Republican, has filed the paperwork for a 2012 re-election bid.

focus on "reinvigorating Michigan" and creating an environment that leads to job growth, work that he said is showing results.

"It's a very exciting, dynamic time to be in the state Leg-

islature," he said.

The Legislature's biggest accomplishment last year, Heise said, was a successful budget process, which included cutting costs, replacing the

Please see HEISE, A2



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"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

**SOCKS AND UNDIES**

**Date/Time:** Monday, Jan. 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

**Details:** A clothing drive to benefit the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Clothing Bank, is looking for new men's, women's and children's socks and underwear, along with other new or gently used clothing.

**Contact:** For more information, e-mail mbartek09@com-cast.net

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1:30-3 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth District Library

**Details:** The PCCA Writing Club will host guest speaker Jeff Jahn, owner of Keepsake Family Tree Video, who will present a documentary that he produced and other mixed media. He describes his business as "Telling the Stories of the Not So Rich and Not So Famous on Modern Media." He will demonstrate what can be done with old photos, 8mm film and videotapes to build a family history to put on DVD for preservation, restoration and narration of memorable events that families want to share.

**Contact:** RSVP by calling 453-1234 x236

**ART EXHIBITS**

**Date/Time:** Begins Jan. 10; reception for the artist 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20

**Location:** Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth

**Details:** The PCAC begins its new year of monthly art exhibits with "slacker art," a collection of oil paintings by Andrew Slackta, his first solo exhibit. The self-taught artist's landscapes run the gamut from realistic photo recreation to expressionistic, his still-life pieces combine formal composition with a distinctive mix of pop art and his unconventional portraits display elements of surrealism and emotional sophistication. Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Contact:** Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information, or visit www.plymoutharts.com.

**DRUM CLASSES**

**Date/Time:** Wednesdays through Feb. 1, 5-6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Artico House, adjacent to the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 724 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Join instructor and professional drummer Pat Paul Sorise at the Plymouth Community Arts Council for a new series of Drum Classes in the New Year. First will be Beginner Drum Set 100 (5-5:45 p.m. for ages 7 to adult), which will introduce students to holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, how to count and play quarter and eighth notes and introduce/play the drum set. For the advanced and experienced drummer the PCAC will open a new section of Advanced Drum Set 200 (ages 7 to adult, 5:45-6:30 p.m.). This class will identify drums/cymbals, wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns.

**Contact:** To learn about other great opportunities at the PCAC or a complete list of classes offered visit www.plymoutharts.com or stop in the PCAC at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth, or call (734) 416-4278.

# Barrett picked to lead school board

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Following a tumultuous year that featured a fracture among the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education members, the new board put together a harmonious night while taking care of its first order of business: Electing the leaders who will press on with the issues facing the district.

In the first of four unanimous votes for board offices, first-time board member John Barrett was elected president. Barrett, who gave up his seat on the Plymouth City Commission to run for school board, said the election caught him by surprise. "I feel honored," said Barrett, who spent more than 40 years in education. "It's going to be a major task looking at all the issues we'll face. But I was in public education for 42 years, and on the city commission, so I'm used to public service."



Plymouth-Canton Board of Education members Mark Horvath, Barry Simescu and Judy Mardigian get to work at the board's first meeting Tuesday. Simescu was elected treasurer, while Mardigian was elected secretary.

Barrett acknowledged the previous board had developed a reputation for being unable to work together, something the new board has worked on since the November election. He said a December seminar at Schoolcraft College, and subsequent conversations among board members, gave them "a great chance to talk about the situation." "That has been a major

topic for all of us, how do we move forward and put all that behind us?" Barrett said. "That's the goal of all of us. Right now, we're all on the same page."

In the other unanimous votes, Adrienne Davis, who had been secretary on last year's board, was named vice president. Judy Mardigian, who had been the treasurer, was named secretary and Barry Simescu, a former

vice president, was elected treasurer.

Davis said the vice president's position is something she's ready to assume in her third year on the board.

"It's actually something I sought out over a year ago," she said. "Board development is an area I've honed in on for two years. ... I think as vice president I can play an active role in that. Developing roles is something I could work on with the president."

Simescu, a former vice president some had thought might be in line to lead the board, nominated Barrett and said he thought the former city commissioner would "do a great job."

"He's got a nice manner, he's calm under pressure," Simescu said of Barrett. "I think he's very intelligent and motivated, and he'll do a great job."

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## HEISE

Continued from page A1

Michigan Business Tax with a 6-percent flat tax and wrapping up the budget on time, which gave officials in school district and municipalities time to plan their finances.

The process also included a two-year spending plan, a "fiscal road map," living within the state's means and having a budget surplus that Heise estimates will be around \$400,000.

"That would've been unheard of a year ago, and that's a reflection of that hard work we've had to do," he said.

Heise said his biggest personal legislative accomplishment was the

bill, signed into law by Snyder, that moved public school elections to November of even-numbered years. The move is seen as a way to cut election costs and increase voter participation in school elections.

But he also mentioned his House Bill 4112, which would put the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department under the control of a regional authority, as an important accomplishment. The bill remains in committee,

but Heise said it gives communities that buy water from Detroit leverage in U.S. District Court Judge Sean Cox's oversight of the department.

"A lot of those principles that were in that bill are now being implemented at the federal court level," Heise said.

Heise is an attorney who has worked for several local municipalities, and is the former director of the Wayne County Department of Environment. He had a perfect

attendance record in the House last year, making all 619 votes.

Heise said he plans a door-to-door re-election campaign beginning this spring. Heise and his wife, Catherine, have two daughters, Katie and Claire.

No one has yet filed to challenge Heise; the filing deadline for the August primary is Tuesday, May 15.

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# Township Mobil station plans beer, wine, liquor sales

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Customers will soon be able to pick up a six pack of beer or a pint of gin, along with snacks and sandwiches and gasoline for their cars and trucks, at the Mobil station on Northville Road.

With a 5-0 voice vote Tuesday, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees recommend approval of licenses for both package beer and wine sales and package liquor sales for the station, which is south of Five Mile. The Michigan Liquor Control Commission has the ultimate say, but station owner Ali Bazy said he has been through the LCC process and

expects smooth sailing, though he didn't know when he'd have the licenses in hand.

Bazy said he sought the licenses in order to keep his business competitive, and because of customer demand. "We get quite a few customers asking on a daily basis if we carry beer and wine," he said.

The Mobil station has a convenience store and a Subway sandwich shop, and with the addition of alcohol, Bazy said, will become more of a "one-stop shop."

"People can get what they want," Bazy said Wednesday morning. "They can grab their snacks, grab their gas and grab their liquor."

Township officials suggest-

ed they weren't entirely pleased with the prospect of alcohol sales at a gas station, but said state guidelines gave them no choice.

"Whether it's good policy or not we might agree, or we might not," said township attorney Tim Cronin. "But that's what it is."

In 2010, said Cronin and Supervisor Richard Reaume, the board voted against a recommendation for a beer and wine license for the Shell station at Ann Arbor Road and I-275. But the ownership appealed, and township officials had to appear before the LCC to explain the decision and were told that as long as the state's licensing criteria were met, such recommendations

had to be approved, they said.

Applicants must have no criminal record, as with any alcohol license applicants, and gas pumps must be at least 50 feet from the door, and the station's convenience store must carry a minimum of \$250,000 in merchandise, among other criteria, Reaume said.

Beer, wine and drinks like hard cider are now sold at the Shell station, but according to Police Chief Tom Tiderington, Bazy's Mobil station will be the first in the township to carry liquor.

Resident Laura Gumina said she was concerned by the development.

"Cars with hard alcohol, hard liquor seems like a bad combination to me," Gumina told the

board. "It's scares me."

Bazy said he understands the apprehension, but that modern gas pumps have fire safeguards in case of accidents, and drunken driving could occur anywhere.

Still, "I totally respect everybody's concerns on this," he added.

Bazy opened his station, on a site that had been vacant for years, in 2003.

Voting with Reaume for the recommendation were Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustees Kay Arnold, Mike Kelly and Bob Doroshewitz. Clerk Joe Bridgman and Trustee Steve Mann were absent.

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# Taj rolls out open house for campaign office

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

U.S. House candidate Dr. Syed Taj, a Canton Democrat who hopes to unseat 11th District Republican incumbent Thaddeus McCotter, has announced an open house to celebrate the formal opening of his campaign office in Novi.

Taj has issued a no-cost invitation to the event, scheduled for 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, at his campaign headquarters, 24293 Novi Road, at the corner of Novi and Ten Mile roads.

Taj, who hopes to topple McCotter after forgoing a reelection bid this fall as Canton Township trustee, said he chose to locate his campaign office in Novi because it is centrally located in the 11th district.

"I wanted the office to be as close to the center of the new 11th District as possible," Taj said in a statement.

Taj announced late last



Taj

year his intention to seek the U.S. House seat.

McCotter, who dropped his one-

time presidential campaign, has continued his criticism of President Barack Obama, saying Obama has failed to do enough to reduce the unemployment rate.

McCotter, who had opened a Plymouth campaign office before dropping out of the presidential race, issued an earlier statement saying that "only by reducing government's tightening grip on regulations and allowing the entrepreneurial spirit which helped build our great nation to flourish will we be able to get our friends, neighbors and loved ones back to work."

Taj, however, has blamed McCotter and others in Congress for

*"(O)only by reducing government's tightening grip on regulations and allowing the entrepreneurial spirit which helped build our great nation to flourish will we be able to get our friends, neighbors and loved ones back to work."*

**DR. SYED TAJ**  
Republican candidate for U.S. House 11th District seat

fostering many of the nation's problems. Taj said he believes he has a chance to unseat McCotter.

"This is the year of anti-incumbency," Taj told the *Observer*. "The people are fed up with what I call the paralysis of the Congress. It's a do-nothing Congress."

Taj said he expects to draw support not only from Democrats, but also independent voters and moderate Republicans.

The new 11th District includes Canton, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, Northville Township, Auburn Hills,

Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Commerce Township, Farmington, Highland Township, Lake Angelus, Lyon Township, Milford Village and Township, Novi and Novi Township, South Lyon, Troy, Walled Lake, Waterford Township, White Lake Township, Wixom and part of Clawson, Rochester Hills, West Bloomfield.

Taj's website is www.tajforcongress.com. McCotter's is www.mccotter2012.com.

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## BAN

Continued from page A1

"The way I see it ... the language is obscene," said Dame, who took his complaint to the review committee Wednesday. "I think parents should have the right to choose what's right for their kids to read. We think (teachers) will be picking relatively safe (books) to begin with, then we find out this stuff is in it."

### Porn or proper?

"Why aren't teachers forthright?" he asked. "Why not say, 'Here are some excerpts?' I think parents need to know up front. I don't need my kids to read that."

Several others disagreed. Steve Barnaby, a former journalist whose son is a Plymouth-Canton graduate, cautioned the board that resorting to eliminating books could be a step down a slippery slope.

"Taking the book out of the classroom really violates trust and divides the community," Barnaby said. "Banning books should be the exception and not the rule. It's a very dangerous precedent to set."

Many students, past and present, seem to agree. Samantha Oliver of Canton, a 2008 graduate who studied in the AP English program, she said she found *Waterland* a "challenging, enriching (book) that greatly contributed to my education." The sexual passages are "not the main focus" of the book, she said, instead calling them "plot devices to advance broader themes."

She said the material isn't anything juniors and seniors in high school haven't encountered in other venues.

"AP English classes are comprised most-

ly of juniors and seniors who will soon be leaving the safe halls of PCEP to enter the 'real world,'" Oliver said. "They are young adults who deserve the right to make their own decisions about what they do or do not read. Students have a right to excuse themselves from material they find offensive. Mr. Hughes should not be allowed to deprive other students of educational opportunities based on his and a single parent's opinion."

### First complaint

Salem High School English teacher Gretchen Miller has been using *Waterland*, in the AP class she's been teaching for two years, without ever hearing a complaint. "The book is beautiful," Miller said. "It's very scholarly, it fits into our themes of reaction to trauma and post-modernism and new historicism beautifully."

Miller admits the book is "difficult," and knows the content is more mature than most high school material. But, she points out, the class is listed as an advanced placement class, and the syllabus points out it's a college-level course with material that is "more mature and provocative."

"It should be a course that's selected by people whose kids are ready for that," Miller said shortly after Hughes banned *Waterland*. "There aren't a lot of books that teach post-modern narrative structure, and this is great because it's a teacher describing the theory to his students. It's a great teaching tool."

Giving parents a list of books isn't enough, according to Dame.

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# Burglars target two township homes

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Electronics and accessories were the main theft targets in two separate home burglaries in Plymouth Township in recent weeks.

At one house, on Sheldon Road south of Ann Arbor Trail, a 32-inch television set, two purses, two bottles of liquor and digital video discs, including a boxed set of *The Simpsons*, were reported stolen after a Jan. 4 break-in, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

A side door had been forced open, police said; officers found pry marks near the handle and a footprint on the door.

The break-in had occurred some time before 6 p.m. Asked by police, neighbors didn't report noticing anything unusual, police said.

In an earlier break-in, two big-screen televisions and other electronics, plus cash and jewelry, were among the things reported stolen from a house on Powell Road on Dec. 22.

The break-in took place between 10 a.m.

and shortly after 4 p.m., according to a police report. Police said the door off a backyard deck had been forced open, the door jamb broken.

The burglar or burglars also entered an attached garage and took a chest of hand tools from it, police said.

Neighbors reported noticing nothing unusual during the time frame in which the burglary occurred, police said.

### Shoplifting reports

• A man fled a township supermarket on Jan. 5 with a shopping cart full of groceries for which he had not paid.

The theft occurred about 3:30 p.m. at the Busch's Fresh Food Market on Sheldon Road near Five Mile, a police report said. An employee told police the man loaded the groceries into a gold-colored Lincoln Town Car and fled in an unknown direction; a security video showed the man leaving the store with the groceries, police said.

Employees couldn't provide an inventory of the stolen items or the value of them.

• In another incident at Busch's, an employee was fired, and arrested on a shoplifting charge, on New Year's Day after reportedly leaving the store with magazines and a bottle of coffee creamer.

A witness reported seeing the woman conceal the items, and police said she is accused of leaving the store at the end of her shift without paying for them, a police report said.

Police issued the Canton Township woman a ticket with a court date and released her on bond.

• A Plymouth man was arrested on a shoplifting charge Dec. 27 after a security worker at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road reported that he had concealed an MP-3 music player in his coat and left the store.

Police were called to the store just after 4 p.m. The employee had confronted the man outside, she said, and escorted him to the security office.

The guard told police she had been watching as the man removed a locking device from an MP-3 player on display and hid it in his coat, then left the store.

Police also recovered a pair of headphones and a

bottle of cough medicine the man reportedly had also tried to take, a police report said.

### Vehicle burglary

An iPod Touch, compact discs and a portable digital video disc player were among the things reportedly stolen Dec. 29 from a township man's pickup truck.

The burglary had occurred since 7 p.m. the previous day, possibly while the 2009 Dodge Ram pickup was in the driveway of the victim's house, a police report said.

The told police he wasn't sure if the truck had been locked.

### Clinic larceny

Cash was reported stolen in two separate incidents last month from a naturopathic health clinic on Ann Arbor Road.

The owner of the Breathing Waters Health Center told police the money had been kept in a cash box and left in a desk. The first theft occurred on Dec. 19 or Dec. 20, the second on Dec. 21 or Dec. 22, the owner said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2405

# Event promises retro Hollywood evening

First-run movies, a cocktail reception and a strolling dinner are in store for Canton Community Foundation guests who attend the fourth annual Magical Night with the Stars, coming Jan. 29 to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank.

The retro Hollywood celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Emagine Theatre, southeast of Ford and Lotz, in Canton. Guests will enter the event with a walk on a Hollywood-style red carpet.

"We had a sell-out crowd at last year's Mag-

ical Night event and we are hoping for the same this year," CCF President Joan Noricks. "Guests will be entertained by the retro Hollywood theme. Emagine Canton makes this night very special for the foundation and its guests."

While guests enjoy the atmosphere, food and camaraderie, the purpose of the celebration is to benefit the 34-year-old Gleaners and the area food pantries it supplies with food.

"This is such an important event for us and for the food pantries, especially when the economy has created such a need for struggling families," Noricks said. "Our local Open Door Ministry food pantry (on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue) typically serves 1,300 people each week."

Gleaners, which supplies more than 500 area food banks including Open Door, has been the beneficiary of the Magical Night since the event's beginning. Over the years CCF has provided some \$20,000 to help the large food bank support smaller, local distribution centers.

While helping Gleaners, guests will be treat-

ed to some fun activities, including a retro photo booth that provides a strip of at least four photographs for those who choose to pull the curtain and take a seat. A "Name the Star" raffle — first introduced at last year's event — will entertain guests on Hollywood's who's who.

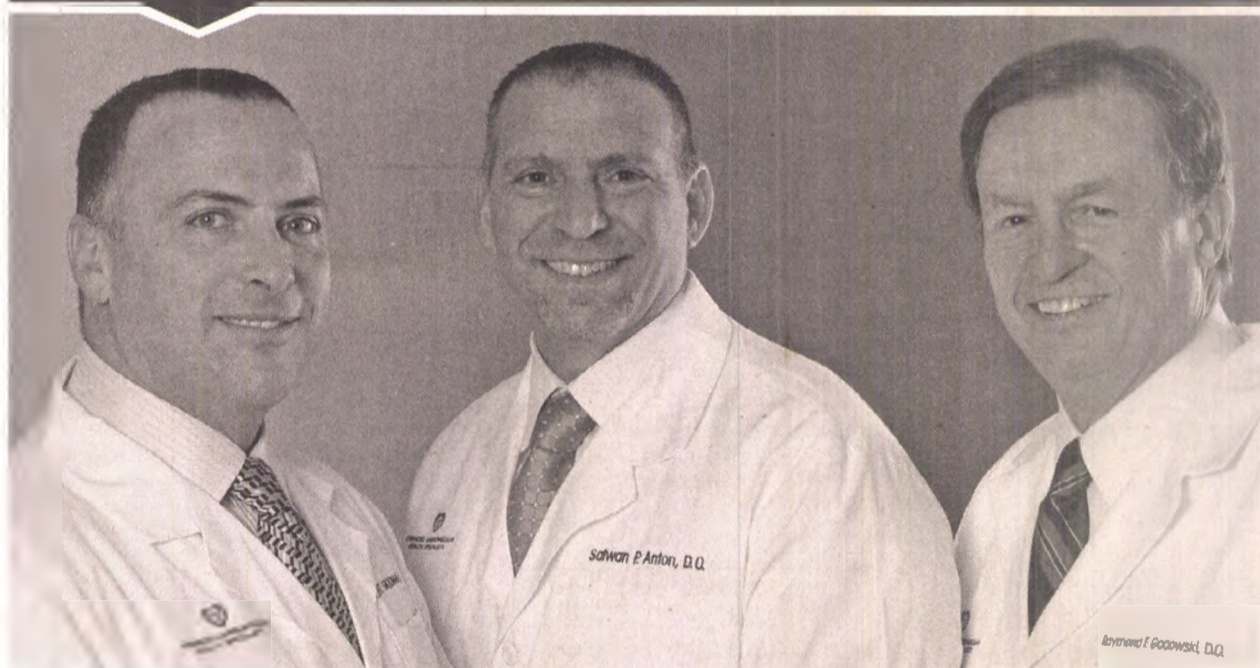
"Last year, 'Name the Star' really got a lot of attention," Noricks said. "This year, we will have a lot more stars for our guests to choose from and more chances to win a prize."

Guests will be treated to the gourmet dinner with a variety of food stations, followed by a dessert bar for sweet tooth. This year, CCF will introduce a special non-alcoholic drink. At about 8:15 p.m. guests will begin making their way to the first-run movie of their choice to complete the evening.

Tickets are \$100 per person and include dinner, dessert, beverages, popcorn, entertainment and a movie. Sponsorships are available for the event. To reserve tickets, please register on CCF's website at [www.cantonfoundation.org](http://www.cantonfoundation.org). For more information, contact CCF at (734) 495-1200.

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# Senior in hospice care to get diploma early

By Karen Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

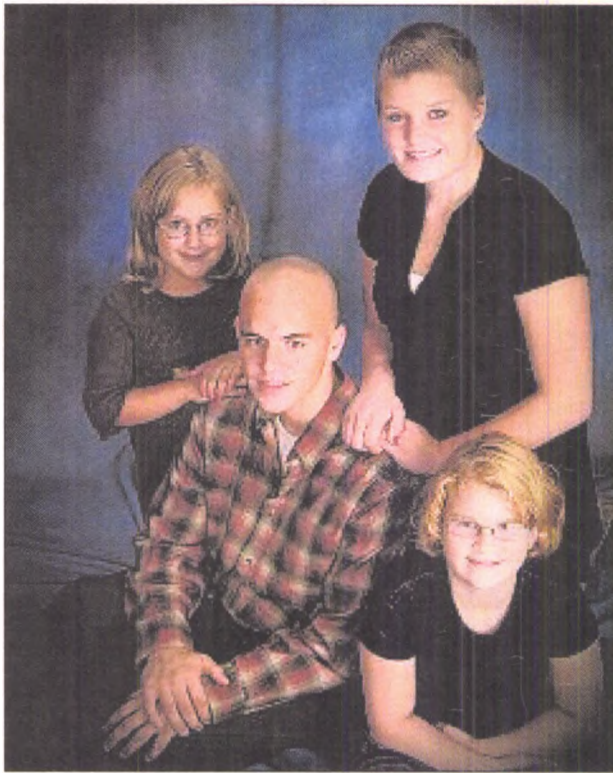
Rachel Collett, a Churchill High School senior who's been battling cancer for six years and is currently under hospice care, will receive her diploma in a private ceremony Friday at the Livonia school.

Graduating high school was high on the list of the things she wanted to accomplish, said her mother, Audrey Collett of Livonia. The other was skydiving, which she did in September after getting special permission to waive the age requirement of 18.

"She knew she wouldn't have a long life," Audrey Collett said. "That was her thing, taking every moment she had and putting what she had into each moment."

School has always been important to Rachel, who decided early on in her cancer fight to schedule her chemotherapy, surgeries and other treatments around her life and not the other way around.

She attended classes up until October and was on the varsity cheer team until this school year, when the pain became too unbearable. She also helped to coach the Orioles cheer team.



Rachel Collett, 17, top right, is the second oldest of four children. Her siblings are Hannah, 10, top left, Andrew, 20, and Madison, 11.

After she receives her diploma, "she wants to have a graduation party; that's what's next," her mother said.

### Appreciates school

Churchill Principal Joe Anderson said the ceremony will be a shortened, simulated version of their June commencement exercise with central office administrators,

teachers, family members and close friends in attendance.

He said Rachel attended classes as often and for as long as she could, even continuing her studies at home after she was physically unable to go to school any longer.

She had hoped to work with special-needs children in the medical field — one of her little sisters



This is one of Rachel Collett's senior pictures.

is cognitively delayed — and had earned some college credit through the medical assistance program at the Livonia Career Technical Center.

"She has been pretty incredible for not letting this stop her," Anderson said. "Here's a kid who really appreciates the ability to be able to come to school. So many take it for granted or don't want to be here."

"She's come when almost every (other) kid wouldn't."

Very few people at Churchill knew Rachel was battling a rare form of osteosarcoma, a bone cancer, since age 11.

"It was always something she never let define her," her mother said. She didn't want teachers or students to treat her any differently because she was ill.

A popular student who always had a smile on her

face, she didn't want people feeling sorry for her. "She struggled so much behind closed doors; she refused to let anyone see her fight," Audrey Collett said.

After Rachel missed some activities in sixth and seventh grades because of her treatment, she told her oncologist she was going to start scheduling her medical procedures around her life instead of her life around her medical procedures.

"From now on, my life is going to be my main focus," her mother said she told her doctor.

### Diagnosed in sixth grade

Rachel was diagnosed with osteosarcoma after her mother noticed visible changes in her jaw and chin just after Christmas 2005. She was a student

at Johnson Elementary in Westland at the time.

She has been in some form of treatment, surgery or recovery, but never remission, ever since.

Despite trying every kind of conventional and "fly-by-night homeopathic" treatment, they were only able to slow down the cancer, not stop it, her mother said.

It is now in her lungs, ribs, spine and hips.

"Her pain is her biggest devil right now," Audrey Collett said. Rachel is living at home, under the care of Arbor Hospice.

Through it all and even now, Rachel's focus has been on other people, not herself, Audrey Collett said: "She never felt sorry for herself, or asked why me?"

She was crying the other day, thinking about how sad her older brother and two younger sisters will be after she is gone. And she never told her parents what was on her list until she knew she could accomplish it so they wouldn't have any regrets.

"I've never met anyone with the type of heart she has and caring toward other people," Audrey Collett said.

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# Chamber concert features masters' works



Racine

The Michigan Philharmonic rings in the new year with a Chamber Concert at the beautiful St. John's Chapel at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m.

The orchestra's Chamber Ensemble will delight audiences with arrange-

ments of master works by master composers scored for Chamber Orchestra. The program will feature Debussy's "Afternoon of a Faun, Prokofiev's "Overture on Hebrew Themes" and Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer" with soloist Melody Racine.

Racine, a mezzo soprano, is associate professor and chair of the Department of Voice at the University of Michigan and is a master teacher in the fields of classical performance and musical theatre.

Also featured on the program is a toe-tapping Irish

Jig, "Molly on the Shore," and a world premier called "Changes" by University of Michigan composer Andre Myers, currently a Professor of Music at Occidental College in Los Angeles, Calif.

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students and are available

by calling (734) 451-2112 or online at [www.michigan-phil.org](http://www.michigan-phil.org).

A pre-concert brunch is also on tap at the Inn's restaurant, Sive. Reservations are required and may be made through the Michigan Philharmonic office by calling (734) 451-2112.

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communityalliancecu.org

# Now is the time to assemble annual family balance sheet

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

Now that the excitement of the new year has passed and the majority of us have probably broken most of our resolutions, it's time to get down to business. This time of year provides one of the best opportunities to organize financial affairs. Over the next few weeks, year-end statements from a number of different entities will arrive. Whether it's your 401(k), your investments or your mortgage, just about every financial entity sends out year-end statements. This information will help you create a personal family balance sheet, a rather simple, but extremely important document.

I recommend doing a personal family balance sheet at least twice a year. A balance sheet for a family is no different than a balance sheet for a business. Businesses create balance sheets so they know the state of the business. You and I need to do the same thing when it comes to our personal finances. A balance sheet is nothing more than a listing of your assets and liabilities. Hopefully, the assets are more than the liabilities. That number is then your net worth. Periodically creating a personal family balance sheet will allow you to know which way your net worth is going. In addition, when it comes to planning for retirement, net worth is an important number to know.

**Home value**  
One of the items on a



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

personal balance sheet is how to value your home. Unfortunately, over the last year property values throughout the country have continued to fall. Therefore, be realistic when valuing your home. There are many ways to get an approximation of your home's value. You can use certain real estate websites such as zillow.com or look at your property tax bill and base your estimate on the state equalized value. As unfortunate as it may be, the bottom line is that we all have to accept that the value of our real estate, which for many of us represents a significant portion of our net worth, has been reduced dramatically. Remember, the family balance sheet is for your purposes only; therefore, to over-inflate the value of your home accomplishes nothing.

In doing a personal family balance sheet, exclude collectibles from the calculation. My reasoning is that the great majority of collectibles may be worth something, but their real value in the open market may be minimal, at best. Of course, if you do have collectibles that have a true market value, then there is no problem including the current market value on your family balance sheet. When I say true market value, I mean you can sell the item for that price.

## Liabilities

The other side of the balance sheet lists all outstanding liabilities. Never forget that your family balance sheet is for you and only you. Therefore, it makes no sense to inflate the number or to conveniently forget about something. Just as important as it is to be honest with your assets, your liabilities need to be accurate as well. Whether it is your mortgage, charge card balance, student loans or even personal loans, it is important to include all liabilities. At the same time, it's not a bad idea to refresh your memory as to the terms of the outstanding debt, such as when it is due and the interest rate. In addition, you should know whether your debts are tax deductible or not.

There are many software programs that can assist you in doing a family balance sheet, however, you don't need to be that sophisticated. If nothing more, you can do it the old-fashioned way, with paper and pencil. The key to a personal family balance sheet is to be accurate and do one at least twice a year.

One last note, the first time you do a family balance sheet will be a time-consuming. However, after you do the first one, the next ones are relatively easy and straightforward. Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his website at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

# Schoolcraft activities honor MLK Day

Students, faculty, staff and the community are welcome to participate in several activities to be held at Schoolcraft College in Livonia in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday.

Bridging Barriers: Unity in Diversity and the college's Art Department will host a Student Art Exhibit from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. focused on the subject of civil rights and social justice. In addition to the opportunity to have their art featured in this special exhibit, one student will receive a \$100 Schoolcraft Col-

lege gift card for use on tuition, books, food in Henry's Food Court, or items in the college's bookstore.

At 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Rita Crooks and Thomas Costello from Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion will host discussions based on Dr. King's speech, "Where Do We Go from Here?" delivered at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in August 1967. Crooks and Costello will lead an exploration of social justice and equity, its evolution since 1968, and the opportuni-

ties for and benefits of ongoing efforts.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. student volunteers, coordinated through the college's Americorp VISTA initiative, will read multi-culturally diverse books, participate in games, and make crafts with school-age children. All of these activities are made possible in part through a grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation. They will all be held in the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads.

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# Automakers ready to show public they are back

## NAIAS opens Saturday, runs through Jan. 22

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

The buzz is back at the North American International Auto Show.

And when the doors open to the public on Saturday, patrons will be overwhelmed by sleek new cars, interactive displays and auto companies poised to meet the needs of their consumers.

Bill Perkins, Bloomfield Township resident and chair of the 2012 NAIAS, said there is so much to see and do that even people who are not car enthusiasts will want to head to the Cobo Center.

"People will truly enjoy it because there are a lot of new things going on," he said. "It's a must attend show."

The show opens Saturday, Jan. 14, and runs until Sunday, Jan. 22. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Jan. 22 when it closes at 7 p.m.

Lauren Halpin, a Plymouth resident who was working as a model for Lincoln on Tuesday, said she liked the intimate access of press week, but plans to come back during the public show with her brother.

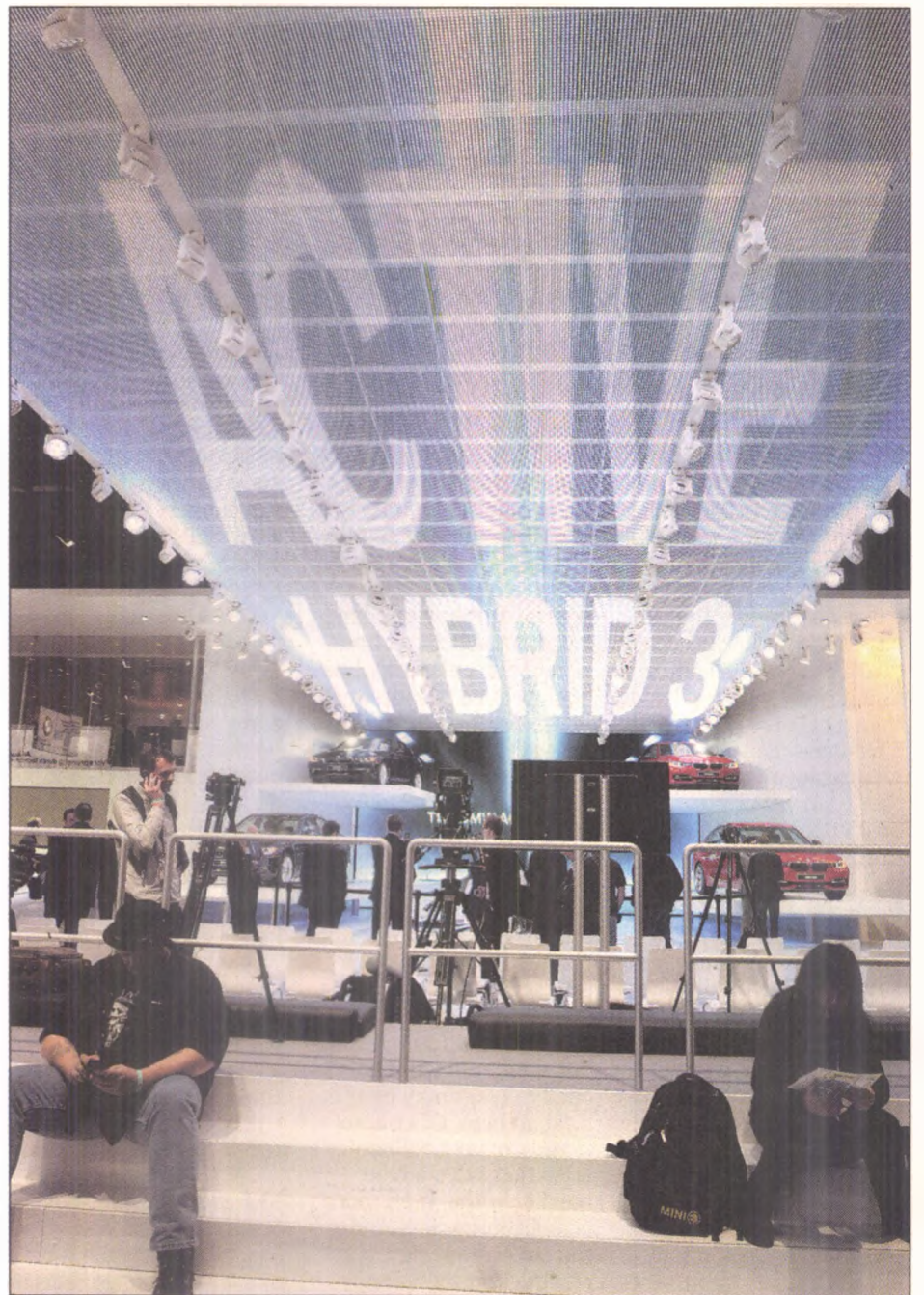
"My dream car has to be the Audi A8," she said.

While the cars are the obvious draw, there are plenty of other activities to engage the public. Many automakers have simulators people can use, fun giveaways and even a test track featuring electric-drive and hybrid vehicles in the Michigan Hall that people can drive (get there early or expect to wait).

Tickets for the show are \$12 for adults, and \$6 for seniors and children 7-12. Children under 6 are free. Tickets can be ordered at the show or online at [www.naias.com](http://www.naias.com).

[nmueller@gannett.com](mailto:nmueller@gannett.com) | (248) 437-2011 ext. 255

Paul Olexa of ZF Automotive Group in Northville Township checks out his engineering firm's 9-speed transmission Monday at the NAIAS. ZF's transmission will be used by Chrysler in 2013 and produces fuel economy savings of about 30 percent, according to published reports.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The displays at this year's North American International Auto Show are more complex and brightly designed than ever before.

# How to enjoy sights, sounds of auto show

Camaros, Chargers, Regals and Fusions — you would expect to see those cars at an auto show.

But a tractor?

One of the many unique attractions at the 2012 North American International Auto Show includes a Craftsman tractor exhibit. Spokeswoman Allison Aaron said it's actually a great match.

"It's Craftsman's latest tractor," she said. "It has automotive inspired features, it's available in February at Sears nationwide and we thought, 'Why not launch it at the auto show?' It made perfect sense to us."

The tractor rumbles at 8 mph, has automatic traction control, cup holders, cruise control, tilted steering — and a 12-volt adaptor in case you want to charge your iPod while mowing the lawn.

### Cadillac Racing

Kids will find plenty of racing simulators at the car show, but Cadillac Racing offers something for the adults.

The CXC Motion-Pro Simulator is powered by iRacing software, the same program used in actual racing schools. The simulator allows you to race an 800-horsepower Cadillac at the Mid-Ohio raceway. A couple of times around the track and you will feel like you just had a workout. It's geared for people 16 and older.

"It's the cheapest way to race," spokesman Matt Leddy said. "Anyone who's a true race fan will love it."

### Calling Batman

Wonder what a Lincoln might look like in 2023? Students at the College for Creative Studies have the answer. Work-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Lundberg, with Ford Motor Co., tries out a virtual reality driving simulator.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The slowest vehicle on the floor is probably the Craftsman lawn tractor, piloted by spokeswoman Allison Aaron.

ing under the guidance of Lincoln Design Director Max Wolff, students designed futuristic model cars for a showroom between 2018 and 2023. They're sleek and cool and on display throughout the show. And, yes,

some of the model cars resemble the Batmobile.

### Drive the future

Toyota has two simulators at the show, one of which is designed to show you what driving a car might feel like in the



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The auto show affords attendees the ability to kick the tires and sit behind the wheel.

future. Mainly it's a lot easier, as multiple features in the car will alert you to any moving object, presumably while you're talking on the phone or texting. The other Toyota simulator shows people what it's like to drive a car without the Toy-

ota Star Safety System — and then with the safety features. In other words, a lot of skidding and sliding.

"It's a lot of fun," said spokeswoman Royal Oak, who lives in Royal Oak. "It's like an off-road driving experience."

### Design a car

If you think a pair of La-Z-Boy recliners would make excellent car seats, now is your time to explain why. Chevrolet has two concept cars on display, the Code 130R and the Tru140S. Both cars need your input.

"We want to know what you think the vehicles should consist of," Chevy spokeswoman Tifarah Brumback of Royal Oak said. Four iPads are set up at the display, allowing the public to offer input on the car seats, the dashboard, the steering wheel and other interior features.

### Press perks

Covering the auto show does have its share of perks. One is the free massages, compliments of students from Irene's Myomassology Institute in Southfield. Reporters also got to test the Ford Immersive Vehicle Environment, a state-of-the-art simulator designer Elizabeth Baron helped create that uses sophisticated virtual reality technology to enable designers and engineers to fully experience a vehicle before it is ever built. Baron was at the auto show Tuesday to demonstrate its use.

"It's a combination of the virtual and physical world," she said. "We track your view and hands in real time and let you interact with the vehicle. It's almost like being inside a video game."

This is the first time Ford brought the simulator to a car show, but it's not quite ready for the public.

— By Jay Grossman





BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Longtime Plymouth Township auto dealer Bob Jeannotte is happy about the Buick Encore compact crossover, unveiled on Tuesday. It should hit the floor of the Bob Jeannotte Buick GMC dealership in fall of 2013. For more photos and stories on the 2012 North American International Auto Show, see page A8.

## Dealer smiling as auto show opens

By Jay M. Grossman  
O&E Staff Writer

The cars are shining at the 2012 North American International Auto Show and Bob Jeannotte is smiling.

The Plymouth Township car dealer was on the floor of the auto show Tuesday for the launch of the 2013 Buick Encore. It's another ace in his sleeve, as Jeannotte expects to sell a lot of cars in the coming months.

"We're ready," he said. "With the average age of the used car on the market today at about 11 years old, which is the oldest it has been in years, these buyers are going to be coming out."

Like many of the auto dealers around southeast Michigan, Jeannotte believes the industry is positioned for a strong year. He even took a few extra steps to gear up for 2012, revamping his dealership at 14949 North Sheldon Road.

"I just had a complete renovation of the dealership, bringing it into the 21st century," he said. "I'm talking about lighting, a new showroom, all

new furniture — we're getting ready for all the new products coming out of Buick.

"We approached General Motors and asked if we could do the remodeling job now to get ready for all the new products coming out," he added. "Our dealership actually did it two years before it was scheduled."

Like the auto industry itself, the face of Buick has changed in recent years.

"Things have changed drastically," Jeannotte said. "When I bought the Buick franchise 16 years ago I think the average age of the Buick owner was well into his 60s. In fact my first Buick sale, believe it or not, the guy was 91 years old. I was shocked."

"But since then a lot has happened," he said. "We are catering to a lot of young buyers today. It's not your grandfather's car anymore. It's sporty. You got some great product and the younger people are buying."

As for the Big Three, Jeannotte said they're back and ready to do business.

"The Big Three slept for a number of years and

let the foreign car market surge ahead," he said. "They finally woke up about 12 years ago, but it takes time to make changes. Right now we're at the peak of it. We're on our way. We can stand right next to the best of them."

"I have to say the Big Three are really going to start shining and we're going to get back some of this foreign car business back to us. We're going to keep America rolling."

Jeannotte lives in Northville and is married with four children. His first car was a 1940 Ford. He paid \$25 for it in 1953.

grossman@hometownlife.com  
(586) 826-7030

## PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

### Chamber breakfast

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Julie Bernard of Ilmor Engineering and the rest of the Board of Directors are inviting the public to attend the annual State of the Chamber Breakfast Wednesday, Jan. 25 at The Inn at St. John's. Breakfast will be from 7:30-9 a.m.

Those who attend will hear from chamber leadership about what the chamber has planned for 2012 and how to become involved. They'll also see and hear about exciting new initiatives planned to promote and benefit the community and new opportunities for members to promote their businesses.

The event will also feature exhibit stations to learn more about the chamber's initiatives and committees. There will also be the opportunity to join committees and volunteer to help with chamber events.

Last year the breakfast attracted 135 members, making it one of the best networking opportunities of the year. The cost to attend this event is \$5; reservations must be made by Friday, Jan. 20.

The Inn at St. John's is located at 44045 Sheldon Rd. (the corner of Sheldon and Five Mile Roads). To register, contact the chamber at (734) 453-1514 or e-mail [teri@plymouthmich.org](mailto:teri@plymouthmich.org).

### New members

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a luncheon Jan. 19 for new members who joined during the past three months or any members who would like to get a quick refresher on how to get the maximum value for their membership.

The lunch will be from noon to 1 p.m. at the chamber office (850 West Ann Arbor Trail). To RSVP, contact the chamber at [teri@plymouthmich.org](mailto:teri@plymouthmich.org) or call (734) 453-1540. There is no fee to attend the luncheon.

### ShamRock 'n' Roll Run

Kona Running Company (the organizer of the Solstice Run and Wicked Halloween Run) will hold the inaugural ShamRock 'n' Roll Run offering 10K, 5K and mile events Sunday, March 18, at 8:15 a.m. in downtown Plymouth.

All participants who register before March 14 will receive a "Leslie Jordan" short-sleeve tech shirt. All 10K finishers receive medals and the 10K event is limited to the first 1,300 registrations and then

sold out and closed. There will also be age group awards in the 10K and 5K events.

Race Director & Founder, Alan Whitehead stated "This race event will offer all the fun and festive activities to celebrate the St Patrick's Day weekend with a Rock n Roll music theme for our participants to enjoy while in downtown Plymouth," said Alan Whitehead, race director and founder. "There will be some dancing in the streets!" Register online at [www.ShamRocknRollRun.com](http://www.ShamRocknRollRun.com). For more information, contact Alan Whitehead at [alan@konarunningcompany.com](mailto:alan@konarunningcompany.com) or (248) 345-6168.

### New attorney

Ken Vermeulen, a longtime West Michigan real estate and environmental attorney, joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP's Michigan office on Jan. 1, as a member of the firm's Real Estate and Environmental Law Departments.

Vermeulen, the son of Jim and Sylvia Vermeulen of Plymouth, has a broad-based real estate and environmental practice with a significant background in commercial leasing, zoning, state and federal clean-ups, brownfield development and acquisition and divestiture due diligence.

"Ken's wealth of experience in both the real estate and environmental arenas adds additional bench strength, both in Michigan and for our national industry teams," said Tracy T. Larsen, managing partner of Barnes & Thornburg's Michigan office. "Ken's addition is another step in bringing together some of the best legal talent in West Michigan under a single roof."

Prior to joining Barnes & Thornburg, Vermeulen was a partner at Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids where he practiced environmental and real estate law. Vermeulen received his law degree cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1989 and his bachelor's degree in business from Calvin College in 1986. He was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1989 and also is a member of the American Bar Association and the Grand Rapids Bar Association. Ken recently served as chair of the Grand Rapids Bar Association's Environmental Law Section.



Vermeulen

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Business happenings

From the desk of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

• MD Bagel Fragel on Forest hosts its grand opening 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14. Staffers will serve free coffee, 20-percent off food purchases and prizes, along with a chance to meet Mr. Bagel.

Bagel Fragel has more than 30 varieties of bagels and their specialty is the Fragel.

• Panache, Plymouth's newest upscale restaurant on Forest Ave., quietly opened its doors last week, under the direction of new owners Robert and Blake Kolo and general manager Scott Sadoff. Look for a grand opening in the coming weeks.

• Sharer Design Group, LLC on Ann Arbor Trail is open for business. As of Dec. 31, local kitchen and bath remodeling company Kitchen & Bath by DeGiulio transferred ownership of its Plymouth showroom to Sharer Design Group, LLC. Sharer Design Group, LLC offers remodeling design and installation services and also offers full interior design services.

Designer Justin Sharer, was the showroom manager for Kitchen & Bath by DeGiulio for the past two years, helms Sharer Design Group, LLC. Sharer Design Group will be an authorized dealer of DeGiulio custom cabinetry, with DeGiulio Industries continuing operation in Dearborn. The new building sign will be up soon. For more information, visit [www.sharerdesign-group.com](http://www.sharerdesign-group.com)

• First Preferred Mortgage plans to open soon at 863 Ann Arbor Trail, between Bella Mia Dressed Up and Edible Arrangements. Dan Sugg will run the office, which is expected to have eight loan officers and six staff located downtown.

### Road closure

Southbound Main Street between Penniman and Ann Arbor Trail in Downtown Plymouth is anticipated to be closed to traffic 7 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Jan. 11. Southbound Main Street traffic will be diverted onto eastbound Penniman, then to southbound Union to Ann Arbor Trail and then west on Ann Arbor Trail back to Main Street.

The road closure is necessary to accommodate a large crane that will be installing some new roof top heating and air conditioning units on the roof of the Compari's building. As always, the contractor schedules are subject to change as a result of weather, site conditions, product delivery, equipment and crew scheduling.

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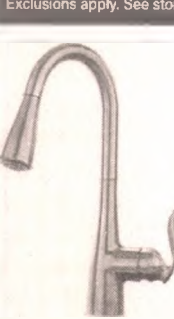
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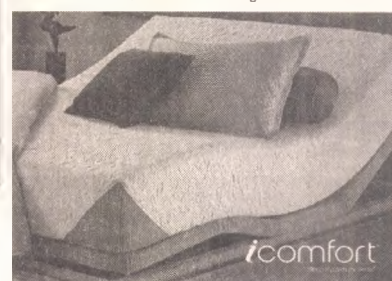
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## OUR VIEWS

# MLK Day

## Honor the man with a day of service

In a commentary published last January on the 25th observance of Martin Luther King Day, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. observed that it is one holiday that has left us with the question of how we should observe the day.

According to Pitts, unlike Christmas — where we open presents or the Fourth of July where we have a barbecue and watch the fireworks — MLK Day “lacks a defining tradition.” That’s not to say people haven’t found ways to celebrate it. Most of our communities will have an observance, interfaith breakfast, a walk or a ceremony that honors Dr. King.

But 25 years after Congress declared the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Day and 18 years after it designated it as a day of service, there is no “one or two things we do that emblemize this day.”

Pitts cited Lerone Bennett Jr., the venerable historian, author of *Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America*, who says King “lives on the top tier of American heroes with Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln. But the King holiday gets ‘bogged down’ in soundbites of I Have A Dream, and gives no sense of the greatness or majesty of the man and the fundamental changes he demanded.”

Pitts wrote: “For Bennett, King’s last crusade, which he died trying to fulfill, is symbolic of his broader vision: The Poor People’s Campaign was designed to move the struggle for equality beyond race to the common ground of class.”

Pitts and Bennett are right in that most of us think of Dr. King in terms of I Have A Dream. For many of us, he is the face and the voice of the civil rights movement. We forget that his fight went beyond racial equality to include labor rights, economic exploitation, fair housing and better schools.

According to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, “In many ways the true power of his legacy remains untapped. Children across the country celebrate his life with a day off from school each year, but too many don’t understand the reasons why.”

“Americans respect his achievements in ending segregation, but for many his teachings end at I Have A Dream. And across the globe, men and women of all ages know his name as a past benefactor of mankind, but not necessarily as a source of relevance to their current lives.”

We would like to think we are better off than we were in the 1960s, that racial equality exists in this country. But while we have made progress, it has not been enough. Segregation still exists. It may not be in the form that Dr. King spoke against, but it is still here. We see diversity in our schools and our neighborhoods, but we need only look to Detroit to a segregation of opportunity. Those who can have left the city, leaving those who can’t behind.

According to Pitts, the “common denominator” in all that Dr. King fought for was “simply a demand that America do better by its most vulnerable: the poor, the racial minorities, the unhoused, the uneducated, the left out, left behind and forgotten, the ones the Bible calls ‘the least of these.’”

Dr. King said: “Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

We as Americans need to do more Monday than remember and honor the man, we need to observe it as a national day of service, “a day on, not a day off.” It needs to be more than a day off from school and a good day to take in the auto show.

Dr. King didn’t take a day off in his campaign for racial and social justice. If we want to honor him, we need to get involved and help provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. By working together, we can make a difference and we need to make difference.

We owe it to ourselves and to each other lest we become that person Dr. King spoke of, when he said: “When an individual is no longer a true participant, when he no longer feels a sense of responsibility to his society, the content of democracy is emptied.”

## COMMUNITY VOICE

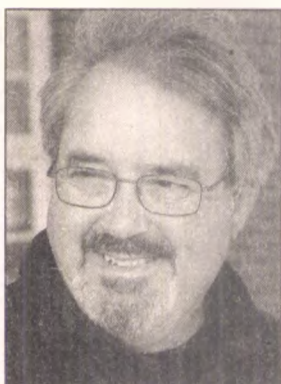
### Auto sales seem to have improved over the last few months. Will you be in the market for a new car in 2012, and why or why not?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



“Probably not. I have a 2010 I bought just a couple years ago. ... A Ford Focus.”

**Bill Carter**  
Plymouth Township



“No, I don’t need one.”

**Bob Silveri**  
Plymouth



“No, my car’s fine.”

**Shirley Mlodozeniec**  
Plymouth Township



“No, I don’t think so. At least I’m hoping not to be. I like to make my cars last if I can.”

**Brent Merlington**  
Plymouth Township

## LETTERS

### Made in the USA

What a nice find when I was doing my hometown shopping. I walked into Razzamatazz, at 470 Forest Place, and they had a great selection of local, Michigan or MADE IN THE USA merchandise!

They made it easy to purchase and support businesses from the USA! Thanks, Razzamatazz.

**Barbara McIlhargey**  
Plymouth

### Suicide realities

Thank you for placing an article on suicide as your cover story for your Jan. 1 edition. I was surprised, and grateful.

This Christmas season, our family was stunned and distressed by the suicides of two of my children’s friends, young men aged 22 and 23 seemingly with their entire life ahead of them. Ironically BOTH happened on the same day in different locations in Michigan. I can only imagine from a distance the horror of the nightmare from which their parents will never awaken.

As a substitute teacher and a mother, I felt that these incidents, this huge loss of life, could not be ignored. On my final day of teaching prior to Christmas, I spoke to the two high school classes about this. The night before I taught, I found three Suicide Prevention numbers and had them printed out for distribution. At the beginning of class the next day, I briefly told the class about the two suicides.

I begged them to select ONE number from the list and enter it into their phone in case it was ever needed — that depression is very real and to never ignore a change in behavior in someone. I also recognized that it is no one’s fault because sometimes the signs may be so subtle as to escape detection.

The person driven to suicide is so severely depressed, they are not their real selves at the time they feel that suicide is their only option.

My heart continues to hurt greatly for these families. I will, as I have, continue to pray for them in the days and years to come. As a Christian, I know the promise of eternal life in glory through Christ, and this is my hope. I pray that these families will have strong pillars of support around them, and will find solace in their faith and knowing that unfortunately, their loss is not the only one. There are others who walk this sad path with them. Severe depression is a serious issue, but also something that one can be brought out of with the right treatment. I know; I’ve been there.

I have since gotten on the National Suicide Prevention website and discovered that suicide is the THIRD leading cause of death for persons aged 15-24. Maybe continuing to talk about this very difficult subject others will realize that they are not alone, and that there really IS hope. Thank you for acknowledging the reality of suicide in such a prominent article and may the efforts of many involved in suicide prevention education have a profound difference in someone’s life.

**Linda Auwers**  
Plymouth Township

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

**Web:** www.hometownlife.com

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

**Fax:** (313) 223-3318

**E-mail:** bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

**Blog:** You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

**Deadline:** Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

### Appalled by book ban

I was appalled to hear of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools interim Supt. Jeremy Hughes’ decision to ban the book “Waterland” from P-CEP’s AP English class.

I am a P-CEP alumna who went on to be successful in my higher education and was recently sworn in as an attorney. I credit much of this success not to my own hard work, but to the hard work of teachers, at P-CEP and beyond, who challenged me academically and pushed the boundaries of my intellectual curiosity. The books we read not only prepared me for the rigorous environment of college and law school, but some of them also changed the path of my life.

Although Hughes knew of district policy that would prevent him from unilaterally banning the book, he chose to ignore the rules because the book’s content shocked him. He assumed that many parents felt the same way. It is unclear how he came to this assumption, but it certainly wasn’t through the logical way: by actually following the rules.

Hughes’ unfounded presumption was prompted because one parent complained. If Hughes cannot get past his own shortcomings to stand up for the rules, or if pressure from a single parent causes him to buckle, perhaps he would be better suited for another career path.

After all, how can we expect students to respect the rules and learn how to stand up for what is right if the person in charge of their education can’t even do so? How can we expect teachers to successfully educate and mold students into decent people and citizens if the superintendent doesn’t even trust them to properly do their jobs?

I hope that “Waterland” will be restored to the curriculum, and that district policy will no longer be flouted in favor of a personal whim. I used to be proud to count myself among the alumni of P-CEP. Now, I’m just embarrassed.

**Kirsten Schmitt**  
Canton

### Re-think decision

Recently, after one complaint by one parent, the decision was made to ban the book “Waterland” by Graham Swift. This action stands against the common values of

openness, honesty and liberty that the students, parents, faculty, staff and administration of this district stand for. Furthermore, it represents a limitation on the free flow of knowledge and information within the walls of our schools, an affront to the purpose of education.

In the 10th grade, students at P-CEP read the novel “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury. The novel explores the life of fireman Guy Montag, whose job is, ironically by our standards, to start fires, not stop them. His role in society is to burn books, for they represent threats to conformity, to ignorance, to blind acceptance. As his supervisor, Captain Beatty, explains, “A book is a loaded gun in the house next door. Burn it. Take the shot from the weapon.”

Our district’s Mission Statement reads, in part, “The District [...] is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for each student to achieve personal excellence and to become a productive contributing citizen.” How can one hope to become a “productive contributing citizen” when knowledge is choked by authority, when ones educators, who on one hand ostensibly support the idea that one should fight, like Guy does, against censorship and oppression, use the other hand to take away access to literature that promotes such thought?

Let us be clear, a parent has the fundamental right to determine what their child, as a minor, can and cannot do, read, or say within the scope of their home. However, we should take a lesson from Bradbury regarding this issue. The “loaded gun” of Beatty’s metaphor in this case is not a sexually suggestive passage in “Waterland.” Instead, it is the idea that by censoring this literature, we are somehow protecting our students. Students explore the themes and ideas of this novel within the classroom, guided by a mature adult mentor. The topics of concern to this parent are discussed to ensure that the students completely understand their context and meaning within the larger scope of the novel’s themes — in this case, the cyclic nature of history and the impact of emotional trauma on the individual. Prohibiting this kind of discourse at the school prevents the student from gaining the nuanced perspectives that one cannot find in modern mass media.

I urge you, Supt. Hughes, to reverse this decision. I plead with you to allow advocates for this important piece of literature, one that truly impacted how I see the world around me, their day before the Board of Education. While I commend you for understanding the outrage parents have expressed regarding the manner in which you made your decision, I can only hope that you further understand why many students, parents, and faculty have expressed disappointment.

**Avinash Devalla**  
Canton High School, Class of 2011

Editor’s note: Dr. Hughes has done just that, and will refer the book to committee for review.

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# SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR  
tsmith@hometownlife.com  
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## Salem cagers win big

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

The torrid Salem Rocks took no mercy on their opponent right from the opening tipoff of Tuesday night's varsity boys basketball game.

By the time spectators could settle down in the bleachers for the game between host Salem and South Lyon East, the Rocks had a double-digit lead.

Salem led 24-4 after the first quarter and — whether starters or reserves were on the court — didn't ease up on the Cougars, rolling to a 78-23 KLAAC Central Division victory.

"We shot the ball really well, and obviously our size took its toll," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "We were so much bigger. They only had one player over 6-foot. Our whole starting lineup is over 6-foot."

"We just dominated the boards and shot the ball well. Anytime you do that you're going to dominate the game." The Rocks (8-0 overall, 2-0 in the Central) connected on 47 percent of their field-goal opportunities, including 9-of-17 3-point tries.

### Multiple threats

Pacing Salem were senior guards Grant Bettner and Tyler Stewart, who poured in 17 points each in approximately two quarters of court time. Brodie alternated the starters and reserves throughout the game.

Also in double figures was junior forward

Please see SALEM, B3



Giving instructions to his players during a timeout is Plymouth Christian boys basketball coach Dominique Washington.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Like a Rock

Ex-Salem star applies old lessons to new coaching job with PCA

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

### THE WASHINGTON FILE

**Who:** Dominique Washington, head coach for Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team and a Canton resident.

**Preps:** Washington was a star shooting guard for Salem coach Bob Brodie, before transferring to Farmington Harrison for his senior season. He graduated in 2005.

grounds.

"The first place I went was actually Salem, just basically to shake his hand," the Canton resident said following a recent PCA game. "He's one of the coaches that kind of molded who I am today. Like I told my players and everybody

**College:** Played basketball at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

**Background:** Before taking over PCA, he coached at Discovery Middle School in Canton and helmed the Plymouth-Canton Wolfpack AAU squad. He also is a basketball trainer for Triple-Threat Training, located at High Velocity Sports in Canton.

else, I kind of take bits and pieces from all the coaches that I've had in the past, from elementary school all the way up to college. I took the biggest piece from him. He's just an all-around great guy."

With PCA, Washington is trying to stress to his

players the same kinds of things Brodie did back in the day. Namely, to work hard and be prepared.

"He taught me how to get in shape, something I really relay now as a coach," Washington noted. "I know one thing, he definitely ran the stuffing out of us. He taught me how to be tough."

"He's a hard-nosed coach. He didn't say much, but you just saw in his demeanor what he really wanted, what he expected out of the players."

Brodie said he gets overwhelming pride seeing former players such as Washington and Doug Herriman (an assistant coach with Plymouth) move on to be coaches in

Please see COACH, B3

## PCA girls win again

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Christian Academy's girls basketball team is learning well on the job.

The young Eagles are knocking down points and victories in the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference Blue Division, the latest being Tuesday's 50-35 win over Lutheran High School Northwest in Rochester Hills.

"They pressed us and we pressed them early in the game, it was really fast-paced," said PCA head coach Carol Gerulis. "I just thought we really settled in at the end of the first quarter and started playing some better defense."

PCA (5-2, 3-0 in the MIAC Blue) rode a wave of defensive intensity to the victory.

Everybody victory in as the Eagles built leads of 18-11 after one quarter and 28-17 at halftime before breaking things open during a 12-4 third.

"Rachel Smith had a great game for us tonight," Gerulis said. "She had 11 points (all in the first half) and ... she just rebounded the ball and took care of business."

Also coming up big for PCA were Karen Windle (16 points, seven rebounds, five steals), Emily Gerulis (eight points, five boards, four assists) and Jenny Malcolm (seven rebounds, six steals).

"We're pretty young but we're doing a good job of moving the ball and sharing the scoring," the coach added. "That's been really helpful for us."

That also was the case Friday in a 40-32 victory over host Bloomfield Hills Roeper.

Windle and Geru-

Please see PCA, B3

## These girls have all the hockey fun

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

For three of the four captains on the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins combined girls hockey team, this season's been like gliding over a frozen pond.

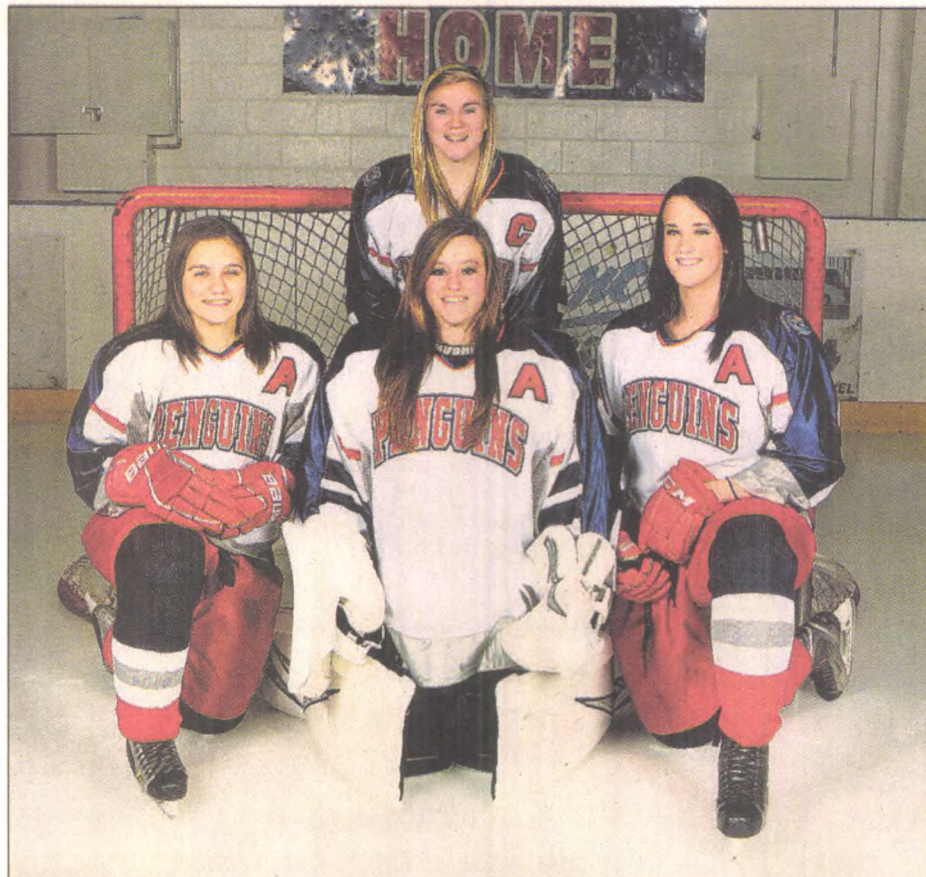
PCS rookies Kaitlyn Allard, Jackie Lough and Nicole Natelborg are glad they opted out of the win-at-all-costs environment of elite-level travel teams, which all three previously endured.

This winter, the trio wanted a chance to experience high school hockey, even though the Penguins play in a league where the skill level isn't quite what it was with teams such as Victory Honda, Honeybaked and the Michigan Capitals.

As a bonus, there is a team room at Arctic Edge Arena, letter jackets and leadership duties. The three newcomers — along with third-year player Emily Bullock, who wears the 'C' on her jersey — are helping the Penguins compete in Division 2 of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

### Glad they joined

"It's definitely different," said goaltender Allard, who has several years experience with various Victory Honda AAA squads. "I like it, I love the girls. The tempo obviously is a lot slower



PCS Penguins senior co-captains include: (front, from left) Nicole Natelborg, goalie Kaitlyn Allard, Jackie Lough; (standing) Emily Bullock.

er and I'm used to a lot different shots. But it's good.

"I like to watch the girls improve and that's one thing I really like to see. Same game, just a different skill level."

Lough, a forward and teammate of Natelborg's last year on the Victory Honda 16U squad, agreed that deciding to sign up with the Penguins was the right one to make.

"It's probably not as

competitive," Lough said. "But I still enjoy doing it, it's still a lot of fun. ... (Plus) it's my senior year and I wanted to do something for fun and not to be so serious."

"I mean, I'm still serious, but I want to go to prom and all that stuff and not miss every weekend like I would for travel."

Natelborg, also a forward, likened the level of play with the Penguins

to a AA level — which she formerly played with teams such as the Canton Crush.

"High school has been very different from travel," Natelborg said. "It's like playing AA, but the girls are all from the same area and not all over. It doesn't take up as much time as traveling, so you get more free time."

Please see PENGUINS, B2

## Road trip fires up Salem icers

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Firing on all cylinders since returning from a late December trip to Traverse City is Salem's boys hockey team.

The Rocks followed Friday's 6-2 win over Livonia Franklin with an 8-2 rout of Big Rapids Saturday night at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Against the Cardinals, 12 players made the scoresheet — with three-point showings by senior forward Austin Sartorius and junior forward Alek Zultowski leading the way. Scoring their first varsity goal for the Rocks were both sophomore forward Spencer Thompson and senior forward Devon Vanstone.

"Traditionally, January has been a pretty good month for us," Salem head coach Ryan Ossensmacker said following the win over Big Rapids. "I think the last couple years we've only had a couple losses in January. And that's the plan. Our goal is to get better as the season goes on."

Senior defenseman Michael Manser (one goal, one assist) opened the scoring on the power play. His return from injury is another factor in Salem's recent turnaround.

"Our 'D' is pretty young.

We only have two seniors back there," Ossensmacker said. "And he (Manser) obviously has incredible puck skills."

On power plays, "when he's back there and the puck's on his stick, the game just slows down, which allows everyone else to be more patient."

Salem went up 2-0 before the end of the first period when Thompson sent a shot behind Big Rapids goalie Joey Hinds. Sartorius (one goal, two assists) and junior forward Alek Zultowski (one goal, two assists) gave the Rocks a 4-0 edge after two.

Salem goal scorers in the final period included junior forward Jake Fedel (one goal, one assist), sophomore forwards Jason Newel (one goal, one assist), Jack Driscoll and Vanstone — who chipped in a crosscrease pass from Zultowski with just 22 seconds to play.

Earning the win in net was sophomore Parker Godfrey, who also earned two assists.

Salem faced Brighton on Wednesday and will next play Livonia Churchill in a KLAAC South Division matchup at 6 p.m. Friday at Eddie Edger Arena.

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# Grand theft

## Goalie Mahalak steals two points for Whalers

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Whalers goalie Scott Wedgewood was back Saturday night from the World Junior Championships.

But Wedgewood sat on the end of the Whalers' bench wearing a baseball cap while netminder Matt Mahalak stood on his head in a 4-3 shootout win against the Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena.

The teams were deadlocked 3-3 after 65 minutes of play and Mahalak out-dued his Saginaw counterpart Jake Patterson (32 saves) in the seven-round shootout.

"Even before the shootout he was great," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "The shootout he was real good and that last save was real nice. But he had 47 saves (actually 44 on 47 shots).

"I told the guys after the game that you should thank your goalie because he stole the game for you."

The last save he was referring to followed the eventual deciding goal by Plymouth's Andy Bathgate, who made a nice forehand-backhand move before sliding the puck inside the left post.

Dalton Young skated in on Mahalak, needing to score to extend the shootout to an eighth round.

But the goalie moved to his left and flashed out his glove to snare the shot and finish Plymouth's 10th win in 11 games.

Vellucci said getting the win on a night when the team didn't play it's best was "good as long as they don't make a habit of it, and that's my concern. Sometimes we wait until it's too late."

Plymouth (27-9-2-1) started strong enough, with Mitchell Heard netting a power-play tally at 3:56 of the first. Jamie Devane — who scored the other two goals — assisted on the play, as did defenseman Beau Schmitz.

The Spirit (17-20-0-3) tied the game at 11:53 on a marker by Vincent Trocheck.

Devane then came back to score on the power play at 11:27 of the middle frame. Alex Aleardi (Farmington Hills) and



Celebrating a goal during Saturday's game against Saginaw are Plymouth Whalers (from left) Alex Aleardi (No. 40), Jamie Devane and Garrett Meurs (No. 16).

Stefan Noesen assisted on the tally, enabling Plymouth to regain the lead 2-1.

But the rest of the period was all Saginaw, outshooting Plymouth by a 19-8 margin and tying the game at 2-2 with 7:34 to go. Josh Shalia took a feed from Brandon Saad and chipped it behind Mahalak.

Just 1:08 into the third period, Devane jammed the puck past Paterson to give the Whalers their third lead of the night. Aleardi and Bathgate assisted.

But all it took was 10 seconds for Saginaw to again draw even. Mahalak gave up a rebound into the slot, where Michael Fine one-timed it top shelf.

### On to the shootout

The rest of the period was evenly matched and there were near misses down the stretch and in overtime.

With a minute left in OT, Schmitz deflected a shot taken by Noesen and the puck slithered just past the right post.

That set up the shootout, where Saginaw's Trocheck and Plymouth's Heard scored in the early rounds. The goalies then took over for three consecutive rounds before Bathgate finally solved Paterson.

Devane, who now has 13 goals, said the game was somewhat of a turnaround of Wednesday night's matchup — a 5-0 Plymouth win in Saginaw.

"Our last game we really took it to them," Devane said. "But this game we were turning pucks over and they were really keeping us in our own end.

"But we came away with two points, we chipped away at it."

Plymouth now will have much of this week to regroup as Wedgewood and other players from the world juniors rest and get re-acclimated to the OHL team.

After Sunday's game at Sarnia (results not yet available), the Whalers are off until Friday night at Kitchener.

### Welcome back

Meanwhile, on Saturday, with Wedgewood the backup goalie, only one of four Whalers who competed in the world juniors saw the ice.

Forward J.T. Miller, who played for Team USA, was held scoreless for the night.

Soon to return will be forward Rickard Rakell (a gold-medal winner with Team Sweden) and defenseman Dario Trutmann (Swiss team).

The Spirit had winger Saad and defenseman Jamie Oleksiak back from the international tournament in Alberta, Canada.

"They had their two guys back from the world juniors and we still had a few guys out," Vellucci said. "But we didn't play good, they played way better than us. I think we took them lightly and thank God for our goalie tonight."

**UPDATE:** On Sunday at Sarnia, Aleardi and Heard scored to lift the Whalers to a 2-1 victory. Heard tallied his 20th of the season at 5:01 of the third to break a 1-1 tie.

Stopping 28 of 29 shots in his return to the Plymouth net was Wedgewood, while Rakell and Trutmann also played their first game since coming back from the world juniors. Rakell assisted on Heard's goal.

The Whalers will visit Kitchener on Friday and then host Mississauga 7 p.m. Saturday at Compuware.



In position for the next shot she faces is PCS Penguins goalie Kaitlyn Allard, one of four seniors sharing captain's duties for the combined girls hockey team.

## PENGUINS

Continued from page B1

### All for one

Players on the Penguins might be from the same vicinity, but they attend three different high schools at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

That isn't cause for any discord on the team, defenseman Bullock said.

"We just kind of all come together as one," Bullock said. "We're one Park, so we're one team and there's not (cliques of) Plymouth, Canton and Salem girls. We're PCS."

All four have brought a smile to the face of Mary Beth Johnson, in her third year as head coach of the Penguins.

"They bring a lot of maturity, they're definitely good leaders and the younger girls definitely look up to them," Johnson said. "They've been a blessing. ... I wish we had them for more than just one season."

Each of the four girls has a decade or so of experience playing travel hockey, not to mention house leagues during their first years on skates. But they have embraced their duties as co-captains, too.

"It's not different assignments, we all take care of each other," Allard said. "Obviously, we're role models for the girls and try to have a good head on our shoulders and help the girls out. It's a young team.

## WHO'S WHO

These four seniors are sharing captain's duties with the PCS Penguins this season. They are as follows:

**Kaitlyn Allard:** The 17-year-old is a senior at Canton High School, where she carries a 3.8 grade-point average. This is her first season with the Penguins, previously playing for the 19U Victory Honda Tier 1 AAA travel team. She is interested in going to Michigan State, where she might play with a women's hockey club team. Her parents are Steve and Amy Allard.

**Emily Bullock:** A senior at Plymouth High School, the 17-year-old daughter of Tracey and Kevin Bullock is in her third season with the Penguins. She began playing hockey at the age of four, including

We're the only seniors."

### She's OK with it

Bullock said she's "really liked" being one of the captains. The extra responsibility is something she doesn't shrug off.

"It's been a challenge, a lot different than just being a player," she said. "Just to make sure things are going smoothly on the ice and to lead warmups before games."

And Natelborg makes sure she's there to give helpful tips to teammates who might be struggling in a particular drill or

several seasons with the Canton Crush. Her GPA currently is 3.0.

**Jackie Lough:** Another rookie with the Penguins, Lough is a Canton senior with a 3.5 GPA. Now 17, she played last season with the 16U Victory Honda travel team and started playing as an 8-year-old with the Canton Crush. She hopes to play with a club team at Northern Michigan. Her parents are Suzy and Dan Lough.

**Nicole Natelborg:** Like Allard and Lough, the 17-year-old Plymouth senior is a veteran of travel hockey (Victory Honda, Michigan Capitals, etc.) who decided to play her senior year with the Penguins. She carries a 3.3 GPA, and is hoping to attend Eastern Michigan. Her mom is Jan Natelborg.

aspect of the game.

"It is important to help them, so they can learn and grow in the sport," she said. "If they aren't understanding something, I try and show them what they should do and give suggestions on how to improve."

"It doesn't matter that everyone goes to different schools because when we get to the rink, everyone is one team."

With such a cool attitude, they won't ever want to take off their skates.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
(734) 469-4128

## Hockey's in their blood

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

They started playing hockey for different reasons.

But now that they have, Kaitlyn Allard, Emily Bullock, Jackie Lough and Nicole Natelborg hope to play for a long, long time to come.

They also hope they can inspire today's young girls to consider playing the sport, perhaps someday for the PCS Penguins girls high school team.

Natelborg started her hockey career almost by accident.

"I used to go and watch my step brother play hockey when I was three," she said. "I got bored just sitting there watching him practice and play games, so I told my mom I wanted to play."

"She thought I would hate it because I bor-

rowed his equipment to try it. I loved the sport and joined the team."

When she did, it was as the goaltender. She stayed between the pipes until age 12, when she became a skater. With the Penguins, she plays forward.

While Allard also started as a goalie, she never changed positions.

"My team (10U Canton Crush) needed a goalie and I was the worst player on the team," Allard said. "So they said put some pads on and try goalie and it started from there."

Bullock and Lough simply came from hockey families.

"My family's a huge hockey family and when I was introduced to it I just loved it," Bullock noted. "It's something I'd love to do for the rest of my life."

So would Lough,

emphasizing that she "probably won't ever stop playing, doesn't matter how old I am. I grew up with it."

Her dad played, as did her aunt and cousins. Now, she and the other Penguins want to pass the hockey baton to today's young girls.

To that end, the Penguins will host a "Girls Night" at Canton's Arctic Edge Arena in January or February, said coach Mary Beth Johnson.

"We invite all the girls from grade schools and middle schools to come, check out the locker room, talk to the girls, go out on the ice and skate with them," Johnson said. "Try to get them interested in hockey."

All it might take is a few minutes with any of the senior co-captains.

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## Chiefs ice Midland, 3-2

Canton dropped a 3-2 decision to host Midland in a non-conference varsity boys hockey game played Saturday night.

Scoring for the Chiefs were senior Zack McArdle and sophomore Ian Fagan, with both goals set up by senior Brandon

Schlieger.

Taking a tough loss in net for the Chiefs was senior goaltender Spencer Craig.

The Chemics outshot Canton by a 35-30 margin.

Next for Canton is a trip to Sault Ste. Marie, where the Chiefs will play two

games beginning with a tilt Friday night against Escanaba. Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team also will be at the Soo this weekend.

After the trip, the Chiefs will host Salem at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton.

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Plymouth Christian boys basketball coach Dominique Washington (center) tries to keep players Mitchell Noel (No. 11) and Daniel Jipping (No. 13) upbeat during a recent contest.

## COACH

Continued from page B1

their own right.

"I'm prouder than heck of those kids that go on and continue to coach and be part of basketball," Brodie said. "Dominique was a great player for us while he was here, and he went on to coach, take the reins as a head coach and I wish him the best of luck and I think he'll be successful."

As of Tuesday, the Eagles were 3-3. But Washington knows from his own playing days that things can only improve with each day of putting in maximum-plus effort.

PCA players also can't help but take note of the passion their new coach has for the game.

"As long as I'm breathing and my heart's beating, this is where I want to be," Washington said.



Dominique Washington played for Salem as a high school player. Here Washington (No. 23) is shown in an undated file photo.

Even when not on the PCA sidelines, he's still very much about basketball and helping youngsters.

For five seasons, he coached the Discovery Middle School basketball team along with Dave VanWagoner (who is Washington's assis-

tant coach at PCA). Then there was a two-year stint with the AAU's Plymouth-Canton Wolfpack, composed of what he called "varsity level players."

And Washington also is a basketball trainer for Triple-Threat Training, located at High Velocity Sports in Canton.

Whether coaching kids, high school players or training those with Division I college and NBA aspirations like he had, Washington is serious about parlaying some of that old Brodie blueprint.

"He really cares a lot for the kids," Washington said. "He'll fight for you tooth and nail and I have the utmost respect for coach Brodie."

It wouldn't be too much of a stretch for PCA players to someday say the same things about Washington.

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# Wildcats hang on

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Another game, another nailbiter for Mike Soukup's Plymouth Wildcats.

Tuesday night against visiting Livonia Franklin, a driving layup by junior forward Sid Acharya proved just enough in a 40-38 victory.

"We've had three overtime games out of seven," said third-year Plymouth coach Soukup. "Every game's come down to two or three points."

It looked like another overtime game was looming for the 'Cats after Franklin senior forward Max Shamus connected on two free throws to make it a 38-38 game with just 35 seconds to play in the fourth.

Plymouth inbounded the ball with 20 seconds left following a timeout, and senior point guard Marcus Oden waited patiently before dishing the ball to Acharya. His layup danced around the rim before dropping.

"I want to say that it was supposed to be executed that way, but I'd be lying if I told you that," Soukup said. "It was a broken play, and Marcus made a great read and Sid rolled, and he wasn't afraid to be a hero in a big moment."

Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault said it was a tough, frustrating way for the ballgame to end. He said his team got into

trouble on the final play because of a "poor defensive rotation" and were not able to get a timeout in order to settle the defense.

"But I love the defense that we played when it was tied," Rheault said. "Max Shamus makes both those key free throws to tie it, and then it was a great defensive series. But we needed that timeout at the end... but we didn't get it."

Franklin came out strong and led 11-7 after the first, but Plymouth rallied with a 14-4 second to take a 21-15 halftime advantage.

The Pats came back in the third, which ended deadlocked at 28-28.

Leading Plymouth (4-3, 2-0) with 14 points was junior Brendan Swanson. He also had five rebounds.

Helping the cause with six points (on two treys) was junior Tyler Gamblin. Senior Jalen Easton tallied five rebounds off the bench.

For Franklin (1-6, 0-2), senior center Jake Barham had 10 points and 10 rebounds while senior guard Tommy Smith scored nine.

It was an evenly matched game in several categories besides points. Franklin outboarded Plymouth by a 23-22 margin and turned the ball over eight times (compared to Plymouth's 10).

**CANTON 55, WAYNE 47:** Defense and rebounding in the fourth quarter were keys as the host Chiefs got past Wayne Memorial Tuesday night in a KLAAs South Division matchup.

The hard-fought game came down to the fourth, when Canton (6-2, 1-1) outscored the Zebras 17-12 to pull away.

Canton held a 41-25 edge in rebounding, but turned the ball over 19 times, too many as far as Chiefs head coach Jimmy Reddy was concerned. "We were able to get some big scores and stops down the stretch," Reddy said.

Helping Canton's cause was a 12-for-18 clip at the free-throw line, compared to just five of eight for Wayne (2-6, 1-1).

Josh Mayberry led Canton with 11 points and contributed nine rebounds, while Paul Baumgart added 10 points and 16 boards.

Terrell Sewell (eight points), Scott Gring and Kyle Adams each scored seven.

Next for Canton is Friday's campus rivalry game at Plymouth. Tip-off will follow the Canton/Plymouth girls game, which begins at 6 p.m.

**LUTHERAN N'WEST 62, PCA 53:** Tuesday night at Plymouth Christian Academy, the Eagles came up short despite 17 points and 12 rebounds from Eric Jipping.

The Eagles (3-3) could not hold down big scoring runs in the second half by Lutheran High Northwest, noted head coach Dominique Washington.

In addition to Jipping, Daniel Mullett chipped in with 10 points while Drew Ibach had 14 rebounds.

On Friday, Jipping and Noel tallied 21 and 16 points, respectively, but they could not lead PCA to a win against Bloomfield Hills Roeper, falling 46-44.

PCA will host Grosse Pointe Woods University Ligggett at 8:30 p.m. Friday.

# Wildcats strong at Fraser

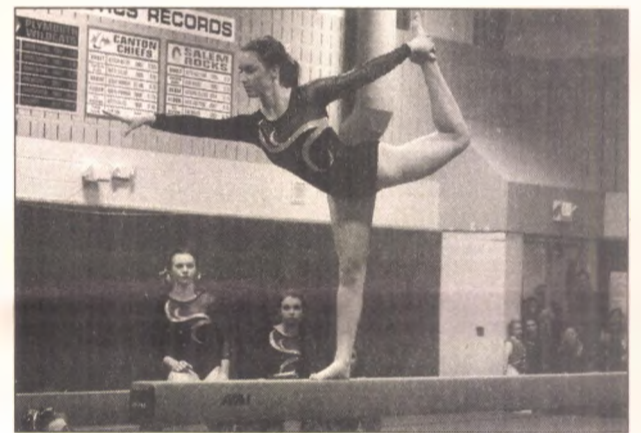
The Plymouth girls gymnastics team finished in second place at Saturday's Fraser Invitational with a total of 134.7 points.

Sparking the Wildcats were captains Reagan Engstrom and Jane McCurry, who coach Pam Yockey said turned in "strong performances."

Engstrom, a senior, tallied 34.75 all-around points, good for second overall. She placed first on balance beam with a score of 8.9, also taking thirds on vault (8.65) and uneven parallel bars (8.4). She placed sixth on floor with an 8.8 score.

Placing second on floor exercise was junior McCurry, with a mark of 9.3 for her routine.

Yockey also noted the efforts of sophomore Katie Salanga, 10th in all-around. Highlights for



Plymouth's Reagan Engstrom runs through her winning routine on the balance beam during Saturday's Fraser Invitational. Engstrom won that event with an 8.9 score and finished second in all-around points with 34.75.

Salanga included placing seventh on bars (7.8) and 10th on vault (8.45).

Other results for the Wildcats included: freshman Megan McKeenan, fourth-place score of 8.2 on bars; sophomore Brenna Connelly, fifth

on beam with an 8.55 and 10th on bars (7.75); freshman Molly McSween, sixth on bars, with an 8.05; and junior Sarah Uhlian, who finished seventh on vault and beam with tallies of 8.5 and 8.25, respectively.

# Chiefs second at invitational

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Canton came up just short at Saturday's Rockford Invitational, which featured gymnastics squads from around the state.

Led by versatile senior Ayana Lewis, who medaled in all five events, the Chiefs Red squad totaled 142.100 points, good for the runnerup spot behind Kenowa Hills Grandville (142.375).

In turn, defending Division 1 state runnerup Canton nipped third-place Farmington 'A' (140.225).

Placing 12th with a score of 127.050 was the Canton White team. The Chiefs divided their ros-

## GIRLS GYMNASTICS

ter for the tourney.

"We were a little disappointed to beat Farmington and lose to Kenowa Hills by .275," Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "Some of the scores and routines were not what we expected, but many of the girls had a very good meet."

"With 19 teams represented, any top 10 finish was terrific."

Cunningham added that while "the girls fared quite well for their first big meet of the year," there is plenty of room for improvement.

Coming away from the greater Grand Rapids area with first-place medals were Lewis (balance beam, 9.5), Eri-

ca Lucas (vault, 9.7) and Nicole Lasecki (uneven parallel bars, 8.675).

Lewis, the only Chief to medal in D1 competition (finish in the top five), had the best meet among Canton gymnasts. In addition to her win on beam, she took second on bars (8.925), fifth on vault (9.3) and floor (9.05) and finished third all-around with 36.775 points.

In D2, Lasecki also came in sixth on beam (9.05), 10th on floor (8.8) and third in all-around with a 35.225 score.

Other Canton finishers in D2 included Pia Simon (eighth on vault, 8.95) and Marina Milad (10th on beam, 8.95).

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## SALEM

Continued from page B1

Chris Dierker (10 points), while junior guard Kevin Mack and junior forward Austin Whitted each tallied eight.

Dierker and junior forward Ahmad Khalid shared rebounding honors with eight each, while Mack also chipped in with five steals.

With the starters in the lineup, the Rocks took a commanding 24-4 lead after one quarter. Stewart scored 11 of those points.

Brodie substituted freely after that, as Salem padded its lead to 37-11 at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Salem starters came back out and enjoyed a 23-4 encore to open up a 60-15 advantage and launch the running scoreboard clock (which starts when a team leads by 40 points in the second half).

Bettner really shot the

lights out in the third, connecting on three treys — including two that were sent from well beyond the top of the arc.

Whitted picked up where Bettner left off when he drained two triples late in the final quarter.

"Everybody was hitting the outside shot pretty well," Brodie said. "Bettner scored, Stewart scored and Austin came off the bench and did a good job."

"Like I said, we've got pretty good depth off our bench. They come off the bench and we don't lose a beat too much. We kept switching it off, and it's good for camaraderie on the team. I just like how the kids are playing right now."

Hampering the Cougars (1-5, 0-2) was not having junior guard Thomas Hollingsworth, who is out with a knee injury. Junior guard Dan Habkirk led the team with seven points.

## Don't rub it in

"We were the far better team than they were, you could see that," Brodie said. "But give them credit, they didn't hang their heads, they kept playing, too."

Brodie said he was proud of how his team played with "class" by not rubbing salt into the Cougars' collective wounds.

"I know there's been games where we've been on the other end of it, too," he added. "We've beaten teams pretty bad and some teams have beaten us and sometimes that's the way it goes."

"You just have to continue to play. If you're on the bottom end of it you got to keep scrapping, and if you're on the top you got to keep playing and getting better."

The Rocks will visit Livonia Stevenson at 7 p.m. Friday.

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## PCA

Continued from page B1

lis led the Eagles with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Gerulis also tallied 11 rebounds, five steals and four assists in a complete effort.

Martha Mullett added seven points while Smith tallied nine boards.

PCA led 37-19 after three frames and held off a late run by the Roughriders.

On Friday, the Eagles will face another MIAC Blue rival when Grosse Pointe Woods University Ligggett visits for a 7 p.m. game.

Immediately following that game will be the PCA-Ligggett boys basketball contest.

**CANTON 65, WAYNE 19:** A 26-0 third-quarter advantage for visiting Canton told the tale of Tuesday's KLAAs South Division girls basketball game at Wayne Memorial.

The Chiefs (6-2, 1-1) held a 34-16 lead at halftime and really broke things open in the lopsided third, keyed by an "overall great defensive effort," said Canton head coach Brian Samulski.

Scoring 18 points for Canton was Rachel Winters, while Paige Aresco and Taylor Hun-

ley each tallied 10. Hunley also grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Chiefs. Adding seven points was Kiara Schneider.

All 10 Canton players scored at least one point, Samulski said.

The loss dropped Franklin's record to 1-7 overall and 0-2 in the division.

**PLYMOUTH 52, FRANKLIN 28:** In a Tuesday night matchup of KLAAs South Division girls basketball teams at Livonia Franklin, the first career double-double by Plymouth forward Shelby Cheston sparked the Wildcats.

Cheston scored 12 points and pulled down 12 rebounds, in what Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear called "the best game of her career. Her rebounding was amazing and she was just real active offensively."

The Wildcats (6-2, 2-0) led 13-4 after one quarter and bumped that edge up to 30-11 at halftime.

"Defensively, we just got after it and caused a lot of turnovers," de Bear said. Leading Plymouth with 14 points was Kylie Robb, who the coach said "ran the offense and did a nice job."

Chipping in with 10 points and six rebounds was Jada Woody, while Kate Watson registered 10 points. Jackie Shields had nine and Katelyn Devers had eight for Franklin (1-7, 0-2).

Plymouth will host Canton 6 p.m. Friday in the first half of a girls/boys basketball twinbill.

**S.L. EAST 34, SALEM 27 (2-OT):** Visiting Salem lost

a double-overtime game Tuesday to host South Lyon East, dropping to 1-6 overall and 1-1 in the KLAAs Central Division.

The Rocks and Cougars were deadlocked 23-23 after regulation and 25-25 after the first overtime. But "we got behind and had to foul and they hit their free throws" in the second and deciding extra session, said veteran Salem head coach Fred Thomann.

Bri Berberet tallied 11 points for the Rocks, with Breanne Beaver contributing 10 points and 12 rebounds. Willow Cohn scored 11 for East (5-3, 1-1).

"We just really struggle to score," Thomann said. "We've done a really good job at the defensive end, but we just haven't been able to put together any kind of offensive surge."

Salem will host Livonia Stevenson at 7 p.m. Friday.

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2012 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW



# Seniors rule the road: New features address older drivers

By Jay M. Grossman  
Eccentric Staff Writer

American drivers are getting older. The first wave of America's baby boomers turning 65 this year will be the "silver tsunami," AAA Michigan spokesperson Nancy Cain said. According to the U.S. Census bureau, this segment of the population will increase by 75 percent over the next two decades.

In less than 10 years, one in four licensed drivers will be age 65 or older, Cain said.

Those drivers don't necessarily fare too well on the road. Research shows that elderly drivers face an increased risk of being involved in a car crash. After the age of 75, the risk of driver fatality increases greatly.

So how are automakers addressing older drivers? One of the many themes to the 2012 North American International Auto Show involves a lineup of features designed to make driving a safer and friendlier experience for motorists of all ages.

"I think the first thing is to make sure it's easy to get in and out of the vehicle — making sure customers don't have to sit too low or climb too high," said Amy Marentic, group marketing manager for cars and crossovers at Ford.

Marentic, who lives in Plymouth, said her mom drives a Taurus that

comes with adjustable foot pedals so she doesn't have to sit too close to the steering wheel. Another feature many automakers offer is blind spot information.

"Instead of having to swing your head all the way to the left, you just see a little warning light in your side mirror and you know it's not safe to make your lane change," Marentic said. "Once you use it, you will never get a car without it."

Gadgets are another issue. Dave Masch, chief engineer of the highly anticipated 2013 Cadillac ATS, said most of the touchscreens today are simple, intuitive and easy to use.

"You don't need to read the owner's manual to figure out how to use the system," said Masch, who lives in Beverly Hills. "It also has natural voice recognition that allows you to control many of the car's features."

Jiyan Cadiz, manager of media relations for Chrysler and a resident of Rochester Hills, said the Chrysler 300 comes equipped with an 8.4-inch touchscreen, the largest in the industry.

"It's almost like having an iPad on your dashboard," Cadiz said. He also pointed out the knobs below the touchscreen that control volume, climate and other features.

"Let's be honest," he said. "When something happens quickly, it's easi-

er to just rotate a volume knob rather than punch down the volume button multiple times."

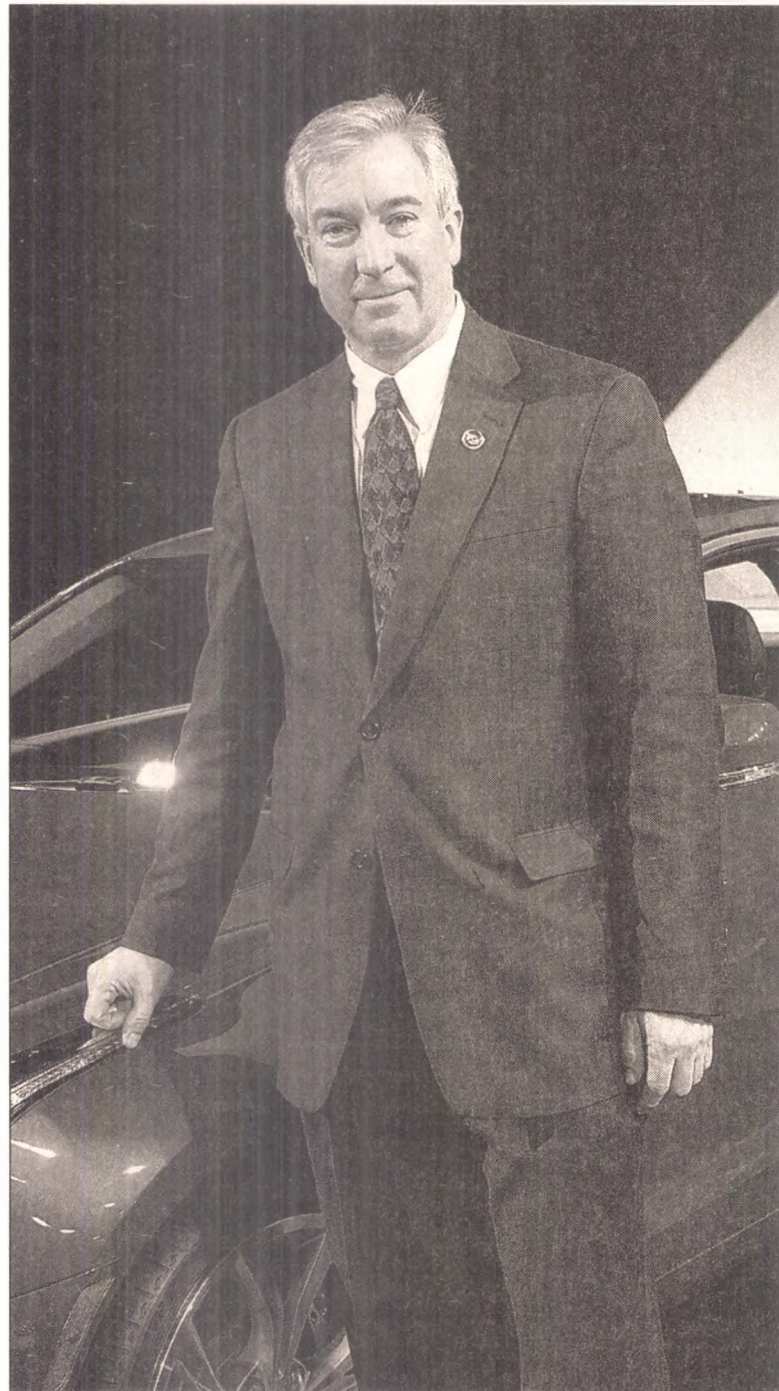
Another feature being touted at the show is a lane departure warning system that alerts drivers when their vehicle starts drifting into another lane. Most of the upper-echelon vehicles come equipped with rear-view cameras that automatically show drivers what's behind their vehicles and on the sides.

An added bonus with some of the more premium vehicles is a virtual bumper system that uses ultra-sonic sensors and a short-range radar system that will automatically stop a car moving at 25 mph or less if the driver is about to hit an object in the front or rear of the car. It's perfect for the crowded shopping mall parking lot.

The adaptive forward collision warning system in many of these cars will warn drivers if they're getting too close to another object on the road. Higher-intensity discharge xenon headlights give off a brighter light to help illuminate the night time surface.

Combined, these features result in a much safer driving experience. "Whether you're an elderly driver or not, these are features that apply across the board," Masch said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chief Engineer for the Cadillac ATS Dave Masch.

# Automakers preening at auto show as industry rebounds

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

The mood and atmosphere at the North American International Auto Show is noticeably different this year, as automakers feel as if the weight of the recession that nearly crippled them has lifted.

Now with the Big Three leading the charge, domestic and international car companies are pounding their chests as they release new cars and appear ready to compete once again.

"There is optimism," said Cyril Benitoh, a Bloomfield Hills resident and program manager for the new Dodge Dart. "Not only are we producing great cars, but they are being validated in the



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reporter Nathan Mueller joins the media scrum interviewing Hyundai designer S.H. Park after the Elantra won 2012 Car of the Year at the North American International Auto Show.

marketplace. "Optimism is absolutely here. It took a couple years to grow, but everyone has some momentum."

General Motors, Ford and Chrysler are all

yielding profit for the first time since 2004 and gained shares in the marketplace for the first time since 1988 and experts predict auto companies will add 60,000 jobs in the United States over the

next year and 190,000 jobs by 2015.

Bryan Johnson, a Canton resident and manager of marketing and communications for the Northville-based SF Group, said all it takes for him to know the car companies are coming back is to take a look at the elaborate displays and see how much money they are spending on them.

"Everything is positive now," he said. "You see a lot of positive momentum and there are a lot of new products coming out and people are excited to see them."

It's not all about the Big Three either, as a pair of foreign automakers took home the North American Car and Truck of the Year awards. The Hyun-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Harman audio component employees Jeff Puggi (left) and Phil Eyler check out an interactive display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Monday. Harman has a research center off Cabot Drive in Novi.

dai Elantra was car of the year and the Land Rover Range Rover Evoque was the top truck.

Nearly every company had something to debut this year, and it wasn't just a smoke and mirrors act. Hampden Tener, a Bloomfield Hills resident and U.S. product director for Cadillac, said day to day the confidence is a reality.

"We are working on building and growing and

that adds a level of excitement," he said. "We are back to doing our best, both for Cadillac and General Motors."

Phil Eyler, who lives in Northville and works for Farmington Hills-based Harman, called last year a "comeback year."

"This year there is a lot more confidence," he said. "You can just see it."

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# Snyder talks about state, auto industry comeback



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Governor Rick Snyder and Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. walk the floor of the Auto Show.

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

Sometimes the simplest change can make all the difference.

And for Gov. Rick Snyder, moving his press conference on Tuesday to the main show floor at the North American International Auto Show instead of being in the basement at the Cobo Center (where it was last year) gave him the perfect metaphor.

"In many respects people thought (the state of Michigan) was in the basement in the past," he said. "But we are no longer there, we are making a strong comeback in the

state and it's about reinventing Michigan."

Snyder took his usual tour of the exhibits when he arrived at Cobo before meeting with more than 200 engineering students from various universities in the state for a talent discussion.

"You can be the catalyst, you can be on the ground floor of the comeback of Michigan," he said to the students.

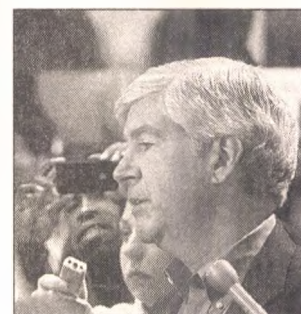
Snyder, along with Dr. Won Suk Cho, president of Hyundai America Technical Center, also used the press conference to announce a deal to expand Hyundai's Superior Township technical center.

The company will be

investing \$15 million to construct the facility and add 50 full-time jobs over the next five years. The state will fund construction of a new power substation that will improve the power output to the building.

Snyder said he wants to continue partnerships like this, and focus on the people who make the automotive industry go.

"In many respects the people that engineered, designed or even manufactured the products were Michiganders," he said. "And that is something all of us should take great pride in because that is something we can show the rest of the world. When people look at the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Governor Rick Snyder is the center of attention walking the floor of the show.

best products in the world, where they are designed, where they are engineered, where they are built, it's right here in Michigan and we are going to continue that legacy."





# ENTERTAINMENT

## Hear woodwind, student concerts in Farmington Hills

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

Head to church for live woodwind music this Sunday and student performances the next.

St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills continues its monthly concert series with a bassoon-flute duo playing works by Heitor Villa-Lobos, Joseph Fiala, Pierre Gabaye and Michel Joseph Gebaue on Jan. 15.

A concert of student performers follows on Sunday, Jan. 22.

"This is an unusual combination but they've got very interesting music," said Wes Fishwick, church organist and series coordinator. "The flute is higher and the bassoon is darker. The bassoon can be lyrical but also humorous."

Timothy Abbott and Jacqueline Wright, both of Ann Arbor, will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15 in the church sanctuary at 23225 Gill Road, between Grand River Ave., and Freedom Road. Admission is free, although a free-will offering will be collected. Refreshments will be served.

Abbott, a bassoonist and contrabassoonist, actively performs with the Adrian, Birmingham-Bloomfield, Flint, and Warren symphonies, and is a frequent substitute with many other local orchestras, including the Ann Arbor and Oakland symphonies. He also teaches private lessons and holds master of music degrees in bassoon performance and chamber music from the University of Michigan.

Wright earned a master of music degree in flute performance from the University of Michigan and a master of music degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Florida. She has performed and conducted in international venues, including in England and Spain.

"Jackie did a concert here — she plays with a flute ensemble — a couple of seasons ago. She was interested in performing in a duo. They contacted us," Fishwick said.



The music series at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills features a variety of performers with both classical and contemporary sounds. This trio, which performed last month, includes Melody Wooton on violin, Wes Fishwick — the church organist — on piano, and David Levine on cello.



Flute and bassoon duo Jacqueline Wright and Timothy Abbott will perform Sunday, Jan. 15 at St. John Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills.

That's exactly what he hopes student musicians will do if they are interest-

ed in the second annual high school solo and ensemble preview at 4 p.m. Jan. 22 at St. John.

Students who want to test out their music before a live audience can call the church at (248) 474-0584 and reserve a spot. Walk-ins on concert day also will be accepted.

Ten students performed last year.

### Friendly audience

"Our January 22nd concert for high school students is one of our favorite concert events. We are proud to present these young musicians in concert as they prepare for the solo and ensemble festivals that take place

throughout our state later this month," Fishwick said.

"Our church becomes a performance laboratory for these talented kids to try out their pieces and gain audience experience before performing for a judge.

"It's a very kind audience," Fishwick added.

A vesper service will follow the student concert.

"It's a worship service, but it's mostly singing," said Elaine Pearson, a church member who handles publicity for the concert series. She said the concerts draw both church members and nonmembers and the music includes classical and pop selections.

"Our current sanctuary

was dedicated in 2003 and we began to do concerts. 2008 was when we first started to plan a season," she said. "We do this as an opportunity for the community to be able to have good quality music in a comfortable venue. Our sanctuary has very nice acoustics."

The rest of the season includes concerts by pianist David Berriman on Feb. 12; a student string quartet on March 4; Detroit Lutheran Singers on March 18; The Novi Choralaires on April 15; and the Marie Walck Memorial Hymn Festival on May 20.

For more about the concert series visit [www.stjohn-elca.org](http://www.stjohn-elca.org).



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**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

**NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE**

**Time/Date:** Through Jan. 13  
**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** Call for entries to the 6th annual Member Exhibition that runs Feb. 3-18  
**Current exhibit:** "Etch, Sketch and Stiletto," an exhibit of the work of Tophér Crowder, runs through Jan. 28. The artist is inspired by animated Saturday morning cartoons, vintage postcards, and 1960s/1970s comic books  
**Contact:** (248) 344-0497

**VILLAGE THEATER**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday through Feb. 24  
**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton  
**Details:** "Lest We Forget: Legends of Detroit Gospel," celebrates the history of Gospel music in Detroit  
**Contact:** (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillagetheater.org.

Comedy

**GO COMEDY!**

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays  
**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale  
**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays  
**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; gocomedynet

**JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY**

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings  
**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield  
**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Friday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday  
**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays  
**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Dave Waite, through Jan. 14; Norm Stultz, Jan. 18-21  
**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickercomplex.com

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**

**Time/Date:** Mark Sweeney, Jan. 12; Jeff Caldwell, Jan. 19-21; Frances Dilorinzo, Jan. 26-28  
**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak  
**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Dance

**MOON DUSTERS**

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.  
**Location:** Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members  
**Contact:** Joe Castrordale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Film

**PENN THEATRE**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 13-14; 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19  
**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth  
**Details:** "Tower Heist," \$3  
**Coming up:** "J. Edgar," 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 20-21, 4:20 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26; "The Muppets," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27 and Thursday, Feb. 2, and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 28-29  
**Contact:** (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

**REDFORD THEATRE**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Jan. 20 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 21  
**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit  
**Details:** "Forbidden Planet," tickets \$4  
**Contact:** (313) 537-2560

Museums

**CHARLES H. WRIGHT**

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit  
**Details:** Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free  
**Coming up:** 12th Annual MLK Day Breakfast, 8 a.m., Monday, Jan. 16, including breakfast, keynote speech by Georgia Hill of Plymouth United Church of Christ and performances by Armond and the Institute of Music & Dance at Marygrove College. Tickets are \$35, available by phone at (800) 838-3006 and online at www.brownpapertickets.com  
**Contact:** (313) 494-5800

**PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday; next exhibit runs Jan. 18-June 17  
**Location:** 155 S. Main, Plymouth  
**Details:** "Ration Stamps & Bombers, WWII at Home" is the next exhibit. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17  
**Contact:** (734) 455-8940

**U-M KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Time/Date:** The museum is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday  
**Location:** 434 S. State, Ann Arbor  
**Details:** Part II of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology's special exhibition - "Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" - will run Friday, Jan. 27-Sunday, May 6. This special exhibition explores the story of the site's excavation, which was initiated by the University of Michigan in the 1920s and 1930s. Part II follows the changes that took place in Karanis with the beginning of the Roman occupation of Egypt and then later with the advent of Christianity. The displays - all but a few will be new - include collections of Roman glass, tax rolls on papyrus, and the leather breastplate of a Roman soldier. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.  
**Contact:** www.u-mich.edu/kelsey; (734) 764-9304

Music

**THE ARK**

**Time/Date:** An Dro, Jan. 13; Theo Mountain Heart, Jan. 13; The Mountzians: Songwriting Workshop, Jan. 14; The Yellow Room Gang, Jan. 14; Bearfoot, Jan. 15; Shelby Lynne, Jan. 16; Open Stage, Jan. 18; Martin Sexton, Jan. 19; The RFD Boys, Jan. 20; The Verve Pipe Family Show, Jan. 21; International Guitar Night, Jan. 21; Lonesome Country & Goldmine Pickers, Jan. 22; The Juliets, Jan. 23; An Acoustic Cafe evening featuring Erin McKeown, Carrie Rodriguez and Kelly Joe Phelps, Jan. 24; The 35th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival, Jan. 27-28; Take a Chance Tuesday with Peyton Tochterman, Jan. 31  
**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor  
**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org



A polar bear plunges into frigid water at the Detroit Zoo.

JUDY YACKER

Embrace winter at the Detroit Zoo

With the weather expected to dip into the 20s this weekend and snow showers forecast for Friday, it's the perfect time to head outdoors and get up close and personal with arctic wildlife at the Detroit Zoo.

Wild Winter weekends, a wild series of family-friendly events, kicks off with "Arctic Adventure," Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 14-15 at the zoo, located on Ten Mile at Woodward, in Royal Oak. The program includes zookeeper talks, games, crafts, children's music and other activities - both indoors and outdoors - that are free with regular zoo admission. All sessions run 11 a.m.-

3 p.m. Henry Ford Community College Ice Carving Club will carve ice both Saturday and Sunday this weekend, creating a collection of zoo animals and winter-inspired sculptures.

Wild Swan Theater will perform the production, Owl's Winter, at noon and 1:30 p.m. in the FEC Theater. Owl's Winter is a collection of winter stories for young children based on Arnold Lobel's Owl at Home. Audience members join Owl for a series of fun adventures and create a surprise for Owl. The show is appropriate for children, 3-8, and runs about 45 minutes. Mr. Seley and the Trou-

blemakers will sing children's music at noon and 1 p.m. and arts, crafts and games will keep youngsters busy from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Learn about polar bears at 11 a.m. and seals at 11:45 a.m. at the Frederick and Barbara Erb Polar Passage. Zookeeper talks and animal enrichment focus on polar bears at 1 p.m. and fox at 2:30 p.m. at the Tundra Overlook.

Wild Winter African Adventure-Sunday, Feb. 11-12. The program will celebrate Black History Month with an African drum lesson stories told by David Gakure, Kenyan naturalist and Detroit

Zoo education specialist. Families can enjoy live entertainment, arts and crafts, games and educational experiences.

Wild Winter Safari Social is set for Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11. Participants can escape the winter "blahs" with hot drinks and cool treats. Ice cream and hot cocoa will be available for purchase at a discount. Animal arts and crafts, face painting, animal enrichment activities, zookeeper talks and a winter safari scavenger hunt add to the fun.

Zoo admission is \$12 for adults, 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens, 62 and older, and \$8 for children, 2-14. Children under 2 are free.

International Festival coming to Cherry Hill

Get a henna tattoo, taste ethnic fare and watch dancers from a variety of cultures perform at Canton's International Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton.

The event, presented by the Multicultural Committee of the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage, costs \$2 per person at the door. Performers include Dance performances will represent India, Tahiti, Hawaii, New Zealand, Ireland, China, the Middle East, and the United States.

Choral performers include Jesus Murillo from the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan and singers from The New Century Chinese School and the Plymouth Canton

Chinese Learning Center. Other featured artists include New Hope Church's Praise Dancers, Women's Liturgical Group and Steppers of Soul, Monica Prasad on the sitar, and dancers from the O'Hare School of Traditional Irish Dance, Triple Threat Dance & Theater Company, Troupe Ta'amullat; and the Hoaloha Hula Dance Company.

Cultural exhibits will be stationed in the theater lobby and cultural items from around the world, including henna tattoos, will be available for purchase. Snacks and desserts from various countries also will be sold.

For more information about the Canton International Festival, call (734) 394-5308 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.



Dancers strike a graceful pose during a previous Canton International Festival.

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STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text CONTRABAND with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549). No charge from 43KIX, std. rates may apply. Text HELP for info.

## Budget-friendly family fun

These days, enjoying one another's company on a budget is even more important for families. So take a break from the ordinary and settle into the comforts of the best playground around — the home.

Remember that family time should be silly, lighthearted, and above all, about creating special bonding moments with the kids. Following are a few entertaining at-home activities the entire family can enjoy without dipping into savings.

- Explore the great indoors. Everyone loves a good scavenger hunt. Divide the family into teams and race to see who can find the most items on the list first. Don't forget to have prizes for the winners.

- Switch it up with backwards day. Shake up the evening routine by doing everything backwards. Put on your comfy pajamas right after school and even flip them backwards or inside out. Get together for a board game with a twist and move the pieces from finish to start. Make your end of day meal more festive by serving breakfast for dinner or eating dessert as the first course. The kids will certainly get a kick out of bending the rules.

- Create an obstacle course. Collect some old produce boxes from your local grocery store; they're usually available free of charge. Then, stagger the boxes in the basement or in the backyard for the kids to run through in different patterns. Set up a bowling game with recycled empty bottles just before the finish line. You can add other obstacles such as a limbo stick, hopscotch with ropes or anything else you like from materials around the house — the sky is the limit.

- Make dinner a family affair. Research consistently shows that families who regularly eat together are closer and happier than those who don't. Try a one-pot dish such as White Chicken Chili made with fiber-rich beans, tender chicken and creamy evaporated milk for a dinner ready in 30 minutes or less. Or hearty fare, such as Vegged-Out Pumpkin and Black Bean Soup.

For more budget-friendly family recipes and activities, visit [www.Meals.com](http://www.Meals.com).

### Thai-Style Pumpkin Soup

Preparation Time: 10 mins

Cooking Time: 10 mins

Servings: 4 servings

2 cups water  
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin  
1 can (11.5 ounces) mango nectar  
3 vegetarian vegetable flavor bouillon cubes  
1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh ginger or  $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon ground ginger  
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon crushed red pepper  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup creamy peanut butter  
2 tablespoons rice vinegar  
2 tablespoons finely chopped green onion  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup finely chopped cilantro, divided  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup (5 ounce can) evaporated fat free milk

Combine water, pumpkin, nectar, bouillon, ginger, garlic and crushed red pepper in large saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low.

Stir in peanut butter, vinegar, green onion and 1 tablespoon cilantro. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 to 8 minutes or until soup returns to a boil. Stir in evaporated milk. Sprinkle with remaining cilantro before serving.

To Freeze ahead: Prepare as above; do not sprinkle with remaining cilantro. Cool soup completely. Place in airtight container; freeze for up to 2 months. Thaw overnight in refrigerator. Heat in medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with remaining cilantro before serving.

### Apple Curry Soup

Preparation Time: 15 mins

Cooking Time: 25 mins

Servings: 4 servings

2 tablespoons butter  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 tablespoon curry powder  
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour  
2 pounds (about 5) cooking apples, peeled, cored and chopped  
3 cups warm water  
3 vegetarian vegetable flavor bouillon cubes  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup half-and-half  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground white pepper

Melt butter in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion; cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 to 4 minutes or until tender. Stir in curry powder and flour; cook for 1 minute. Stir in apples, water and bouillon; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes or until apples are very tender.

Transfer mixture to food processor or blender container (in batches, if necessary); cover. Process until smooth. Return to saucepan. Stir in half-and-half and pepper. Warm, stirring occasionally, over medium-low heat until heated through.

— Courtesy Family Features



White Chicken Chili

### White Chicken Chili

Makes 8 servings — about 1 cup each

1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast tenders  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 clove garlic, chopped  
1 tablespoon ground cumin  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons ground coriander  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups mild salsa verde  
1 can (15 ounces) cannellini beans, drained  
1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, drained  
1 cup water  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup loose-pack frozen corn  
1 can (12 fluid ounces) evaporated low-fat 2% milk  
1 cup fresh spinach leaves  
Baked tortilla chips and light sour cream for serving (optional)

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook on each side until golden. Transfer to plate; cover.

Add onion to same saucepan. Cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent. Add garlic; cook for 30 seconds. Stir in cumin and coriander; cook for 30 seconds. Stir in salsa verde, cannellini beans, pinto beans, water and corn. Cook for 10 minutes or until hot.

Cut or shred chicken into bite-size pieces and add to saucepan along with any accumulated juices on plate. Stir in evaporated milk and spinach; cook for a few minutes just until heated through and spinach is slightly wilted. Serve topped with crumbled tortilla chips and dollop of sour cream.



Vegged-Out Pumpkin and Black Bean Soup

### “Vegged-Out” Pumpkin & Black Bean Soup

Preparation Time: 15 mins

Cooking Time: 20 mins

Servings: 8 servings, 1 cup each

1 tablespoon olive oil  
5 green onions (white and light green parts), thinly sliced (slice dark parts and set aside for later)  
1 red bell pepper, chopped  
3 cloves garlic, chopped  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons ground cumin  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon dried thyme  
2 cans (15 ounces each) black beans, rinsed and drained  
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin  
1 can (14.5 ounces) no-salt added diced tomatoes, undrained  
1 can (14 ounces) vegetable broth  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt or more to taste  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon cayenne pepper or more to taste

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add white and light green parts of green onions, bell pepper and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, for 4 to 5 minutes or until soft. Stir in cumin and thyme; cook, stirring occasionally, for 1 minute. Add beans, pumpkin, tomatoes and juice, broth and water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low; cook for 10 minutes. Stir in salt and cayenne pepper. Top each serving with dark green onion tops.

## City bites

### New bagel in town

PLYMOUTH — MD Bagel Fragel, 448 Forest will serve free coffee during its grand opening, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14. The event will include prizes and 20 percent off food purchases.

Customers also will get a chance to meet Mr. Bagel. Bagel Fragel makes more than 30 varieties of bagels and their specialty is the sugar-cinnamon covered Fragel.

### More free coffee

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN — Get a small Premium roast Coffee free at more than 230 McDonald's restaurants every Wednesday this month and in February. The offer is available from open to close at participating restaurants for in-lobby dining and at the drive-thru. Limit one small Premium Roast Coffee per customer per visit, with no purchase necessary. Coffee days are Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

### Wine tasting

LIVONIA — A representative from Great Lakes wine and Spirits will pour elegant red wines and a few port wines Thursday, Jan. 19 at d.vine fine wines, 17386 Haggerty. On Thursday, Jan. 26, taste wines that celebrate the Super Bowl and pair well with appetizers and munchies. Light appetizers will be served and guests may bring their favorite tailgate dish to pass. Each tasting costs \$15 per person; \$10 for Wine Club members. Events start at 7 p.m. Call (734) 432-3800 to reserve a spot; [www.dvinefinewines.com](http://www.dvinefinewines.com)

### All about pork

PLYMOUTH — Mary Kelpinski of the Michigan Pork Producers Association will address the Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at Rose's, 201 N. Canton Center Road, in Plymouth. Kelpinski will highlight why farmers will need to double the world's food production in less than 40 years and how they'll need to rely on science and technology to make it happen. For a reservation, call Cheryl, at (734) 981-7259.

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club, which organizes a variety of community service projects, marks its 40th anniversary this year. Visit its Web site at [www.civitan.net/plymouthmich](http://www.civitan.net/plymouthmich).

### Wings for Special Olympics

STATEWIDE — Stop by any participating Buffalo Wild Wings locations on Monday, Jan. 16 with a coupon downloaded from [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org) and the restaurant will donate 20 percent of the purchase to Special Olympics Michigan and its Polar Plunge events. Participating restaurants include 41980 Ford Road, Canton; 37651 Six Mile, Livonia; 44375 12 Mile, Novi; and 6677 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Polar Plunge participants raise funds for Special Olympics Michigan, put on a costume and jump into frigid water. There are 27 Polar Plunge this year in the state, including Belleville on Feb. 11 and Detroit on Feb. 18. There is a minimum \$75 registration fee to participate in a Polar Plunge. Register at [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org).

### Beer benefiting charity

ROYAL OAK — Sample more than 80 beers 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, located on Fourth, between Lafayette and Washington. Westborn Market presents the event, that will benefit Camp Casey, a horseback riding program for children with cancer.

Beer lovers also will taste beer-inspired cuisine and hear live music by Detroit folk favorites, Petal Shop. Fifteen new beers will make their Michigan debut at the event. The event is open to age 21 and over. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door and include 25 beer samplings. Advance tickets are now available at Westborn Market, 14925 Middlebelt, Livonia; 21755 Michigan Ave., Dearborn; and 27659 Woodward Ave., Berkley, as well as the Royal Oak Music Theatre box office, at (248) 399-2980.







